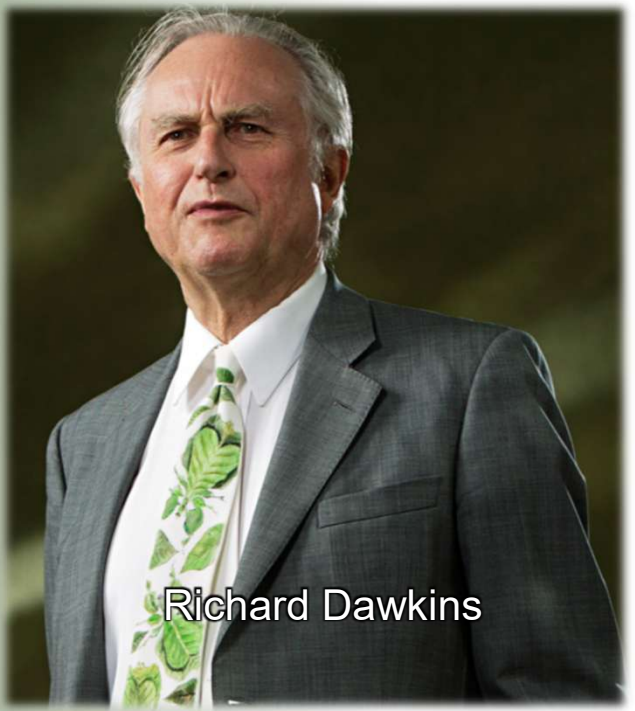


- ❖ Former Charles Simonyi Professor of the Public Understanding of Science, Oxford University
- ❖ Fellow of the Royal Society and of the Royal Society of Literature
- ❖ Author of:
 - The Ancestor's Tale*
 - The Selfish Gene*
 - The Blind Watchmaker*
 - The God Delusion*

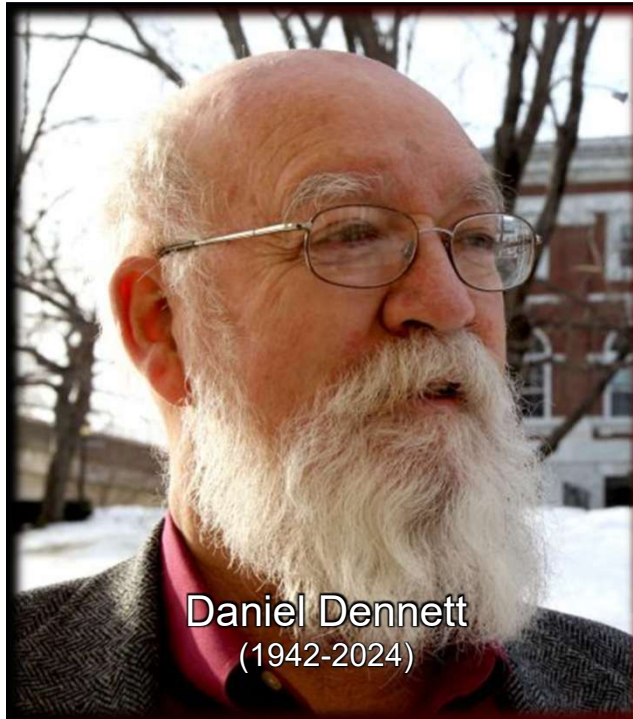


Richard Dawkins



Sam Harris

- ❖ Host of the Making Sense Podcast
- ❖ Philosophy degree from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in neuroscience from UCLA.
- ❖ Author of
 - The End of Faith*
 - Letters to a Christian Nation*
 - The Moral Landscape*
 - Waking Up: A Guide to Spirituality Without Religion*

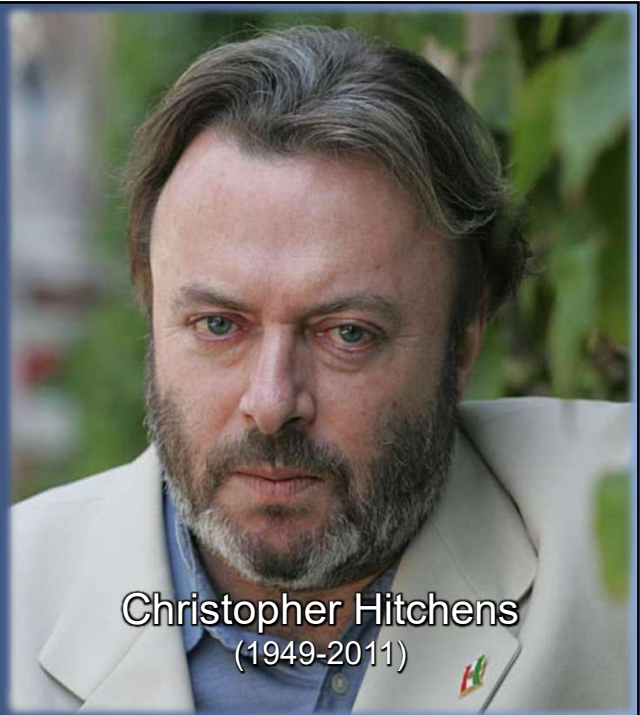


Daniel Dennett
(1942-2024)

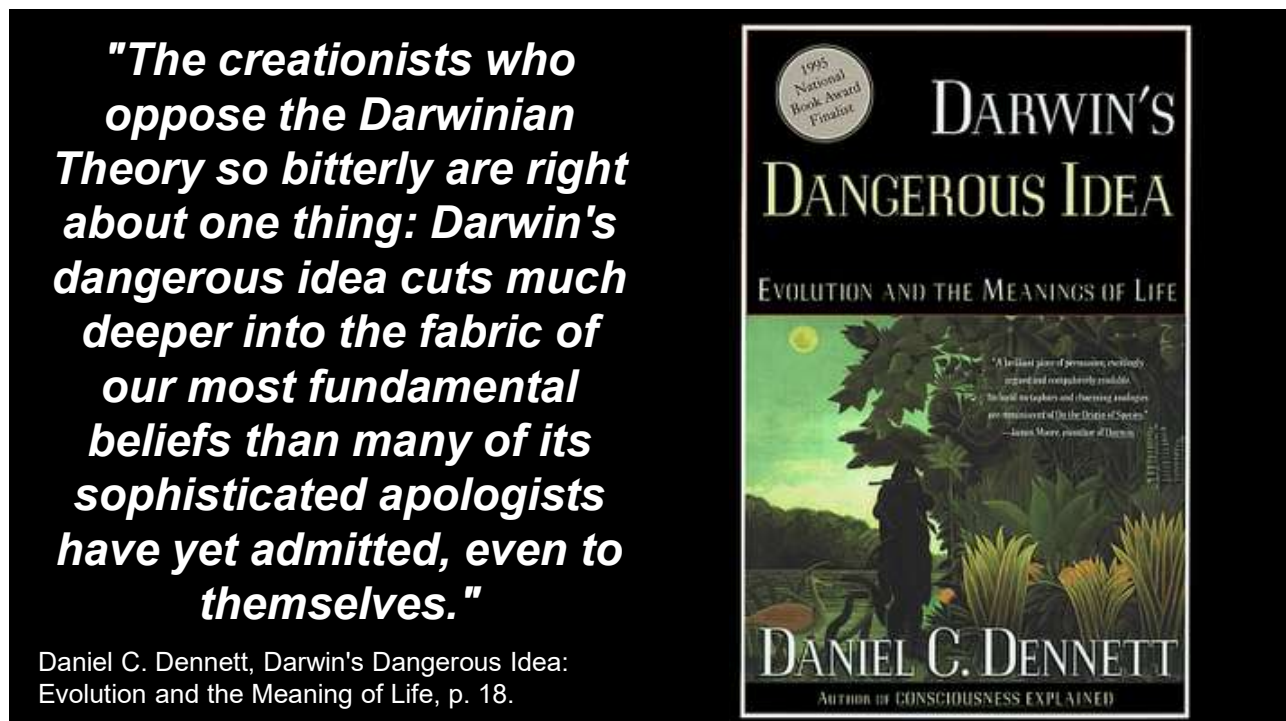
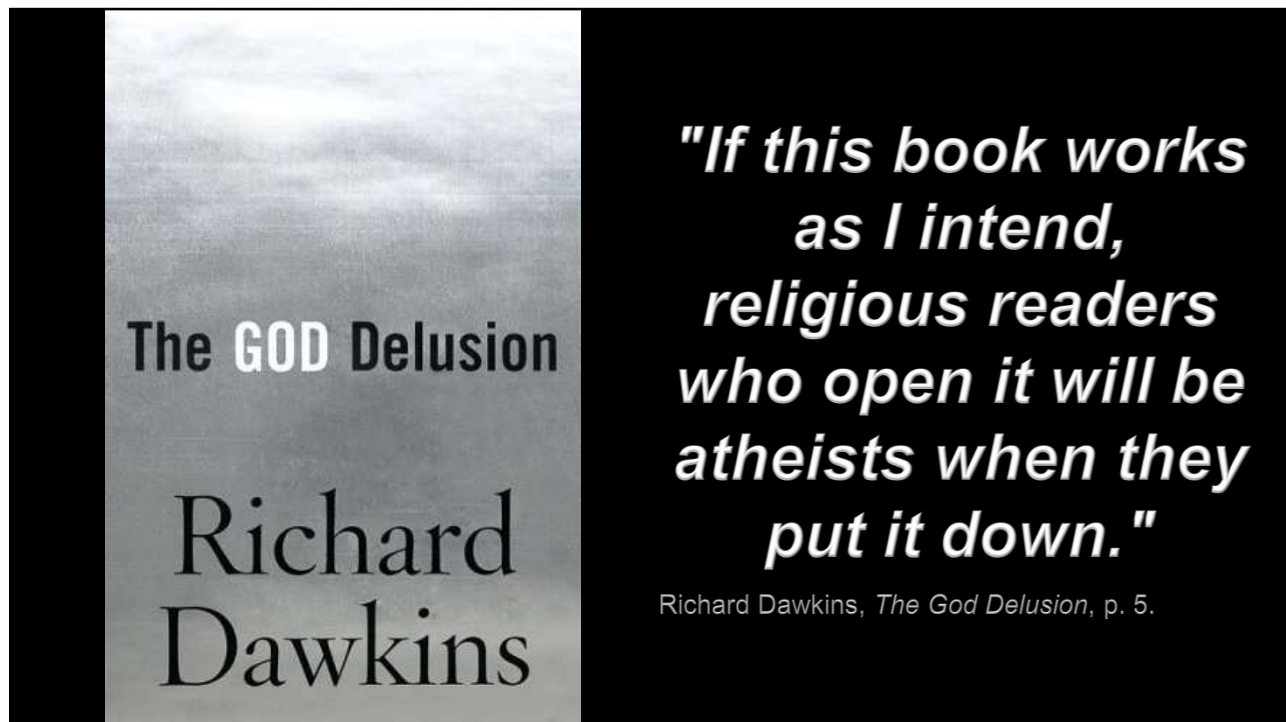
- ❖ Professor of philosophy and co-director of the Center for Cognitive Studies, Tufts University, Massachusetts
- ❖ Author of:
 - Brainstorms*
 - Elbow Room*
 - Consciousness Explained*
 - Breaking the Spell*
 - Darwin's Dangerous Idea*

