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This book makes four bold claims: 1) life is an ultimate datum, open to philosophical analysis and irreducible to physical reality; hence all materialist-reductionist explanations - most current theories - of life are false. 2) All life presupposes soul (entelechy) without which a being would at best fake life. 3) The concept of life is analogous and the most direct access to life in its irreducibility is gained through consciousness; 4) All life possesses an objective and intrinsic value that needs to be respected, human life possesses beyond this an inviolable dignity. Life and personal life are pure perfections, it being absolutely better to possess (personal) life than not to possess it. Chapter 1: the metaphysical essence and the many meanings of 'life,' as well as its 'transcendental' character. Chapter 2: the irreducibility of biological life, its amazing empirical and philosophically intelligible essential features, and the ways of knowing them. Chapter 3: the immediate evidence and indubitable givenness of mental, conscious life as well as questions of (brain-) death and immortality. Chapter 4: the inviolable objective dignity of personal life and its self-transcendence; a new theory of the fourfold source of human dignity and rights. Chapter 5 (in dialogue-form): methods and results of philosophy versus those of empirical life-sciences.

“It may seem bizarre, but in my opinion, science offers a surer path to God than religion...science has actually advanced to the point where what were formerly religious questions can be seriously tackled” (Paul Davies, Astrophysicist). Anthony Walsh's latest riposte to atheistic arguments against God's existence draws on Natural Theology, a knowledge of God based on evidence from both the natural and social sciences. Covering everything from the Big Bang and the origins of life to the mystery of intelligent consciousness, Walsh makes even the most technical scientific writings accessible to the general reader and tackles a question few books on the relationship between science and religion have ever sought to address: how does Christianity positively affect societies, families, and individuals in terms of democracy, justice, happiness, health, and prosperity?

In recent years, the relations between science and religion have been the object of renewed attention. Developments in physics, biology and the neurosciences have reinvigorated discussions about the nature of life and ultimate reality. At the same time, the growth of anti-evolutionary and intelligent design movements has led many to the view that science and religion are necessarily in conflict. This book provides a comprehensive introduction to the relations between science and religion, with contributions from historians, philosophers, scientists and theologians. It explores the impact of religion on the origins and development of science, religious reactions to Darwinism, and the link between science and secularization. It also offers in-depth discussions of contemporary issues, with perspectives from cosmology, evolutionary biology, psychology, and bioethics. The volume is rounded out with philosophical reflections on the connections between atheism and science, the nature of scientific and religious knowledge, and divine action and human freedom.

Traditional science holds that everything that exists starts with matter, but this

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undocumented belief must be false, according to Quantum Mechanics. It has to be! QM demonstrates that

- There is no such thing as matter or space or time
- A conscious observer is a necessary condition for anything to exist.
- There is only subjectivity without any objective truth.
- The world we experience, therefore, must be an illusion, like a holodeck program or a virtual game.

And no one disputes the conclusions of this mysterious science—Quantum Mechanics underlies all of reality. This virtual experience we are having is nevertheless alive and conscious and deliberately makes choices. Life has always been latent in the universe; every species is aware, intelligent, and chooses; and existence—according to spiritual and scientific conclusions alike—is one unified evolving and emerging intelligent being, purposefully partnering with the universe in influencing what it is to become. Sound strange? What is far stranger is the materialist notion that existence burst forth out of absolutely nothing! That's why this book "matters." The life we live is not based in some mindless and mechanical machine. The life we live is filled with purpose and meaning, and we humans have work to do to bring our world along. Join in on this astonishing unfolding journey which we participate in fashioning: The Greatest Story Ever Told!

