



Discussion Questions

THE SURPRISING REBIRTH OF BELIEF IN GOD

by Justin Brierley

Chapter 5: The Alternative Story of Science

1. We often think of science as an objective pursuit—a quest for truth that transcends personal biases. How does the ideal of scientific neutrality clash with the practical realities of human involvement in research? (pp. 129-134) Why do you think scientists like Thomas Nagel and Antony Flew were treated as “heretics”? (pp. 155-157 and 163)
2. How did their Christian faith influence scientists like Bacon, Kepler, Boyle, Newton, Pascal, et al. in their pursuit of scientific knowledge? (pp. 136-139)
3. What do atheists mean when they say Christians believe in a “God of the gaps”? (p. 139-140) If, one day, science discovers all the mysterious workings of the universe, and can explain its mechanics in complete detail, what impact do you think that will have on religious belief? (p. 160-164)
4. What are the theological implications of the scientific observation that the universe had a “‘first moment’ when all of space, matter and even time itself appeared” (versus the previous steady-state theory that said the universe was eternal and had always existed)? (p. 148-149)
5. What do you think the intricate interplay between the physical world, human consciousness, and mathematical laws that allow us to explore and understand God’s creation through science reveals about Him? (pp. 152-154).

6. This chapter mentions two holders of contemporary Christian viewpoints on creation: Francis Collins (BioLogos/ Theistic Evolution) and Hugh Ross (Reasons to Believe/ Old Earth Creationism), and we could add Stephen Meyer (Discovery Institute/ Intelligent Design) and Ken Ham (Answers in Genesis/ Young Earth Creationism). Despite their differences, all share a commitment to Christ and Scripture. Is a Christian's view of creation a salvation issue? How can Christians maintain unity while respecting diverse views of creation?

7. For a great animated video about the Fine-Tuning of the Universe (pp. 144-148), watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EE76nwimuT0> from drcraigvideos [6:22].
 - What is your biggest takeaway, and what fact might you be able to work into a conversation with a skeptic?