

CHRISTIANITY AND SCIENCE

“Science arose in the West—and only in the West—precisely because the Judeo-Christian conception of God encouraged and even demanded this pursuit.”

(Rodney Stark, *How the West Won*, p. 321)

“Science arose only in Christian Europe because only medieval Europeans believed that science was *possible* and *desirable*. And the basis of their belief was their image of God and his creation.”

(Rodney Stark, *How the West Won*, p. 325)

“However, the most significant contribution of the natural philosophers of the Middle Ages was to make modern science conceivable. They made science safe in a Christian context, showed how it could be useful and constructed a worldview where it made sense. Their central belief that nature was created by God and so worthy of their attention was one that Galileo wholeheartedly endorsed. Without that awareness, modern science would simply not have happened.”

(Jame Hannan, *God's Philosophers*, p. 336)

“Modern Western empirical science originated and flourished in the bosom of Christian theism and originated nowhere else. ...it was Christian Europe that fostered, promoted, and nourished modern science. It arose nowhere else. All of the great names of early Western science, furthermore—Nicholoas Copernicus, Galileo Galilei, Isaac Newton, Robert Boyle, John Wilkins, Roger Cotes, and many others—all were serious believers in God.”

(Alvin Plantinga, *Where the Conflict Really Lies*, p. 266)

Science's Philosophical Assumptions¹

- 1) The existence of a theory-independent external world
- 2) The orderly nature of the external world
- 3) Knowability of the external world
- 4) Existence of truth
- 5) Laws of logic
- 6) Reliability of our cognitive and sensory faculties
- 7) Adequacy of language to describe the world
- 8) Existence of values in science (e. g. test fairly, report honestly)
- 9) Uniformity of nature & induction
(Seriously challenged by David Hume in his Problem of Induction)
- 10) Existence of numbers (numbers possess properties, and therefore are objects that exist, albeit abstractly)

¹ J. P. Moreland and William Lane Craig, *Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview*, p. 349