Know What You Believe Why You Believe It & How to Explain It. This powerful sourcebook answers the most important questions skeptics ask about God & Christianity. Along with the authors you'll examine a wide range of evidence for the truth of biblical Christianity & become equipped to evaluate the validity of: Jesus Christ—what sets Him entirely apart from founders of other religions; the resurrection—why lawyers & former skeptics believe it & why skeptics' theories fall short; the reliability of the Bible—how it is proven by the science of archaeology & our manuscript evidence; the miracle of origins—why both creation & evolution require a miracle & why evolution can't be true; reincarnation & Christianity—why they can't coexist; why biblical prophecy proves who the true God is & why the Bible is the only revelation from God; atheists & skeptics—why even they agree they have knowledge about God; & why the biblical evidence strongly argues for an inerrant Bible. Find answers to the toughest questions from creation to salvation & discover the uniqueness of Christianity & man's universal need for the one true God.

The Dictionary of Modern American Philosophers includes both academic and non-academic philosophers, and a large number of female and minority thinkers whose work has been neglected. It includes those intellectuals involved in the development of psychology, pedagogy, sociology, anthropology, education, theology, political science, and several other fields, before these disciplines came to be considered distinct from philosophy in the late nineteenth century. Each entry contains a short biography of the writer, an exposition and analysis of his or her doctrines and ideas, a bibliography of writings, and suggestions for further reading. While all the major post-Civil War philosophers are present, the most valuable feature of this dictionary is its coverage of a huge range of less well-known writers, including hundreds of presently obscure thinkers. In many cases, the Dictionary of Modern American Philosophers offers the

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first scholarly treatment of the life and work of certain writers. This book will be an indispensable reference work for scholars working on almost any aspect of modern American thought.

Most modern prejudice against biblical miracle reports depends on David Hume's argument that uniform human experience precluded miracles. Yet current research shows that human experience is far from uniform. In fact, hundreds of millions of people today claim to have experienced miracles. New Testament scholar Craig Keener argues that it is time to rethink Hume's argument in light of the contemporary evidence available to us. This wide-ranging and meticulously researched two-volume study presents the most thorough current defense of the credibility of the miracle reports in the Gospels and Acts. Drawing on claims from a range of global cultures and taking a multidisciplinary approach to the topic, Keener suggests that many miracle accounts throughout history and from contemporary times are best explained as genuine divine acts, lending credence to the biblical miracle reports.

Is the origin of life a lucky roll of cosmic dice? Who is behind the origin of the universe? What do the latest scientific discoveries say about the origin of space and time?

Beyond the Boundaries of Science explores the cosmic puzzles that accompany our greatest scientific advances. It suggests that there is more, beyond the reach of science--a super-intelligent Designer behind these mysteries. It takes both science and the Bible seriously, comparing the latest scientific theories with the account in Genesis, interpreted as a revelation of the sequence of our origins.

Science and Faith Can—and Do—Support Each Other Science and Christianity are often presented as opposites, when in fact the order of the universe and the complexity of life powerfully testify to intelligent design. With this comprehensive resource that includes the latest research, you'll witness how the findings of scientists provide compelling reasons to acknowledge the mind and presence of a creator. Featuring more than 45 entries by top-caliber experts, you'll better understand... how scientific concepts like intelligent design are supported by evidence the scientific findings that support the history and accounts found in the Bible the biases that lead to scientific information being presented as a challenge—rather than a complement—to Christianity Whether you're looking for answers to your own questions or seeking to explain the case for intelligent design to others, The Comprehensive Guide to Science and Faith is an invaluable apologetic tool that will help you explore and analyze the relevant facts, research, and theories in light of biblical truth.

Throughout history, people have reported seeing ghosts. But a Victorian ghost is in many respects a very different phenomenon from a ghost in Classical Greece, or in medieval Europe. Finucane surveys reports of ghosts from ancient Greece, the early Christian era, the Reformation, the Victorian age, and through the twentieth century. He asks such questions as: How have the physical aspects claimed for ghosts varied from age to age? What differences are there in the functions and intentions ascribed to ghosts? How have the changes in more general beliefs in religion and science, in particular influenced the perception of ghosts? Drawing on primary sources from all periods and cultures, Finucane addresses this topic in its full breadth. R.C. Finucane (Rochester, MI) is chairperson of the Department of History at Oakland University... highly recommended. Magonia (UK)... a useful book for those readers interested in the history of the supernatural... Extrapolation