- ❖ Author, journalist, columnist, essayist, orator, religious and literary critic
- ❖ Contributed to *New Statesman*, *The Nation*, *The Weekly Standard*, and more
- ❖ Author of:

Thomas Jefferson: Author of America
Thomas Paine's "Rights of Man": A Biography
God is Not Good

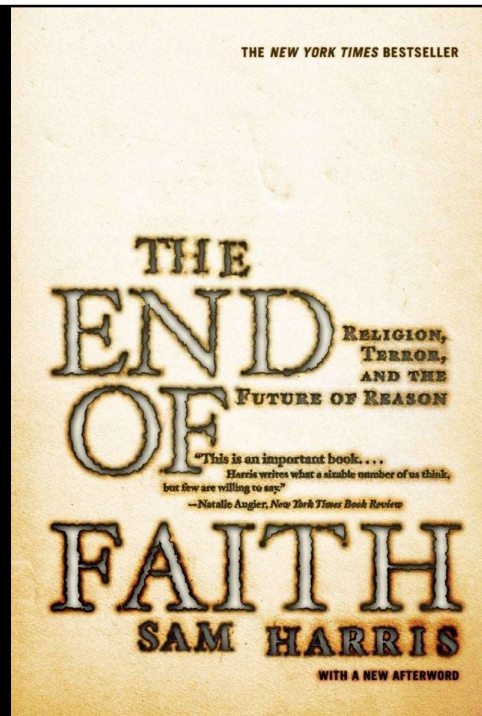


Christopher Hitchens
(1949-2011)



"Religious faith represents so uncompromising a misuse of the power of our minds that it forms a kind of perverse, cultural singularity — a vanishing point beyond which rational discourse proves impossible."

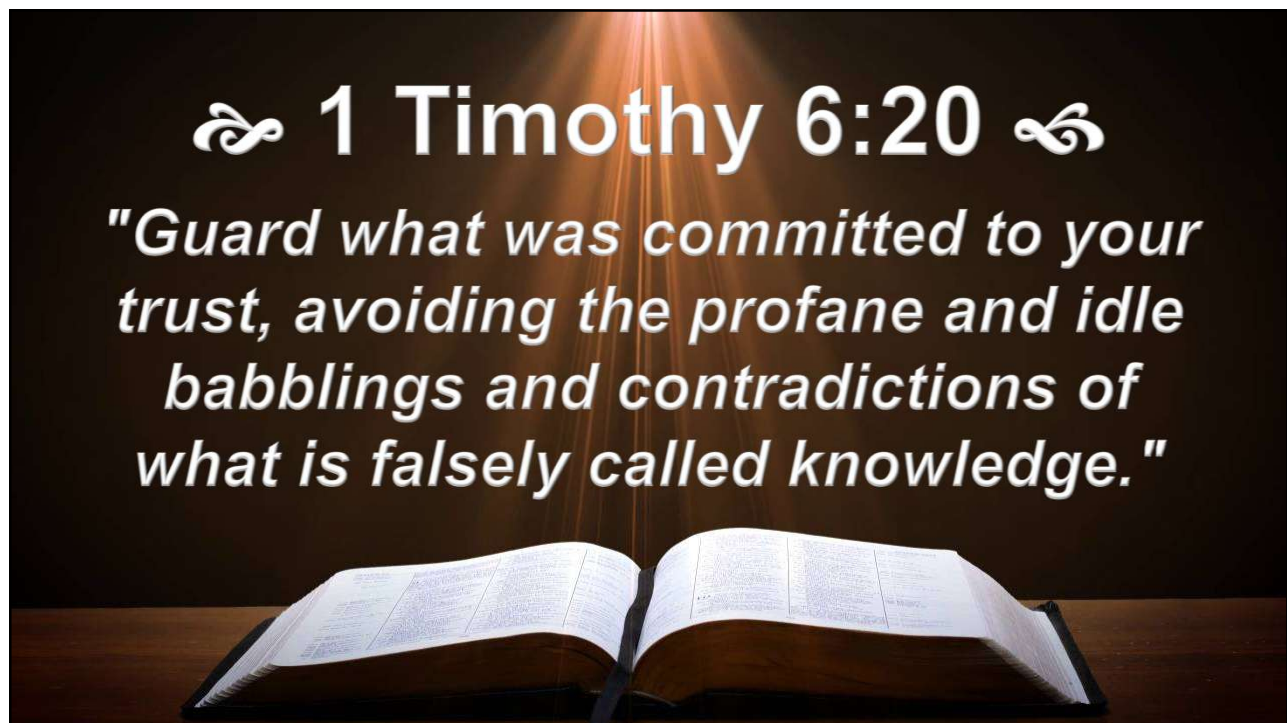
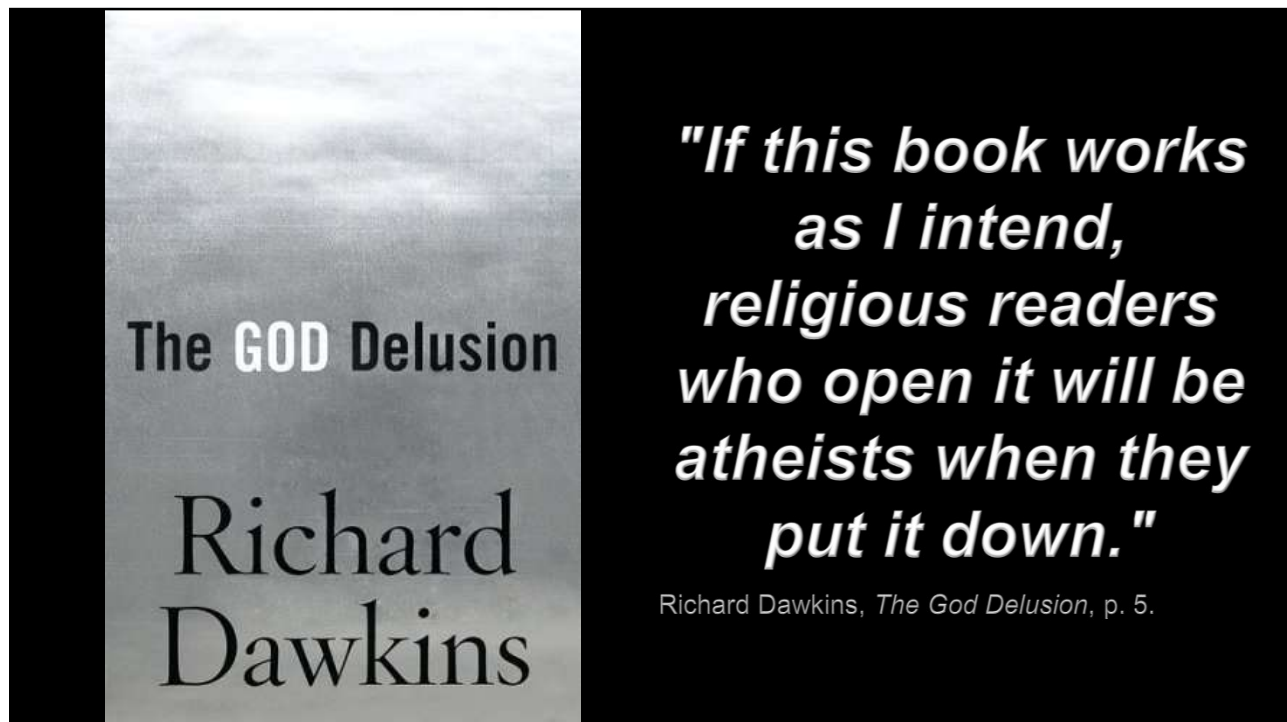
Sam Harris, *The End of Faith*, p. 25.



god
is not
Great
How Religion Poisons Everything
Christopher
Hitchens

"As I write these words, and as you read them, people of faith are in their different ways planning your and my destruction, and the destruction of all the hard-won human attainments that I have touched upon. Religion poisons everything."

Christopher Hitchens, *God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything*, p. 13, emphasis in original.



What Is the "New" Atheism?

DISCUSSIONS WITH
RICHARD DAWKINS

Richard Dawkins

EPISODE ONE

THE
FOUR HORSEMEN

A Round Table Discussion With:
RICHARD DAWKINS • DANIEL C. DENNETT
SAM HARRIS • CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS





What's New about the "New Atheism"

Its Focus

Its Grounding

Its Audience

Its Aim

Its Tone

Its Ignorance

Its Focus

While acknowledging the role Christians have played in certain historical atrocities, academic atheism acknowledges the contribution Christianity has made in recent centuries to the overall well-being of humanity.

Its Focus

In contrast, the "New" Atheism now indicts religion in general or the Christian religion in particular for virtually every thing that is wrong with the world.

Its Focus

Religion in general or Christianity in particular are responsible for many, if not most, of the atrocities of history.

Faith is plunging the world into self-destruction as it allows people to justify the destruction of other people for no reason whatsoever.

Its Focus

Christianity has always been an impediment to science.

Christianity is endangering the civilized world by its commitment to eradicate sound scientific reasoning and advances throughout the public and especially the educational spheres.

