

# DID SCIENCE KILL GOD?

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Iron Sharpens Iron

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## Introduction

- Is God Dead? Many recent authors claim so: Dawkins, Hawking, Stenger
- It is claimed that:
  1. Science can explain everything – so God is not needed
  2. Physical laws leave no room for miracles – so biblical miracles did not happen
  3. There is no evidence for God – so belief in God is irrational

## 2. Is Science Objective?

- The Myth - objective, rational science versus subjective irrational religion
- Christianity *is* factual, objective, and rational
- Science - hard data versus subjective theory
- Data under-determine theories; multiple theories and interpretations
- Theory choice and paradigms/ worldviews

## 3. Worldviews

- What is a worldview? story, glasses and map
- Presuppositions – often implicit, always necessary
- How do we judge worldviews? consistency, experience, livability

## 4. Naturalism – Presuppositions

- Only natural causes - God is unnecessary
- Evolutionary origins implies materialism
- All knowledge is empirical - no divine revelation
- No purpose - man is an accident - no soul, no hope after death
- No universal norms - no math entities

## 5. Naturalist Problems

- Three worlds – math, matter, mind – and three mysteries
- Math to matter - order, uniformity, mathematical structure
- Matter to mind - purpose, complexity, consciousness, self, mental causation
- Mind to math - rationality, abstract norms, knowledge, math
- Self-refutation – illusions of free will and morality
- Inability to justify the presuppositions needs for science

## 6. Christianity.

- Bible story: creation, fall into sin, redemption through Christ
- Metaphysics: God is the ultimate reality, Sovereign Creator & Sustainer
- Anthropology: man created in divine image to serve God
- Epistemology: the Bible is truth, man was created to know.
- Universal norms: set by God

## 7. Two Paradigms for Science

- Two paradigms for science: naturalism versus Christianity (Kuyper, Lewis, Hawking)

## 8. Christianity and Science

- Christianity informs science:
  1. Metaphysics – matter and spirit – earth and heaven
  2. Causation – natural and supernatural causes
  3. Epistemology – senses, reason, and Divine revelation
  4. Different view on purpose, ethics, and values
  5. Different view on history – unfolding of God's plan
  6. Different view on the future – life after death, second coming of Jesus Christ, Day of Judgment, renewed heaven and earth.
- God created according to a rational plan; Man, in God's image, can discern patterns
- Christianity enabled science--cultural mandate, all occupations have value

## 9. Beyond Naturalism

- Science needs Christianity
- The Untenability of materialism (Nagel)
- Materialism is a belief
- Why unbelievers reject Christianity—not irrationality but fear of God
- If science kills God, it also kills truth (Nietzsche)
- The futility of atheism (Sartre, Russell, Pascal)

## 10. Summing Up – Did Science Kill God?

- No proof belief in God is irrational or that science can explain all
- Science is subjective – it needs a viable worldview
- Worldviews are based on presuppositions
- The defense of materialism is self-refuting
  - No human freewill, no thought, no truth, no rationality, no morality
  - ...no scientists and no science
- Christianity gives coherence, meaning, purpose and hope
- Christianity provides a solid basis for science

### Further Reading

My blog: <http://bylogos.blogspot.ca/>  
<https://bylogos.blogspot.com/2024/03/my-three-e-books.html>

*God and Cosmos: A Christian View of Time, Space, and the Universe.*

Edinburgh: Banner of Truth. John Byl (2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2025)

*The Divine Challenge: On Matter, Mind, Math & Meaning.* Edinburgh: Banner of Truth. John Byl (2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2024)

*How Should Christians Approach Origins?* John Byl & Tom Goss (revised 2020)

*Answers Research Journal:* <https://answersresearchjournal.org/>

*Journal of Creation:* <https://creation.com>

*New Creation:* <https://newcreation.blog/>

*Creation BC* <https://creationbc.org/>

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