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The bibliography lists about 10.000 titles of monographs, collections and articles in the field of the philosophy of religion and philosophical theology that appeared between 1955 and 2005. The majority of them are in the English language but publications in German, Dutch and French are listed as well. Though it is not claimed to be exhaustive, the bibliography offers a fairly representative survey of scholarly work on the main topics of interest. *** Publications have been systematically classified according to eleven main categories: "Introductions, Surveys and Historical Issues" (Part I), "Religious Language" (Part II), "Religious Experience" (Part III), "Religious Epistemology" (Part IV), "Theism" (Part V), "Hermeneutics" (Part VI), "Religion and Science" (Part VII), "Religion and Aesthetics" (Part VIII), "Religion and Morality" (Part IX), "Religious Pluralism" (Part X) and "Feminist Philosophy of Religion" (Part XI). Part III has been subdivided into "Religious Experience" and "Mystical Experience," Part VII into "The Concept of God," (arguments for) "The Existence of God," "The Problem of Evil" and "Atheism," and Part VIII into "General and Historical Issues," "Theological Issues" and "(implications of) Modern Physics, Cosmology and Biology," *** The bibliography will particularly be useful to scholars, teachers and students in the philosophy of religion, philosophical theology and systematic theology as well as to those who are interested, professionally or otherwise, in the results of academic scholarship in those fields.

This book explores the powerful new evidence discovered in the last few decades by scientific research in astronomy, the nature of the atom and DNA. These discoveries have caused a revolution in the world view of thousands of scientists as they were confronted with compelling new evidence that our universe must have been created by a Supernatural Mind. Grant Jeffrey's latest book, *Creation*, will challenge readers with fascinating new information that confirms the Bible's claim that "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth". Content Includes: ·Deep space reveals mysteries of the first moments of creation ·Wonders of the universe point to a Supernatural Creator ·A revolution in our understanding of the universe's beginning ·Astonishing evidence of the universe's intelligent design ·Remarkable discoveries about the nature of the atom ·The collapse of the Theory of Evolution ·DNA- The language of God ·Modern science discovers God

In *The Entangled God*, Kirk Wegter-McNelly addresses the age-old theological question of how God is present to the world by constructing a novel, scientifically informed account of the God–world relation. Drawing on recent scientific and philosophical work in "quantum entanglement," Wegter-McNelly develops the metaphor of "divine entanglement" to ground the relationality and freedom of physical process in the power of God's relational being. *The Entangled God* makes a three-fold contribution to contemporary theological and religious discourse. First, it calls attention to the convergence of recent theology around the idea of "relationality." Second, it introduces theological and religious readers to the fascinating story of quantum entanglement. Third, it offers a robust "plerotic" alternative to kenotic accounts of God's suffering presence in the world. Above all, this book takes us beyond the view of theology and science as adversaries and demonstrates the value of constructively relating these two important areas of intellectual investigation.

Diffusive motion--displacement due to the cumulative effect of irregular fluctuations--has been a fundamental concept in mathematics and physics since

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Einstein's work on Brownian motion. It is also relevant to understanding various aspects of quantum theory. This book explains diffusive motion and its relation to both nonrelativistic quantum theory and quantum field theory. It shows how diffusive motion concepts lead to a radical reexamination of the structure of mathematical analysis. The book's inspiration is Princeton University mathematics professor Edward Nelson's influential work in probability, functional analysis, nonstandard analysis, stochastic mechanics, and logic. The book can be used as a tutorial or reference, or read for pleasure by anyone interested in the role of mathematics in science. Because of the application of diffusive motion to quantum theory, it will interest physicists as well as mathematicians. The introductory chapter describes the interrelationships between the various themes, many of which were first brought to light by Edward Nelson. In his writing and conversation, Nelson has always emphasized and relished the human aspect of mathematical endeavor. In his intellectual world, there is no sharp boundary between the mathematical, the cultural, and the spiritual. It is fitting that the final chapter provides a mathematical perspective on musical theory, one that reveals an unexpected connection with some of the book's main themes.

