



Belief in God in an Age of Science

By John Polkinghorne

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John Polkinghorne brings unique qualifications to his exploration of the possibilities of believing in God in an age of science: he is internationally known as a theoretical physicist and as a theologian. In this thought-provoking book, Polkinghorne focuses on the collegiality between science and theology, contending that the inquiries of these "intellectual cousins" are parallel.

"Polkinghorne [presents] a polished and logically coherent argument."—Freeman J. Dyson, *New York Review of Books*

"Short, accessible, and authoritative."—Carlin Romano, *Philadelphia Inquirer*

"This book should be widely read."—Colin Tudge, *New Statesman and Society*

"If you read one book on science and religion, this should be it."—*Kirkus Reviews*

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Belief in God in an Age of Science, by the renowned theoretical physicist and theologian John Polkinghorne (a fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge), collects a series of lectures exploring the compatibility of science and theology. Polkinghorne's most interesting argument is that the two disciplines, which he calls "intellectual cousins," exhibit "a common concern with the attainment of understanding through the search for motivated belief." He describes this common concern by comparing the scientific investigation into the nature of light that led to the quantum theory with the theological investigation of the nature of Christ's being that led to the Chalcedonian Creed. Polkinghorne's prose is lucid throughout, and his broadminded rigor persuades readers that "if reality is generously and adequately construed, then knowledge will be seen to be one; if rationality is generously and adequately construed, then science and theology will be seen as partners in a common quest for understanding." --*Michael Joseph Gross*

From Library Journal

In medieval times, theology was known as "the queen of the sciences." Not so today. A new dialog between religion and science has begun, however, and in that conversation Polkinghorne, theoretical physicist and Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral, holds a special place. This accessible little book grew from the Terry Lectures the author gave at Yale in October 1996. Polkinghorne discusses new developments in the theology of nature, inquiries into divine purpose and human destiny, and explanations of how God works in the world. He explores prospects for future dialog and the pursuit of truth in the company of both science and theology. The possible rapprochement of scientific thinking and belief in God has been probed in numerous books recently, including Richard Swinburne's *Is There a God?* (Oxford Univ., 1996). Lay readers may find this discussion exciting but heady; can it be grounded in experience? Recommended for public and academic libraries. ?John R. Leech, Brooklyn, N.Y.

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From [Booklist](#)

Atheists must exercise new caution when invoking modern science to advance their views. An Anglican priest and a theoretical physicist, Polkinghorne articulates a faith strengthened, not threatened, by the latest scientific research. Whether puzzling over the curious fit between the laws of physics and the requirements for life or tracing the similarities between the methods of the scientist and those of the theologian, Polkinghorne reasons with rare sophistication. He aims not for a dogmatic affirmation but, rather, for an open dialogue. Only through such dialogue can religious belief acquire rigor while scientific theory gains human meaning. Within such dialogue, the chaos theory invites reflection on divine providence, and mathematical formulas open into an investigation of how the mind finds truth. Even public libraries with small holdings in philosophy will want this book, which holds rare promise for healing the secular-religious fissures in our fractured culture. *Bryce Christensen*

Users Review

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