

Theism

- ✓ from the Greek word θεός (*theos*) meaning 'God'
- ✓ the world view that affirms the existence of God



Theism

the view that says:
"God exists."



Agnosticism

- ✓ from the Greek word γνῶσις (*gnosis*) meaning 'knowledge'
- ✓ with the negation α (*a*) meaning 'not' or 'no'
- ✓ the suspension of judgment on the question of God's existence

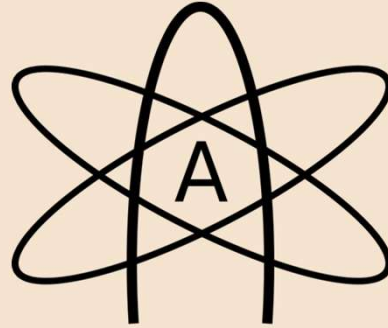


Agnosticism
the view that
says:
"I don't know
whether God
exists."



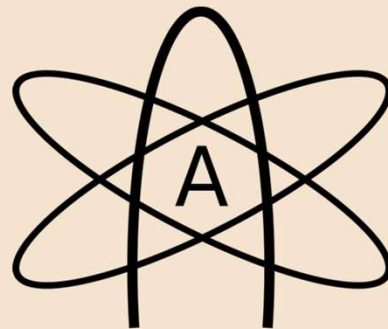
Atheism

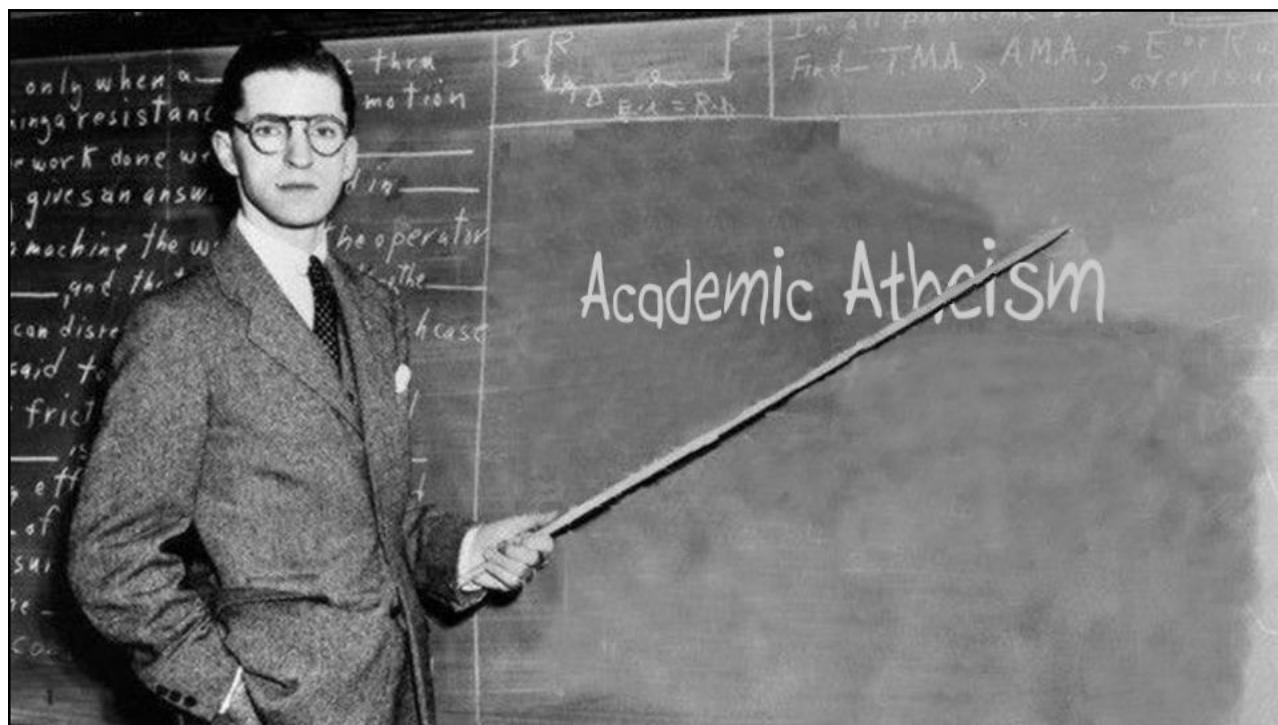
- ✓ from the Greek word θεός (*theos*) meaning 'God'
- ✓ with the negation α (*a*) meaning 'not' or 'no'
- ✓ the world view that denies the existence of God



Atheism

the view that says
"God does not exist."





The "New" Atheism



Richard Dawkins

Sam Harris

Daniel Dennett

Christopher Hitchens

Popular Atheism

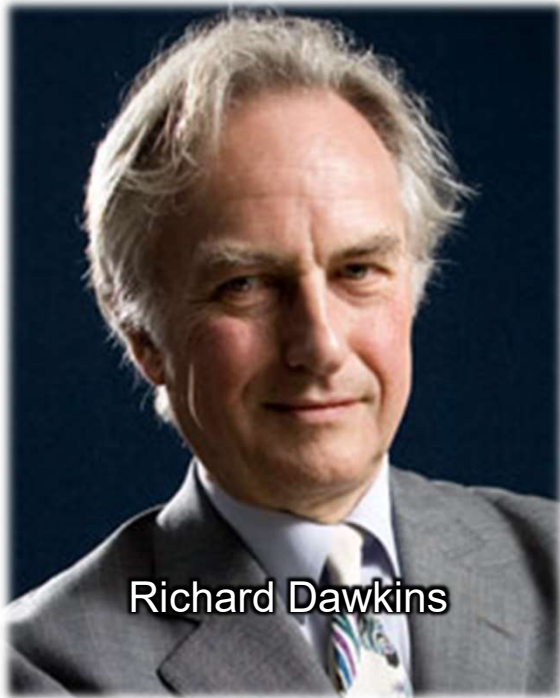


What Is Popular Atheism?



Who Are Some Popular Atheists?

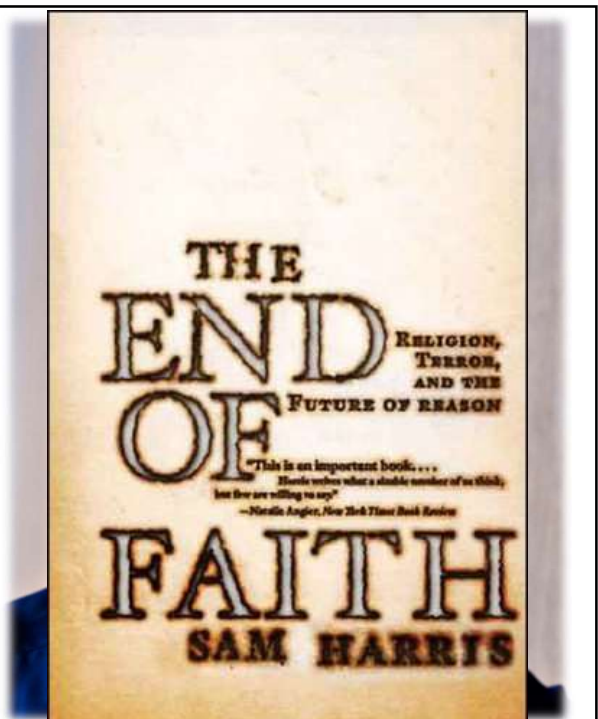
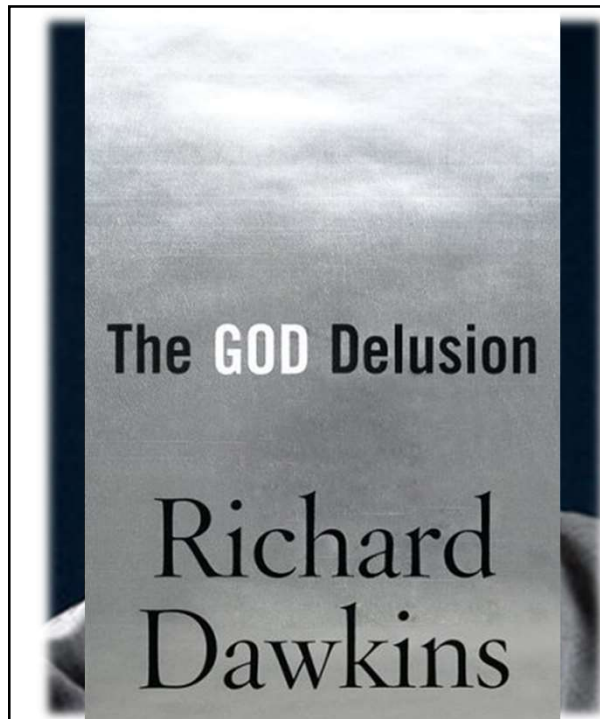




Richard Dawkins

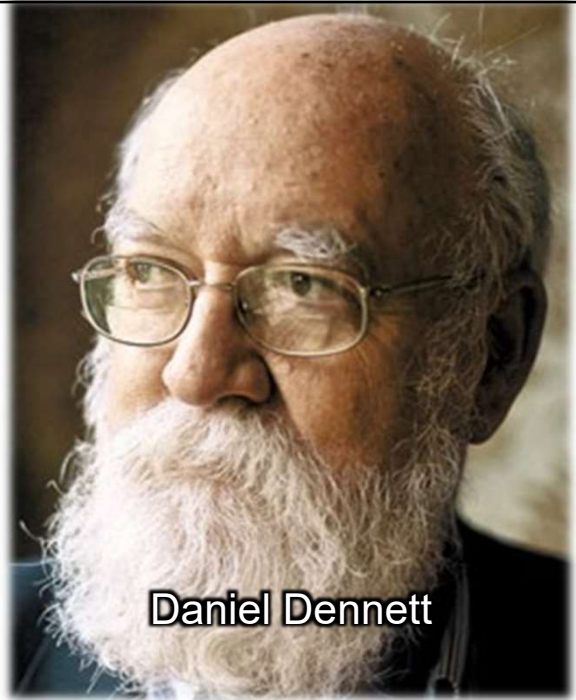


Sam Harris

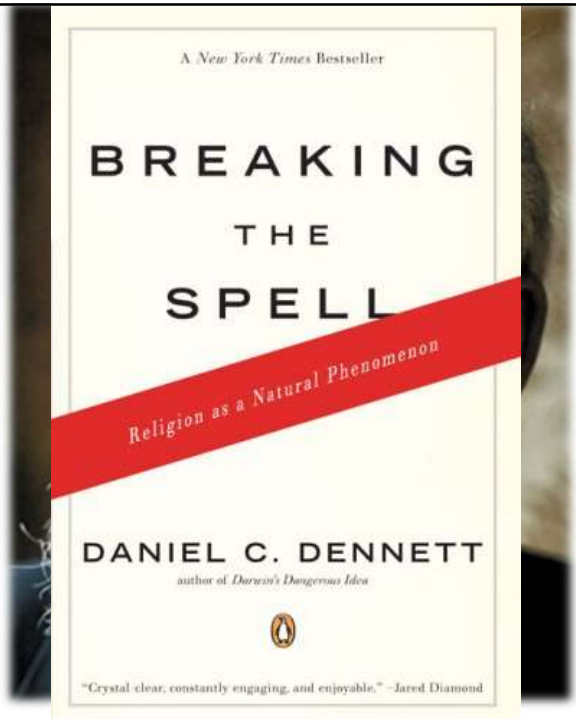
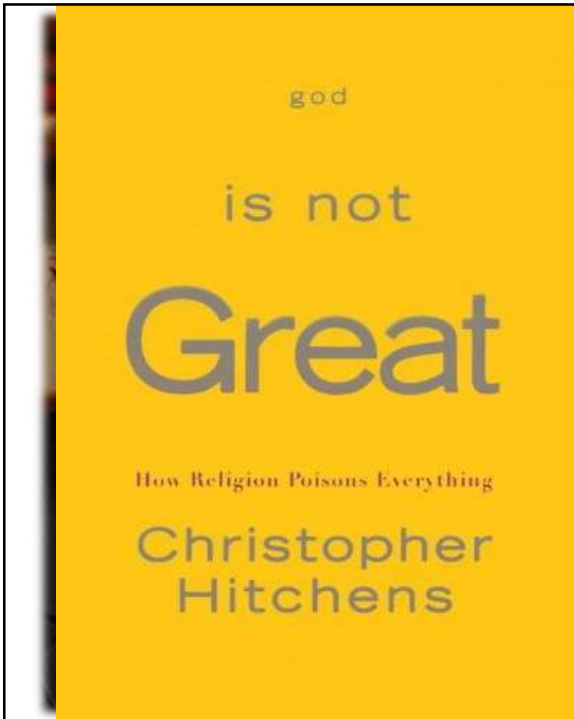


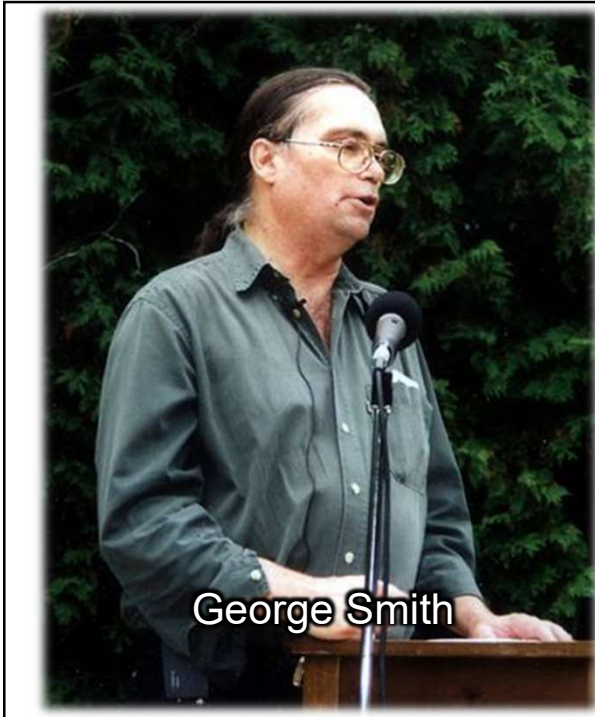


Christopher Hitchens
(1949-2011)

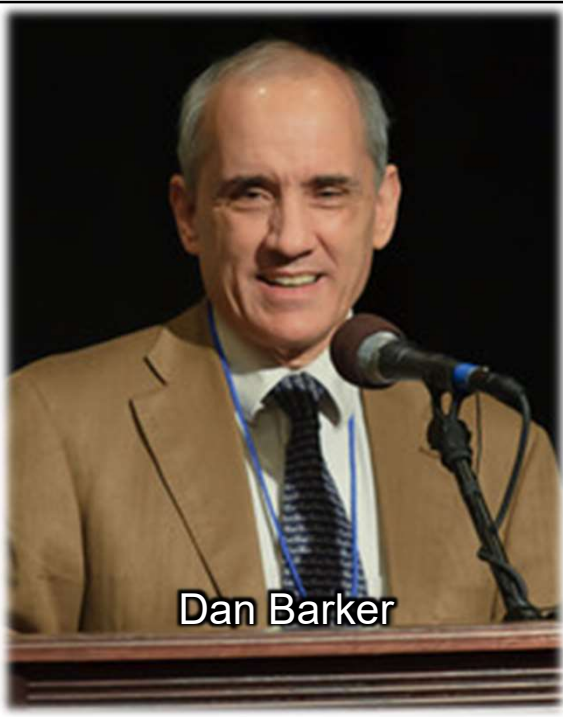


Daniel Dennett

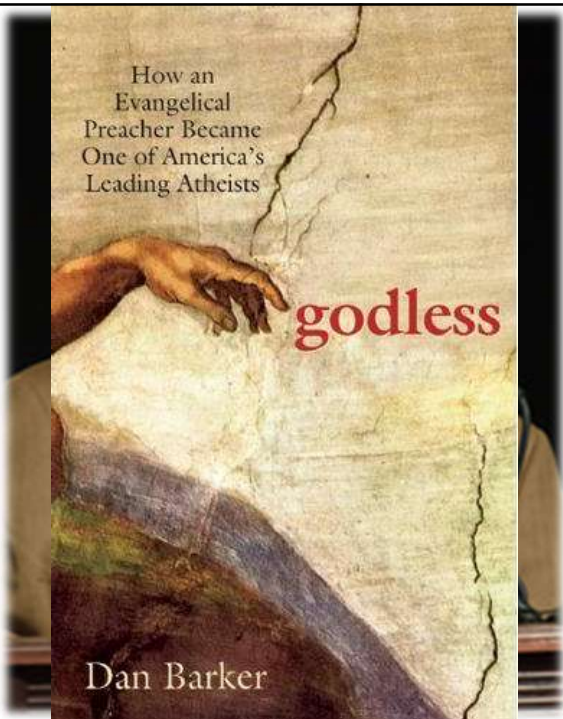
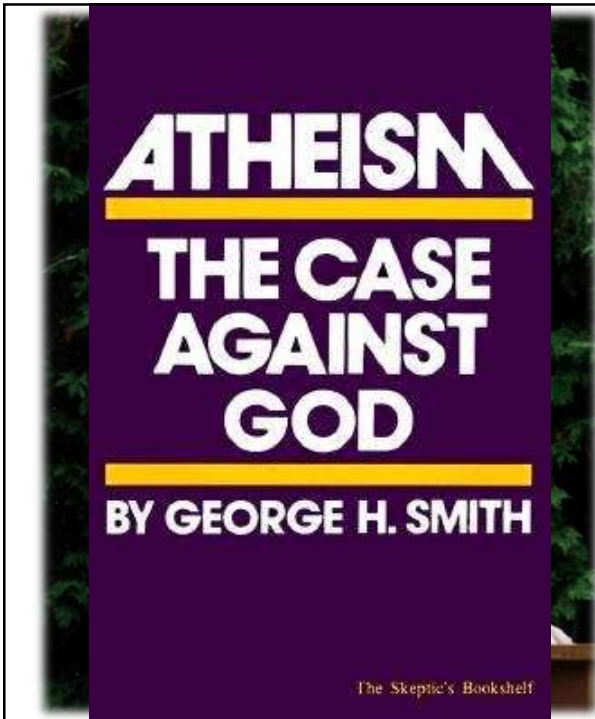


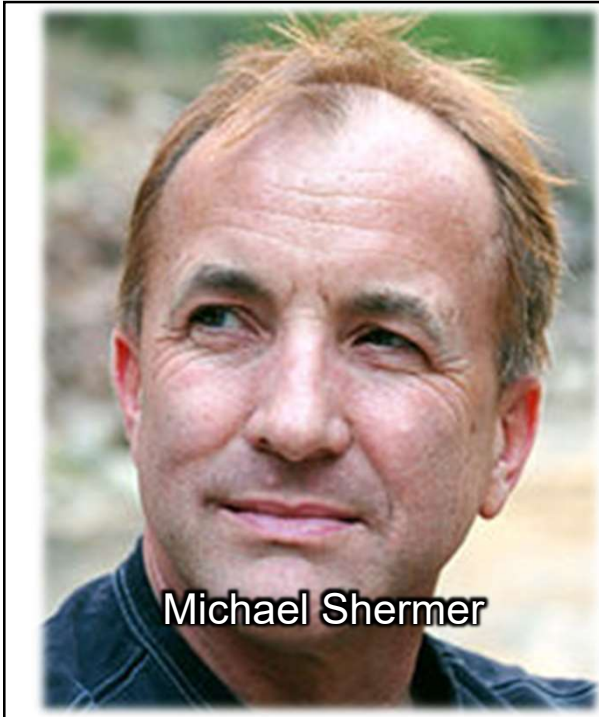


George Smith

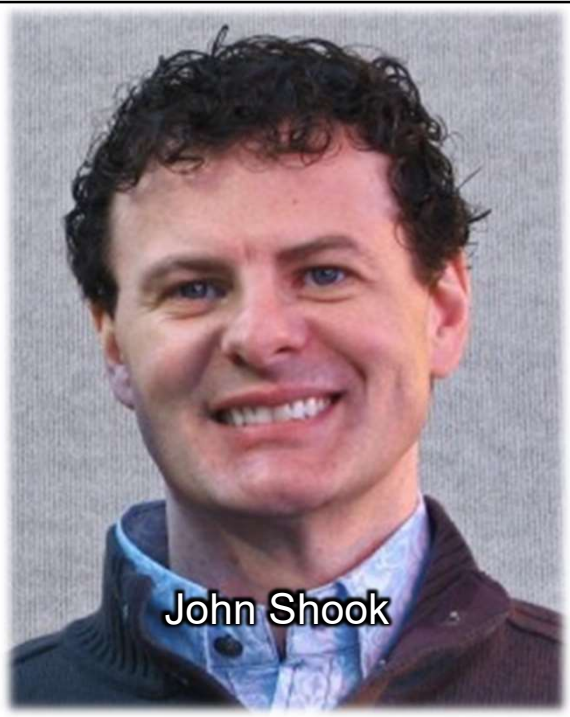


Dan Barker

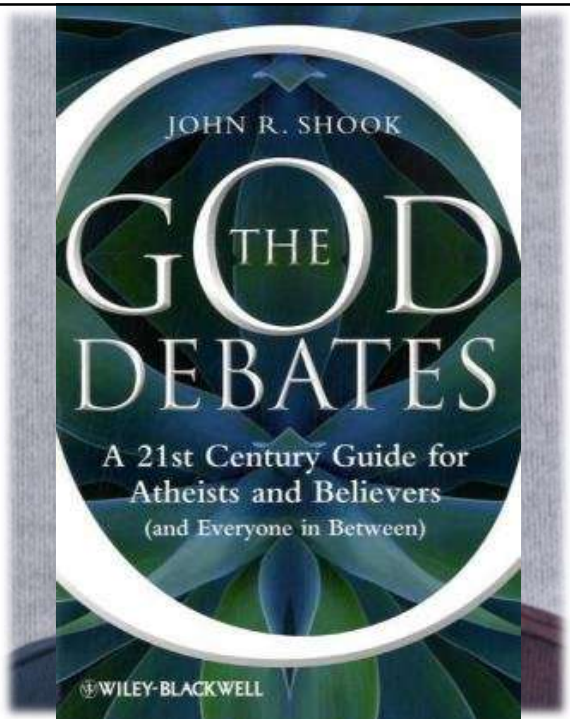
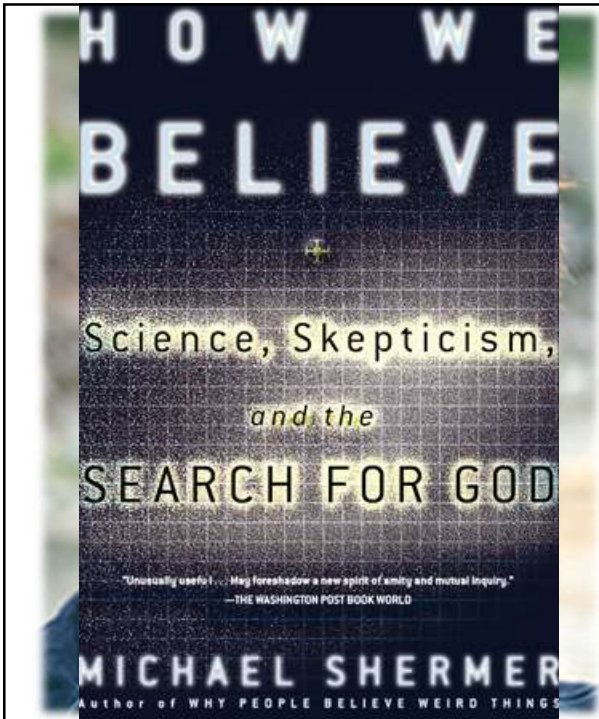




