



**Are Science & Christianity Compatible?**

# SCIENCE

Ruining Everything Since 1543





**“Religion and science are incompatible. Science is based on facts and religion on faith.”**

# Conflict Thesis Book Title

- “Faith Versus Fact: Why Science and Religion Are Incompatible” - Jerry A. Coyne

# Conflict Thesis Quotes

- "The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference." - Richard Dawkins


# Culture Milieu On Science v. Faith

- Did the church persecute early scientists?
- What about the Galileo affair?
- What about Bruno?
- The Bible is claimed to be scientifically inaccurate.
- What about evolution, earth's age, flat earth?
- Why do Christians oppose stem cell research, and IVF?

# It's not just the atheists & skeptics...

- “Christianity is based on faith.”
- “I believe in God, I don't need science to prove anything to me.”
- “I believe the Bible, not science.”
- “We should faith, not reason.”
- “I just believe.”
- “You just need faith.”

# Gen Z / Millennials View on the Bible & Science



About three-quarter think the Bible and Science are in conflict or independent of each other.

About one-quarter think the Bible & Science are complementary & support each other



# Has Science Fired God?

Science Is Limited

Christianity Helped Science

Naturalism Limits Science

Judeo-Christian Worldview Explains it Best

Why I Think Science & Christianity Are Compatible

# Has Science Fired God?

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Counterintuitive And Unexpected Things about Science

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Scientism isn't Science.

Science takes faith, "blind faith."

**Induction:** Generalizations derived from a number of observations.

**Uniformity in nature:** laws of nature are consistent and unchanging across time and space.



Samir Okasha

“Hume points out that our inductive inferences rests on the uniformity in nature assumption. **But we cannot prove that uniformity in nature is true,** and we cannot produce empirical evidence for its truth without begging the question.”

Okasha, Samir. 2002. Philosophy of science: a very short introduction. Oxford: Oxford University Press.



Samir Okasha

“So our inductive inferences rest on an assumption about the world for which we have no grounds. Hume concludes that our confidence in induction is just blind faith – it admits of not rational justification whatever.”

Okasha, Samir. 2002. *Philosophy of science: a very short introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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Unexpected Foundations of Institutionalized Science

# **Christianity and History of Science**

Unexpected Foundations of Institutionalized Science



Tom Holland

"You can trace the evolution of what we call science...back to the middle ages.

Essentially, the study of science begins in the medieval universities."

"Without Christianity, we would not have science."

Why Science and Secularism Come from Christianity - Capturing Christianity <https://www.youtube.com/live/Lehk-ZSsbpl?si=IUBbaG87z88dUtKI>. Tom Holland is a historian where he also supports this in his book "Dominion: How the Christian Revolution Remade the World"





Charles Thaxton

“... Christianized medieval Europe was not hostile to scientific learning after all— that, on the contrary, it was the womb that gave birth to the scientific enterprise.” and ....

...far from “...impeding the progress of science, Christianity had actually encouraged it—that the Christian culture within which science arose was not a menace but a midwife to science.”

Pearcey, Nancy, and Charles B. Thaxton. 1994. *The soul of science: Christian faith and natural philosophy*. Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Books. (Charles Thaxton is a Philosopher and Historian of Science)



James Hannam

“Most significantly, the Middle Ages laid the foundation for the greatest achievement of western civilization: modern science.”

"The Genesis of Science: How the Christian Middle Ages Launched the Scientific Revolution" by James Hannam (James Hannam is an Historian of Science and Religion)



Edward Grant

“Contrary to prevailing opinion, the roots of modern science were planted in the ancient and medieval worlds long before the Scientific Revolution of the seventeenth century.”

The Foundations of Modern Science in the Middle Ages. Their religious, institutional, and intellectual contexts. Edward Grant, Indiana University (Edward Grant was an American historian of medieval science)



James Hannam

“The central idea of the medieval worldview was that everything and everybody had a purpose. Nothing just happened. Nothing existed purely for its own sake. The ultimate governor of the universe was God, and he had endowed everything with a reason for its existence.” - James Hannam

"The Genesis of Science: How the Christian Middle Ages Launched the Scientific Revolution" by James Hannam (James Hannam is an Historian of Science and Religion)

# The Scientific Revolution Started for a Reason

- The University System: medieval 11th--12th centuries
- Roger Bacon's proto-scientific method (others previous): 1214—1294
- Western printing press: 1440
- New world founded: 1492
- Protestant Reformation: 1517
- **Scientific revolution: 1543-1700**