Provides a sustained account of how the thought of Aquinas may be used in conjunction with contemporary science to deepen our understanding of divine action and address such issues as creation, providence, prayer, and miracles.

Many Christians are afraid to talk about their faith for fear of not knowing what to say. How can they prepare themselves? That's the purpose of "Handbook of Bible Evidences"--written by two bestselling apologetics experts, John Ankerberg and John Weldon. They provide clear and thoughtful responses to the tough questions seekers are most likely to ask--questions such as... "Hasn't evolution proved that Genesis is wrong?" "Isn't the Bible filled with historical and scientific errors?" "What evidence is there that Jesus rose from the dead?" Focused on topics related to the Bible, Jesus Christ, and creation, this powerful resource deals head-on with false assumptions and frequent misconceptions people have. And it's based on more than 30 years of apologetics research and ministry to unbelievers. A superb tool for helping readers know how to share their faith with confidence! Formerly titled "Ready with an Answer."

This book critically explores answers to the big question, What produced our universe around fifteen billion years ago in a Big Bang? It critiques contemporary atheistic cosmologies, including Steady State, Oscillationism, Big Fizz, Big Divide, and Big Accident, that affirm the eternity and self-sufficiency of the universe without God. This study defends and revises Process Theology and arguments for God's existence from the universe's life-supporting order and contingent existence.

Genesis...the story of beginnings...sets the stage for everything we know about God, the natural universe, humanity, and good and evil. It lays the foundation for all the questions asked by philosophy about knowledge, meaning, free will, the soul, ethics, happiness, and success. It forms the basis for all biblical teachings. A scientist and a scholar team up to look at the scientific and theological issues addressed in the book of Genesis. A must-have for all Sabbath school teachers or for anyone wanting to understand the science, history, and theology packed into Genesis.

Identifies the impact of Einstein's theories of relativity on the history of religion, citing his self-rejected invention of Lambda to cite God's metaphysical role in the universe and considering such topics as dark energy and dark matter. Reprint. 17,500 first printing.

This book is a philosophical examination of the mysteries surrounding the foundations of science, philosophy, and religion. Much of Western philosophy and science is discussed in order to see our epistemological and metaphysical situation. The love/hate relation philosophers have with mystery is explored and the importance of mystery is reaffirmed.

This volume continues the critical exploration of fundamental issues in the medieval and early modern world, here concerning mental health, spirituality, melancholy, mystical visions, medicine, and well-being. The contributors, who originally had presented their research at a symposium at The University of Arizona in May 2013, explore a wide range of approaches and materials pertinent to these issues, taking us from the early Middle Ages to the eighteenth century, capping the volume with some reflections on the relevance of religion today. Lapidary sciences matter here as much as medical-psychological research, combined with literary and art-historical approaches. The premodern understanding of mental health is not taken as a miraculous panacea for modern problems, but the contributors suggest that medieval and early modern writers, scientists, and artists commanded a considerable amount of arcane, sometimes curious and speculative, knowledge that promises to be of value and relevance even for us today, once again. Modern palliative medicine finds, for instance, intriguing parallels in medieval word magic, and the mystical perspectives encapsulated highly productive alternative perceptions of the macrocosm and microcosm that promise to be insightful and important also for the post-modern world.

We need a coherent picture of our world. Life's realities won't let us ignore its fundamental questions, but with so many opposing views, how will we choose answers that are reliable? In this series of books, David Gooding and John Lennox offer a fair analysis of religious and philosophical attempts to find the truth about the world and our place in it. By listening to the Bible alongside other leading voices, they show that it is not only answering life's biggest questions—it is asking better questions than we ever thought to ask. In Book 1 – Being Truly Human, Gooding and Lennox address issues surrounding the value of humans. They consider the nature and basis of morality, compare what morality means in different systems, and assess the dangerous way freedom is often devalued. What should guide our use of power? What should limit our choices? And to what extent can our choices keep us from fulfilling our potential?