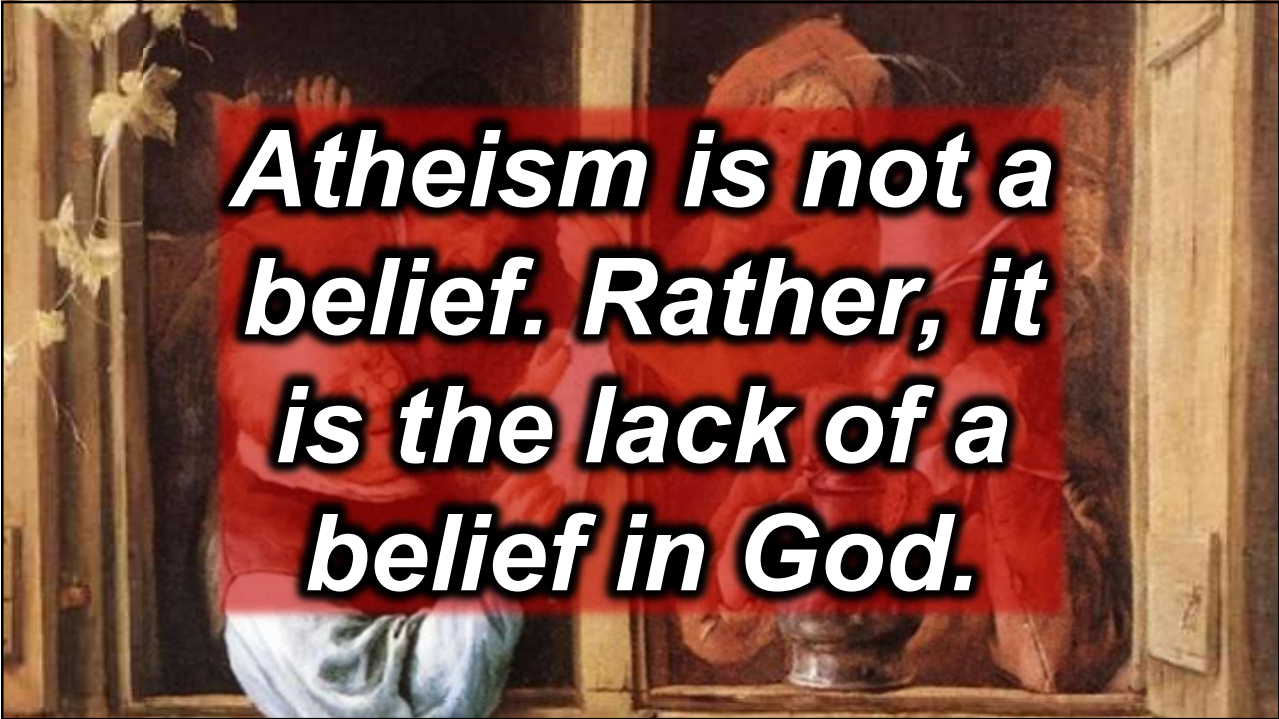
Michael Shermer



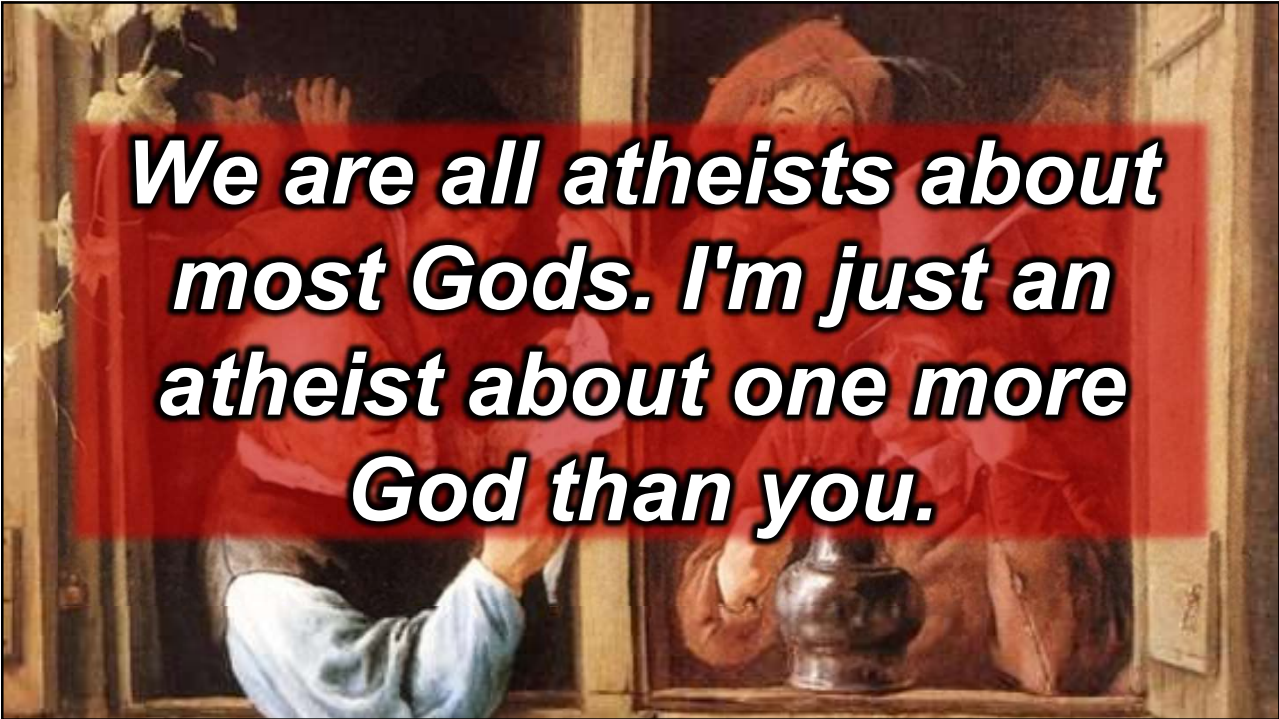
John Shook



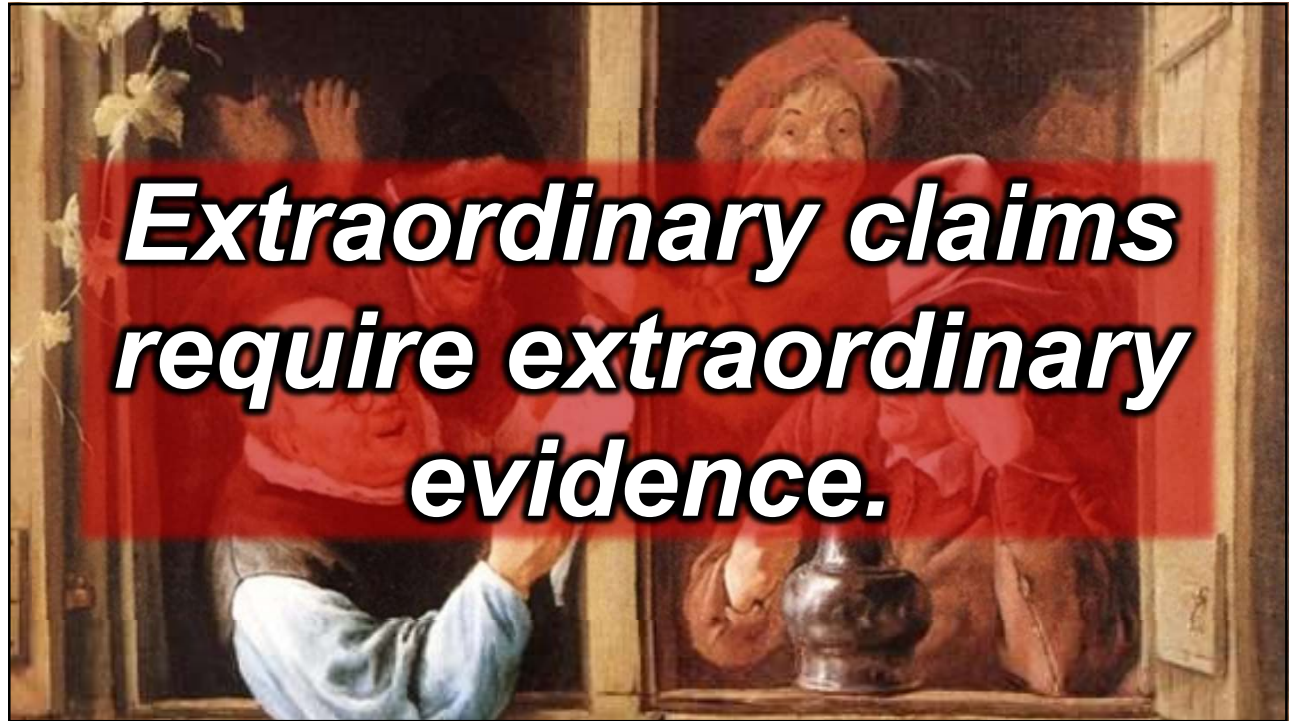


A painting of a man in a red robe kneeling in prayer, with a red text box overlaid. The man is looking down with his hands clasped in prayer. The background is dark and indistinct.

Atheism is not a belief. Rather, it is the lack of a belief in God.

A painting of a man in a red robe kneeling in prayer, with a red text box overlaid. The man is looking down with his hands clasped in prayer. The background is dark and indistinct.

We are all atheists about most Gods. I'm just an atheist about one more God than you.



***Extraordinary claims
require extraordinary
evidence.***



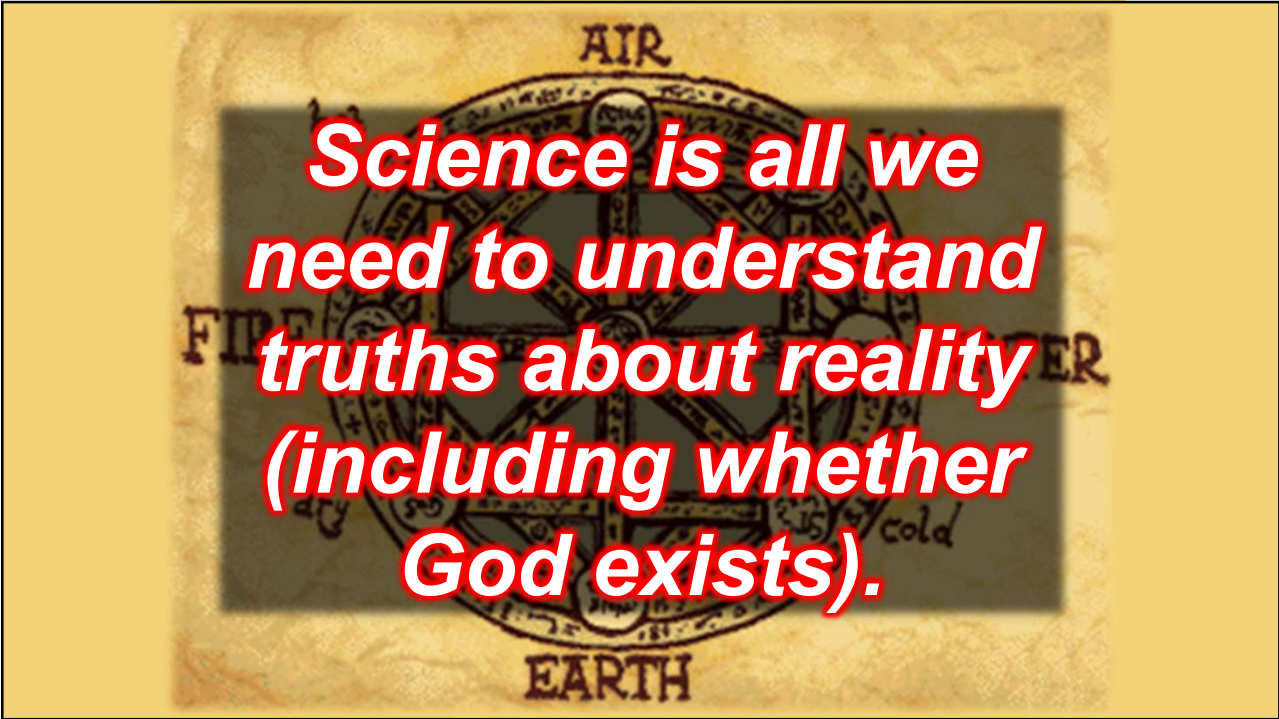
***Science flies you to the
moon. Religion flies you
into buildings.***



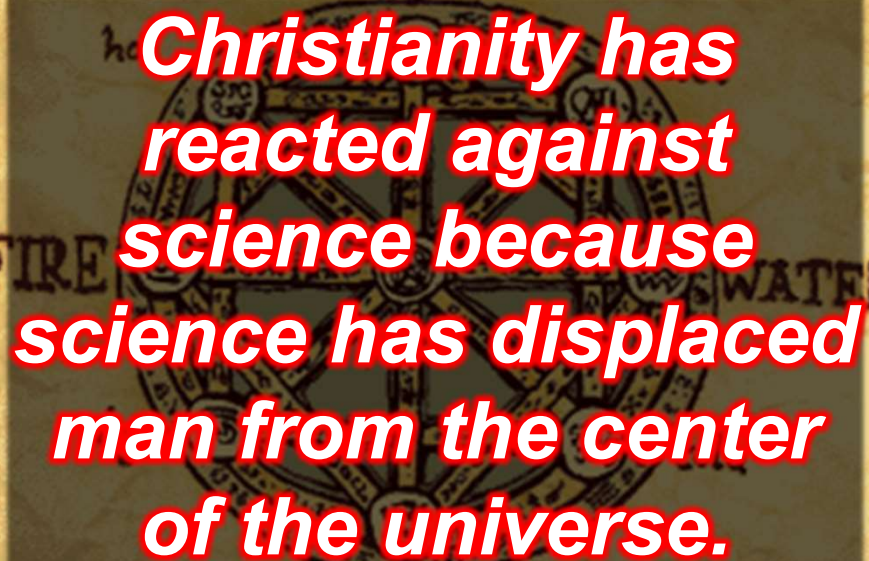
Axial Tilt: The Reason for the Season



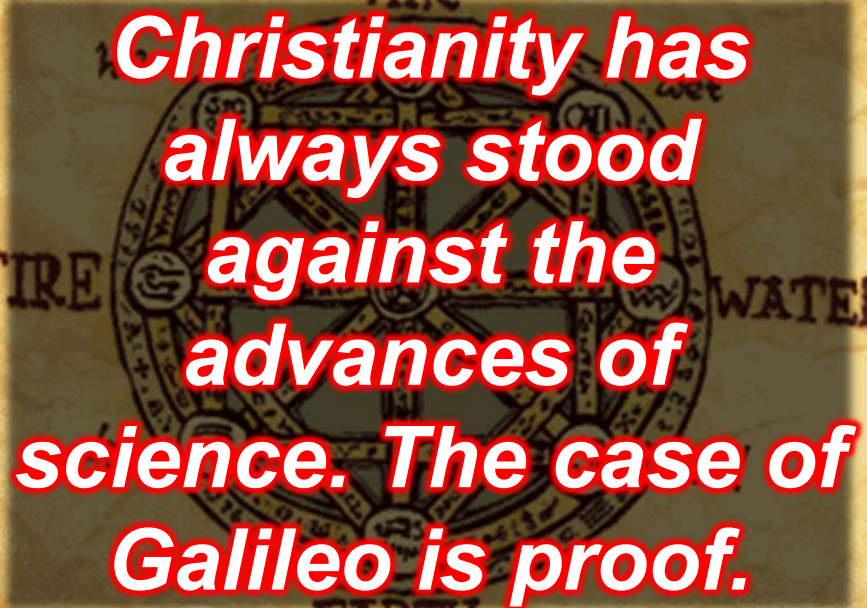
Scientific Arguments



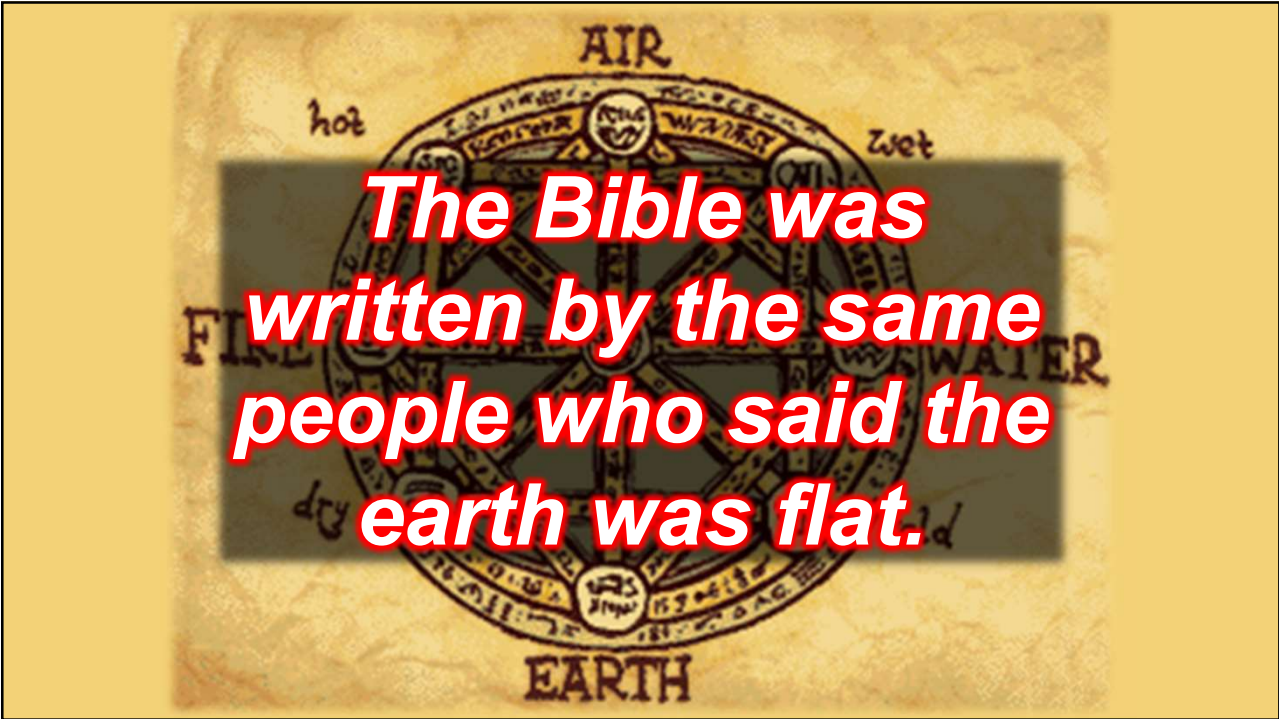
Science is all we need to understand truths about reality (including whether God exists).



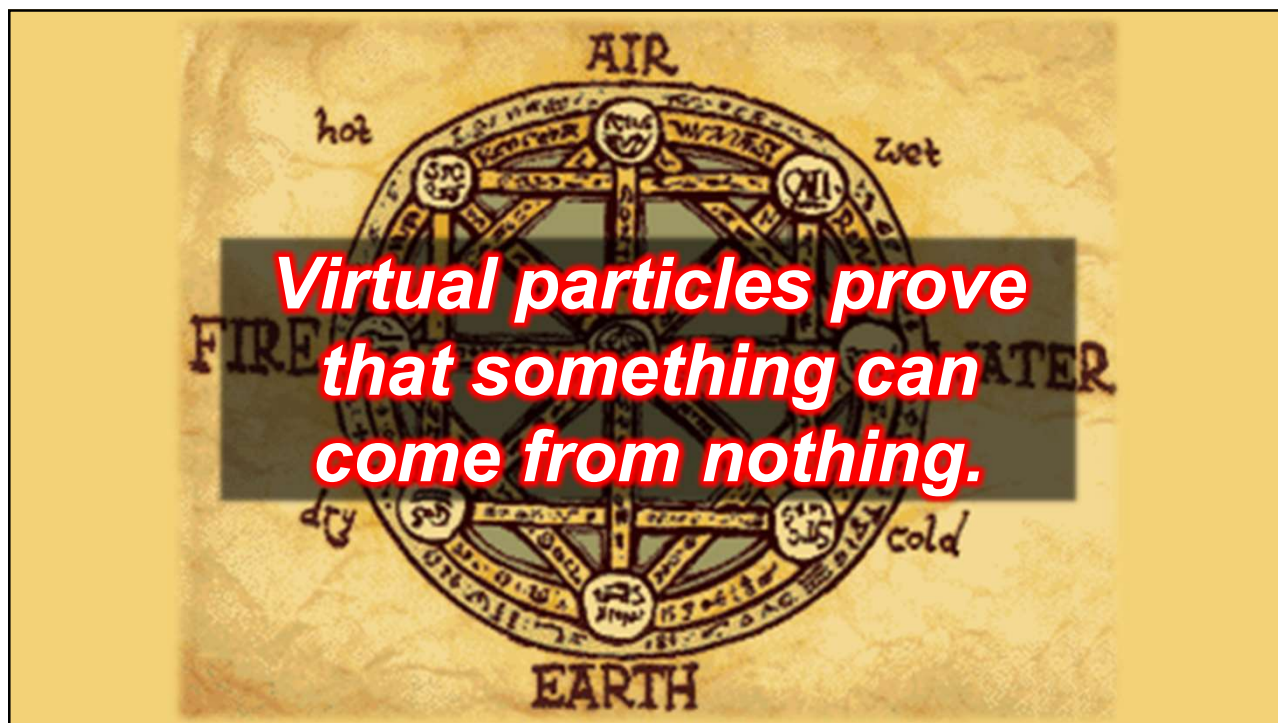
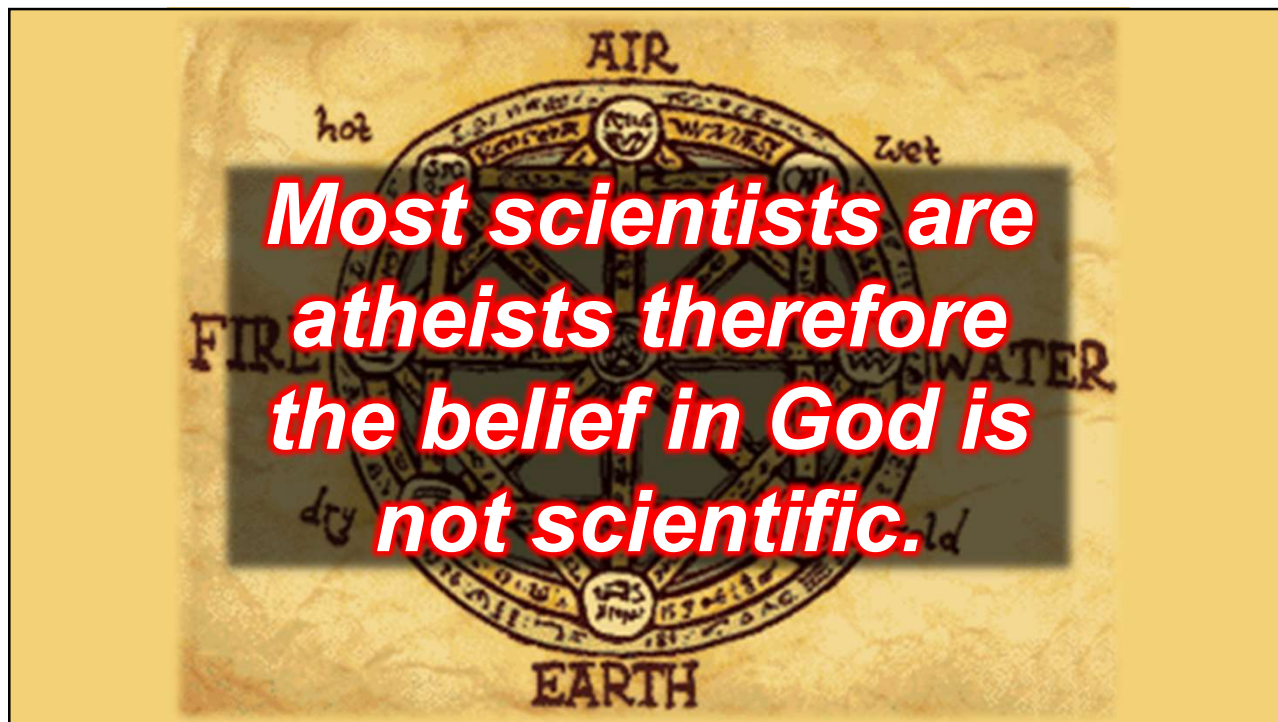
Christianity has reacted against science because science has displaced man from the center of the universe.

