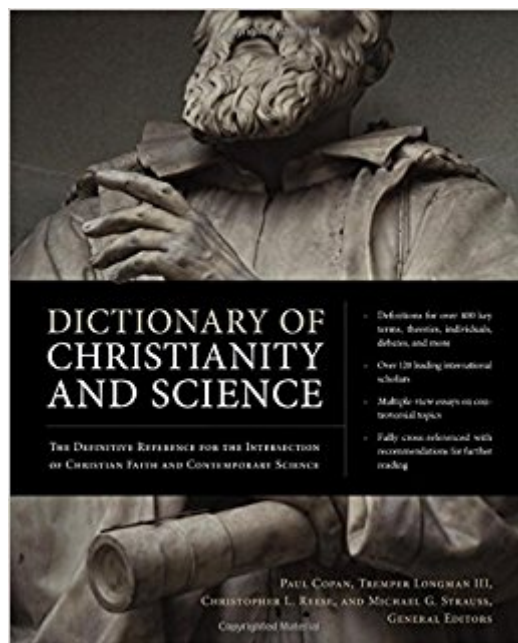




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# Dictionary Of Christianity And Science: The Definitive Reference For The Intersection Of Christian Faith And Contemporary Science



## Synopsis

The definitive reference work on science and Christian belief How does Christian theology relate to scientific inquiry? What are the competing philosophies of science, and do they work with a Christian faith based on the Bible? No reference work has covered this terrain sufficiently until now. Featuring the work of over 140 international contributors, the Dictionary of Christianity and Science is a deeply-researched, peer-reviewed, fair-minded work that illuminates the intersection of science and Christian belief. In one volume, you get reliable summaries and critical analyses of over 450 relevant concepts, theories, terms, movements, individuals, and debates. You will find answers to your toughest questions about faith and science, from Adam and Eve and the Age of the Earth to Evolution and String Theory.

**FEATURES INCLUDE:** Entries for over 450 key terms, theories, individuals, debates, and more will help you think through some of today's most challenging topics, including climate change, evolution, bioethics, and much more. Essays from over 140 leading international scholars, including Francis Beckwith, Michael Behe, Darrell Bock, William Lane Craig, Hugh Ross, Craig Keener, Davis Young, John Walton, and many more. Multiple review essays on controversial topics allow you to understand and compare viewpoints. Learn about flesh-and-blood figures who have shaped the interaction of science and religion: Augustine, Aquinas, Bacon, Darwin, and Stephen Hawking are just the beginning. Full cross-reference system, and entries include references and recommendations for further reading. Advance Praise:

"Every Christian studying science will want a copy within arm's reach." Scot McKnight, Northern Seminary

"This is an invaluable resource that belongs in every Christian's library. I will be keeping my copy close by when I'm writing." Lee Strobel, Elizabeth and John Gibson chair of apologetics, Houston Baptist University

"Sparkles with passion, controversy, and diverse perspectives." Karl Giberson, professor of science and religion, Stonehill College

"An impressive resource that presents a broad range of topics from a broad tent of evangelical scholars." Michael R. Licona, Houston Baptist University

"I am certain that this dictionary will serve the church for many years in leading many to demonstrate that modern science can glorify our Creator and honor his creation." Denis O. Lamoureux, University of Alberta

"Dictionary is too humble a label for what this is! I anticipate that this will offer valuable guidance for Christian faithfulness." C. John Collins, Covenant Theological Seminary

Get answers to the difficult questions surround faith and science! Adam and Eve | the Age of the Earth | Climate Change | Evolution | Fossil Record | Genesis Flood | Miracles | Cosmology | Big Bang theory | Bioethics |

Darwinism Death | Extraterrestrial Life | Multiverse | String theory | and much, much more

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Dictionaries are shaped by editors, and the editors of Dictionary of Christianity and Science have created a resource unlike anything available. Here the reader will find fair-minded summaries of crucial scientific categories, diverse viewpoints that will surely satisfy and dissatisfy everyone, sketches of schools of thought that become mini-classroom experiences, and a breadth of learning that demonstrates that evangelicalism is coming of age in the discussion about science and faith. Gone are old-fashioned dismissals of science in favor of the Bible. Instead, what we find is rigorous thinking about some of our faith's most difficult challenges. Every Christian studying science will want a copy of Dictionary of Christianity and Science within arm's reach. -- Scot McKnight, Julius R. Mantey Professor of New Testament, Northern Seminary