ANTISEPTIC SURGERY	JOSEPH LISTER (1827-1912)
BACTERIOLOGY	LOUIS PASTEUR (1822-1895)
CALCULUS	ISAAC NEWTON (1642-1727)
CELESTIAL MECHANICS	JOHANN KEPLER (1571-1630)
CHEMISTRY	ROBERT BOYLE (1627-1691)
COMPARATIVE ANATOMY	GEORGES CUVIER (1769-1832)
COMPUTER SCIENCE	CHARLES BABBAGE (1792-1871)
DIMENSIONAL ANALYSIS	LORD RAYLEIGH (1842-1919)
DYNAMICS	ISAAC NEWTON (1642-1727)
ELECTRONICS	JOHN AMBROSE FLEMING (1849-1945)
ELECTRODYNAMICS	JAMES CLERK MAXWELL (1831-1879)
ELECTRO-MAGNETICS	MICHAEL FARADAY (1791-1867)
ENERGETICS	LORD KELVIN (1824-1907)
ENTOMOLOGY OF LIVING INSECTS	HENRI FABRE (1823-1915)

<b>FIELD THEORY</b>	<b>MICHAEL FARADAY (1791-1867)</b>
<b>FLUID MECHANICS</b>	<b>GEORGE STOKES (1819-1903)</b>
<b>GALACTIC ASTRONOMY</b>	<b>WILLIAM HERSCHEL (1738-1822)</b>
<b>GAS DYNAMICS</b>	<b>ROBERT BOYLE (1627-1691)</b>
<b>GENETICS</b>	<b>GREGOR MENDEL (1822-1884)</b>
<b>GLACIAL GEOLOGY</b>	<b>LOUIS AGASSIZ (1807-1873)</b>
<b>GYNECOLOGY</b>	<b>JAMES SIMPSON (1811-1870)</b>
<b>HYDRAULICS</b>	<b>LEONARDO DA VINCI (1452-1519)</b>
<b>HYDROGRAPHY</b>	<b>MATTHEW MAURY (1806-1873)</b>
<b>HYDROSTATICS</b>	<b>BLAISE PASCAL (1623-1662)</b>
<b>ICHTHYOLOGY</b>	<b>LOUIS AGASSIZ (1807-1873)</b>
<b>ISOTOPIC CHEMISTRY</b>	<b>WILLIAM RAMSAY (1852-1916)</b>
<b>MODEL ANALYSIS</b>	<b>LORD RAYLEIGH (1842-1919)</b>



Isaac Newton

“This most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets, could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being ... This Being governs all things, not as the soul of the world, but as Lord over all; and on account of his dominion he is wont to be called Lord God.”

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/1991/04/newtons-views-on-science-and-faith/>





## Johann Kepler

He wrote in his journal: "Since we astronomers are priests of the highest God in regard to the book of nature, it befits us to be thoughtful, not of the glory of our minds, but rather, above all else, of the glory of God."

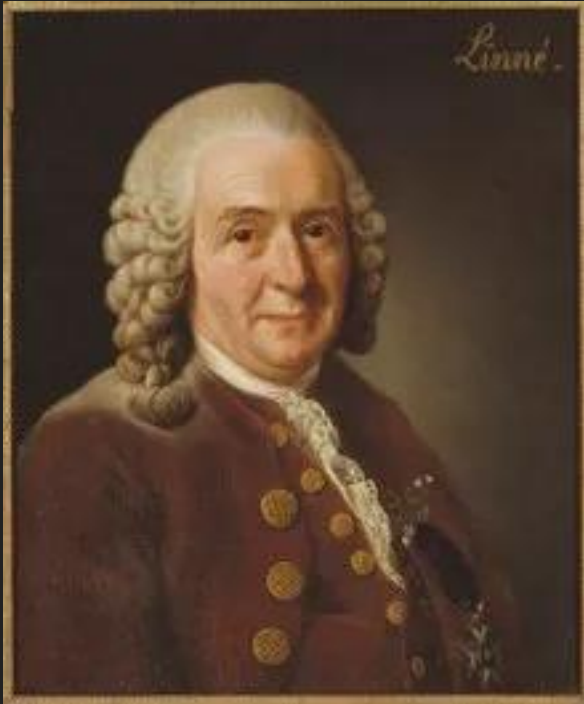
George Mulfinger & Julia Mulfinger Orozco, *Christian Men of Science*. (Greenville, SC: Ambassador Emerald International, 2001), p. 22.  
<https://academynw.com/in-the-pursuit-of-god-science-was-founded/>



**Robert Boyle**

Last words to the Royal Society, said,  
“Remember to give glory to the one who  
authored nature.”