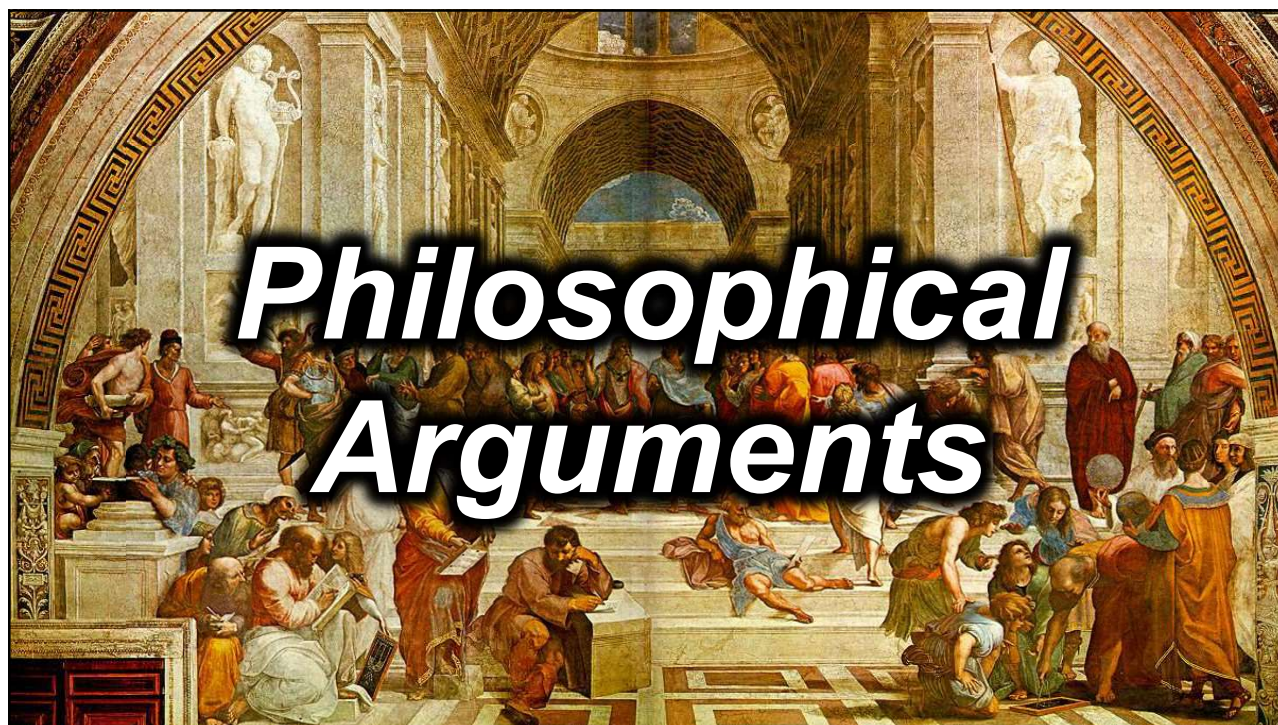
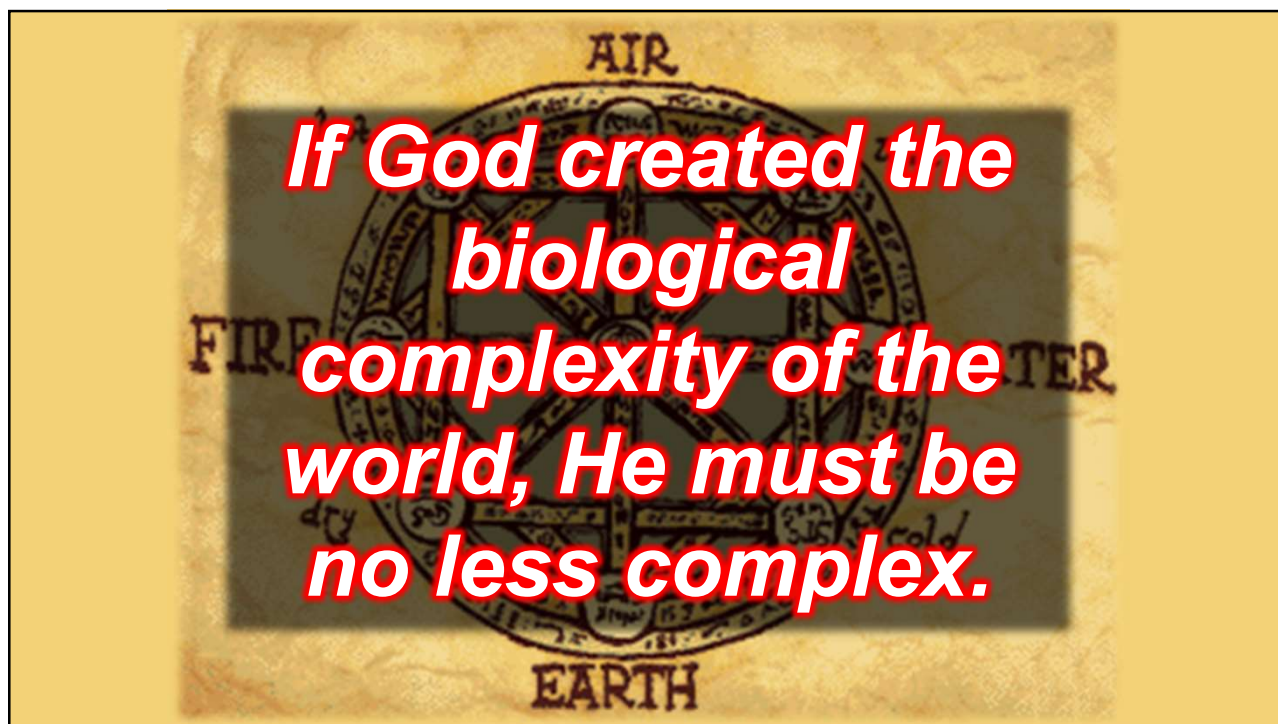


Christianity has always stood against the advances of science. The case of Galileo is proof.



The Bible was written by the same people who said the earth was flat.







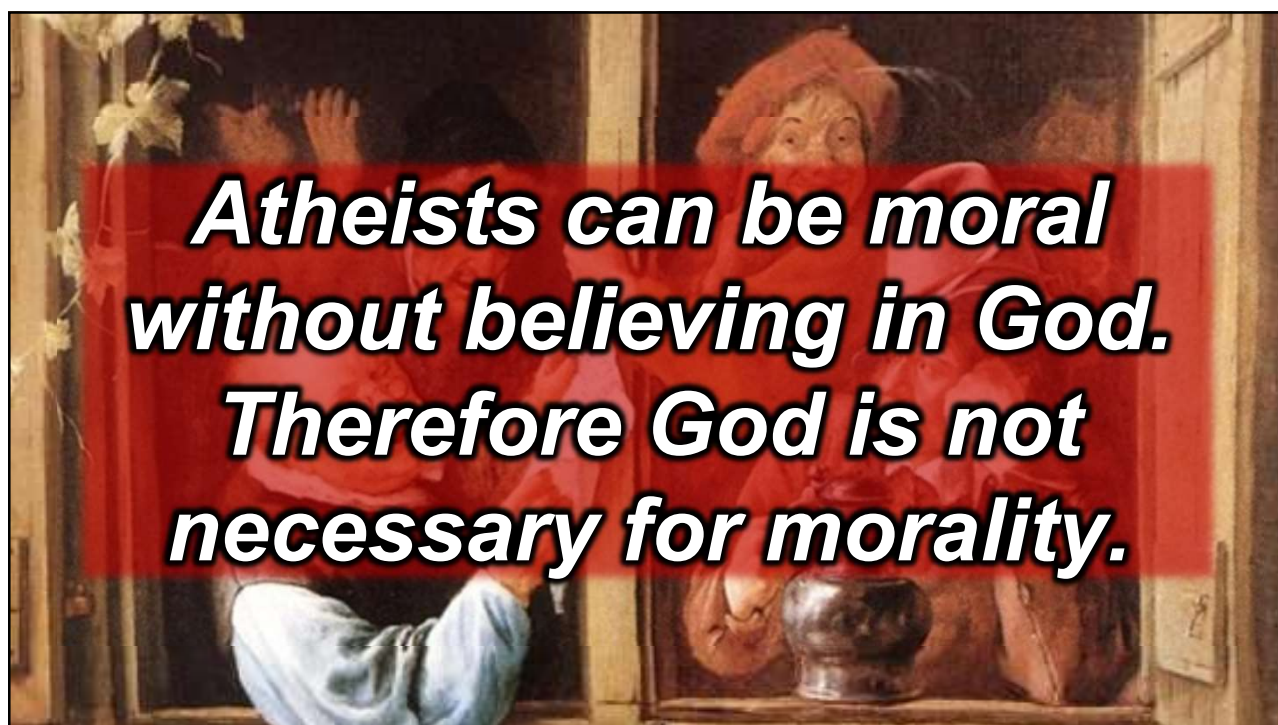
Question Everything.



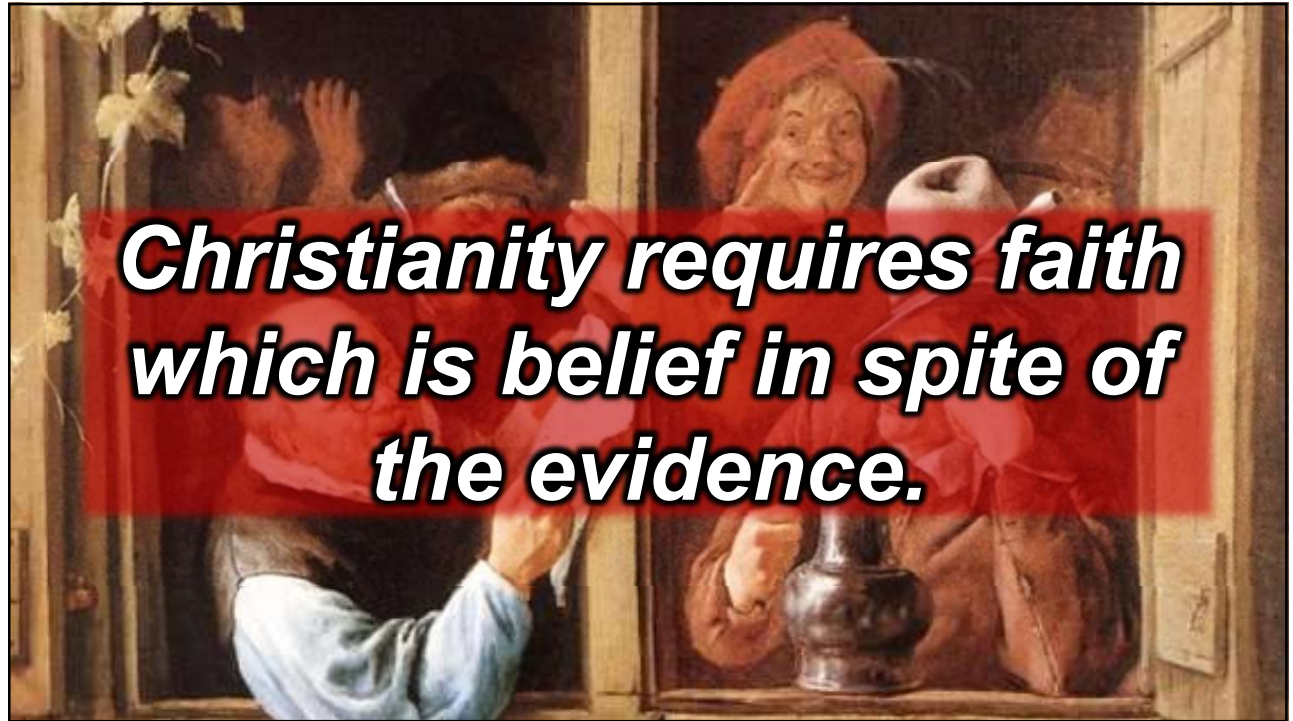
If everything needs a cause, then God needs a cause.



***Who made God?
Who designed the
designer?***



***Atheists can be moral
without believing in God.
Therefore God is not
necessary for morality.***



***Christianity requires faith
which is belief in spite of
the evidence.***



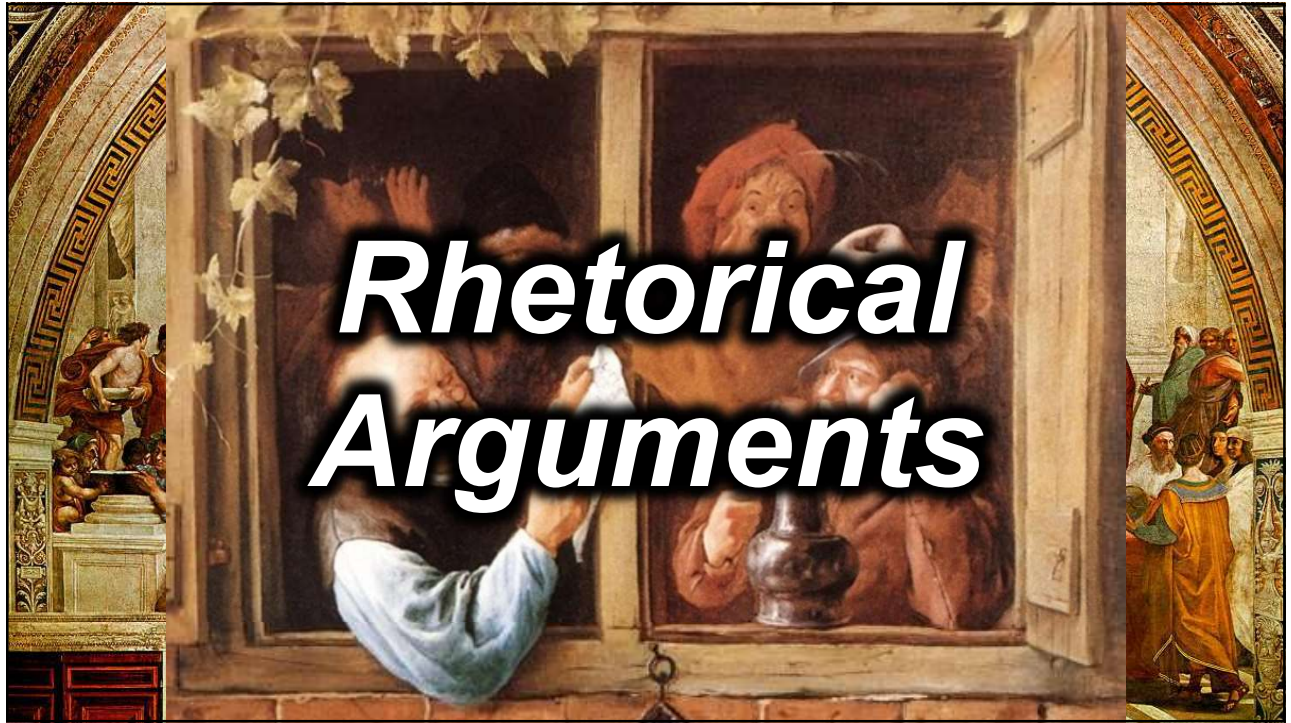
***Why can there not be an
infinite regress of causes
in the past?***

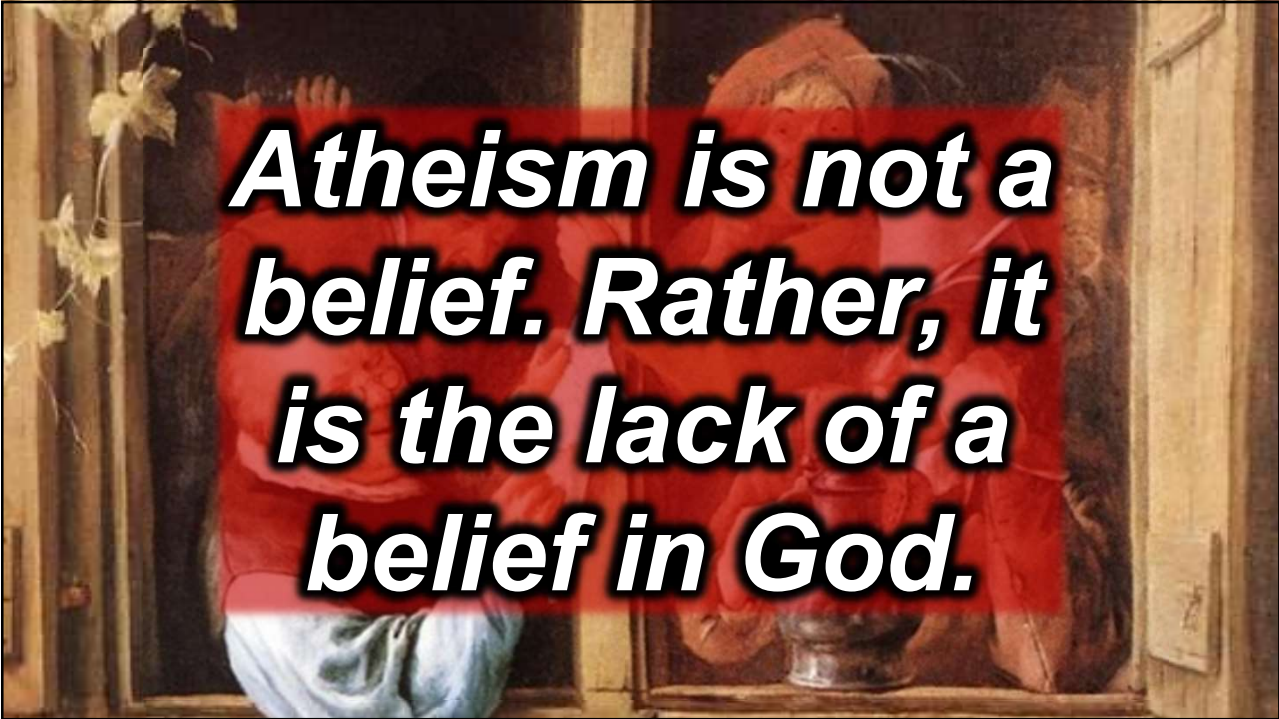


Can God make a rock too heavy for Him to pick up?



Why should we think that the cause of the universe is God?





Atheism is not a belief. Rather, it is the lack of a belief in God.



a·the·ism

[ey-thee-iz-uhm]

無
神
論

a lack of belief
in the existence of
God or gods

**That is the entire
meaning of atheism.**



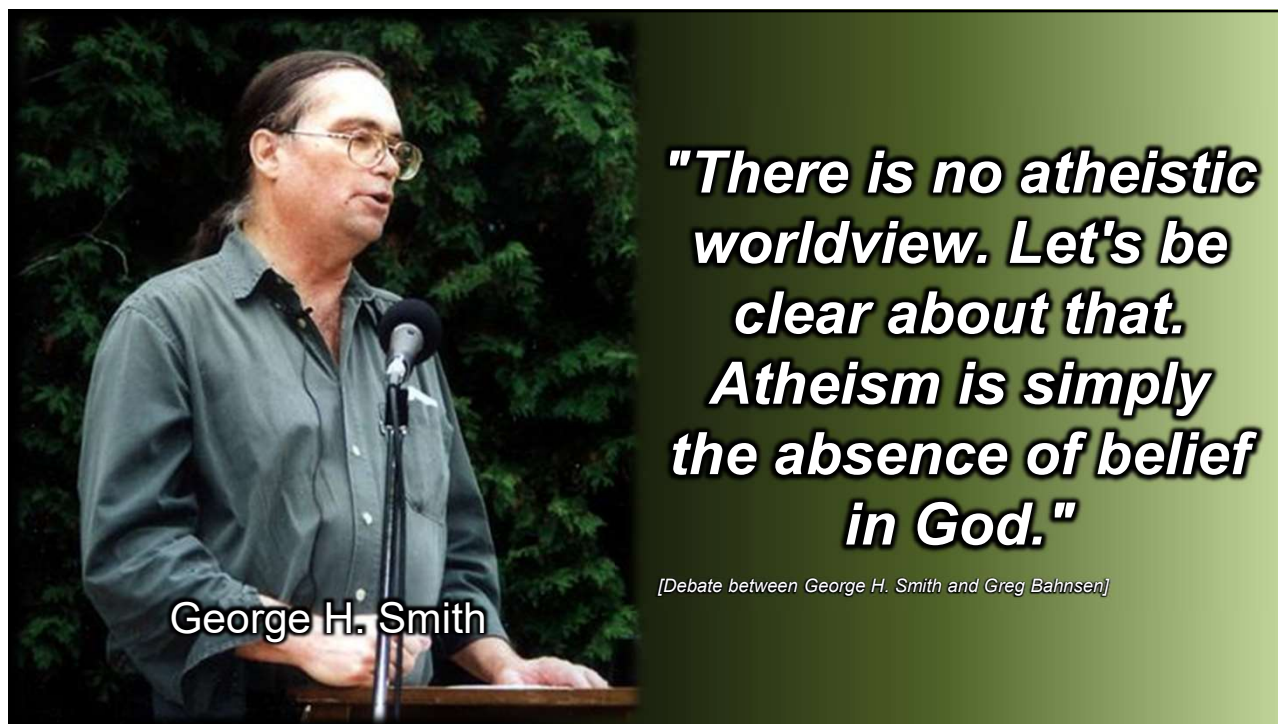
Atheism is not a religion, it is not a belief system.
Atheism is nothing sinister, and nothing to fear.
When it comes to Zeus, we are all atheists.

BetterThanFaith.com Never Stop Thinking



George H. Smith

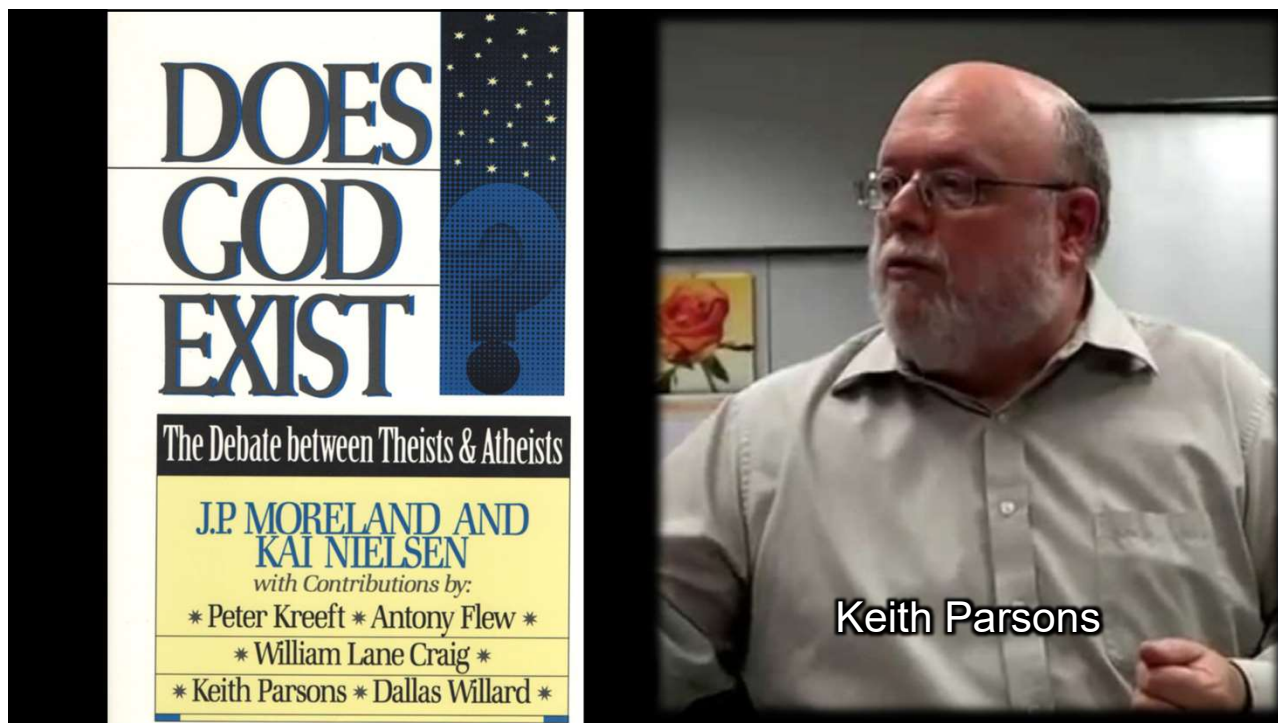
Greg Bahnsen
1948-1995



George H. Smith

"There is no atheistic worldview. Let's be clear about that. Atheism is simply the absence of belief in God."