As a pastor, I'm called to speak God's word about God's world to God's people. This means connecting Scripture to a whole range of contemporary issues---many of which are outside the training or expertise of the pastor. As a result, I'm always on the lookout for resources to help me wisely shepherd my congregation. That's why I'm thrilled to see the Dictionary of Christianity and Science. What pastor has the time to be up to speed on all the issues at the intersection of Christianity and science? Yet what pastor can avoid the need to have something thoughtful to say? Our congregations look to us for this kind of intellectual leadership---and this one-of-a-kind resource makes that job a whole lot easier. A wealth of articles

on an array of topics, written with both scholarly acumen and pastoral grace. I can't recommend this resource highly enough. -- Todd Wilson, Senior Pastor, Calvary Memorial Church

This is an invaluable resource that belongs in every Christian's library. Pastors and others will find themselves consulting it frequently for its insightful and helpful entries. I will be keeping my copy close by when I'm writing. -- Lee Strobel, author of *The Case for Christ*; The Elizabeth and John Gibson Chair of Apologetics, Houston Baptist University

Zondervan's new Dictionary of Christianity and Science sparkles with passion, controversy, and diverse perspectives. Contributors cover the many intersections of Christianity and science, and the thinkers who work there. The embattled terrain of evangelicalism receives special emphasis, with contributions from competing thinkers. The result is an engaging, useful volume that belongs in the library of anyone thinking seriously about science and Christian belief. -- Karl Giberson, Professor of Science and Religion, Stonehill College

I am pleased to recommend this dictionary edited by Paul Copan, Tremper Longman, Chris Reese, and Michael Strauss. From the beginning article on Adam and Eve, it is clear that the editors have labored earnestly to include differing perspectives on many issues involving science and Christianity. Although I do not agree with every position, particularly theistic evolution, there is value in challenging readers to examine these issues carefully for themselves. -- Dr. Henry F. Schaefer III, Graham Perdue Professor of Chemistry, University of Georgia

In this unusual dictionary, over a hundred evangelical Christian scholars vigorously (and variously) defend biblical insights in dialogue with and confronting contemporary science (and scientism). From the early Genesis stories of creation, accepting Adam as historical and representative, to Darwinian natural history and genetics, to Jesus's resurrection, to human nature seen theologically and in social science, here is conservative Christianity at its reasoned best. -- Holmes Rolston III, University Distinguished Professor, Colorado State University

Zondervan's Dictionary of Christianity and Science is an impressive resource that presents a broad range of topics from a broad tent of evangelical scholars. I appreciate that it often presents multiple views. For example, we find entries defending both old-earth and young-earth views of creation as well as one defending a historical Adam and Eve and one not so committed to that view. I look forward to having this reference work on my shelf. -- Michael R. Licona, Associate Professor of Theology, Houston Baptist University

Books on the relationship of Christianity and science are, by their very nature, controversial, and this one will be no exception. However, the editors and authors have assembled a substantial amount of material on this topic, including not only terms and definitions but multiple-view discussions that explain various views on many of the more controversial subjects. The sheer number of terms, ideas, concepts, and

discussions included in this dictionary make this book an extremely unique and helpful “first step” for anyone interested in the subjects included. This volume is the place to begin when questions dealing with the relationship of Christianity to science are broached. -- K. Scott Oliphint, Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Science and Christianity are the two great forces that have shaped the modern world. This wideranging dictionary offers thorough coverage of numerous points at which they have intersected historically, mapping the intellectual landscape. Any serious reader who turns to it for reference or for more thorough study will learn a great deal. -- Timothy McGrew, Professor and Chairman, Department of Philosophy, Western Michigan University

Since the mid-1990s, an exciting development has arisen within scholarly circles of what many people have termed the “New Academic Dialogue between Science and Religion.” There has been a dramatic increase in the number of books moving away from the common perception that modern scientific discoveries and Christian faith are entrenched in a never-ending conflict. The Dictionary of Christianity and Science is a welcome addition to this growing body of literature. The excellent selection of entries covers all the major topics and debates that are relevant today. The remarkably clear writing style and balanced presentation of differing views make this dictionary accessible to both specialists in the field and the general public. I am certain that this dictionary will serve the church for many years in leading many to demonstrate that modern science can glorify our Creator and honor his creation. -- Denis O. Lamoureux, Associate Professor of Science and Religion, St. Joseph’s College, University of Alberta

I am very grateful to the editors and contributors for this incredible resource. They have wisely sought advocates of the differing positions and have throughout sought to be comprehensive, informative, and, above all, fair. “Dictionary” is too humble a label for what this is! I anticipate that this will offer valuable guidance for Christian faithfulness. -- C. John Collins, Professor of Old Testament, Covenant Theological Seminary

Paul Copan(PhD, Marquette University) is the Pledger Family Chair of Philosophy and Ethics at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Florida. In addition to authoring many journal articles, he has written or edited over thirty books in philosophy, theology, and apologetics, including *Creation Out of Nothing: A Biblical, Philosophical, and Scientific Exploration*, and has served as President of the Evangelical Philosophical Society. He and his wife, Jacqueline, have six children and live in West Palm Beach.