Its Audience

Academic atheism took the argument to the scholars.

As such, its arguments were generally more thoughtful and, understandably, more technical.

Because of this, its books were hardly best sellers.

Its Audience

The "New" Atheism is taking the argument to the masses.

As such, its arguments sometimes can be more simplistic, even to the point of overreaction and hysteria.

Its books are run-away best sellers.

Its Tone

The "New" Atheism is unprecedented in the shrill tone of its rhetoric.

Its harsh, if not hostile, treatment of religion in general and Christianity in particular, has struck a chord with many in our society.

The open hatred of God is seemingly becoming more comfortable for many.

Its Grounding

In his W. H. Griffith-Thomas lectures at Dallas Theological Seminary, Al Mohler noted seven characteristics of the "New Atheism" one of which bears mentioning,

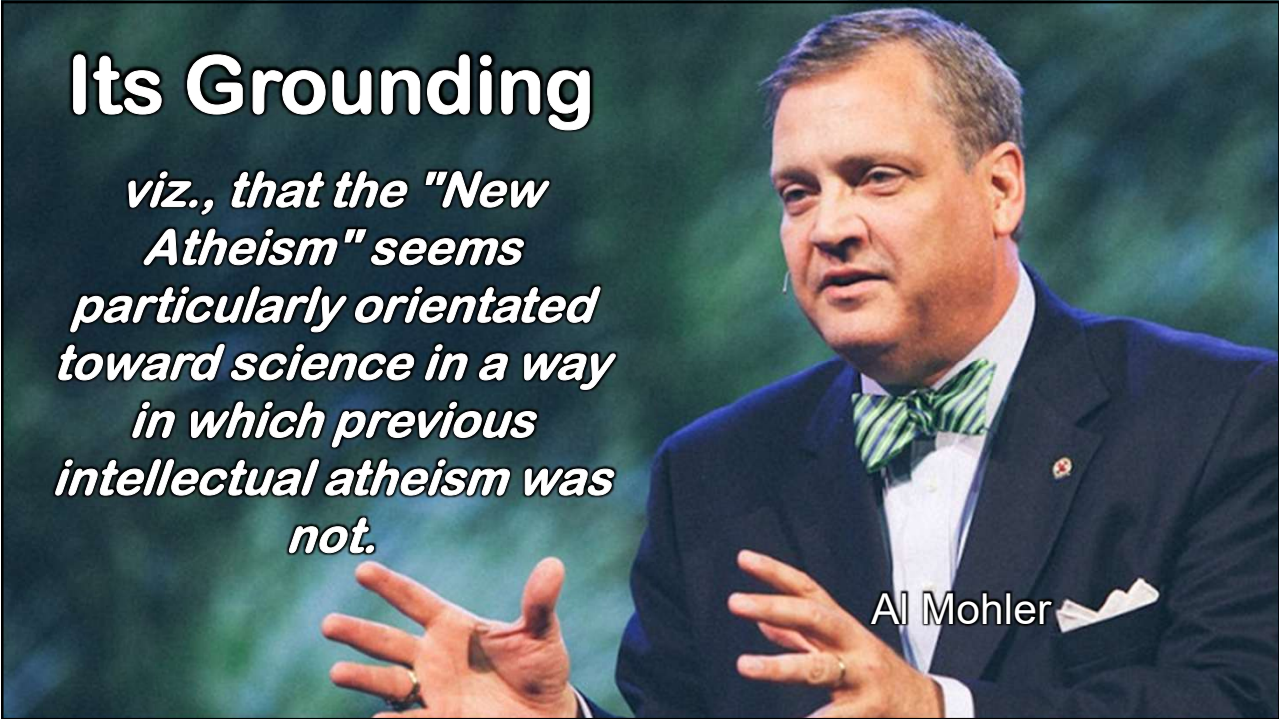


Al Mohler

Its Grounding

viz., that the "New Atheism" seems particularly orientated toward science in a way in which previous intellectual atheism was not.

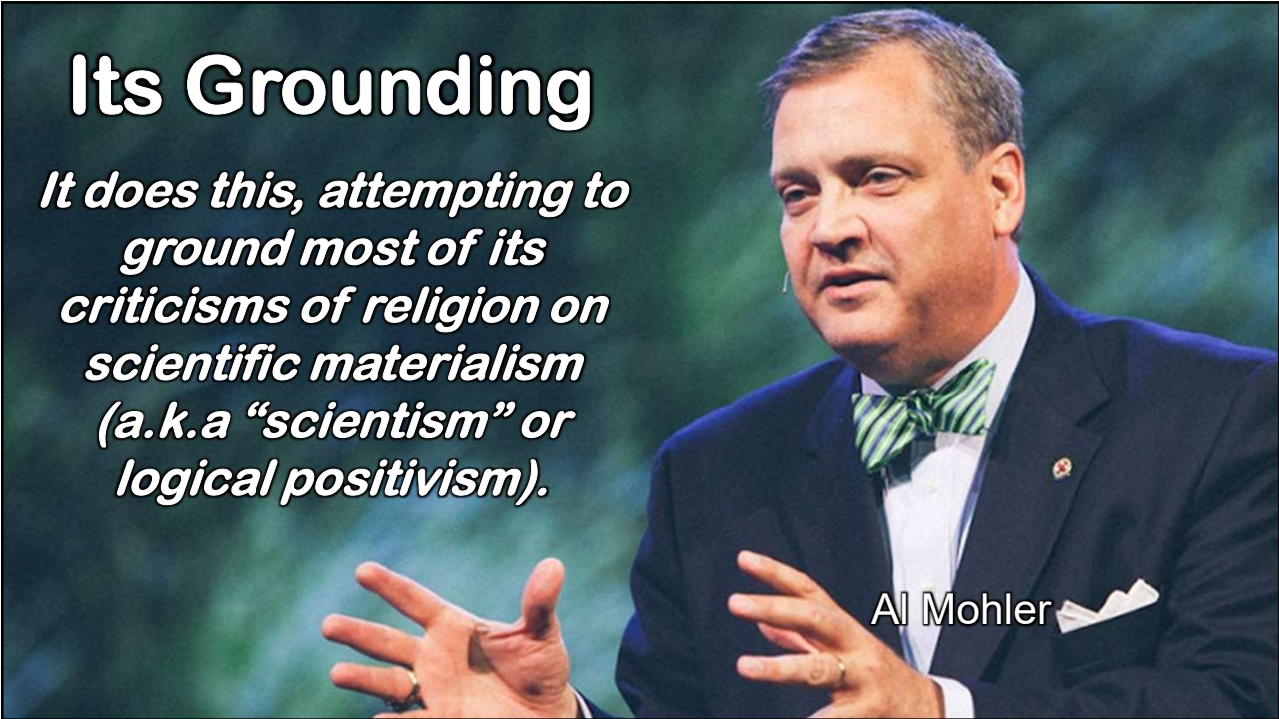
Al Mohler

A photograph of Al Mohler, a man with short grey hair, wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a white shirt, and a green and white striped bow tie. He is gesturing with both hands as if speaking. The background is a blurred green.

Its Grounding

It does this, attempting to ground most of its criticisms of religion on scientific materialism (a.k.a "scientism" or logical positivism).

Al Mohler

A photograph of Al Mohler, a man with short grey hair, wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a white shirt, and a green and white striped bow tie. He is gesturing with both hands as if speaking. The background is a blurred green.

Its Aim

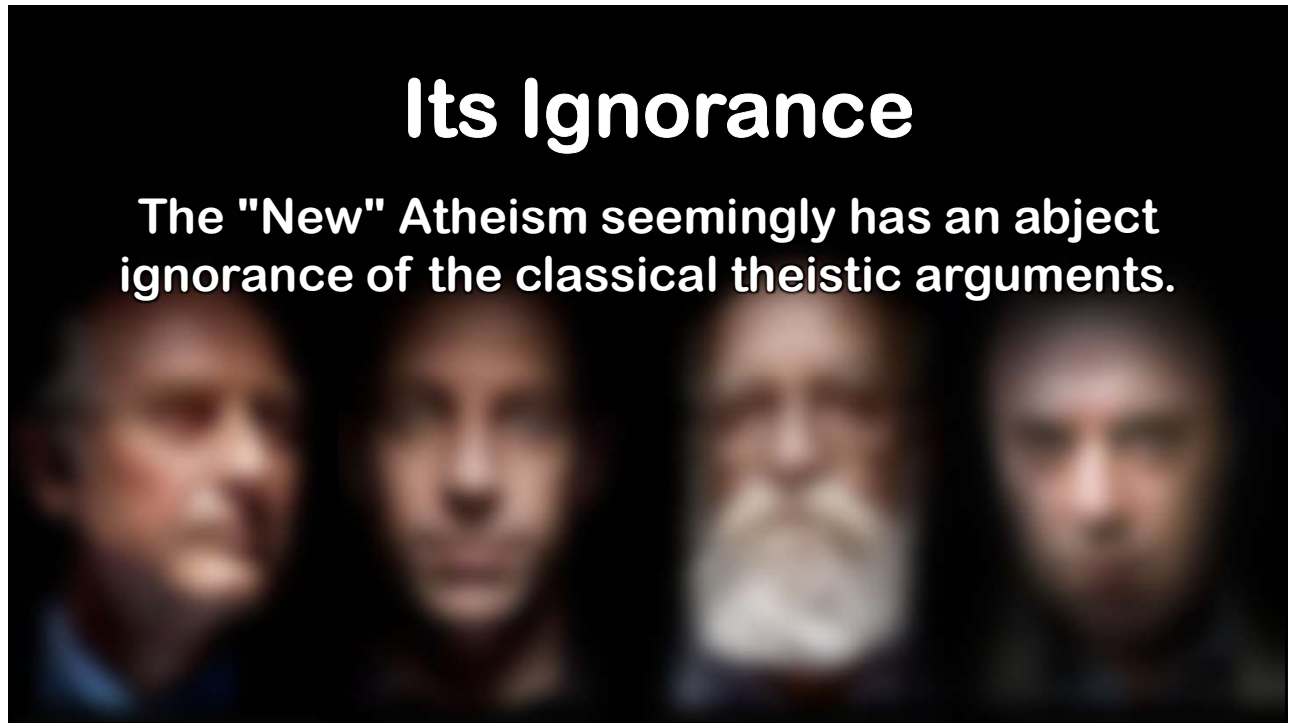
The "New" Atheism seeks to eradicate religion from the planet

The qualified demur of Hitchens is noted.