Dan Gaves, *Scientists of Faith: Forty-Eight Biographies of Historic Scientists and Their Christian Faith*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 1996), 63. <https://academyNW.com/in-the-pursuit-of-god-science-was-founded/>



Carolus Linnaeus

“I followed His footsteps over nature’s fields and saw everywhere an eternal wisdom and power, and inscrutable perfection.”

Dan Gaves, *Scientists of Faith: Forty-Eight Biographies of Historic Scientists and Their Christian Faith*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 1996), 63. <https://academyNW.com/in-the-pursuit-of-god-science-was-founded/>

# Principles That are Assumed in Christianity

Assumed Orderly Universe - Since God made it

Assumed Rational Humans - Since God made us

Assumed It Is Good To Study Nature - Because God made it

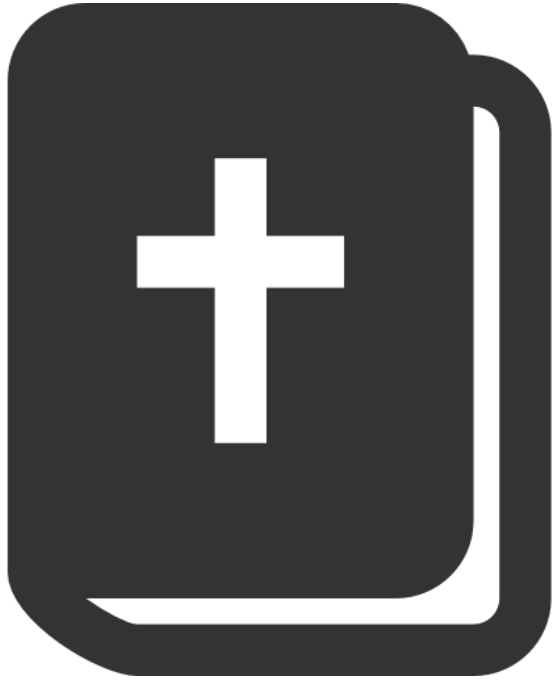
Assumed Nature Wasn't God - Creation was created by God

Assumed A Need For Experimentation - We are finite and not all knowing, thus we need to check out how God did it



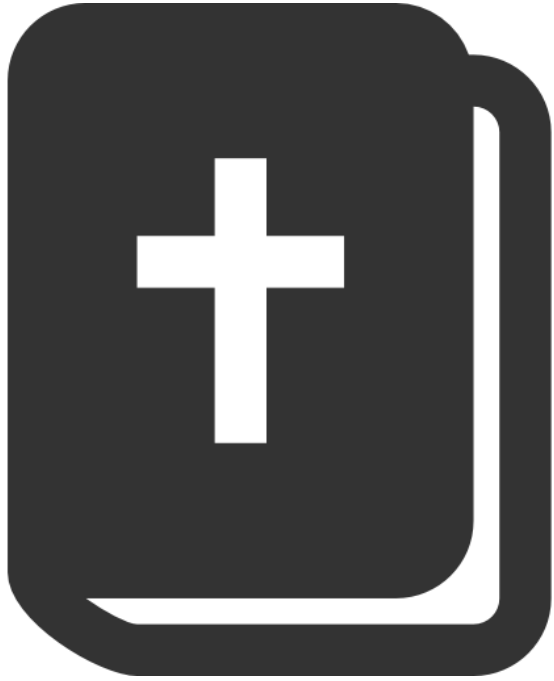
Psalms 19:1

“The heavens declare the  
glory of God; and the  
firmament sheweth his  
handywork.”



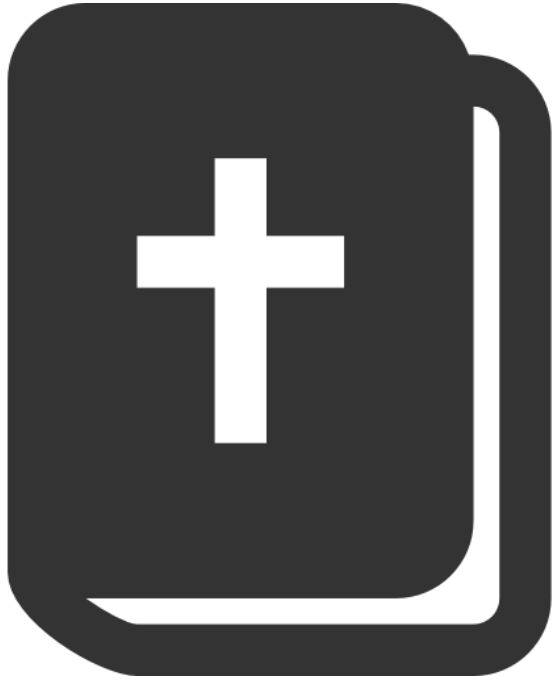
Jeremiah 33:25

"Thus says the LORD: If I have not established my covenant with day and night and the fixed order of heaven and earth...."