Tremper Longman III (PhD, Yale University) is the Robert H. Gundry Professor of Biblical Studies and the chair of the Religious Studies department at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California, where he lives with his wife, Alice. He is the Old Testament editor for

the revised Expositor's Bible Commentary and general editor for the Story of God Bible Commentary Old Testament and has authored many articles and books on the Psalms and other Old Testament books. Christopher L. Reese (ThM, Talbot School of Theology) is a writer, editor, and independent scholar. He previously served as marketing manager for B&H Academic, and associate publisher at Moody Publishers. He is cofounder of the Christian Apologetics Alliance. Michael G. Strauss (PhD, University of California, Los Angeles) is a David Ross Boyd Professor of Physics at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma, where he lives with his wife, Julie. He conducts research in experimental particle physics using data from the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Geneva, Switzerland. He has previously done research at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center and the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, and he and his collaborators have published around 1,000 papers in peer-reviewed journals. Strauss speaks at churches, schools, and universities around the world about the intersection of science and Christianity.

Overall, this is a very impressive resource, with well-written articles, every one of which includes References and Recommended Reading. Therefore, I was a bit surprised at what wasn't included, such as an Index that would let the reader know that Theistic Evolution was to be found under Evolutionary Creation, which is reasonable, except that there is no cross-reference to let the reader know. Also, an Index to the Multiple-Views Discussions would have been a helpful and easy-to-create addition to the Dictionary. Multiple-Views Discussions included, among others, Adam and Eve, the Age of the Universe, Young and Old Earth Creationism, the Days of Creation, Evolutionary Creationism, the Fossil Record, the Genesis Flood, and Hominid Fossils. I was therefore surprised to see so little discussion of other current hot-button Christianity and Science issues like Information and Intelligent Design (one very short article each, both by William Dembski, with no multiple-view response), and Original Sin (one page). Despite these shortcomings, I recommend this book to anyone interested in the Christianity and Science dialogue. Another similar, though much smaller, book that does include both a List of Entries and an Index is "A Science and Religion Primer," edited by Heidi Campbell & Heather Looy (Baker Academic, 2009).

Balanced and well written.

Excellent book. A great reference book.

thanks

Well written and laid out like a dictionary. There is a lot of great information in here. Overall, highly recommended!

useable and scholarly at the same time

When you pick up this attractive hardback *“Dictionary of Christianity and Science”*, edited by Paul Copan, Tremper Longman, Christopher Reese, and Michael Strauss, your first thought will be to wonder if it can live up to its subtitle *“the definitive reference for the intersection of Christian faith and contemporary science”*. To my mind, it was a boast that turned out to be true. That’s not to say, that you will agree with everything you read here. Fully conservative views are well defined, but in the interest of providing a comprehensive resource other views are as well. Since evangelical Christianity is not in full agreement on these subjects, you will discover here are all the opinions out there. If you do either theological or apologetic reading, you have already noticed the debate on its margins with science. In our post-Christian age, this is no time for trite platitudes. This resource helps us understand and intelligently discuss at the very point where so much of modern society is attacking Christianity. The entries given are of three types. Some are short introductions intended to give an overview. There are longer entries called essays that attempt to give a larger picture. Finally, some oft-debated subjects are given what they call multiple-view discussions. In these cases, scholars of varying opinions make their strongest case. That type of debate can be most instructive. The range of topics covered almost anything I could think of regarding faith and science. Whether it was common terminology or less common scholarly jargon, you will find it here. You will find scientific terms, hot button issues of our generation, prominent movements and people, and some things I imagine you’ve never heard of before. There are various creation/evolution theories, the Flood, fossil records, bioethics, and even climate change from various viewpoints. I could easily see myself in the future reading an article and coming to an obscure concept or the element of debate I was a little rusty on and grabbing this book to get a grasp of what I was reading. This book has clearly found a niche missing in other Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias. This fine volume succeeded in what it set out to do and I think it’s an all-around winner. I predict it will be the go-to

volume of its kind for many years. I received this book free from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.

Excellent resource! One of a kind!

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