Its Ignorance

The "New" Atheism seemingly has an abject ignorance of the classical theistic arguments.



Its Ignorance

The terrible irony is that:

**Dawkins, Harris, Hitchens, and Dennett
boast about how reasonable they are and
how much their views are grounded in the
evidence.**

Its Ignorance

The terrible irony is that:

**They continuously excoriate religious
people for having absolutely no reason or
evidence for their religious beliefs.**

Its Ignorance

The terrible irony is that:

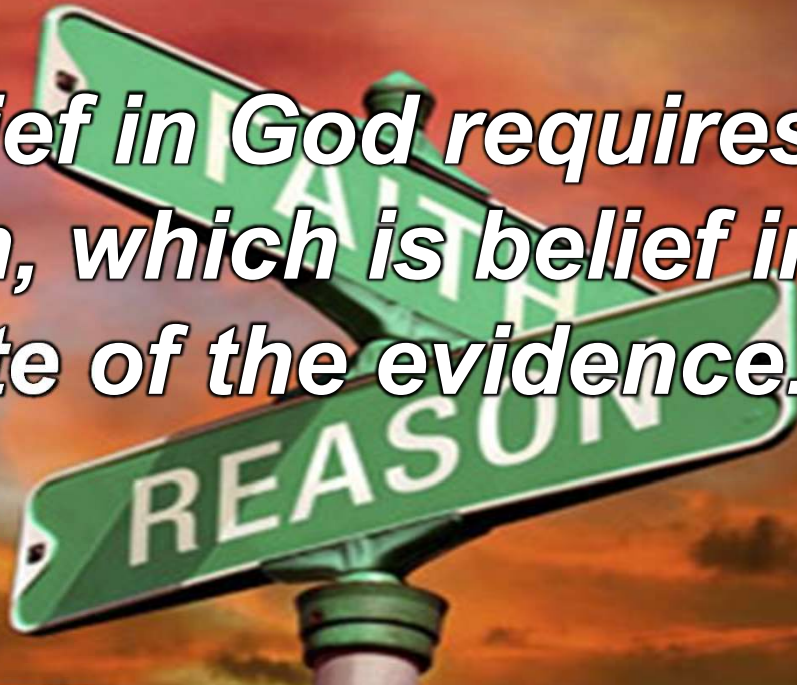
Yet they themselves often fail to seriously engage the best arguments and evidence that Christians put forth for their positions.

Its Ignorance

Dawkins, Harris, and Hitchens (sans Dennett) seemingly hope that the hyperbolic level of their criticisms will distract the readers from noticing that they seldom refute the standard arguments or put forth substantive ones of their own.

What Are the Arguments of the "New" Atheism?

Belief in God requires faith, which is belief in spite of the evidence.

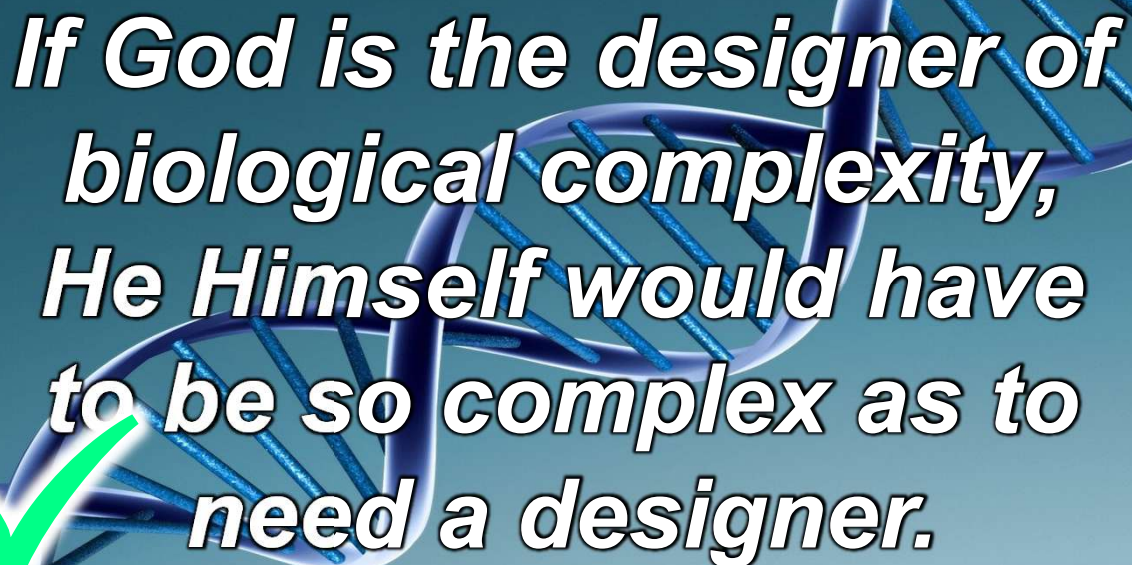


***Why can there not
be an infinite
regress of causes
in the past?***




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



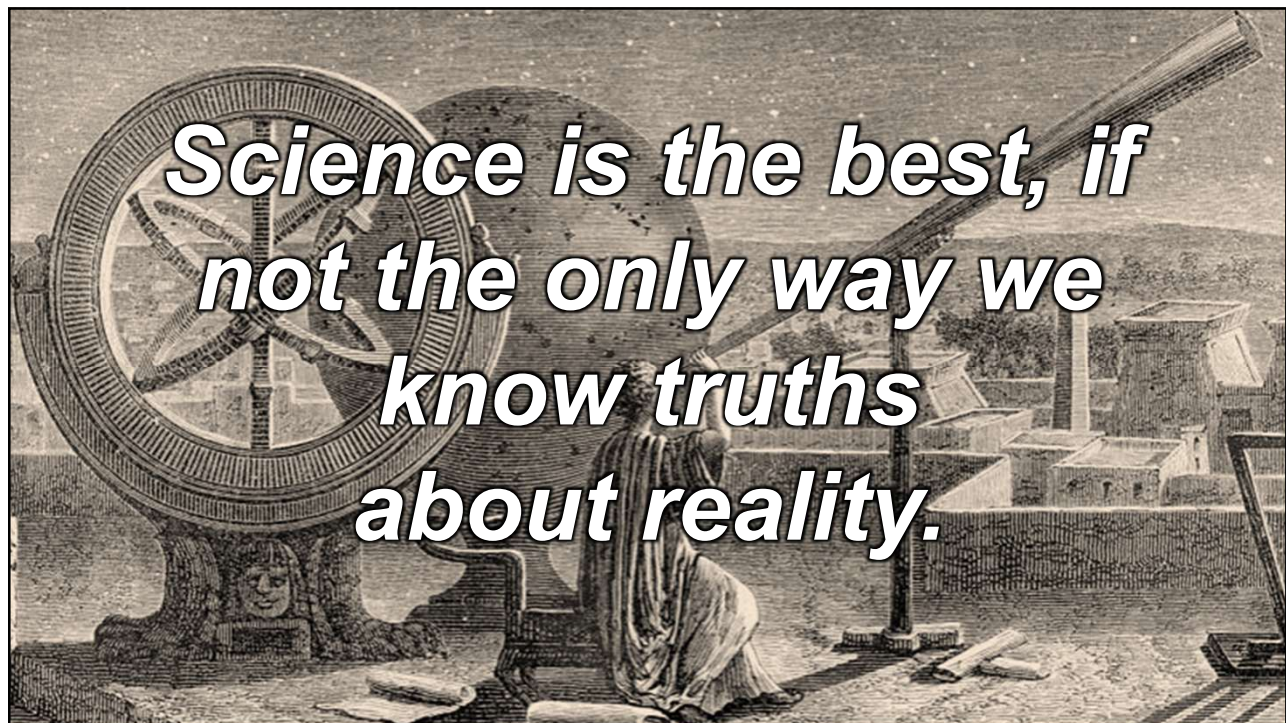
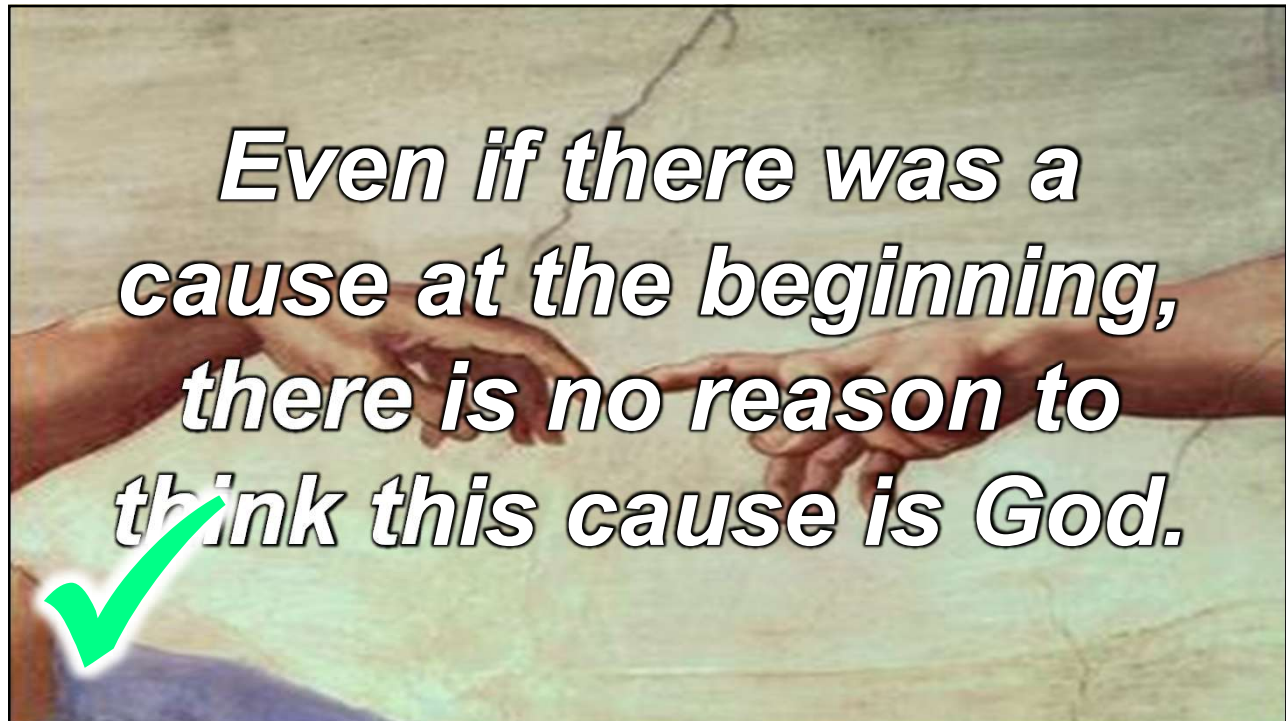