Isaiah 44:6

“Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.”



Colossians 1:16-17

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible...all things were created by him, and for him...and by him all things consist.



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Naturalism vs. Supernaturalism not Not Science vs. Christianity

**Supernaturalism:** Both the natural and supernatural realms exist. The founders of science believed that God created natural laws to be understood, while also allowing for miracles as potential divine intervention. While we expect nature to follow these laws, we should remain open to evidence of God's involvement.

**Naturalistic Materialism:** Belief that everything can be explained by natural processes and that science should only consider natural explanations. Many in modern science often demand methodological naturalism, insisting on naturalistic answers even when evidence suggests supernatural intervention.

# Naturalism of the Gaps Fallacy?

“Only a naturalistic answer will suffice, but I don't know how”

“Sure, we don't know, but at least we're humble because we admit we don't know.”

“At least we don't believe in the God of the gaps.”

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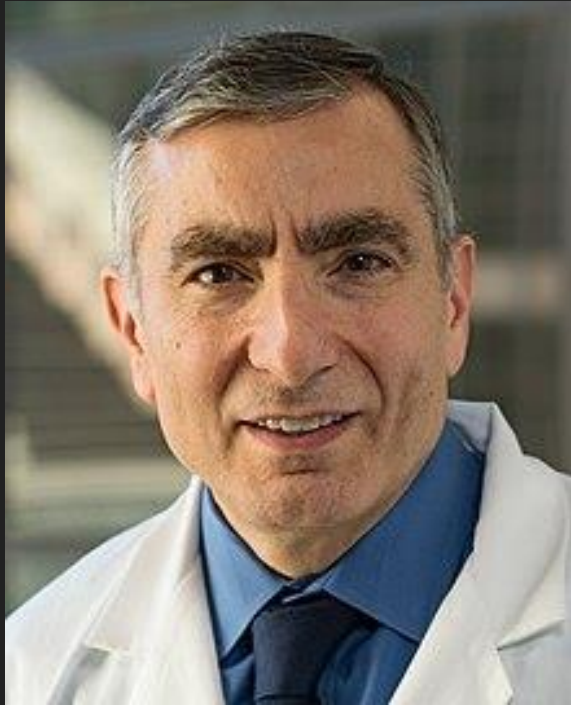
Supernatural and Nonmaterial Impact

# Has Science Fire God?

Has scientific progress  
made God obsolete?

Well, the most fundamental questions of life once had simple naturalistic answers.

As we have learned more, it has become increasingly clear that divinity is required.



James Tour

Many think that we are getting closer to a materialistic answer to the origin of life. however, "people may say that we are getting closer, the target has much farther away."

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/rXux1kDZGEE6H8xR/>

**7 Things  
Materialism  
Struggles to  
Explain**

The Genesis of Life

The Genesis of the Cosmos

The Genesis of Christianity

The Genesis of Consciousness

The Genesis of Biological Information

The Genesis of Immaterial

The Genesis of Morality

**Our  
Immaterial  
world**

**language**

**information**

**thoughts**

**mind**

**love**

**dreams**

**scientific method**

**morality**

**hate**

**methodological naturalism**



# God vs. His Creation? Really?

If God did create the universe...

wouldn't science ultimately be compatible with both Him and His word?

If God did create the universe...

wouldn't following His instructions help us understand the world better?

**How are engines designed?**

**How are buildings built?**

**How are paintings painted?**

**How is magic performed?**

**How is art drawn?**

**How does writing come about?**

**How is music made?**

**How is creation made?**

**Engineer**

**Builder**

**Painter**

**Magician**

**Artist**

**Writer**

**Musician**

**Creator**

"the first gulp from the glass of natural sciences will make you an Atheist, but at the bottom of the glass, God is waiting for you."

Werner Heisenberg or Ulrich Hildebrand

“For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance, he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”

Robert Jastrow from his work “God and the Astronomers.”

A little Philosophy inclineth Man's Mind to Atheism; But  
depth in Philosophy, bringeth Men's Minds about to  
Religion.

Francis Bacon