[Debate between George H. Smith and Greg Bahnsen]



Keith Parsons

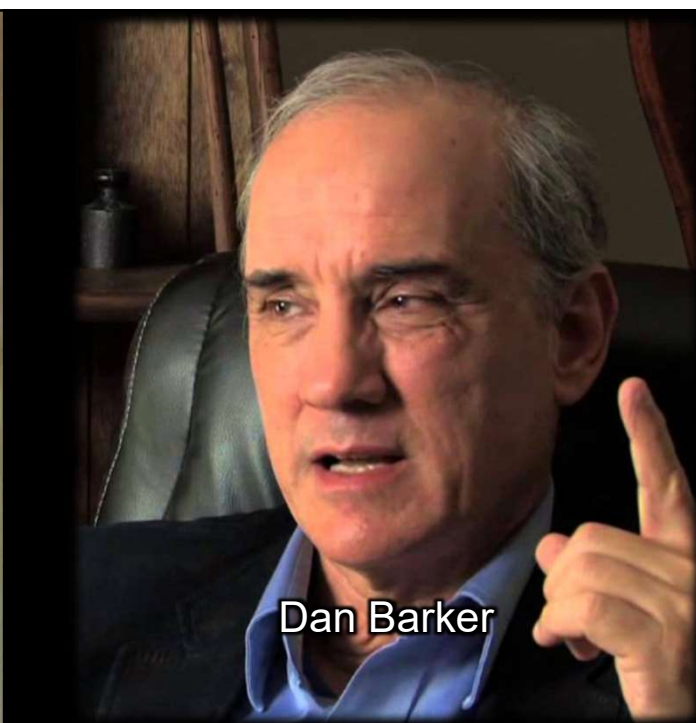
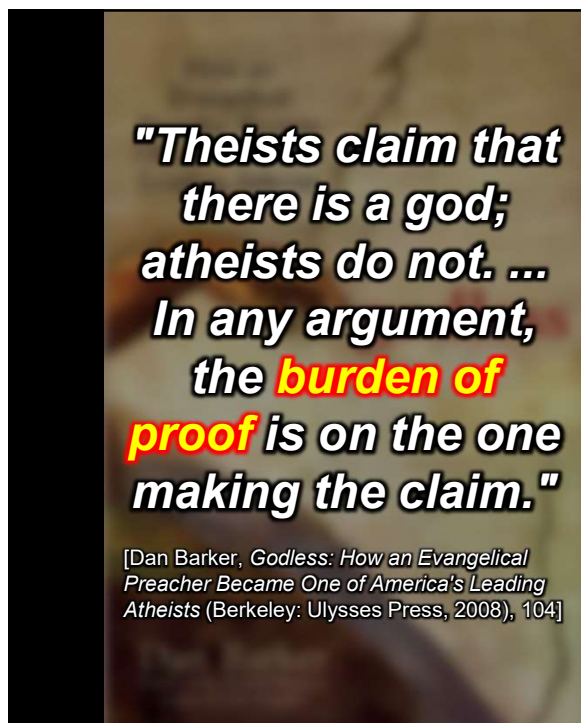
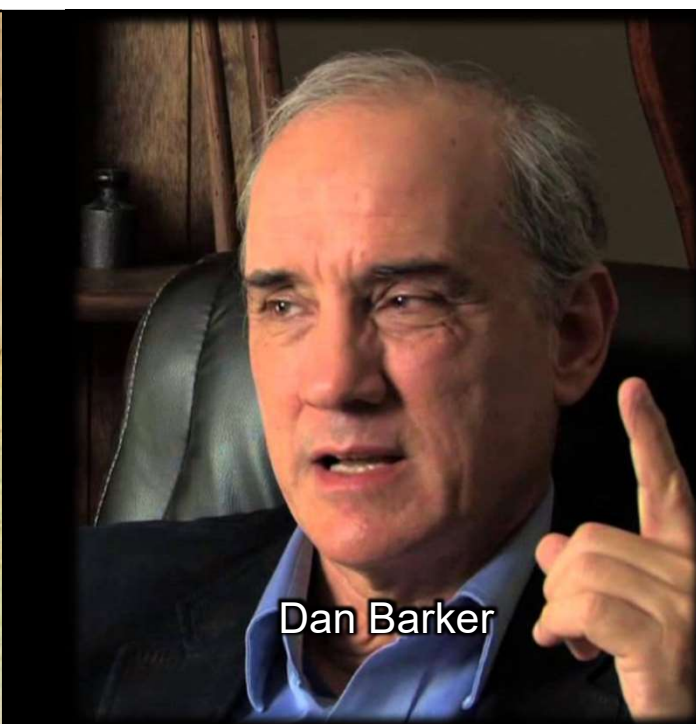
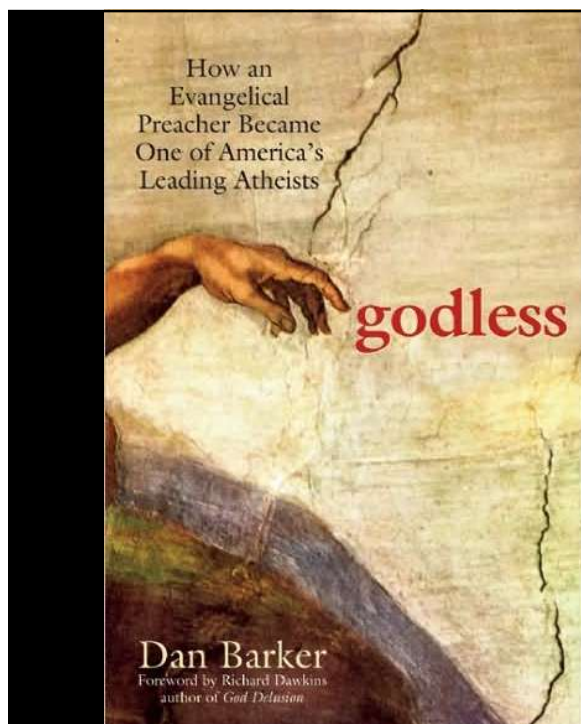
"After all, 'atheism' means simply the lack of belief in God (and not, as is commonly supposed, the denial of God's existence)."

[J. P. Moreland and Kai Nielsen *Does God Exist? The Great Debate* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990): 179 republished as *Does God Exist? The Debate Between Theists and Atheists* (Buffalo: Prometheus Books, 1993): 179]



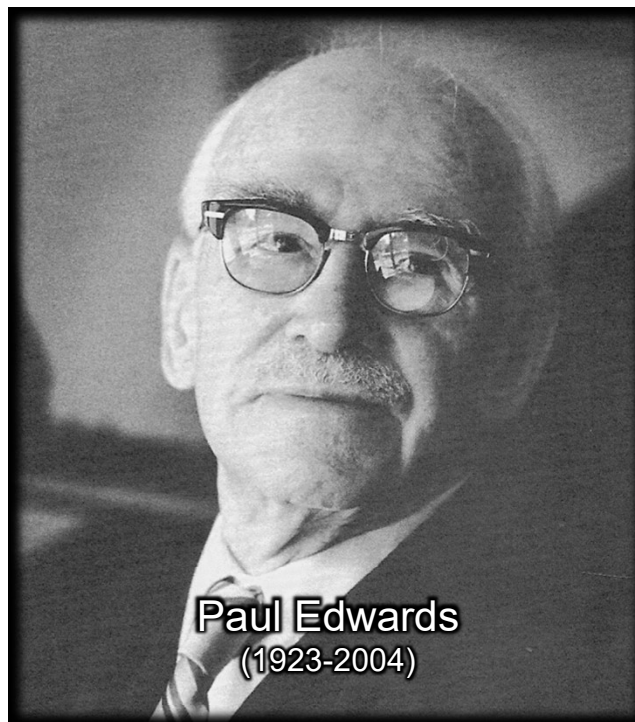
Keith Parsons

What's at stake in the definition of atheism?





First, this definition conflicts with the standard academic definition of atheism.



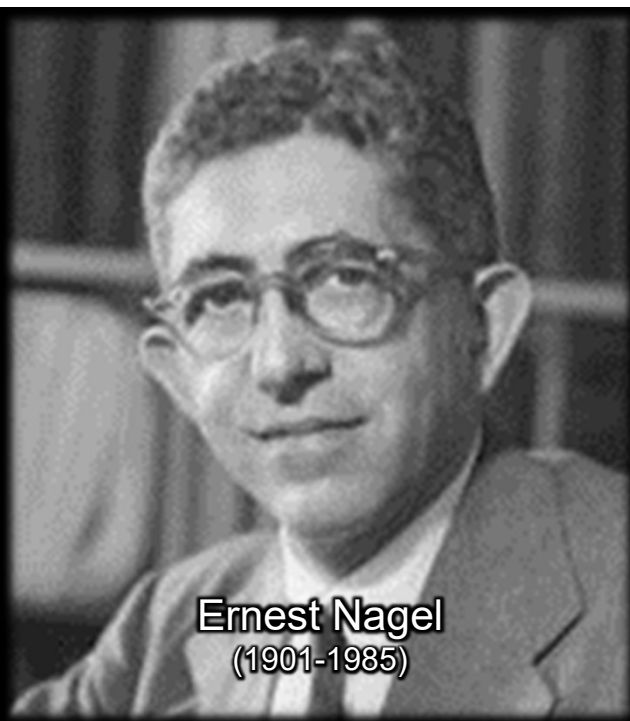
Paul Edwards
(1923-2004)

"According to the most usual definition, an 'atheist' is a person who maintains that there is no God, that is, that the sentence 'God exists' expresses a false proposition."

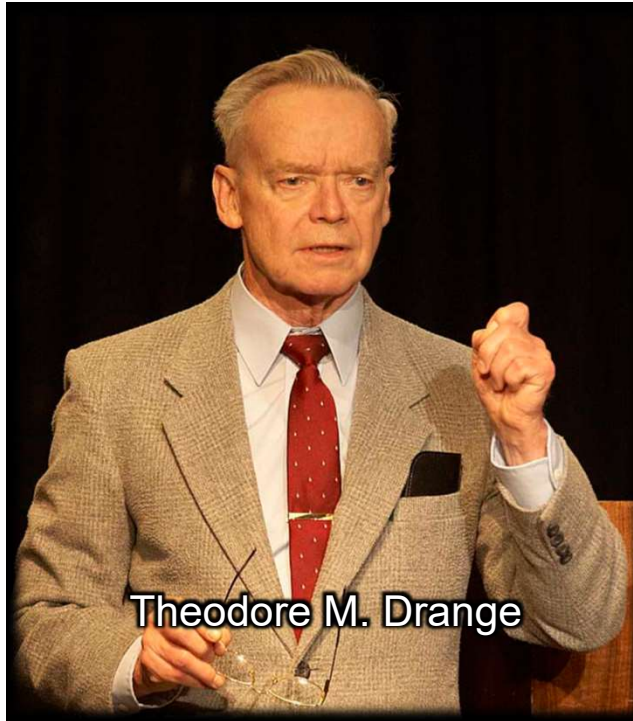
[Paul Edwards ed. in chief, *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1967): s.v. "Atheism," p. 175.]

"[A]theism is not to be identified with sheer unbelief.... A child who has received no religious instruction ... is not an atheist—for he is not denying any theistic claims."

[Ernest Nagel, "Philosophical Concepts of Atheism" in *Critiques of God: Making the Case Against Belief in God*, Peter A. Angeles, ed. pp. 4-5]



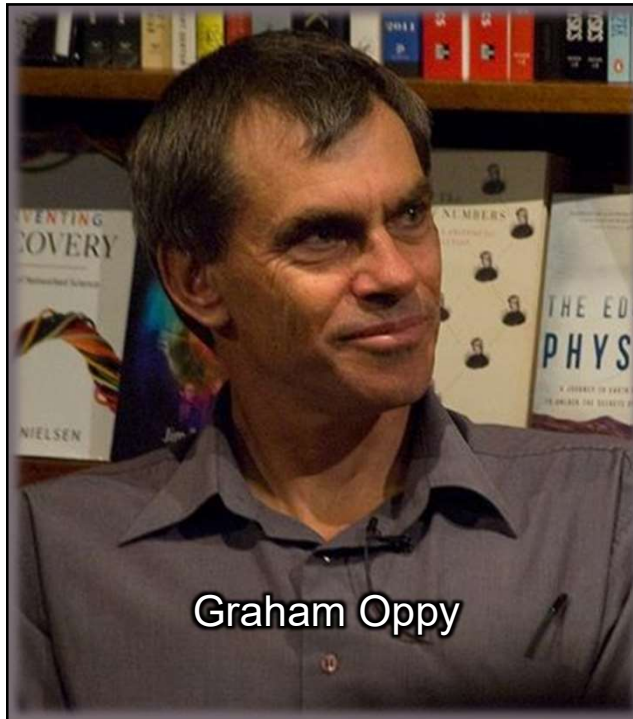
Ernest Nagel
(1901-1985)



Theodore M. Drange

"Is the proposition that God exists true or false? You are a theist if and only if you say that the proposition is true or probably true, you are an atheist if and only if you say that it is false or probably false, and you are an agnostic if and only if you understand what the proposition is, but resist giving either answer, and support your resistance by saying, 'The evidence is insufficient' (or words to that effect)."

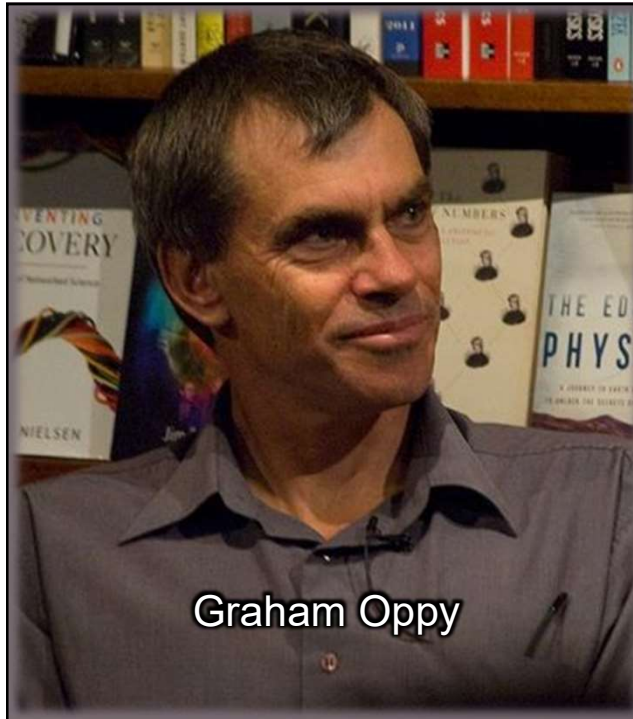
[Theodore M. Drange "Atheism, Agnosticism, Noncognitivism," from https://infidels.org/library/modern/theodore_drange/definition.html, accessed 01/15/19]



Graham Oppy

"Properly, we should define theism as the view that there's at least one god and atheism as the view that there are no gods, and monotheism then as the view that there is exactly one God and we call that one God with a capital 'G'. Atheists then are people who believe that there are no gods and particular in our context, they believe that God doesn't exist.

...



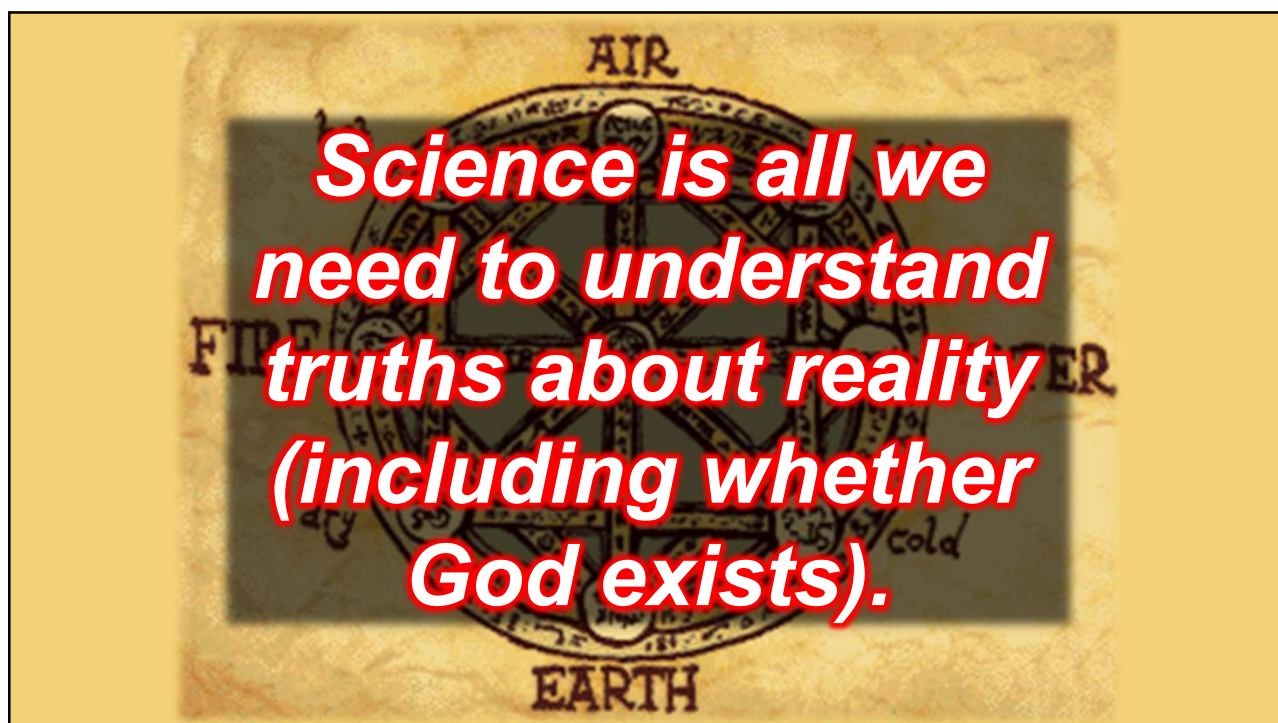
Graham Oppy

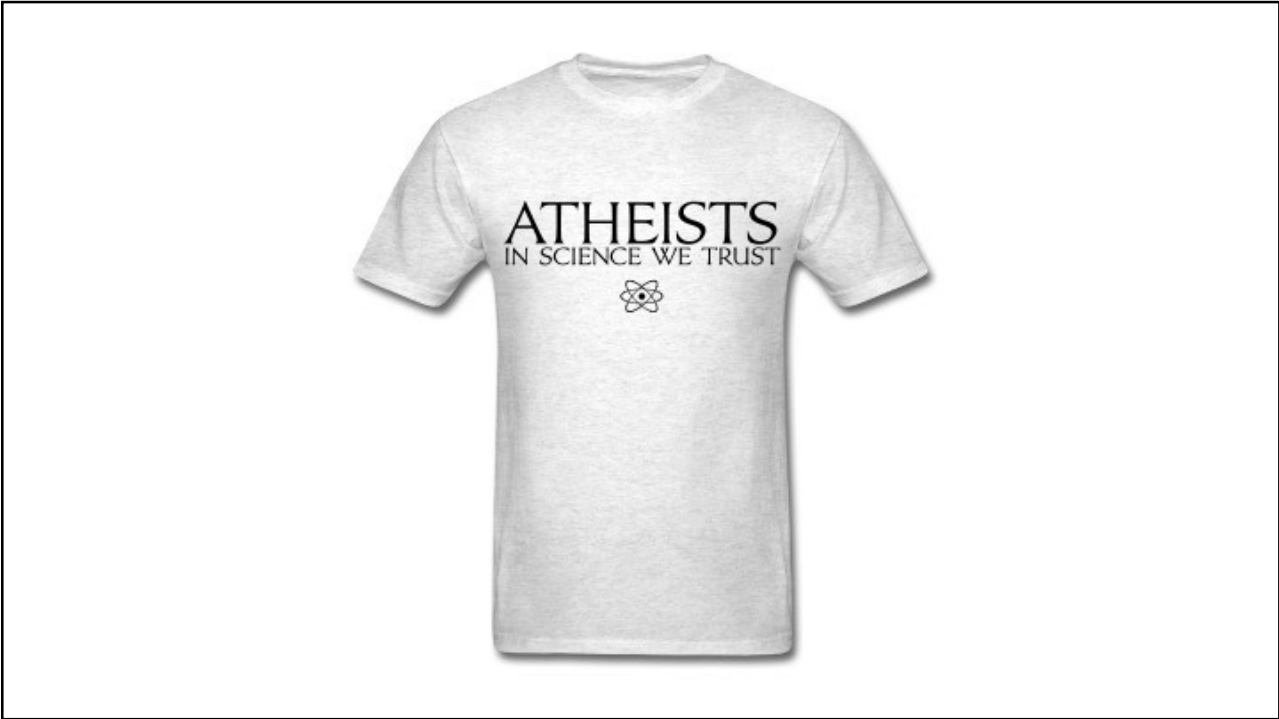
"Other people like to say that atheism is just lacking the belief that God exists which lumps together ... the class of agnostics with the class of atheists; if you define it that way, which I don't like."

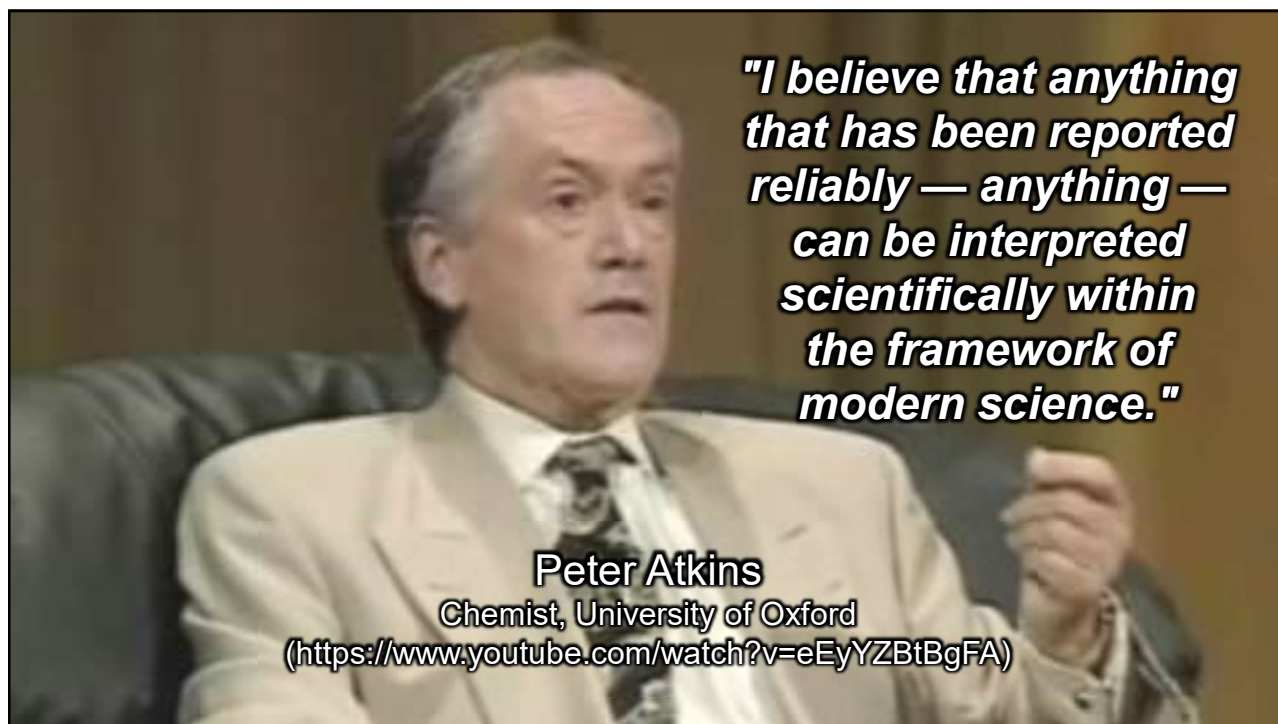
[Graham Oppy vs. Ben Arbour, "The Ontological Argument" on *Capturing Christianity*, YouTube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udxfuPgq4TY>, @1:05:20, accessed 04/29/20]



Second, this definition entails an absurdity if not an outright contradiction.