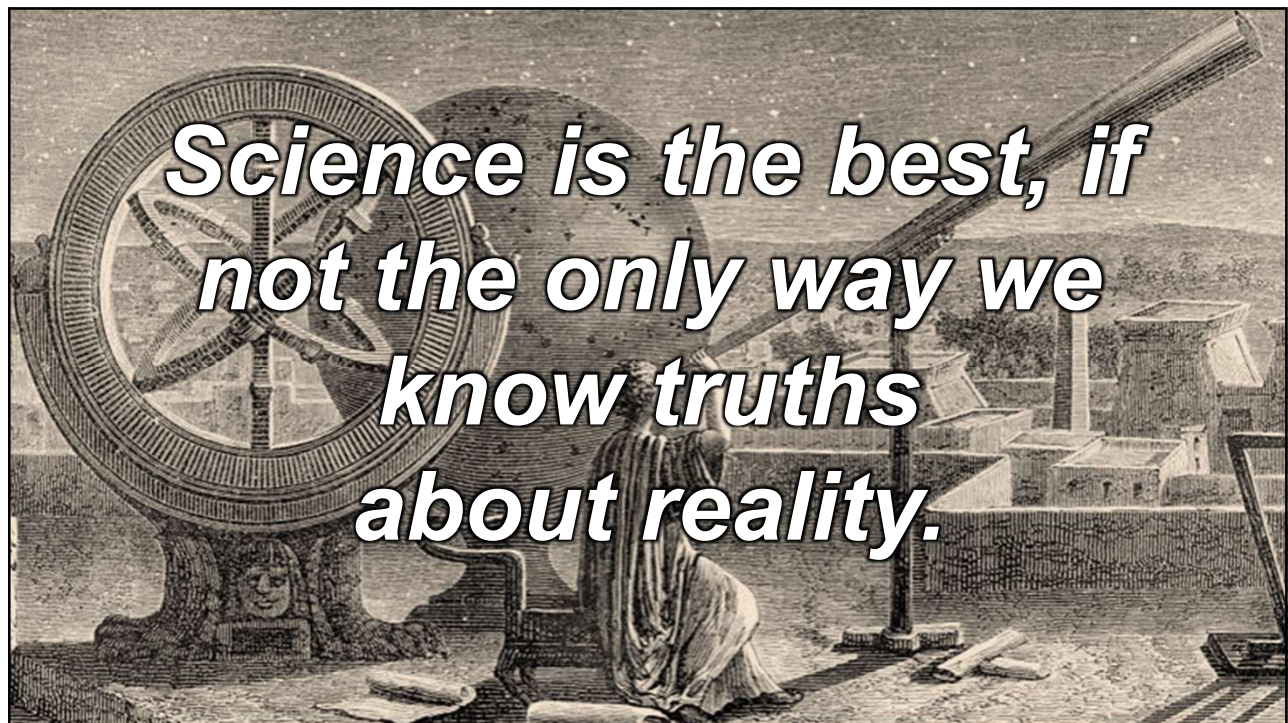
If God is the designer of biological complexity, He Himself would have to be so complex as to need a designer.



Some things in the Universe do not need a cause.

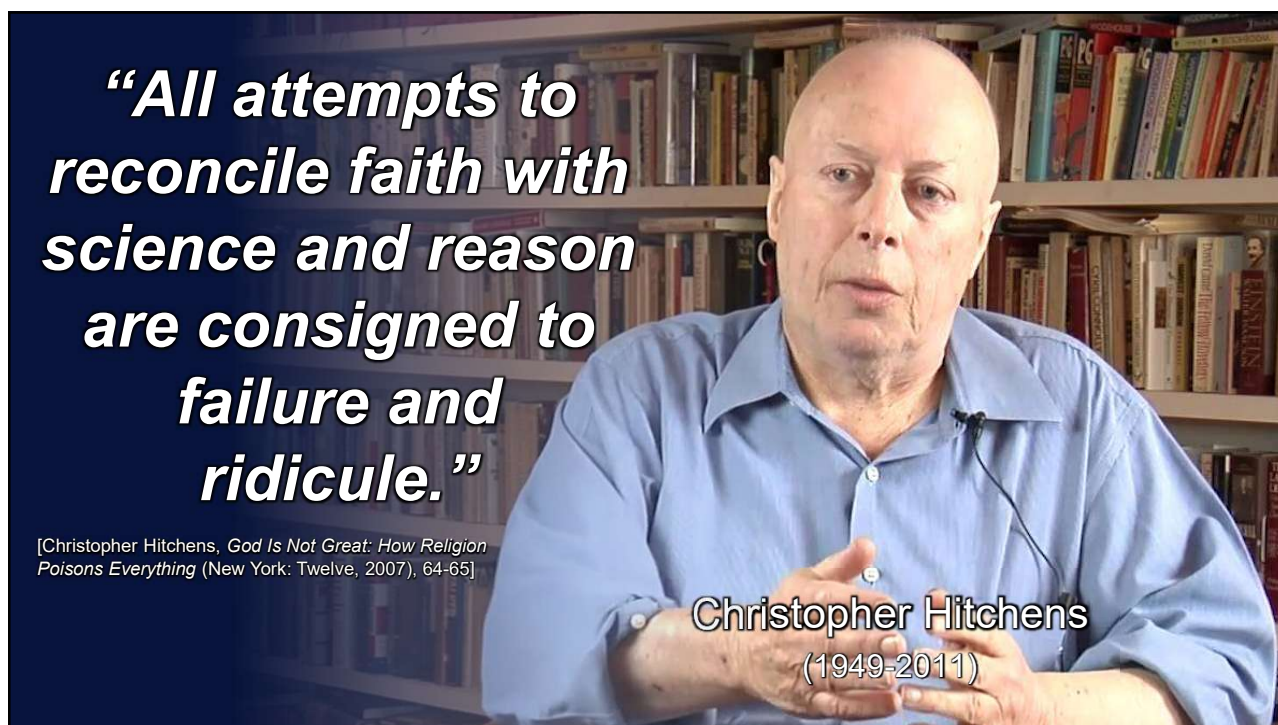








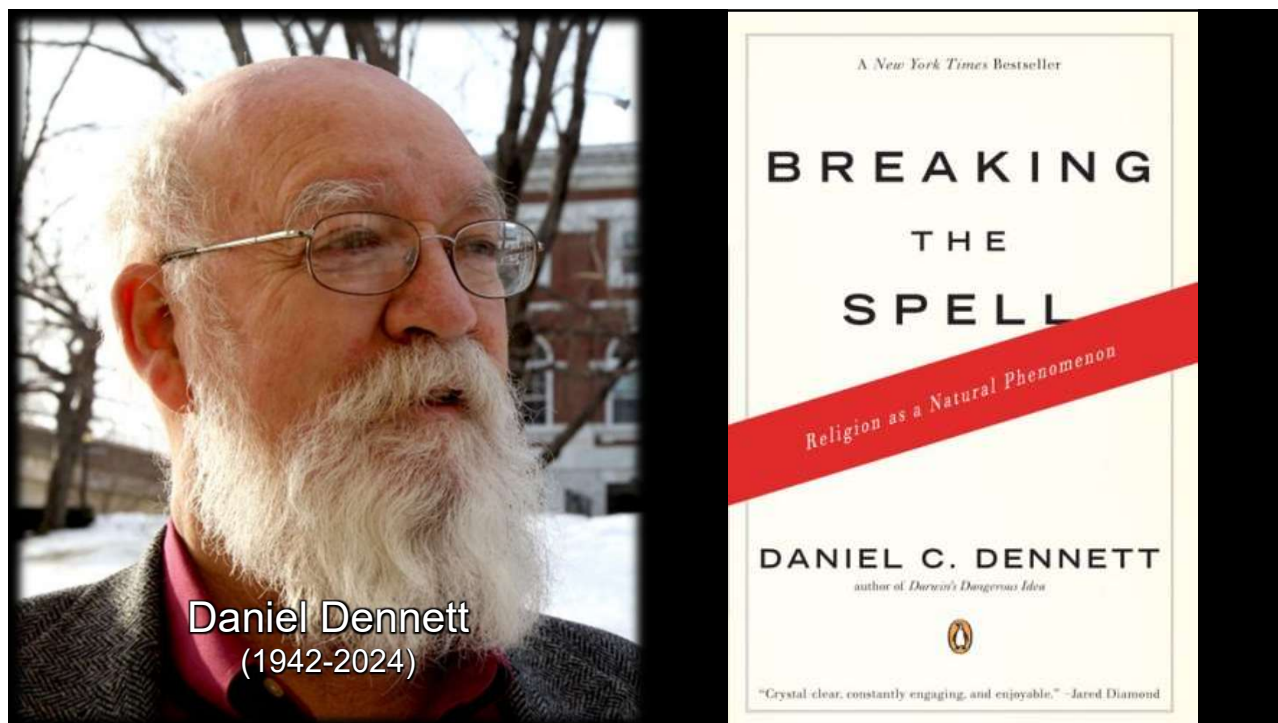
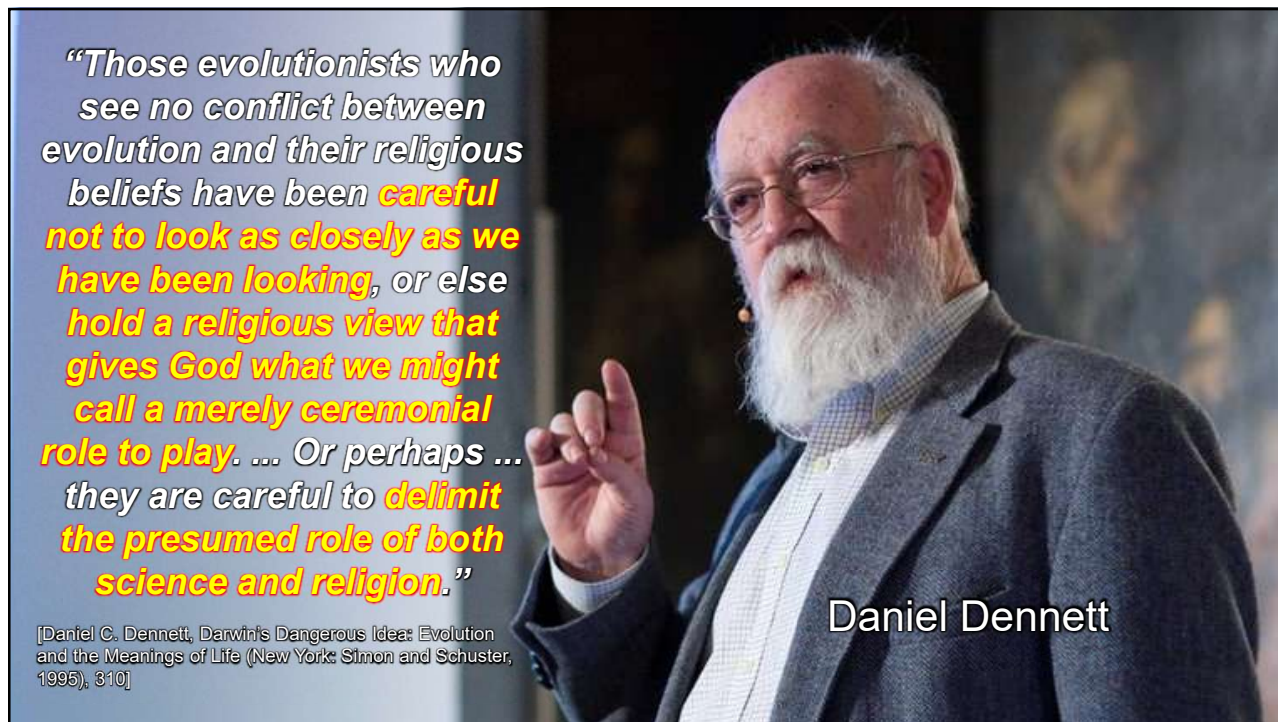
Christopher Hitchens
(1949-2011)