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truth about the world and our place in it. By listening to the Bible alongside other leading voices, they show that it is not only answering life's biggest questions—it is asking better questions than we ever thought to ask. In Book 2 – Finding Ultimate Reality, they remind us that the authority behind ethics cannot be separated from the truth about ultimate reality. Is there a Creator who stands behind his moral law? Are we the product of amoral forces, left to create moral consensus? Gooding and Lennox compare ultimate reality as understood in: Indian Pantheistic Monism, Greek Philosophy and Mysticism, Naturalism and Atheism, and Christian Theism.

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Faith Physics is a new Theory of Everything (ToE) combining ancient spiritual wisdom and modern quantum physics findings to deliver a belief system that is both intellectually sound and spiritually satisfying. It maintains an ineffable Supreme Consciousness is the catalyst of all material creation as a 'great thought' through pure white light in zero-point morphogenetic quantum fields. Faith Physics claims that consciousness is the cornerstone of base reality existing in a timeless state of now. By using the natural cause-and-effect laws of classical physics, the uncertainty principle of quantum mechanics, and dark matter/energy, Faith Physics posits pure consciousness manifests physical creation in a remarkable myriad of forms. In the wave/particle duality paradigm revealed by quantum mechanics, conscious observation transforms light energy into particulate physical matter as condensed or frozen light in accordance with Albert Einstein's famous $E=mc^2$ equation. Faith Physics teaches us we exist and thrive in a unified participatory universe emanating from an eternal Supreme Consciousness source, and we are not just a product of random-chance evolution. In the 21st century, religion and science are reaching an enlightened consensus that pure metaphysical consciousness is perpetually painting a picture on the space-time continuum canvas depicting a miraculous cycle of physical creation, entropy, and cosmic rebirth.

In the face of increasing attacks on Christianity by militant new atheists, Christians should be able to robustly defend their beliefs in the language spoken by Christianity's detractors—science. Atheists claim that science and religion are incompatible and in constant conflict, but this book argues that this is assuredly not true. In order to rebut the polemic agenda of the new atheists who want God banned from the public square, this book engages with the physical and natural sciences, social science, philosophy, and history. It shows that evidence from these diverse disciplines constitutes clear signposts to God and the benefits of Christianity for societies, families, and individuals. Answering the New Atheists begins by examining what new atheism is, before demolishing its claim that Christianity is harmful by showing the many benefits it has for freedom and democracy, morality, longevity, and physical and mental health. Many historians of science contend that science was given its impetus by the Christian principle that a rational God wants us to discover his fingerprints on nature. Thus, in subsequent chapters, Walsh presents a well-informed and philosophical-based analysis of the Big Bang and cosmic fine-tuning, the unimaginable improbability of factors that make this planet habitable, and the multiverse often called the "last refuge of the desperate atheist." Interdisciplinary in its approach, this book adeptly explores the very

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problematic issues of the origin and evolution of life that have forced many top-rate scientists including Nobel Prize winners, who have thought deeply about the philosophical meaning of their work, to accept God as the Creator of everything. Does God exist? Did a Master Designer create our universe, or did life spontaneously evolve? Can science retain objectivity in the search for truth while allowing for the possibility that God exists? Does it make any difference? Ariel A. Roth, scientist and Christian believer, examines key issues related to the God question: * the intricate organization of matter in the universe * the precision of the forces of physics * the complexity of the eye and the brain * the elaborate genetic code * the disparity between the fossil record and the vast amount of time necessary for evolution Faced with so much evidence that seems to require a God in order to explain what we find in nature, why does the scientific community remain silent about God? Hypotheses and speculations that attempt to fit data into a predetermined conclusion abound. What overriding influence prevents scientists from following the data of nature wherever it may lead?