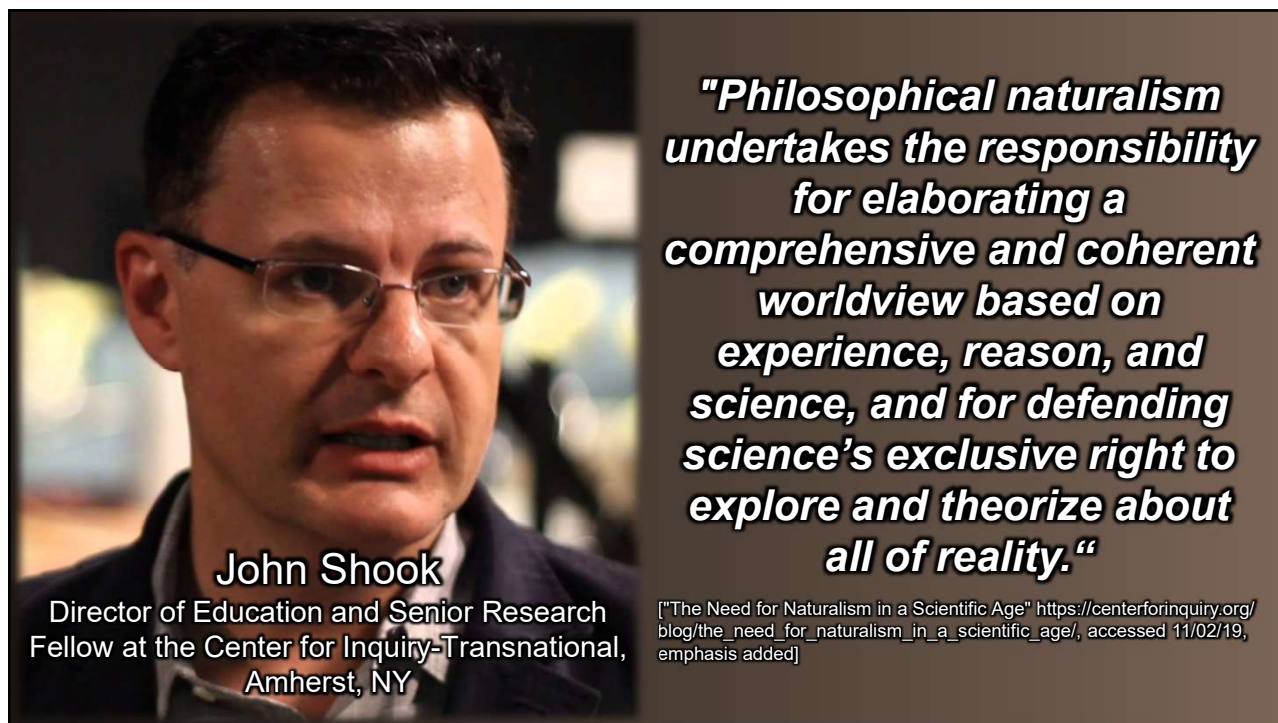






"I believe that anything that has been reported reliably — anything — can be interpreted scientifically within the framework of modern science."

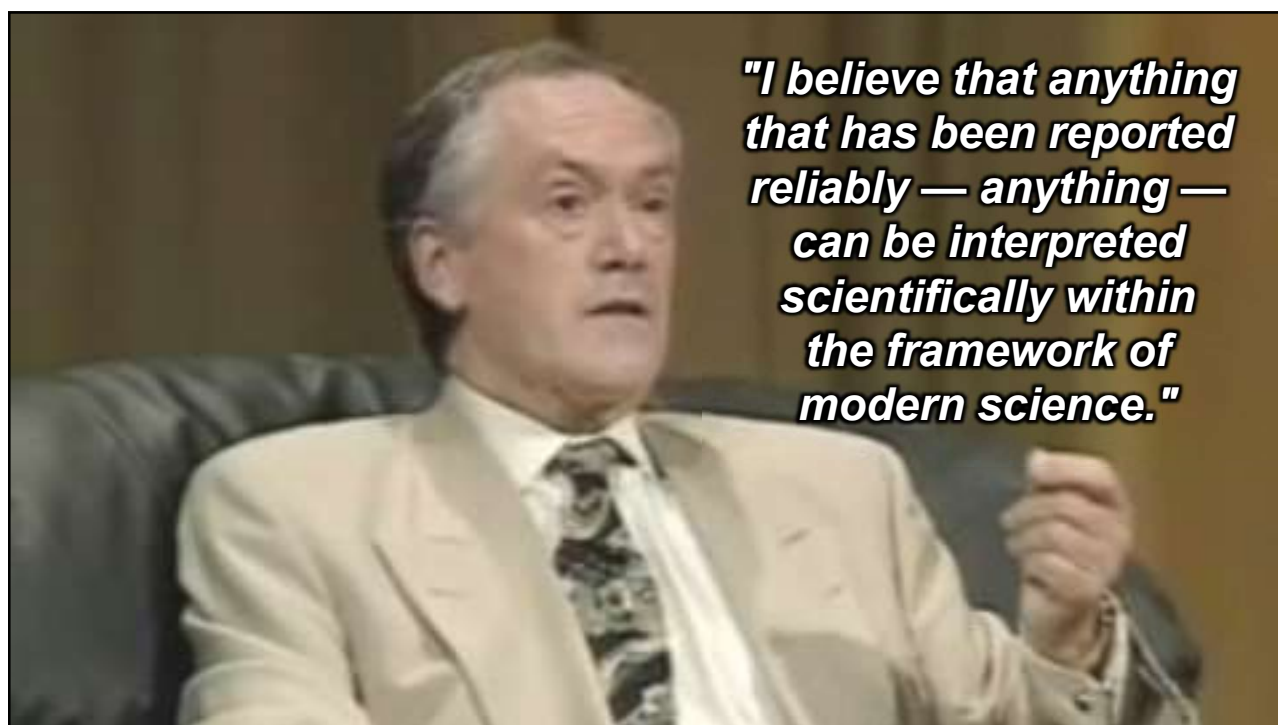
Peter Atkins
Chemist, University of Oxford
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEYZBtBgFA>)



"Philosophical naturalism undertakes the responsibility for elaborating a comprehensive and coherent worldview based on experience, reason, and science, and for defending science's exclusive right to explore and theorize about all of reality."

John Shook
Director of Education and Senior Research
Fellow at the Center for Inquiry-Transnational,
Amherst, NY

["The Need for Naturalism in a Scientific Age" https://centerforinquiry.org/blog/the_need_for_naturalism_in_a_scientific_age/, accessed 11/02/19, emphasis added]



Can Atkins' statement "be interpreted scientifically within the framework of modern science"?

"I believe that anything that has been reported reliably — anything — can be interpreted scientifically within the framework of modern science."

It would seem one could interpret any statement within any framework.

"I believe that anything that has been reported reliably — anything — can be interpreted scientifically within the framework of modern science."

Can Atkins' statement "be CORRECTLY interpreted scientifically within the framework of modern science"?

"I believe that anything that has been reported reliably — anything — can be interpreted scientifically within the framework of modern science."



John Shook

Director of Education and Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Inquiry-Transnational, Amherst, NY

"Philosophical naturalism undertakes the responsibility for elaborating a comprehensive and coherent worldview based on experience, reason, and science, and for defending science's exclusive right to explore and theorize about all of reality."

[*"The Need for Naturalism in a Scientific Age"* https://centerforinquiry.org/blog/the_need_for_naturalism_in_a_scientific_age/, accessed 11/02/19, emphasis added]



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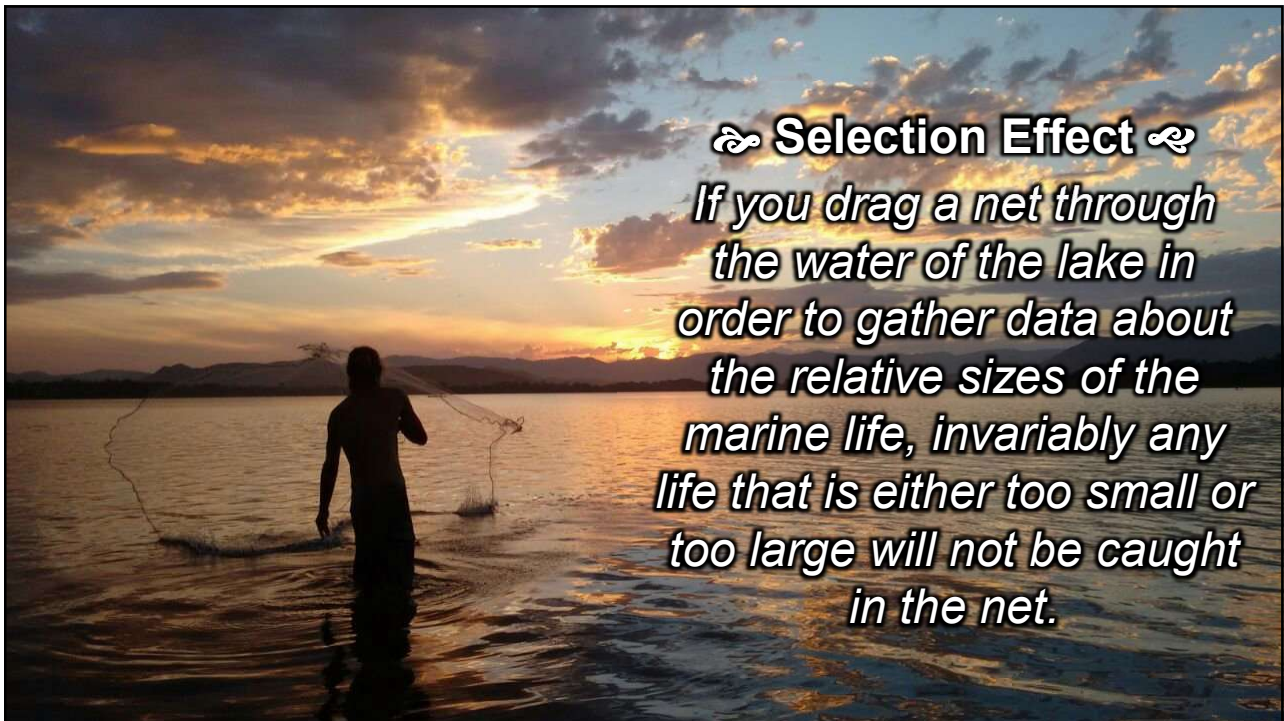
"Philosophical naturalism undertakes the responsibility for elaborating a comprehensive and coherent worldview based on experience, reason, and science, and for defending science's exclusive right to explore and theorize about all of reality."

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Is Shook's statement a part of reality?

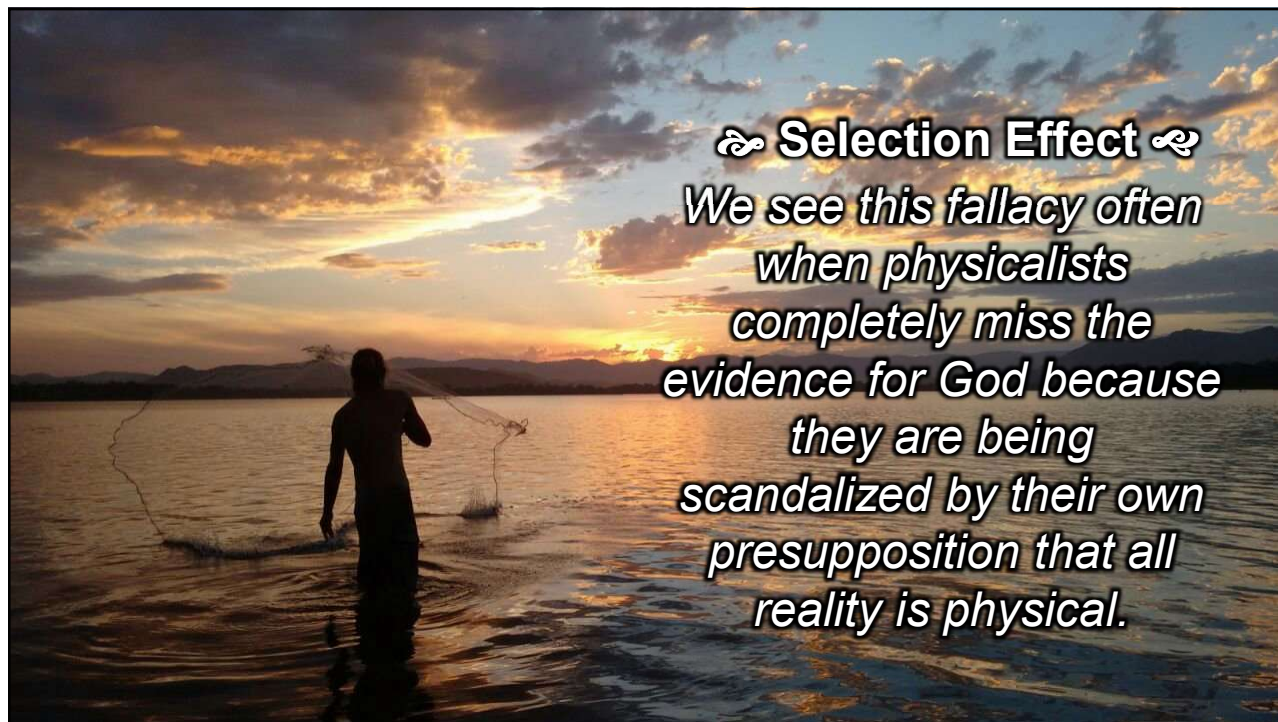
Then, what scientific method could possibly be used to prove that Shook's own statement is true?

There isn't one because Shook's statement is a philosophical statement, not a scientific one!



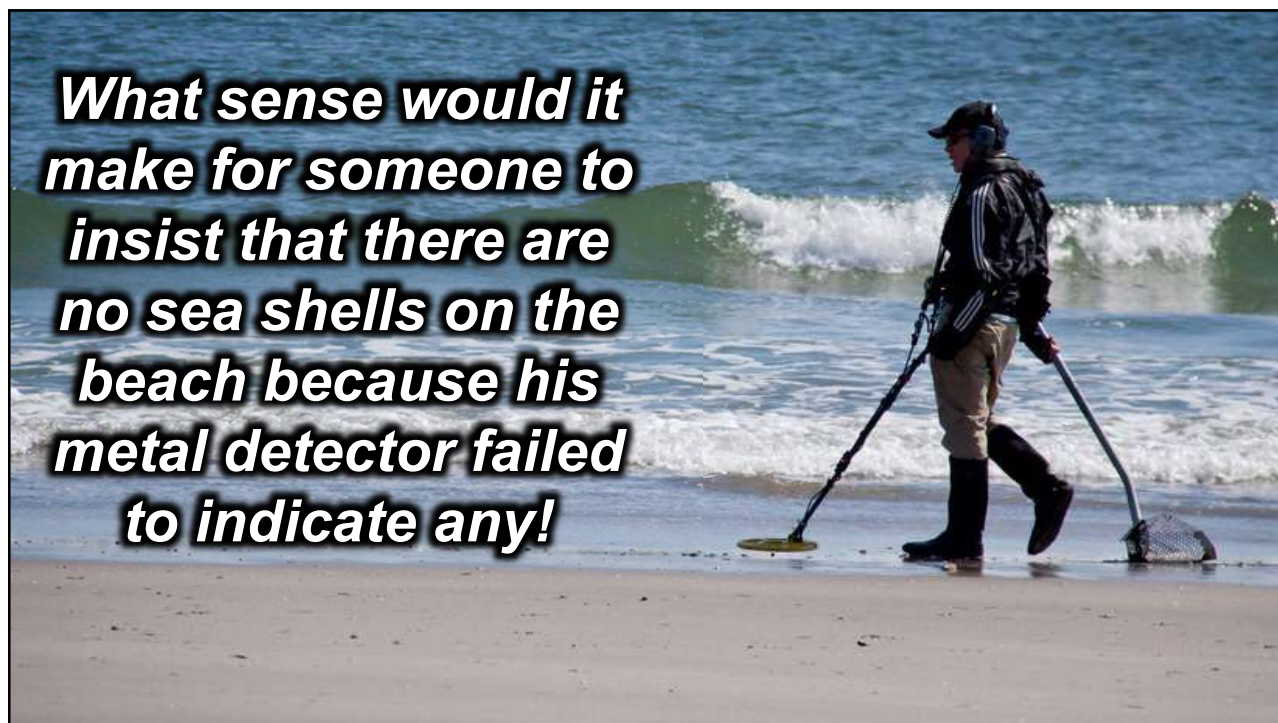
∞ Selection Effect ∞

If you drag a net through the water of the lake in order to gather data about the relative sizes of the marine life, invariably any life that is either too small or too large will not be caught in the net.



Selection Effect

We see this fallacy often when physicalists completely miss the evidence for God because they are being scandalized by their own presupposition that all reality is physical.



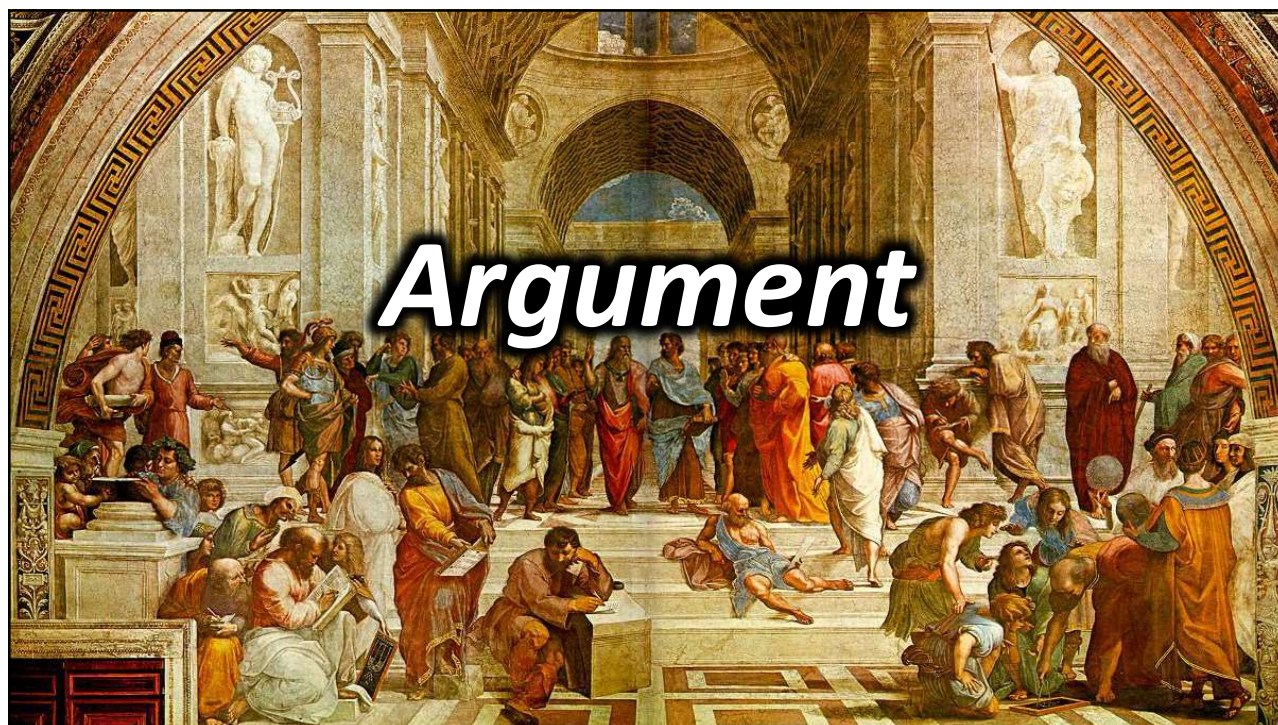
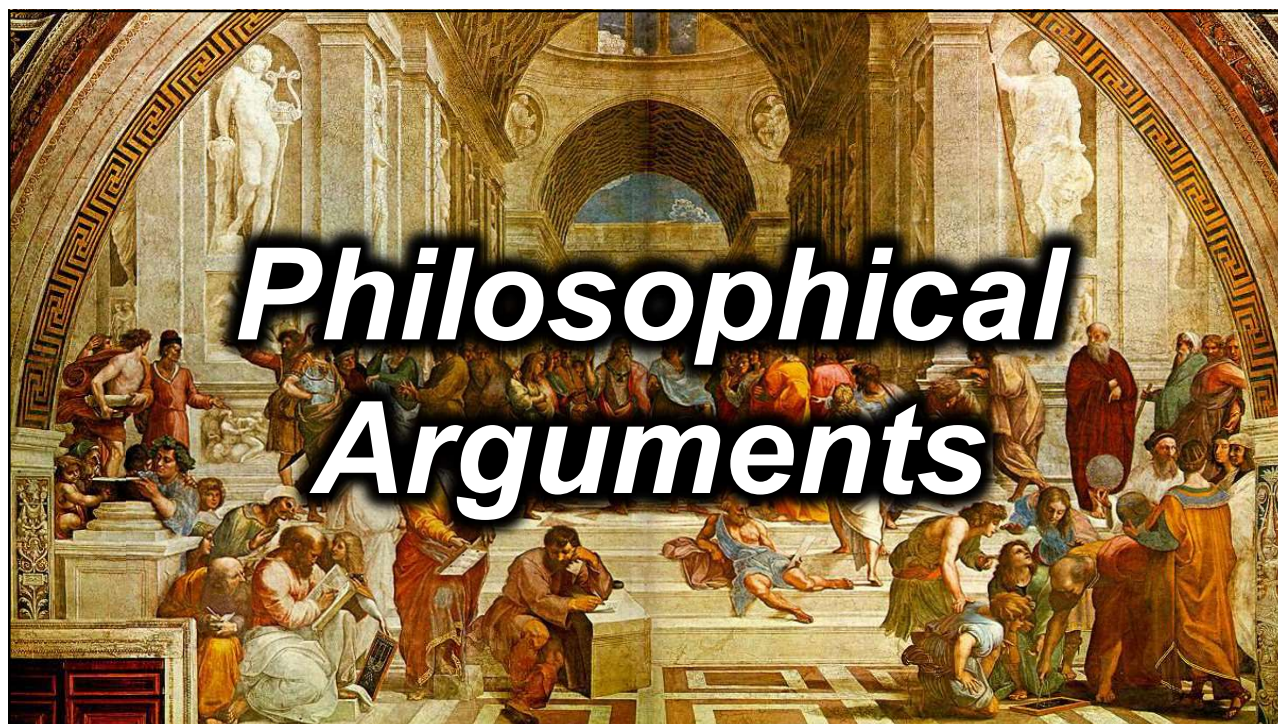
What sense would it make for someone to insist that there are no sea shells on the beach because his metal detector failed to indicate any!

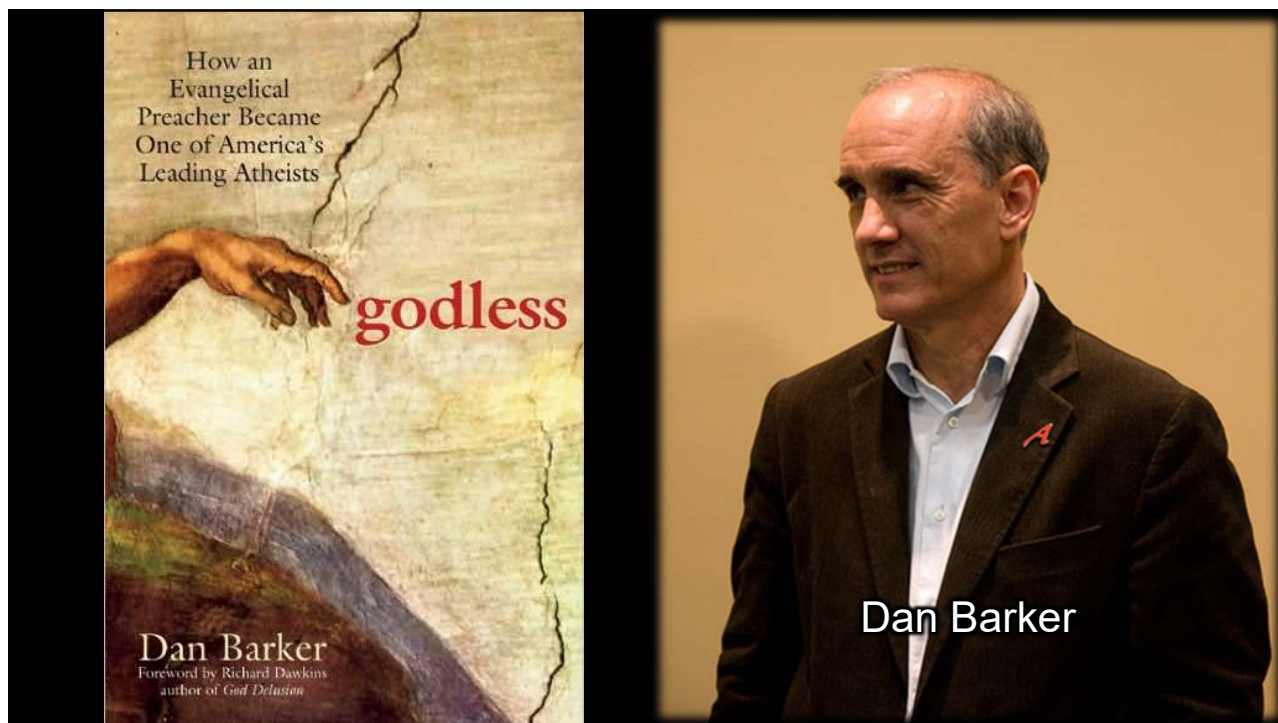




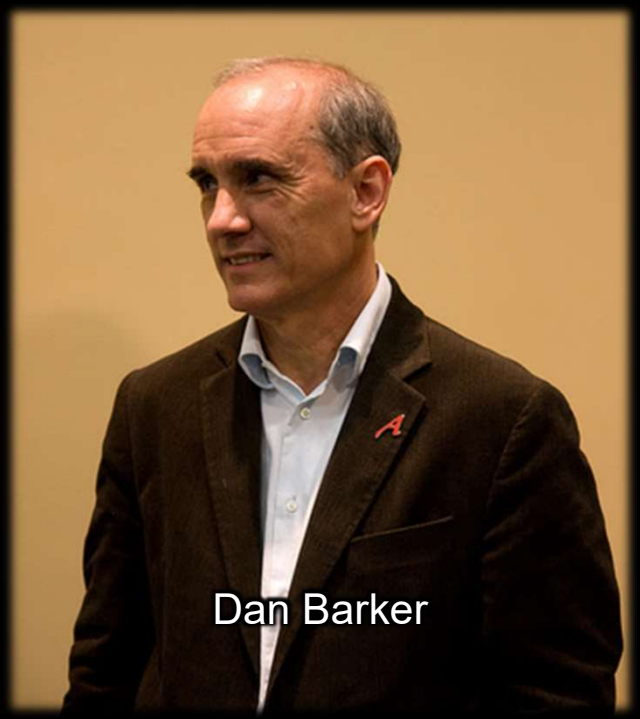








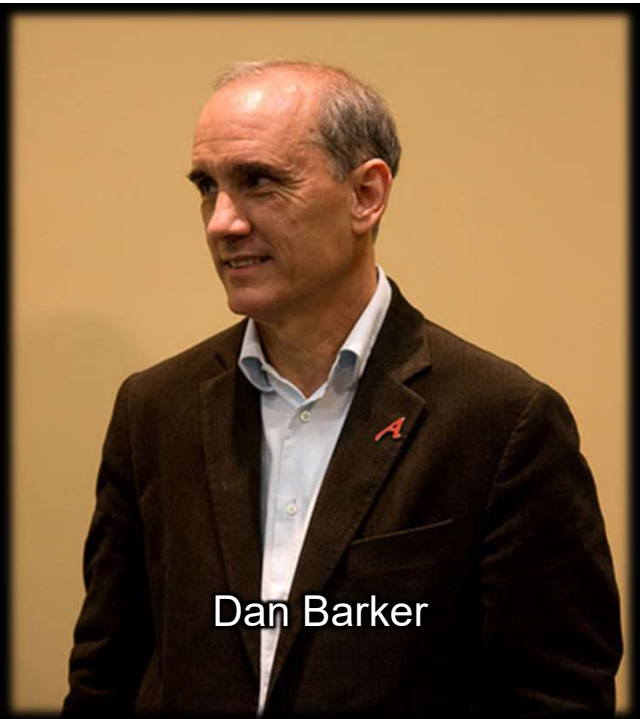
"Everything had a cause, and every cause is the effect of a previous cause. Something must have started it all. God ... is the eternal first cause ... the creator and sustainer of the universe.