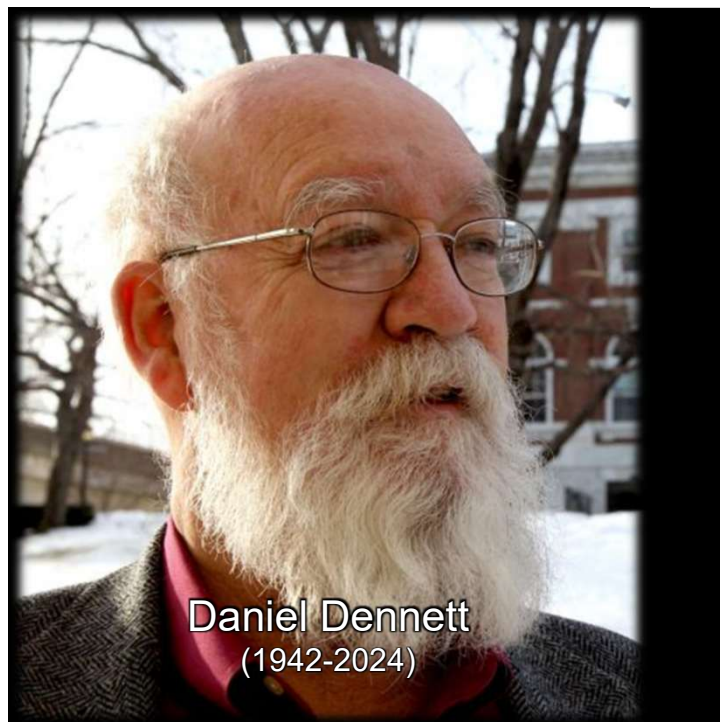


***"All attempts to
reconcile faith with
science and reason
are consigned to
failure and
ridicule."***

[Christopher Hitchens, *God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything* (New York: Twelve, 2007), 64-65]

Christopher Hitchens
(1949-2011)

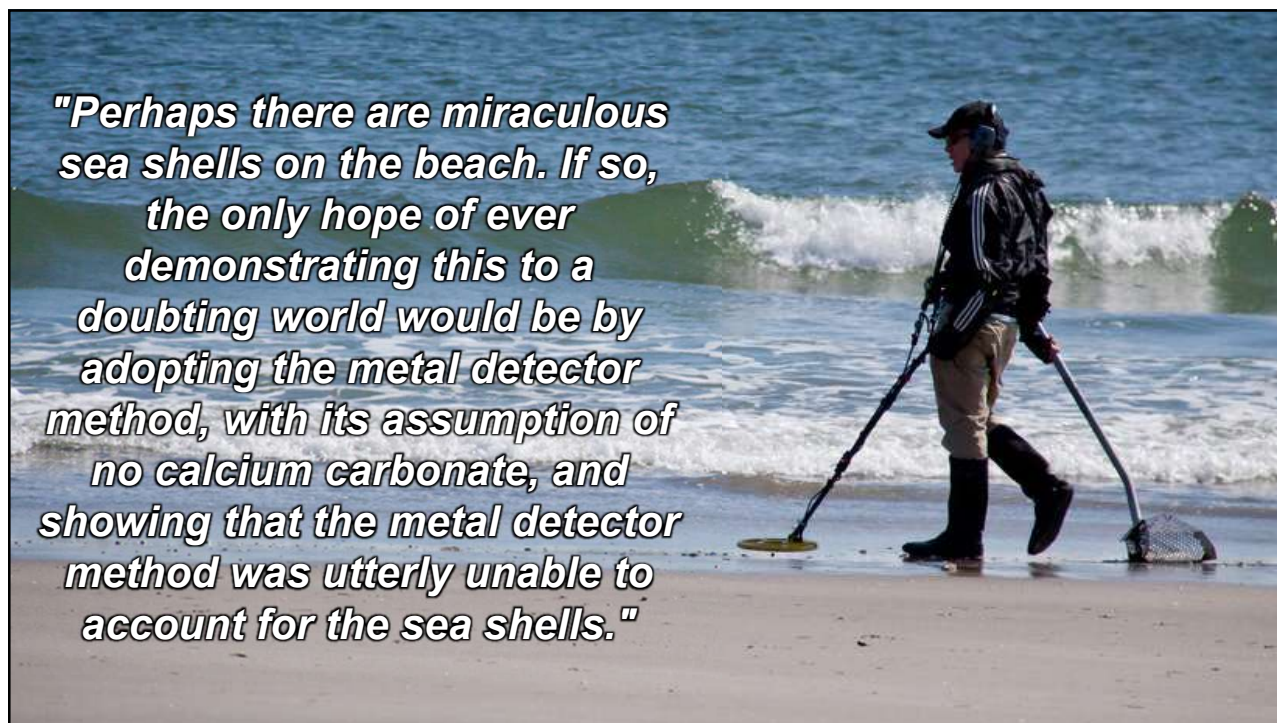




Daniel Dennett
(1942-2024)

"Perhaps some cancer cures *are* miracles. If so, the only hope of ever demonstrating this to a doubting world would be by adopting the scientific method, with its assumption of no miracles, and showing that science was utterly unable to account for the phenomena."

[Breaking the Spell, 26]



"Perhaps there are miraculous sea shells on the beach. If so, the only hope of ever demonstrating this to a doubting world would be by adopting the metal detector method, with its assumption of no calcium carbonate, and showing that the metal detector method was utterly unable to account for the sea shells."



Facts and the Relationship of Science and Religion



- Paleontologist, evolutionary biologist, and historian of science
- Taught at Harvard and New York University
- Famous for his theory of punctuated equilibrium
- Was very interested in the relationship between science and religion



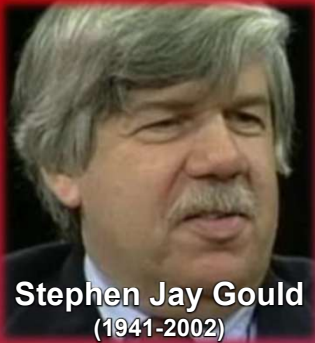
"We may, I think, adopt this word and concept to express the central point of this essay and the principled resolution of supposed 'conflict' or 'warfare' between science and religion."



"No such conflict should exist because each subject has a legitimate magisterium, or domain of teaching authority—



"and these magisteria do not overlap (the principle that I would like to designate as NOMA, or 'nonoverlapping magisteria')."



"The net of science covers the empirical universe: what is it made of (fact) and why does it work this way (theory)."



"The net of religion extends over questions of moral meaning and value."

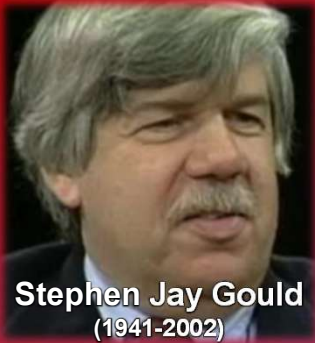


"These two magisteria do not overlap, nor do they encompass all inquiry (consider, for starters, the magisterium of art and the meaning of beauty)."

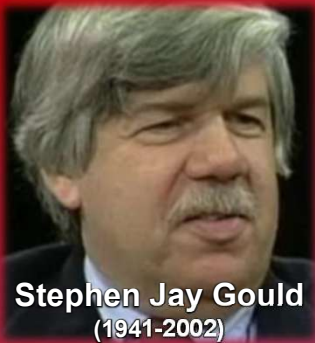


"To cite the arch cliches, we get the age of rocks, and religion retains the rock of ages; we study how the heavens go, and they determine how to go to heaven."