Reasons We Believe will reinforce your personal faith and will provide you with a clear, concise, evangelistic tool to help you share that faith with others. In an age of cynics and skeptics, Christianity is constantly under attack. Believers need resources that defend the veracity of their faith. They are searching for clear, concise, and credible answers to both doubts of their own and objections from their unbelieving friends. Nathan Busenitz provides such resources to believers. Reasons We Believe confirms and strengthens the faith of believers by demonstrating the reliability of the twofold authority on which Christianity rests: the Word of God and the person of Jesus Christ. Reasons builds a biblical foundation for the authority of the Bible and then shows how extra-biblical evidence corresponds with and thereby attests to what the Bible claims. This study seeks to reinforce the faith of Christians while also providing them with a straightforward evangelistic tool for reaching non-Christians.

Has modern physics proven that the universe was created by absolutely nothing? Absolutely not! Have modern cosmology and Darwinian evolution eliminated the need for God? Absolutely not! Have the new atheists demonstrated the irrelevance of theology and philosophy in the pursuit of Truth? Not even close! The first of the four-volume Eternal Harmony series, The Unity of Truth in God demonstrates decisively the powerful convergence of God-made religion and genuine science as well as faith and reason in the unity of truth in the one, true, triune God of the Holy Bible. The Tower of Modern Scientism is concurrently demolished so that not one scientific stone is left standing upon another. Can the truths of modern science and God-made religion be brought into Eternal Harmony? Most definitely! Are human life and the cosmos meaningful and purposeful? Yes! Can you personally inherit eternal life in the new heavens and the new earth and be with God Himself? Absolutely! Join physicist Dr. Ron R. Rickards on a sacred journey up the Mountain of Truth, which begins on common scientific and religious ground and ends with the most exalted truths of modern science and God-made religion coexisting peacefully in Eternal Harmony. By incorporating the lyric sheets to a dozen original songs, The Unity of Truth in God engages the reader as all human beings truly deserve to be engaged: in the fullness of our humanity that is, in heart, soul, and mind. The soundtrack is available through Amazon, iTunes and other popular outlets.

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Originally published in 2006, the Encyclopedia of American Civil Liberties, is a comprehensive 3 volume set covering a broad range of topics in the subject of American Civil Liberties. The book covers the topic from numerous different areas including freedom of speech, press, religion, assembly and petition. The Encyclopedia also addresses areas such as the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, slavery, censorship, crime and war. The book's multidisciplinary approach will make it an ideal library reference resource for lawyers, scholars and students.

Is God a superfluous hypothesis for modern cosmology? According to the normal understanding of modern science, the answer should be affirmative because modern science is supposed to be free of metaphysical and theological presuppositions. However, despite its self-proclaimed neutrality regarding metaphysics and theology, modern science is full of metaphysical and theological presuppositions. These can be summarized as a mechanistic understanding of nature, a reduction of God to an external agent in competition with natural processes, and creation to a worldly mechanism. These presuppositions are deficient and untenable, and they remain unconscious for the most part in the dialogue between science and theology, making it intellectually impossible because of the reduced notions of God, nature, and creation assumed. Using the coherent and unreduced image of God and nature provided by the Christian doctrine of creation ex nihilo, Fr. David Alcalde intends to uncover and criticize the incoherent theological assumptions inherent in a concrete branch of modern science, which is modern cosmology. The author points out the presence of these inadequate theological presuppositions in both the theologians who use modern cosmology to offer scientific proof for the existence of God and the atheistic cosmologists who use their science to reject the idea of God.

"This conclusion, and the distinctive path that leads to it, will interest students and scholars in philosophy of religion and theology. A Middle Way to God will also be enlightening reading for general readers with an interest in the question of God's existence."--Jacket.

Stranger and more momentous than the strangest of scientific theories is the appearance of God on the intellectual horizon of contemporary science. From Einstein, Planck, and Heisenberg, to Margenau, Hawking, and Eccles, some of the most penetrating modern minds have needed God in order to make sense of the cosmos.