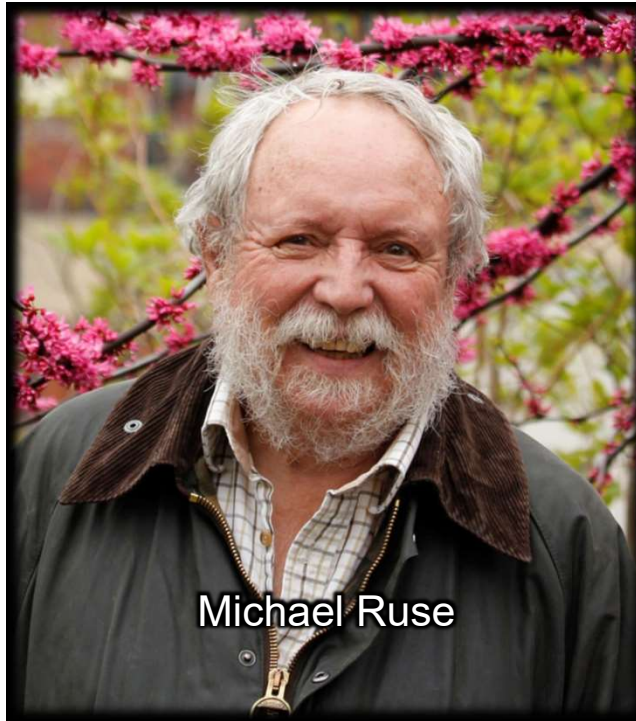
Dan Barker

"The major premise of this argument 'everything had a cause,' is contradicted by the conclusion that 'God did not have a cause.' You can't have it both ways. If everything had to have a cause, then there could not be a first cause."

[Dan Barker, *Godless: How an Evangelical Preacher Became One of America's Leading Atheists* (Berkeley: Ulysses Press, 2008), 113-114]



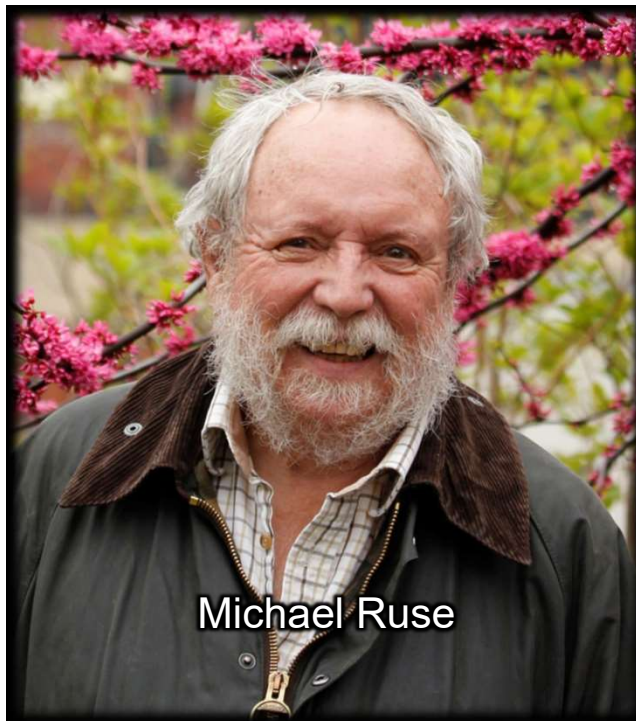
Dan Barker



ATHEISM

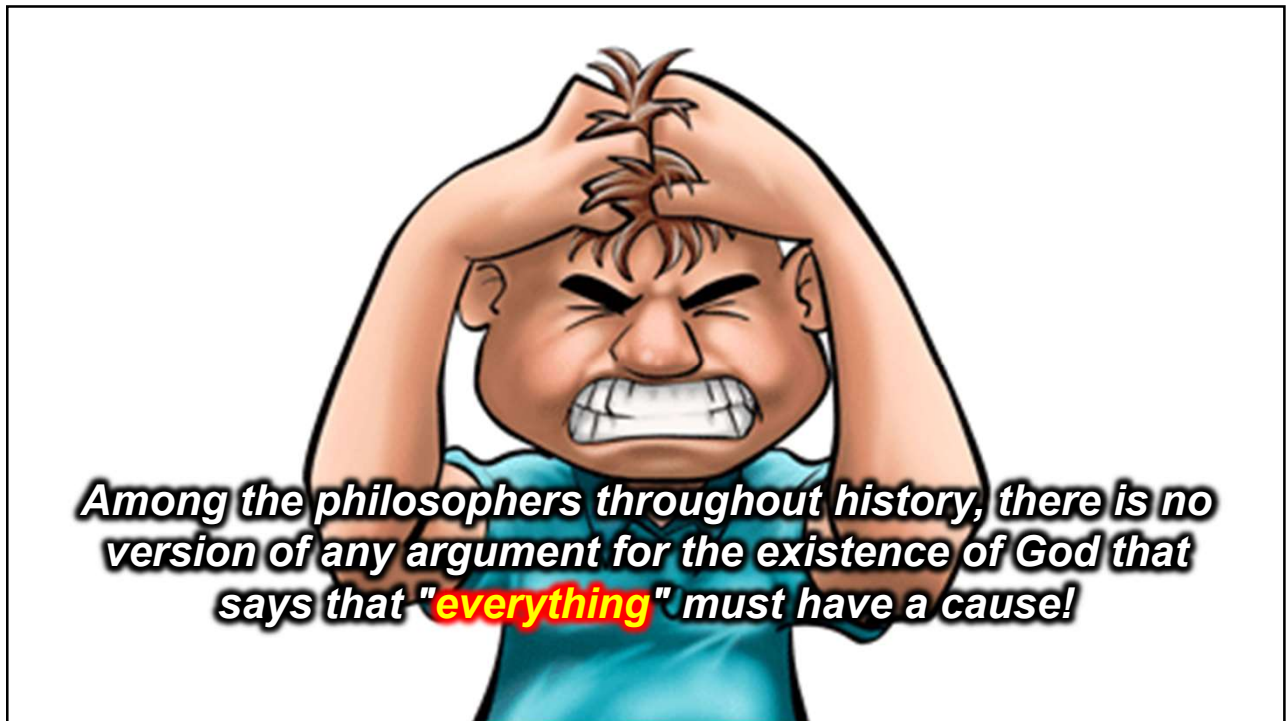
WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW

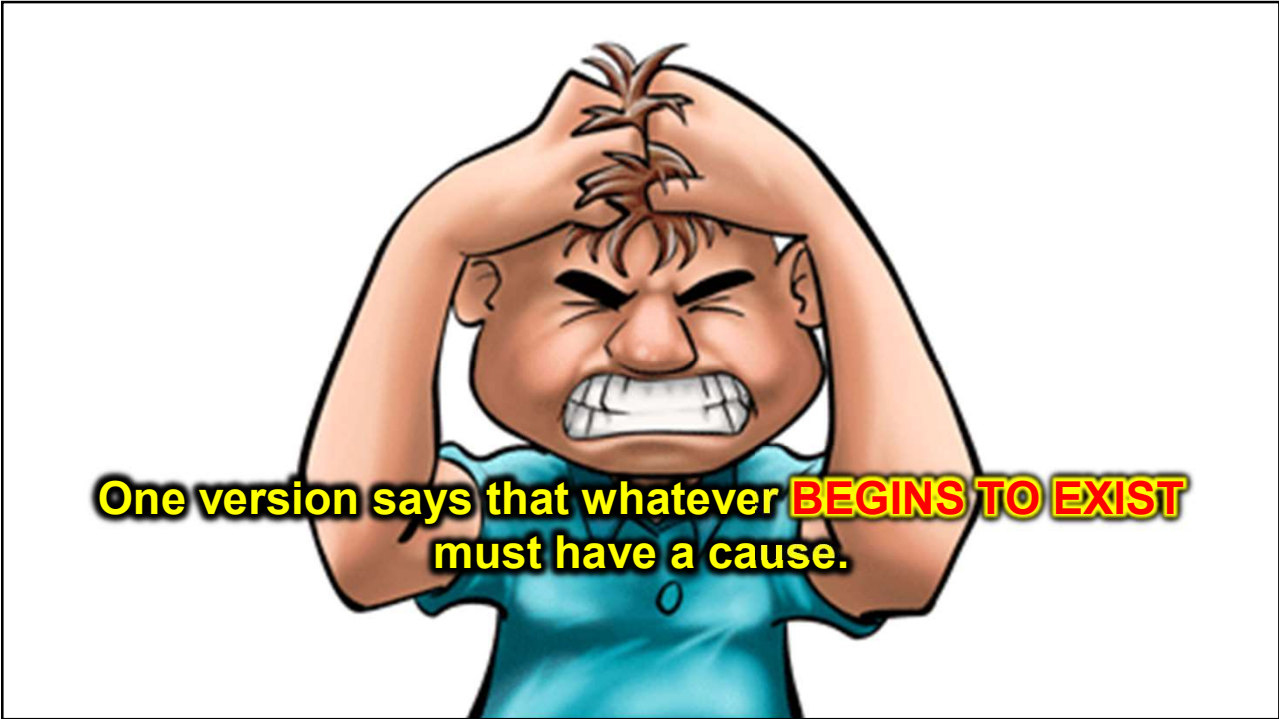
MICHAEL RUSE



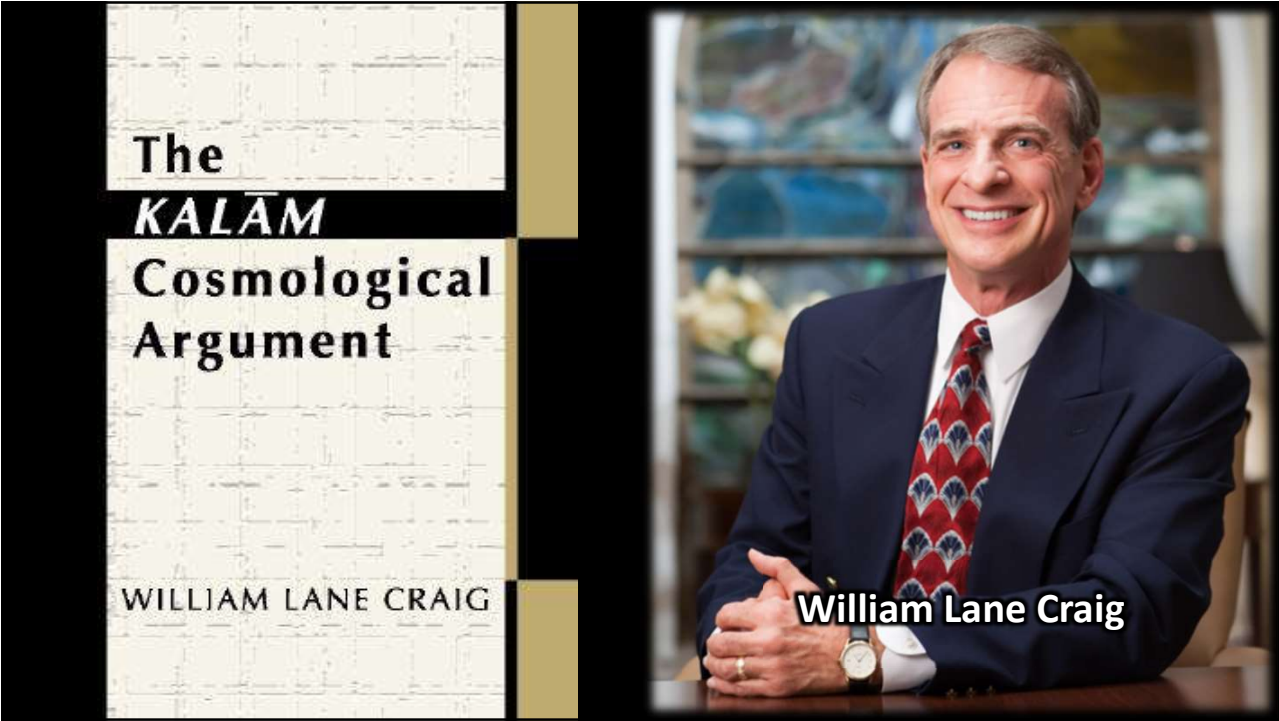
*"Again, we find an argument with somewhat different forms, but for our purposes, it is enough to focus on the central inference. **Everything has a cause.** There must therefore be a cause of the world. This is, or we call this, God."*

[Michael Ruse, *Atheism: What Everyone Needs to Know* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015), 88-89]





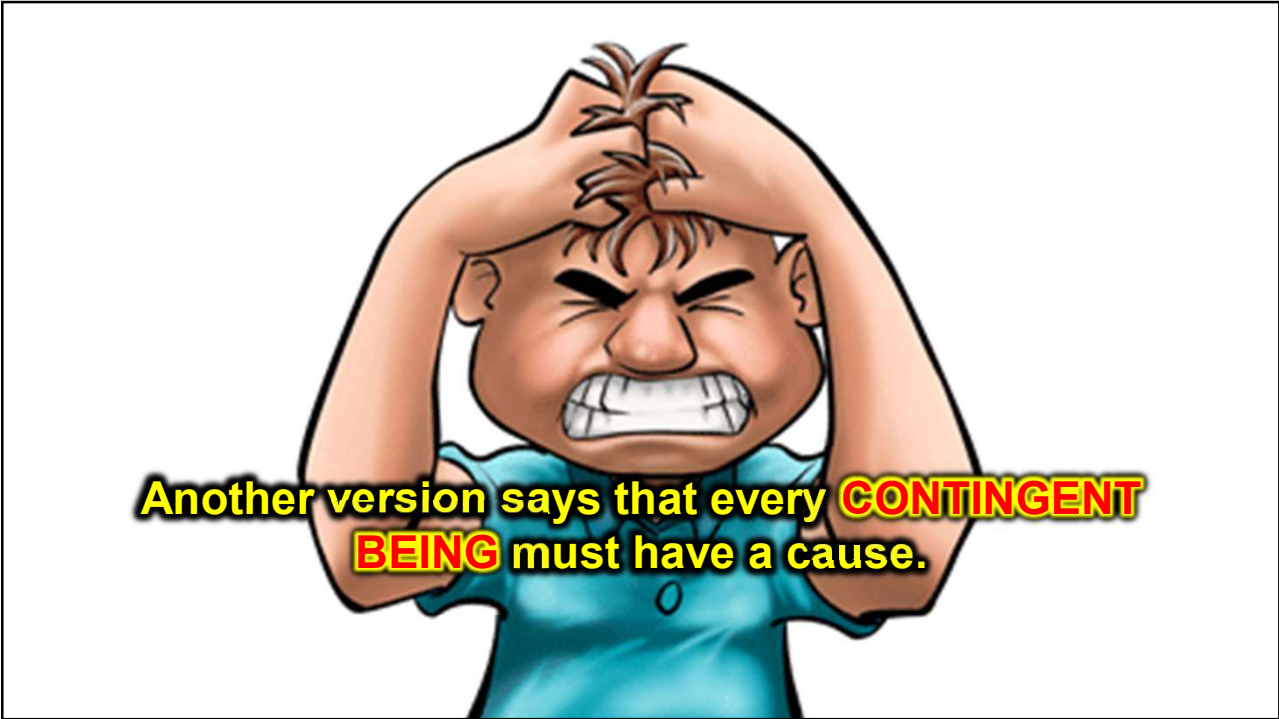
One version says that whatever **BEGINS TO EXIST** must have a cause.



The
KALAM
Cosmological
Argument

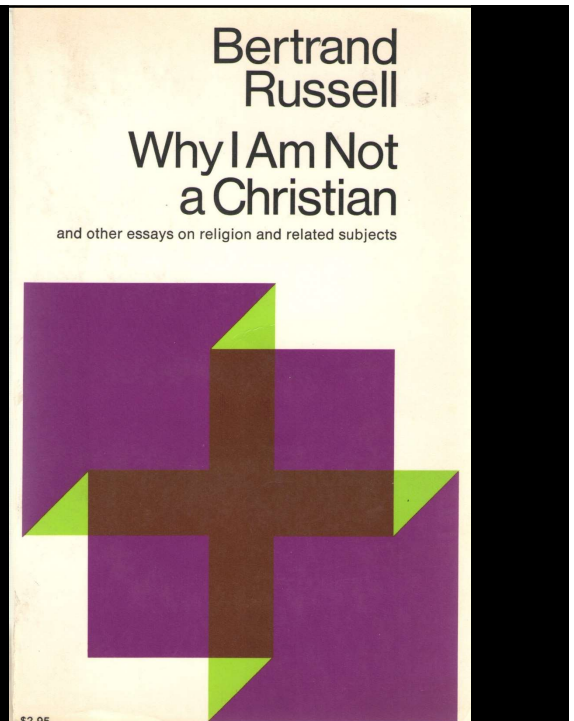
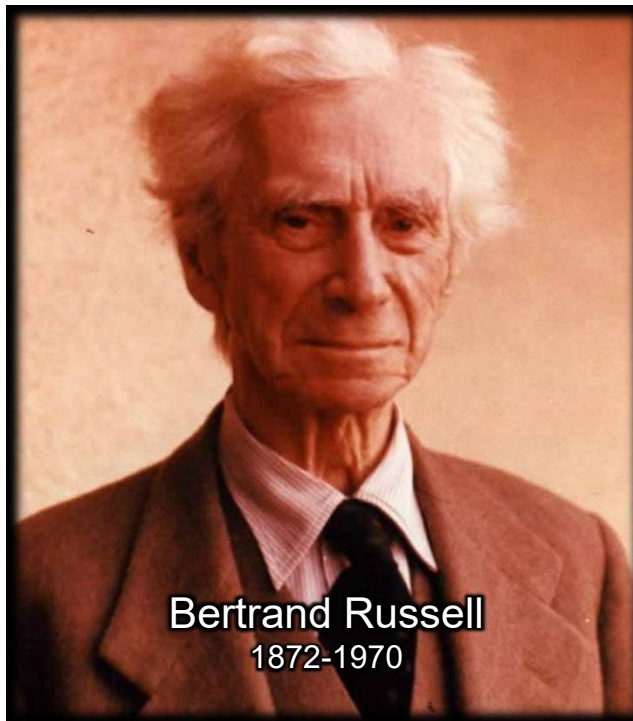
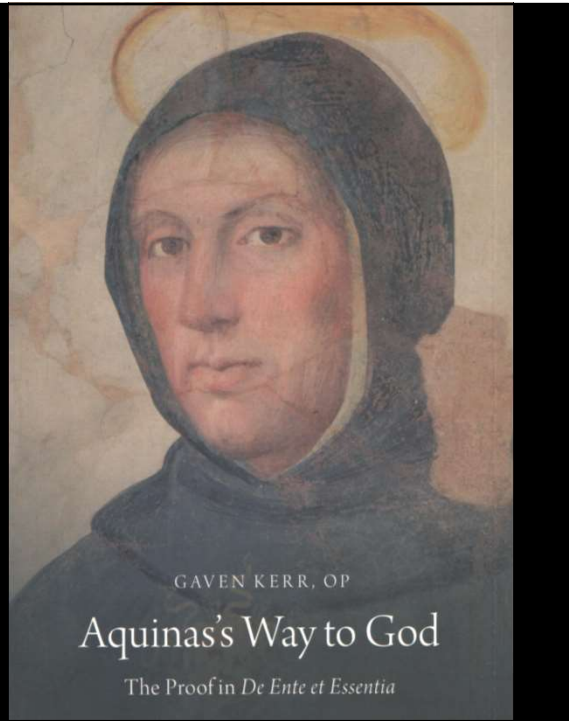
WILLIAM LANE CRAIG

William Lane Craig

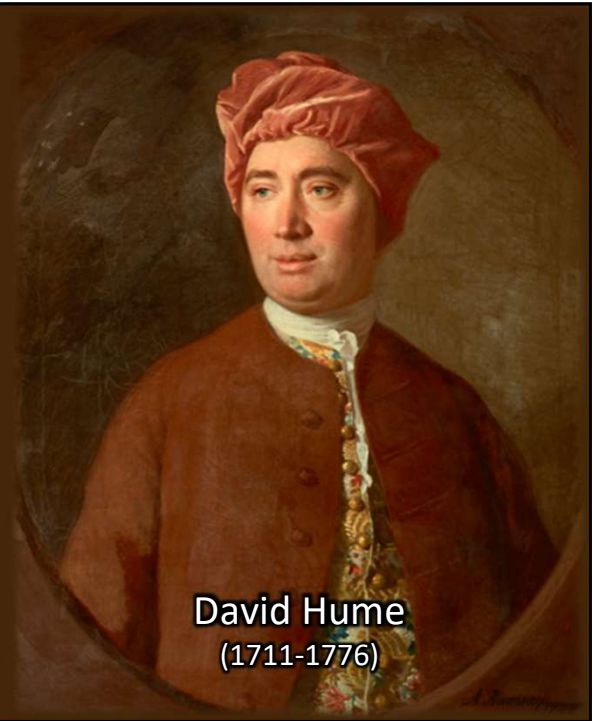


Another version says that every **CONTINGENT BEING** must have a cause.