[Stephen Jay Gould, "Nonoverlapping Magisteria," <http://www.blc.arizona.edu/courses/schaffer/449/Gould%20Nonoverlapping%20Magisteria.htm>, assessed 10/20/21]



Non Overlapping Magisteria



N O M A

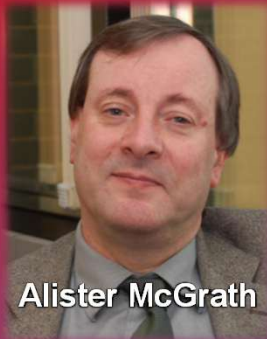
Science
(Facts and
Theories)

Religion
(Moral Meaning
and Values)



Alister McGrath

- Andreas Idreos Professorship of Science and Religion at Oxford University
- Senior Research Fellow at Harris Manchester College, Oxford



Alister McGrath

"There is, of course, a third option—that of 'partially overlapping magisteria' (a POMA, so to speak),



Alister McGrath

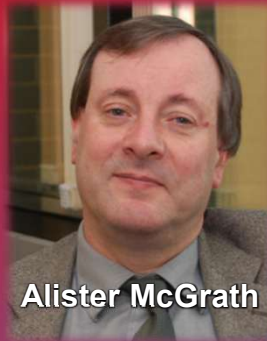
"reflecting a realization that science and religion offer possibilities of cross-fertilization on account of the interpenetration of their subjects and methods."

[Alister McGrath and Joanna Collicutt McGrath, *The Dawkins Delusion? Atheist Fundamentalism and the Denial of the Divine* (Downers Grove, IL: 2007), 41



Alister McGrath

Partially
Overlapping
Magisteria



Alister McGrath

P O M A



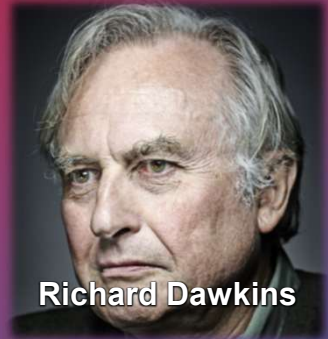
Common factual claims
of science and religion

e.g., information
content in biological
systems

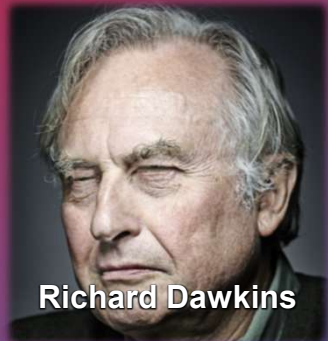
- Former Charles Simonyi Professor of Public Understanding of Science, Oxford University
- Author of *The Selfish Gene*; *The Blind Watchmaker*; *The God Delusion*, and more
- famous for his theory of memes
- outspoken atheist



Richard Dawkins



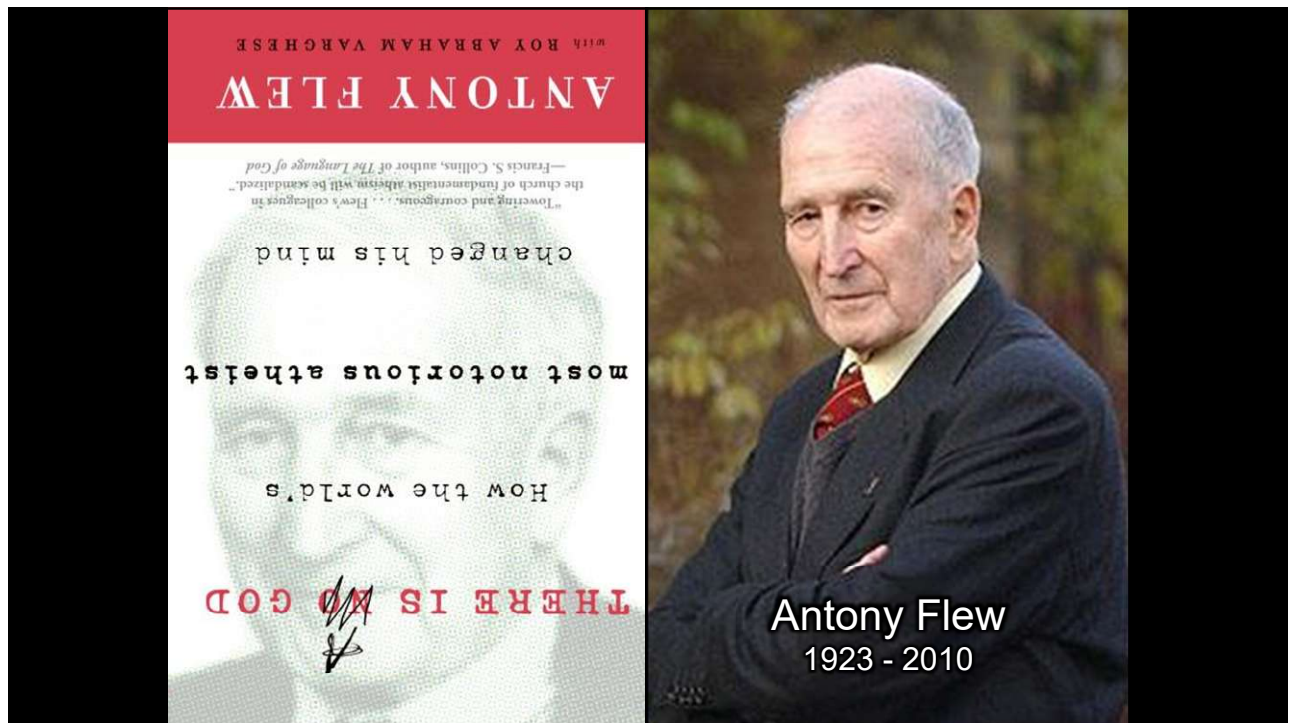
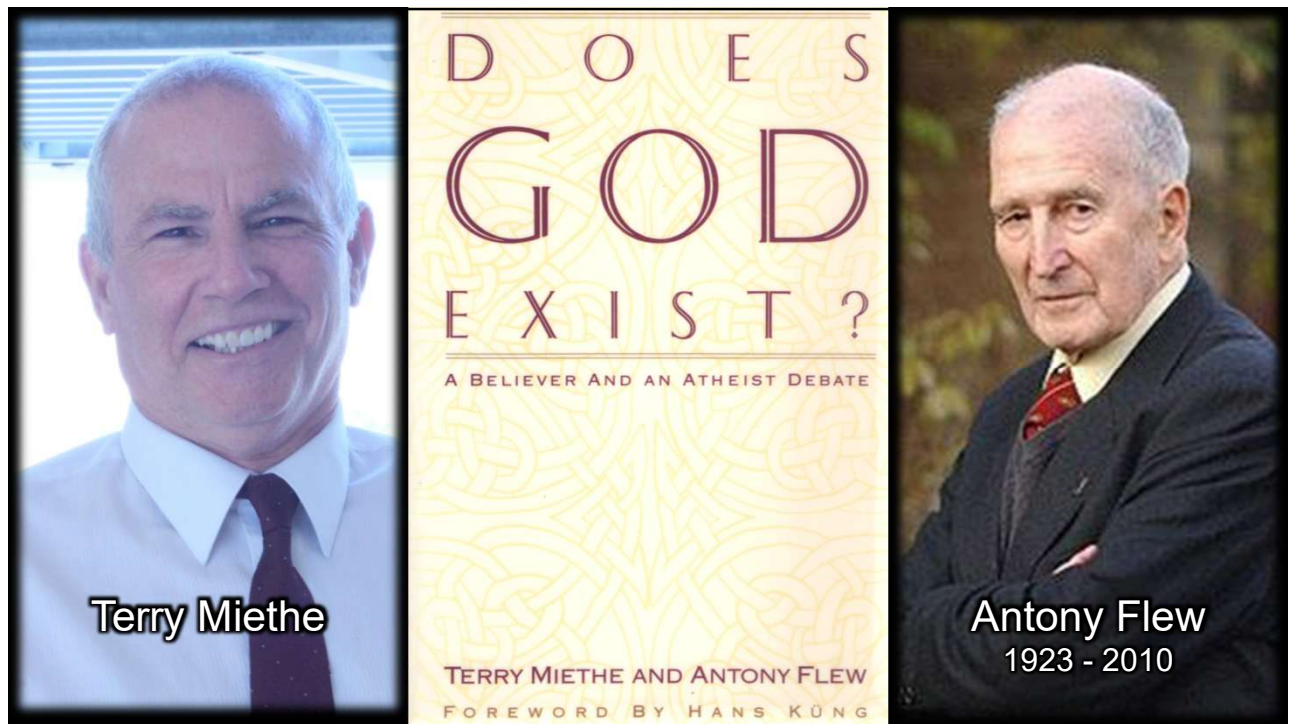
Completely Overlapping Magisteria