Foundations of science are specific conditions of the cosmos, of human intelligence, of cultural beliefs, and of technological structures that make the pursuit of modern science possible. Each of the four foundations of scientific endeavour can be studied as a topic on its own. The concurrent study of all four together reveals several tensions and interconnections among them that point the way to a greater unification of faith and science. This book explores four foundations of scientific endeavour and investigates some of the paradoxes each of them raises. Kaiser shows that the resolution of these paradoxes inevitably leads us into theological discourse and raises new challenges for theological endeavour. In order to address these challenges, Kaiser draws on the wider resources of the Judeo-Christian tradition and argues for a refocusing of contemporary theology from the perspective of natural science.

"An introduction to Thomas Aquinas's theology of the One Creator God, this book provides a basic explanation of Aquinas's theology, while showing its compatibility with contemporary science and relevance to current theological issues"--

Originally published in 2006, the Encyclopedia of American Civil Liberties, is a comprehensive 3 volume set covering a broad range of topics in the subject of civil liberties in America. The book covers the topic from numerous different areas including freedom of speech, press,

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religion, assembly and petition. The Encyclopedia also addresses areas such as the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, slavery, censorship, crime and war. The book's multidisciplinary approach will make it an ideal library reference resource for lawyers, scholars and students.

In this book, over 30 prominent scientists, theologians, and philosophers explore three main convergences: the convergence of different sciences to give a coherent story of mankind, religious convergence whereby different traditions work together toward global harmony, and the convergence of science and religion.

Christianity has been accused of being misogynistic, pro-slavery, and anti-science, and some say it is finally beginning its long decline. This book provides an entirely different side to the stories about this faith. • Provides an introduction to Christianity in its historical context • Examines particular misconceptions related to Christianity through history along with what are now believed to be the historical truths • Excerpts primary source documents for evidence for how the misconceptions developed and spread • Offers a selected general bibliography of the most important sources of additional information

This book straddles the fertile middle ground between science and religion at a time when the conversation is dominated by extremists on both sides. Taking seriously the modern view of the universe, including the fossil record for the history of life across millions of years, the author considers our relationship to the rest of nature. In addition, the age-old questions concerning meaning, values, and our place within it all are perhaps more pressing than ever before. This work provides a broad engagement with major ideas, including evolution and earth stewardship, while drawing upon a rich heritage of philosophy and literature and doing so in a manner accessible to the general reader.

At long last, here is a book on this topic worth reading....Edis...is a physicist who knows his science. Well-versed in Christian and Islamic scripture and thought, Edis is particularly cogent in his discussion of both biological and cosmological evolution....well-written and amply documented...should be read by anyone who has even the remotest interest in science, religions, or both. Highly recommended for all libraries. - Choicels there a God, or a spiritual reality beyond nature? Physicist Taner Edis takes a fresh look at this age-old question, focusing on what we have learned about our world rather than on traditional metaphysical disputes. Emphasizing a search for explanation rather than listing flaws in theistic metaphysics, Edis uses the results of natural science to present a world where complexity, intelligence, and even the sublime heights of religious experience emerge from what is ultimately material and random. Sympathetically criticizing Muslim and New Age perspectives, as well as Jewish and Christian arguments, Edis argues that a thoroughgoing naturalism leads to a much better explanation of our world. While making it clear that spiritual views have a genuine intellectual appeal, Edis systematically critiques such arguments, contrasting them with stronger naturalistic explanations. Science is central to this naturalistic picture; modern physics, evolutionary biology, and critical history, as well as contemporary psychology and brain sciences, all cast doubt on any spiritual reality. Bringing together ideas from many disciplines in a style that remains accessible to nonspecialists, and also interesting to scientists and philosophers, Edis provides an informative, in-depth statement of the case for scientific naturalism as the most accurate and powerful description of our world today. Taner Edis (Kirksville, MO) is assistant professor of physics at Truman State University.

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