***These atheists
are perhaps
taking their cue
either from the
famous Scottish
philosopher
David Hume.***

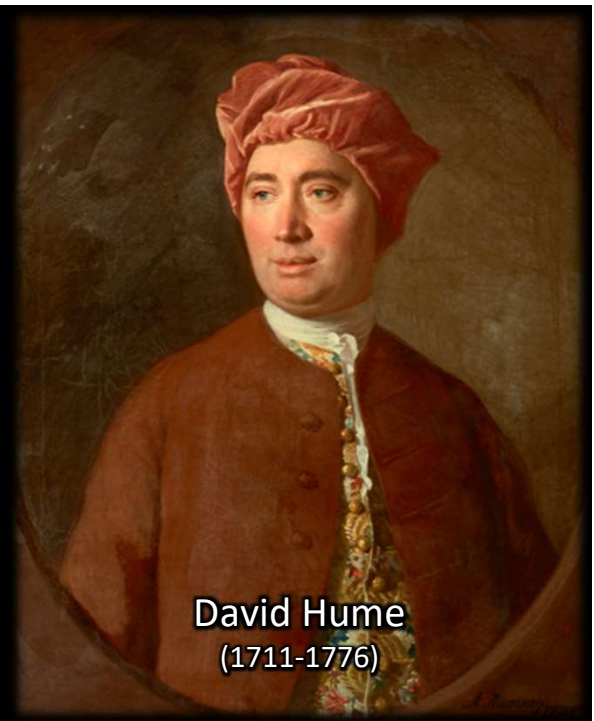


David Hume
(1711-1776)

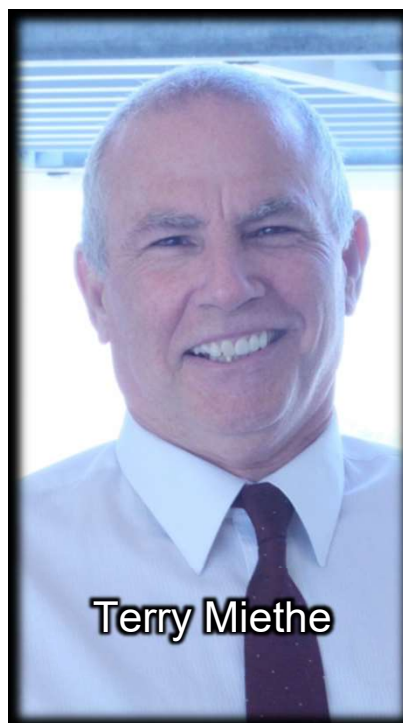
DIALOGUES
CONCERNING
NATURAL
RELIGION

DAVID
HUME

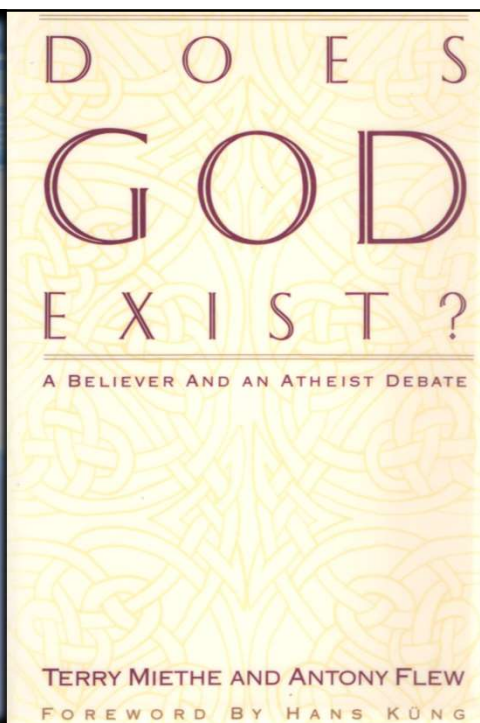
GREAT BOOKS IN PHILOSOPHY



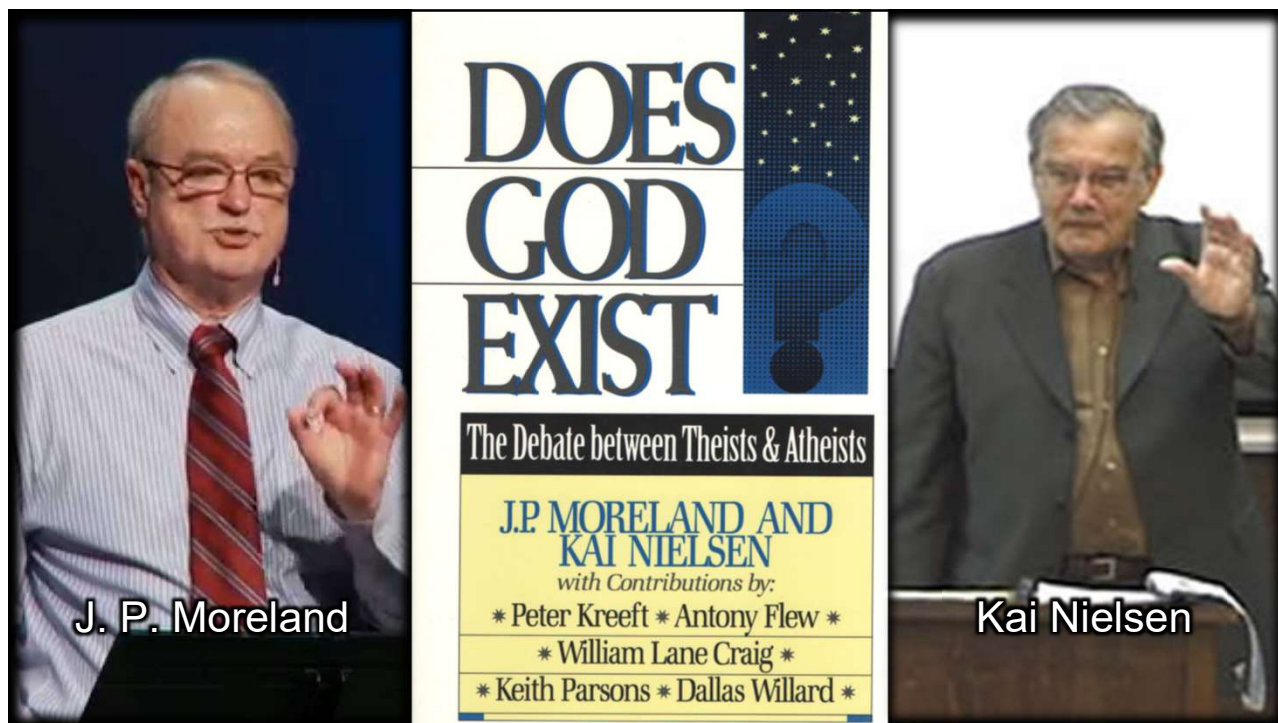
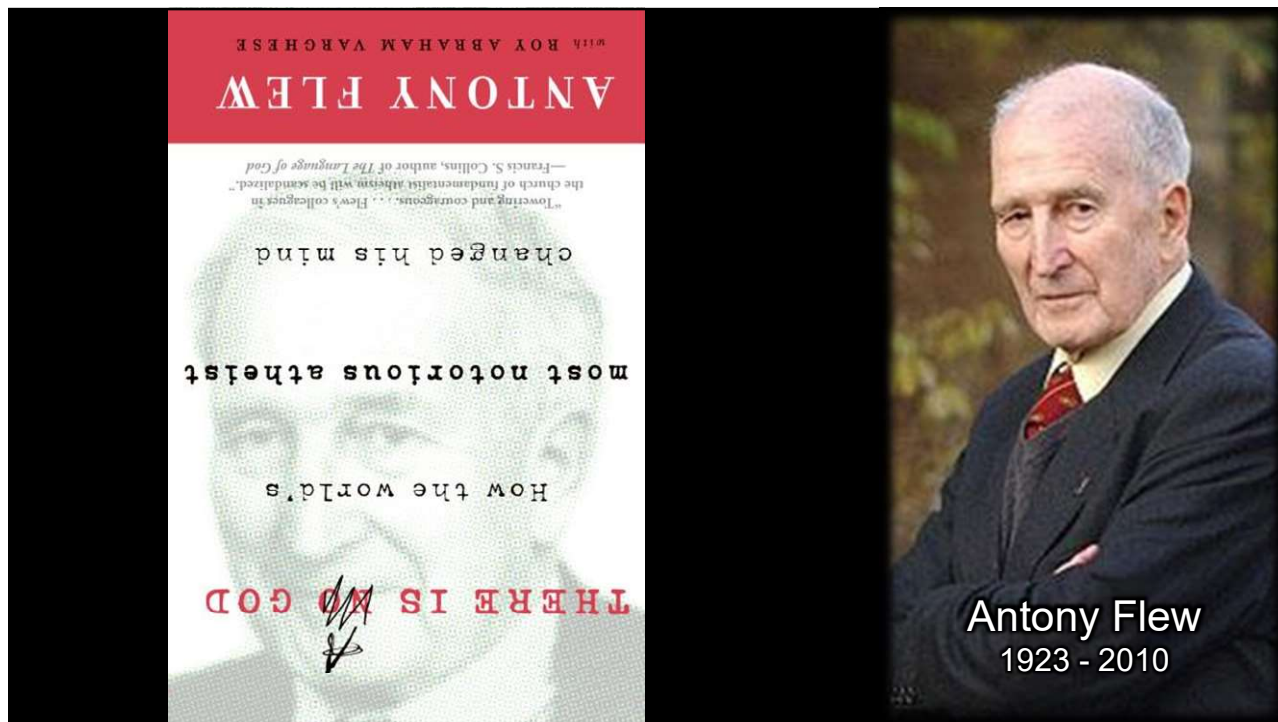
David Hume
(1711-1776)



Terry Miethe



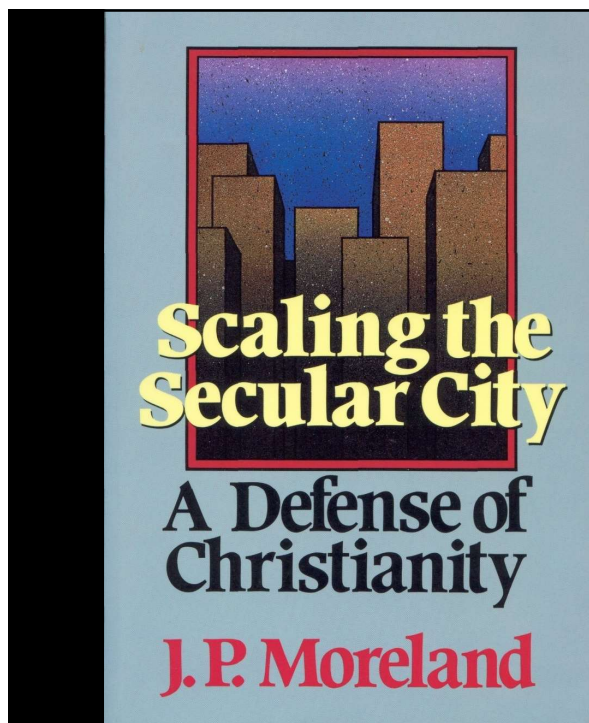
Antony Flew
1923 - 2010





Resources

Intermediate



Scaling the Secular City

**A Defense of
Christianity**

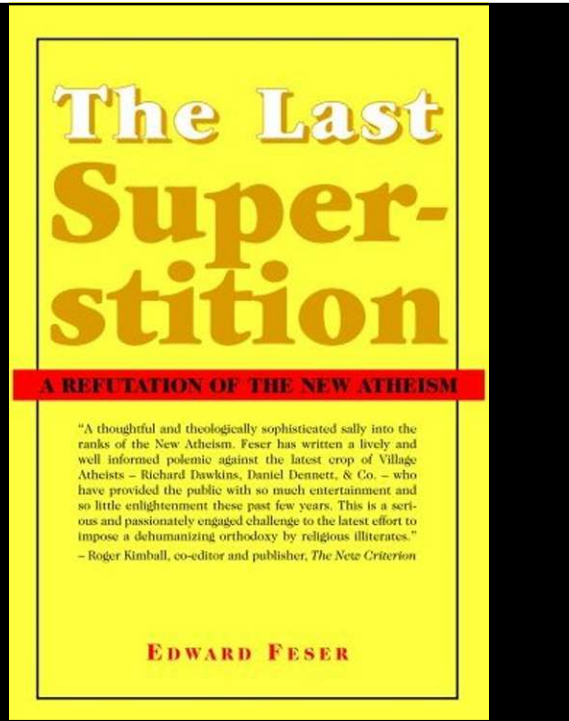
J.P. Moreland



J. P. Moreland



Edward Feser



The Last Superstition

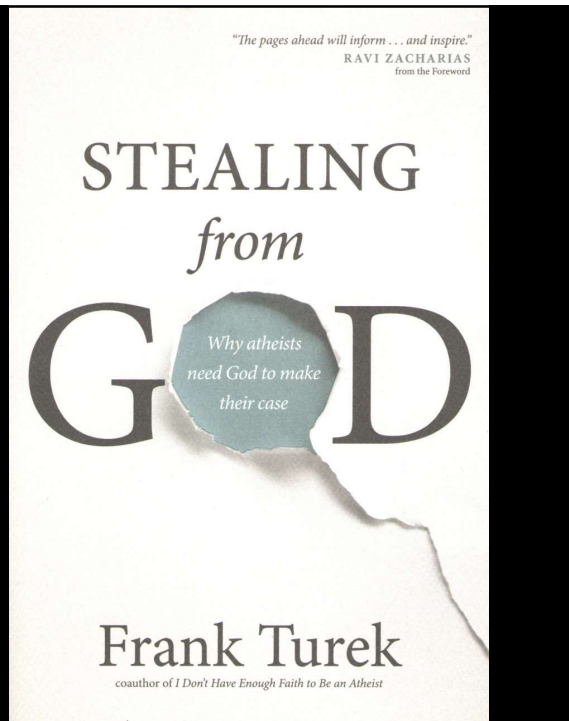
A REFUTATION OF THE NEW ATHEISM

"A thoughtful and theologically sophisticated sally into the ranks of the New Atheism. Feser has written a lively and well informed polemic against the latest crop of Village Atheists – Richard Dawkins, Daniel Dennett, & Co. – who have provided the public with so much entertainment and so little enlightenment these past few years. This is a serious and passionately engaged challenge to the latest effort to impose a dehumanizing orthodoxy by religious illiterates."
– Roger Kimball, co-editor and publisher, *The New Criterion*

EDWARD FESER



Frank Turek



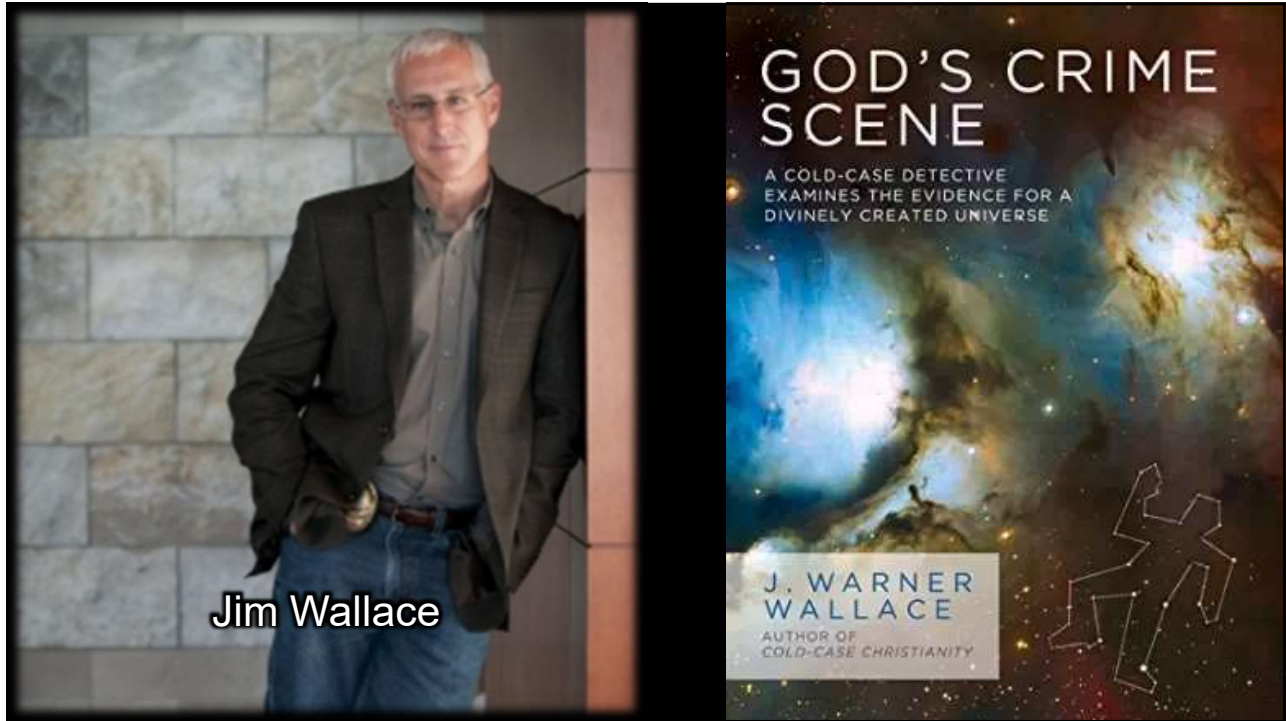
"The pages ahead will inform . . . and inspire."
RAVI ZACHARIAS
from the Foreword

STEALING from GOD

Why atheists
need God to make
their case

Frank Turek

coauthor of *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*



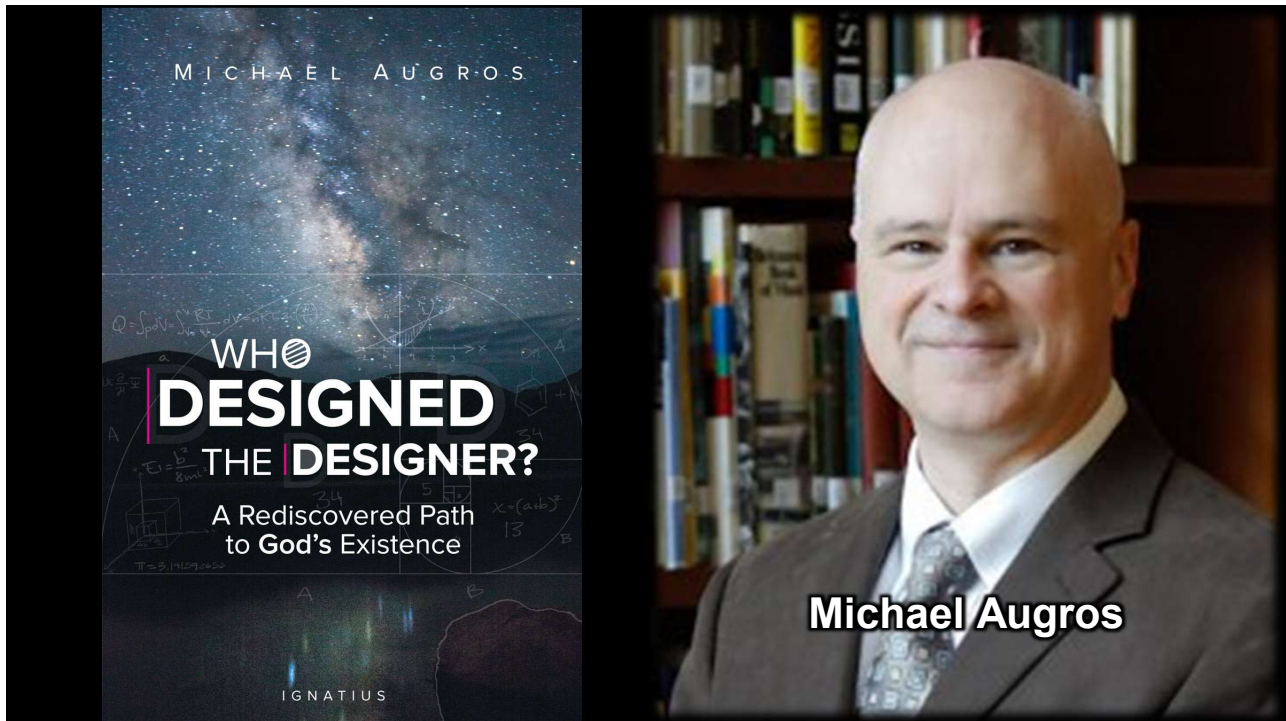
Jim Wallace

GOD'S CRIME SCENE

A COLD-CASE DETECTIVE EXAMINES THE EVIDENCE FOR A DIVINELY CREATED UNIVERSE

J. WARNER WALLACE

AUTHOR OF COLD-CASE CHRISTIANITY



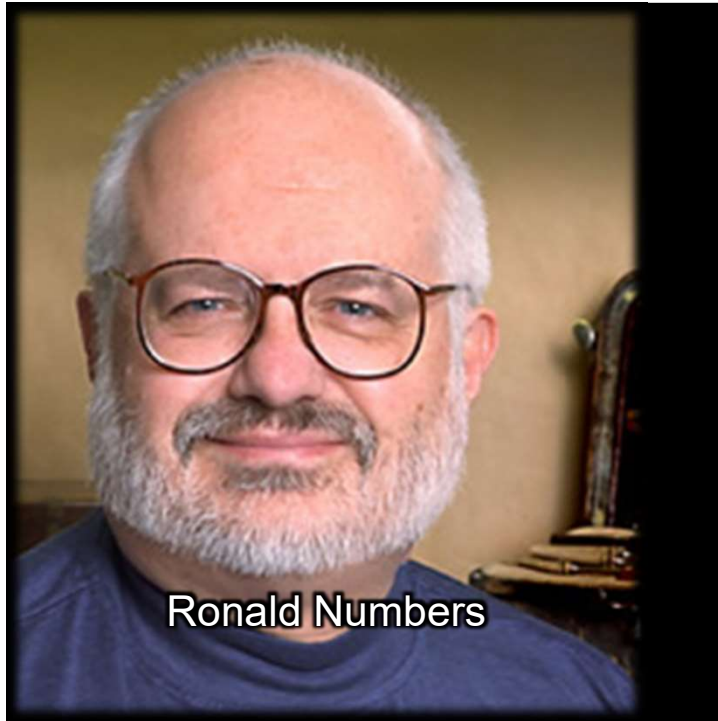
Michael Augros

MICHAEL AUGROS

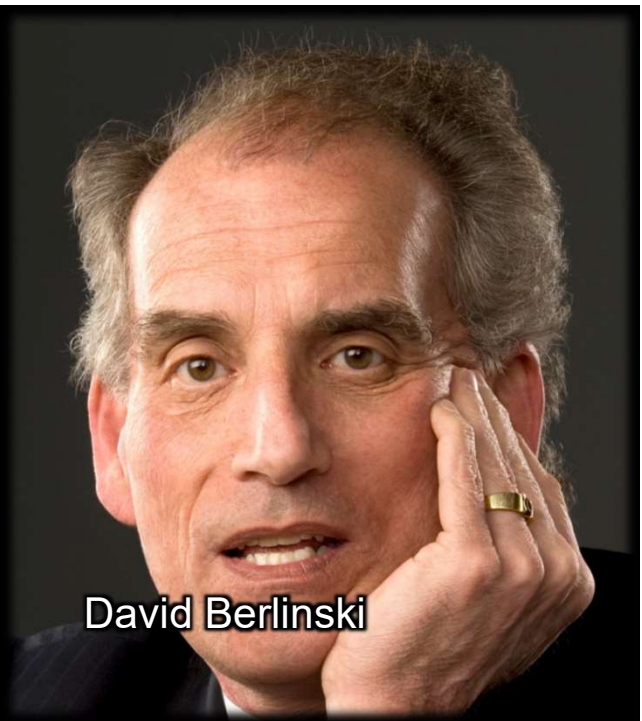
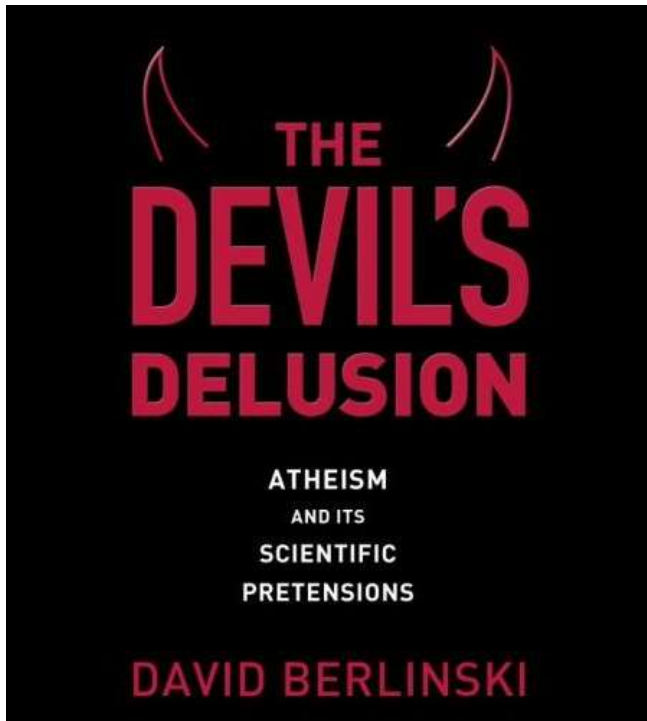
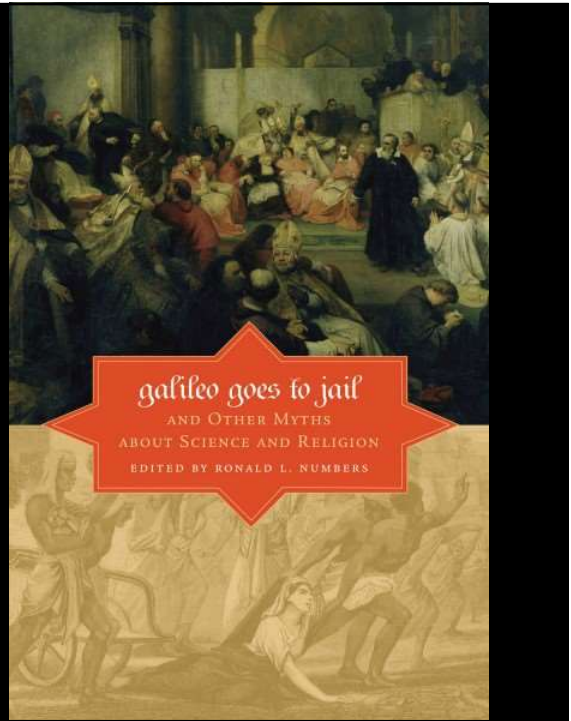
WHO DESIGNED THE DESIGNER?

A Rediscovered Path to God's Existence

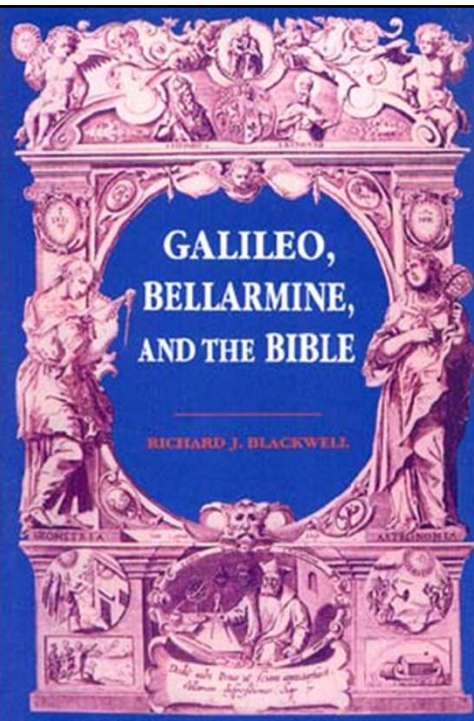
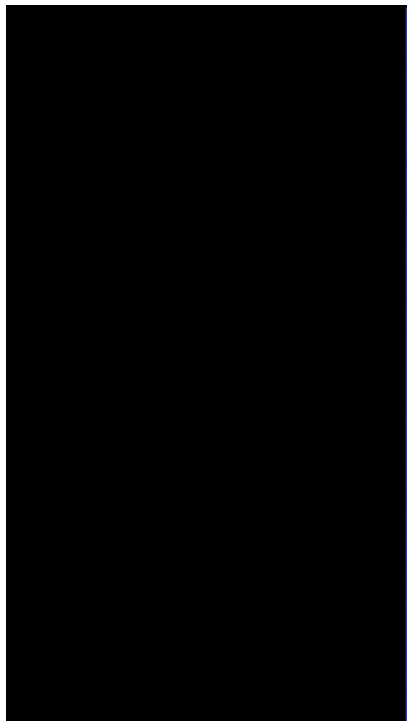
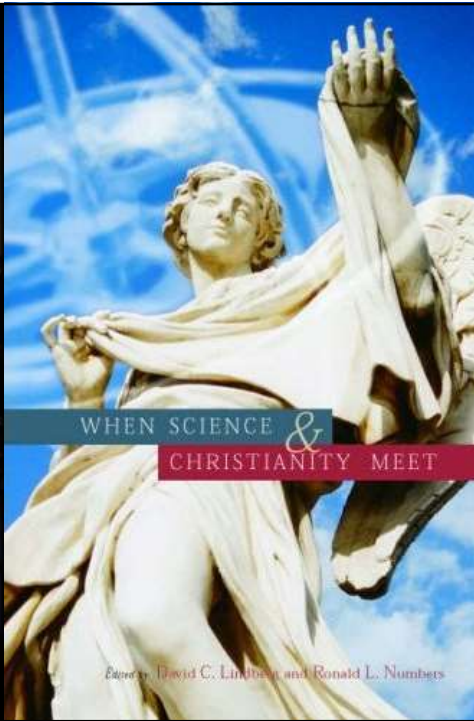
IGNATIUS

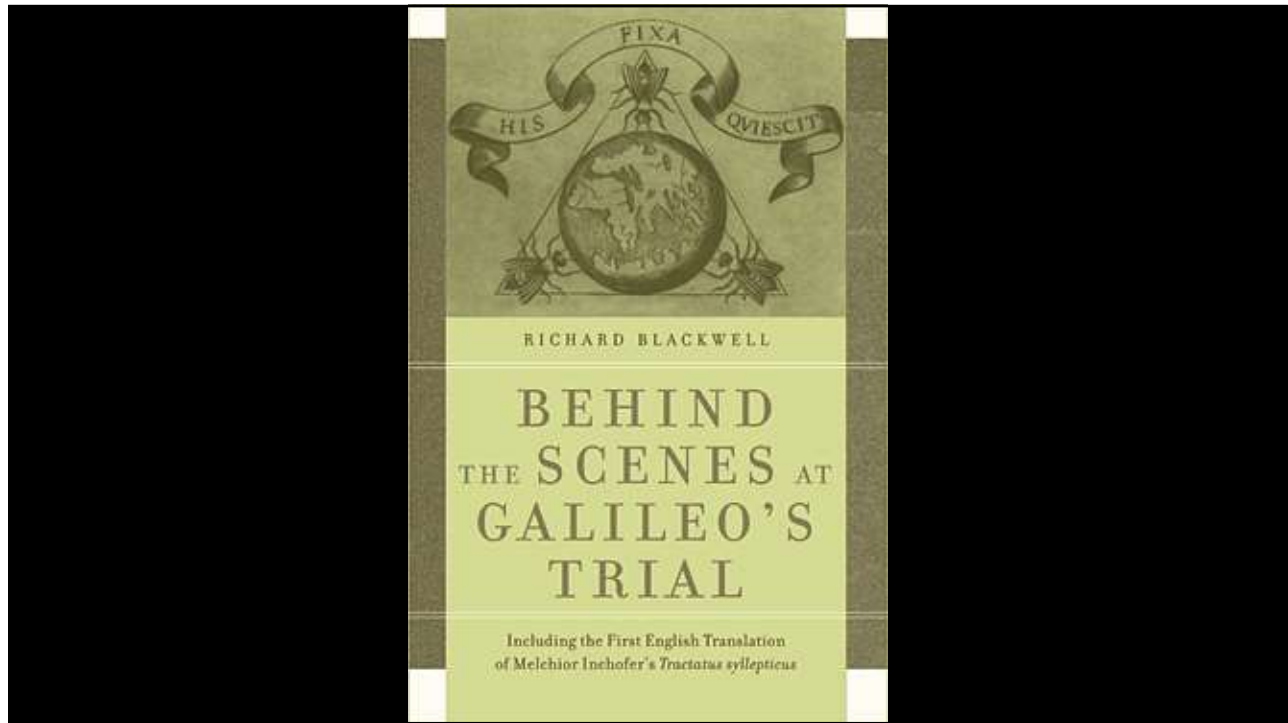


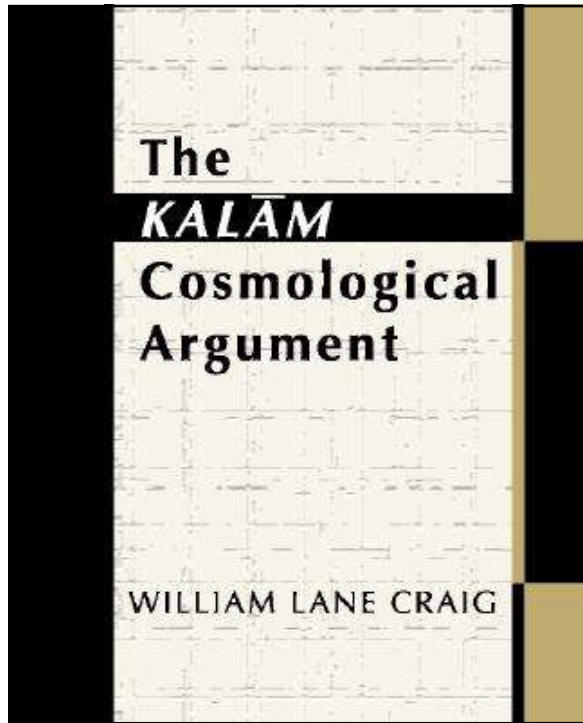
Ronald Numbers



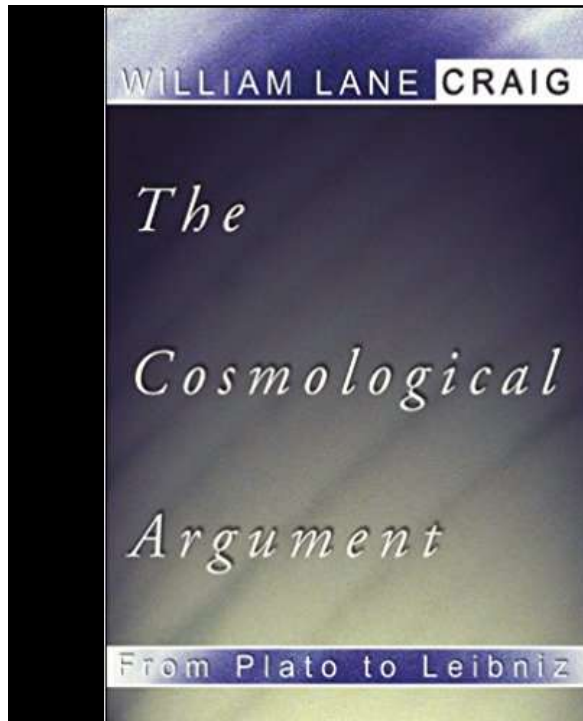
David Berlinski







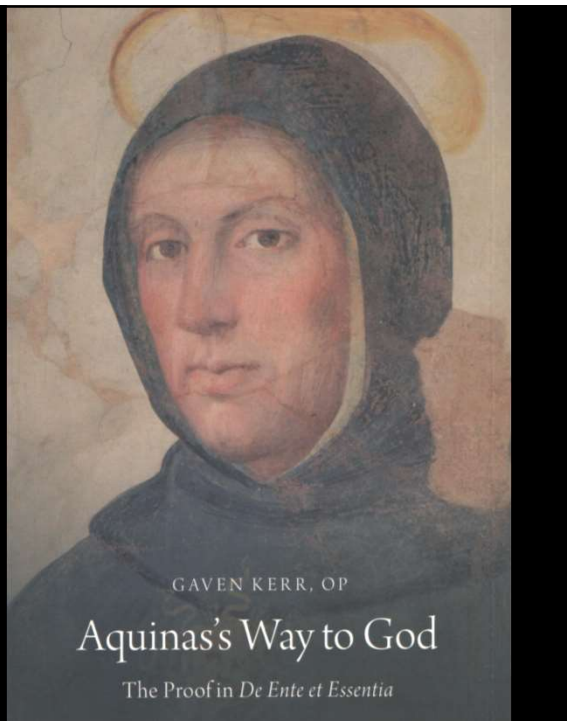
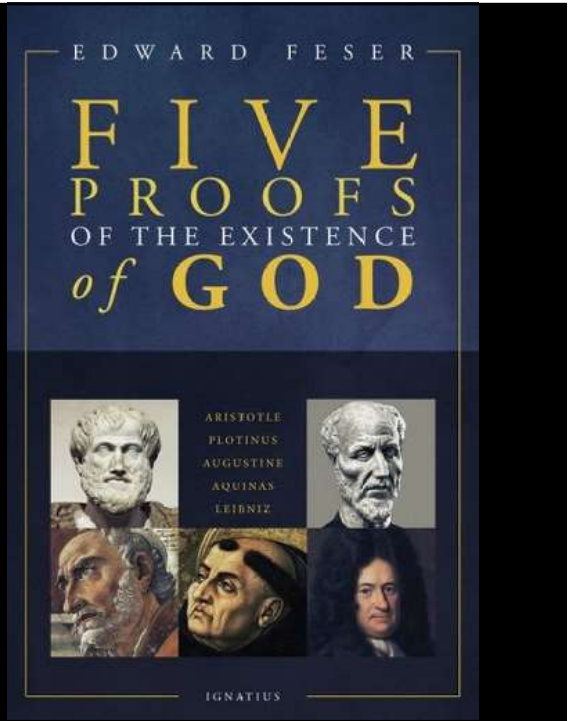
William Lane Craig

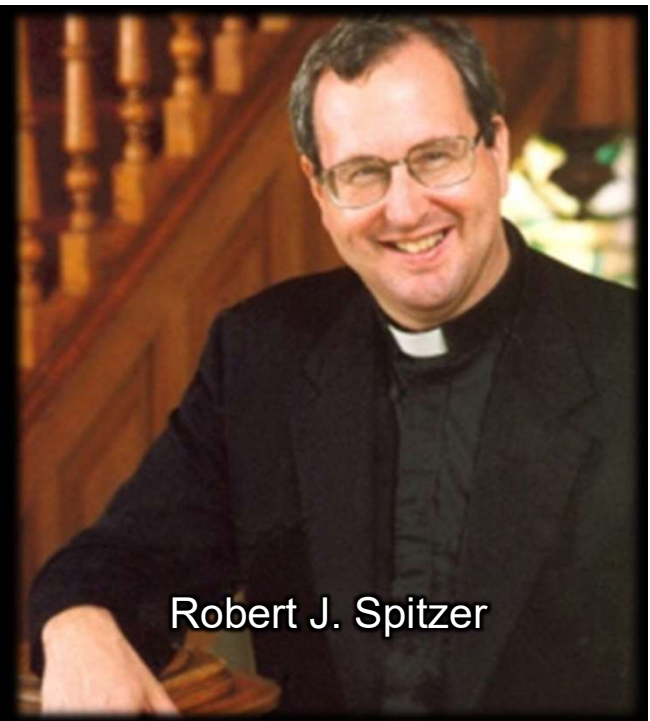
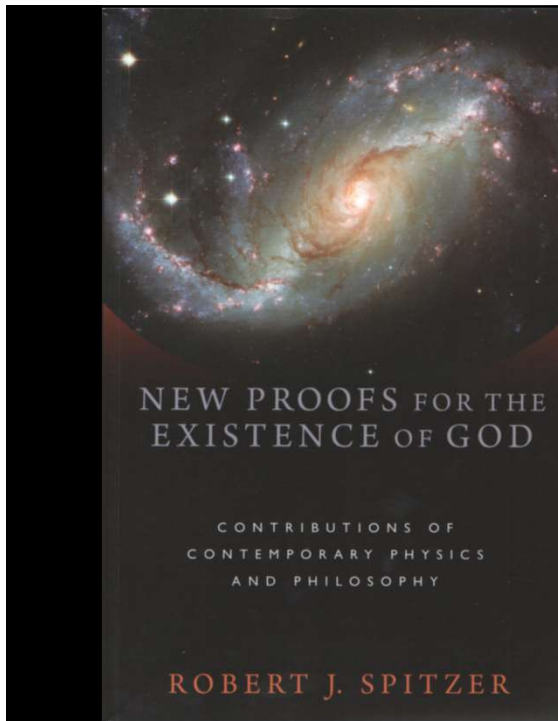
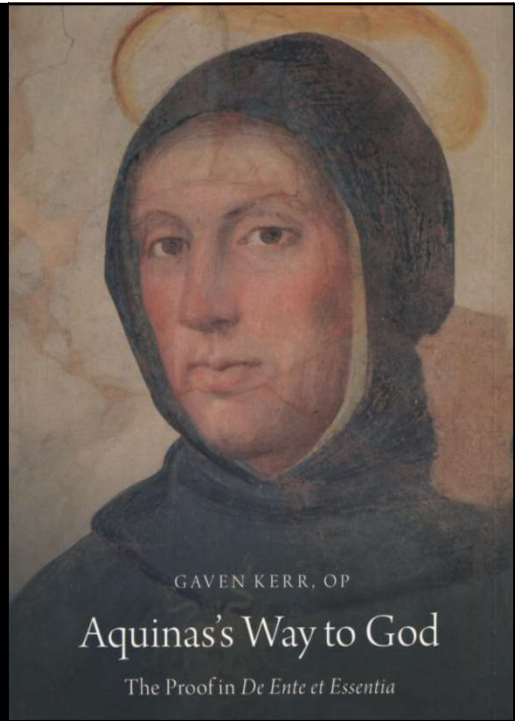


William Lane Craig



Edward Feser





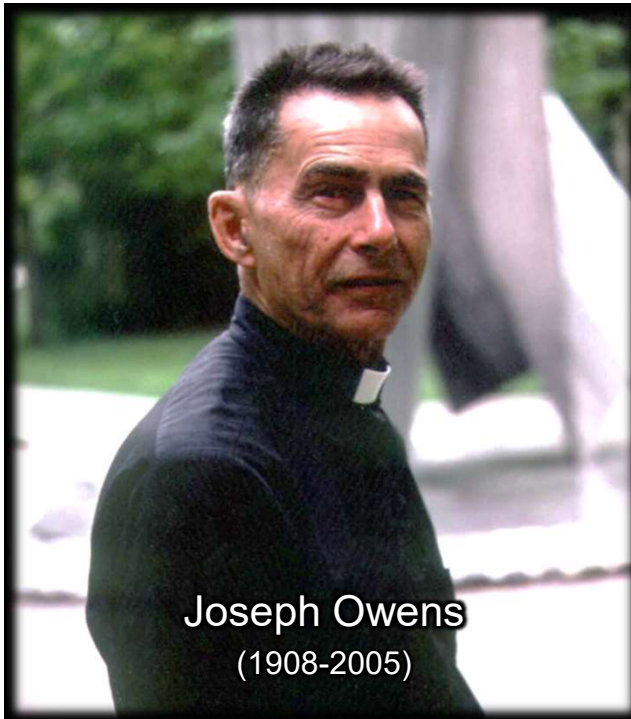


JAMES E. DOLEZAL



ALL THAT IS IN GOD

Evangelical Theology and the Challenge of Classical Christian Theism



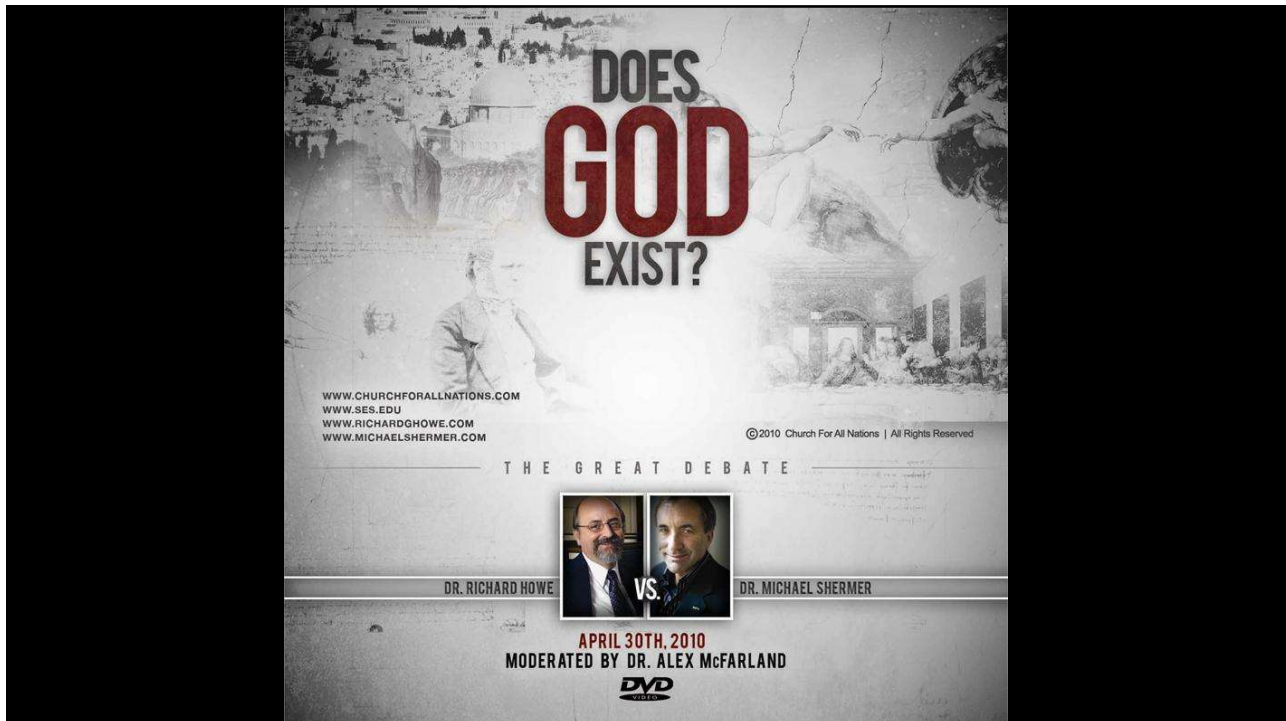
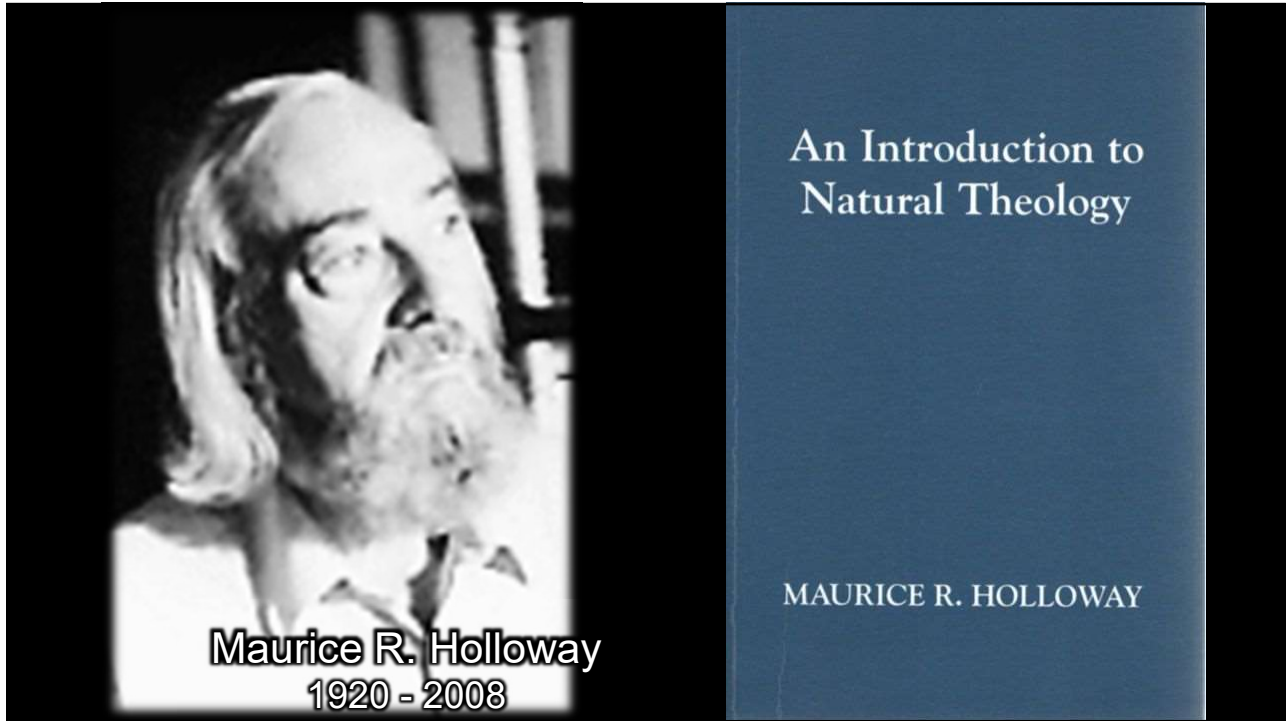
Joseph Owens
(1908-2005)



st. thomas aquinas on the existence of god

the collected papers of joseph owens

EDITED BY
JOHN R. CATAN



Please Visit these Web Sites:

The Virtual Office of Richard G. Howe, Ph.D.
<http://richardghowe.com/>

Southern Evangelical Seminary
<http://ses.edu/>