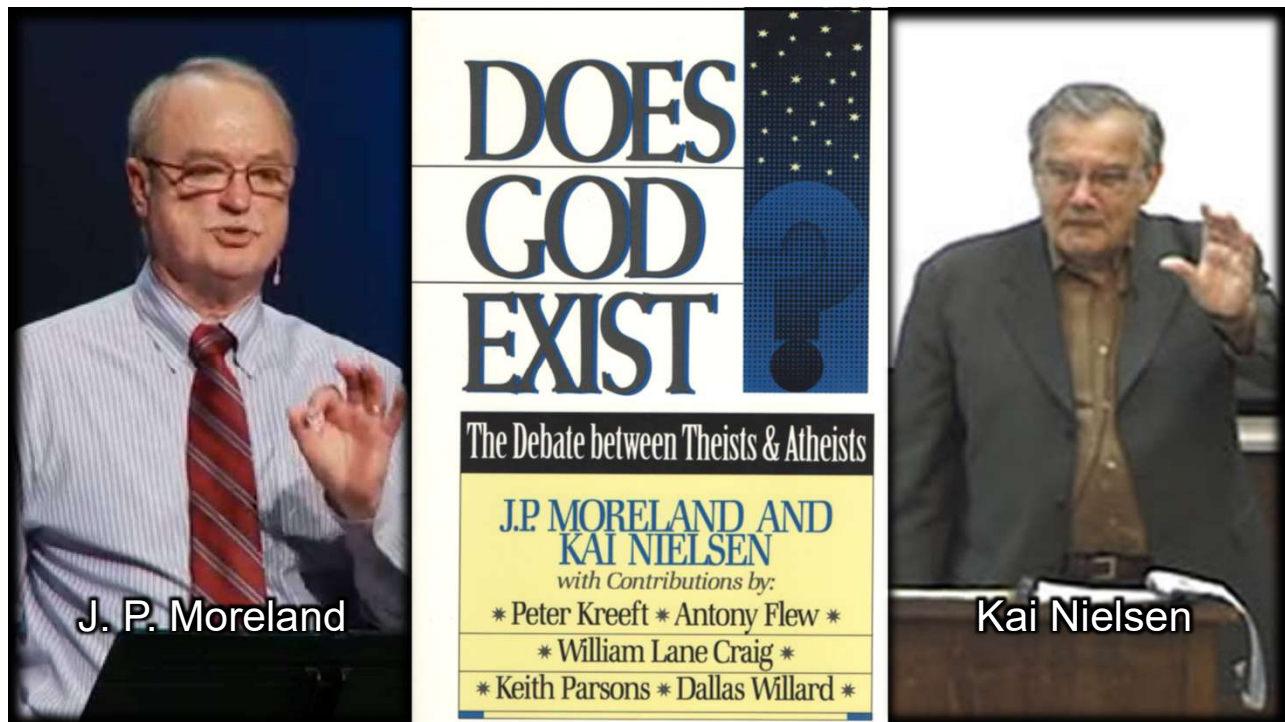


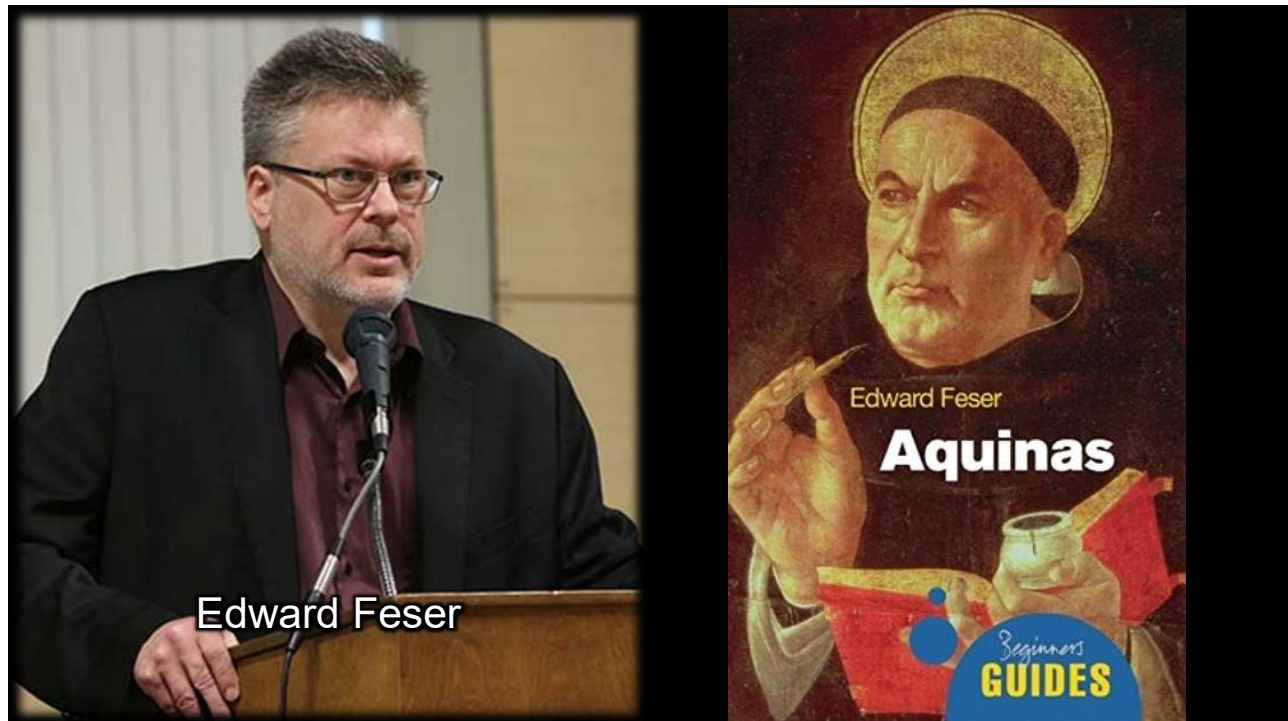
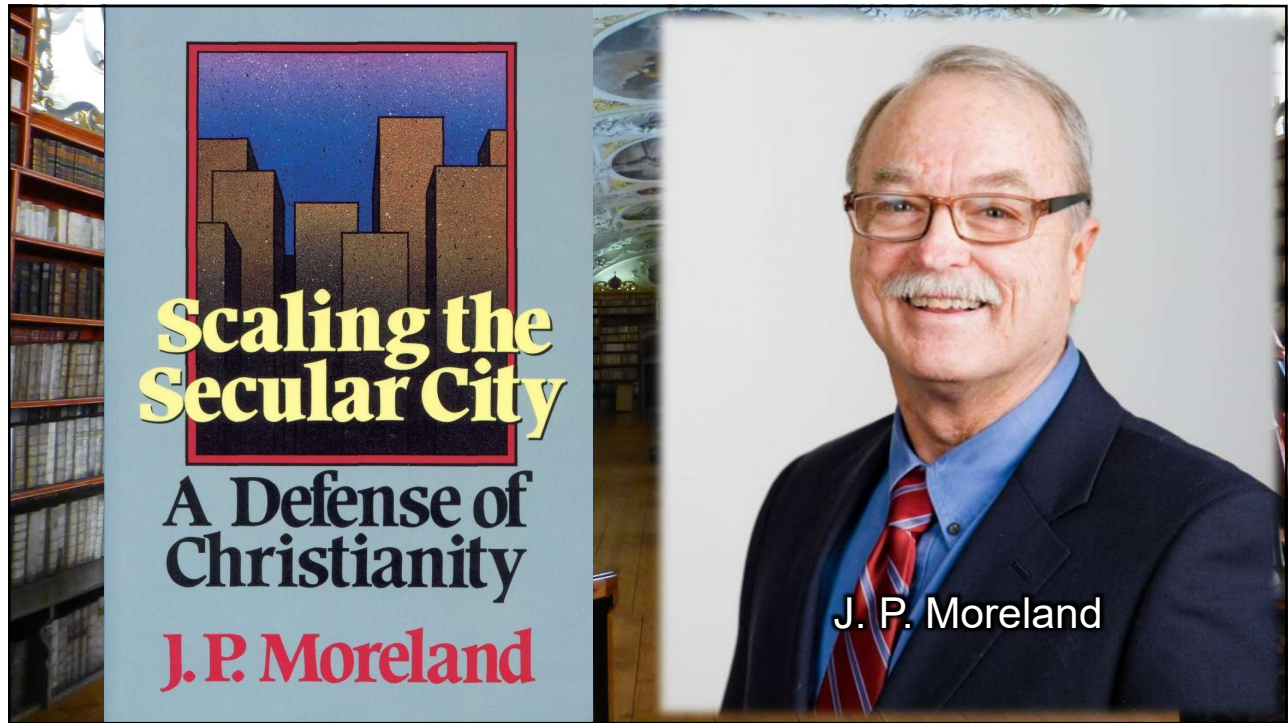
C O M A






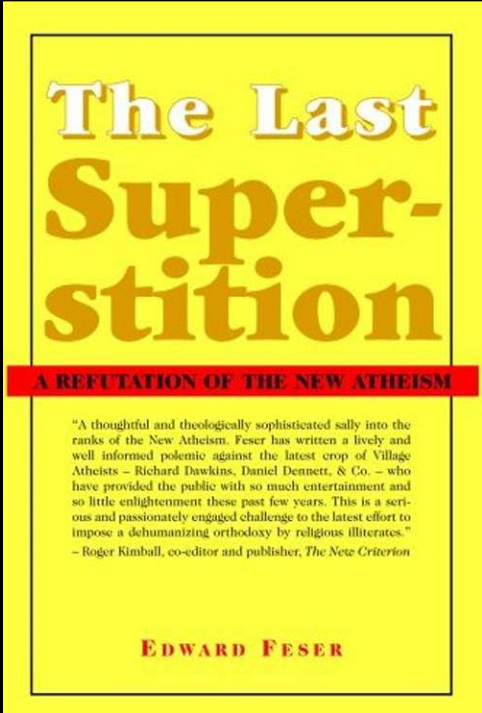








Edward Feser




The Last Superstition

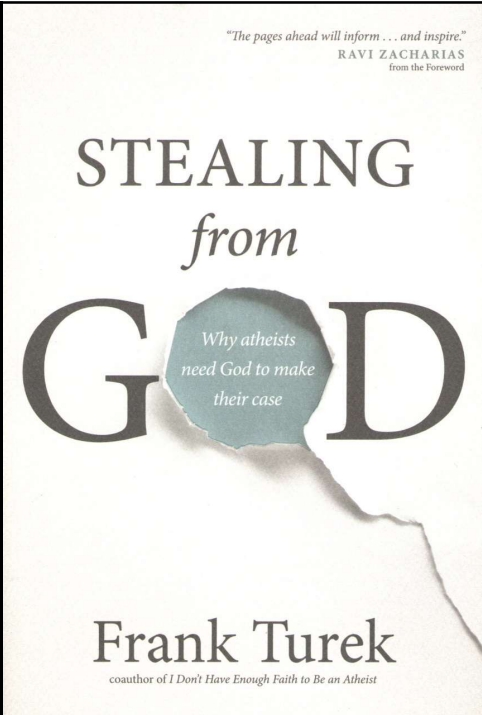
A REFUTATION OF THE NEW ATHEISM

"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

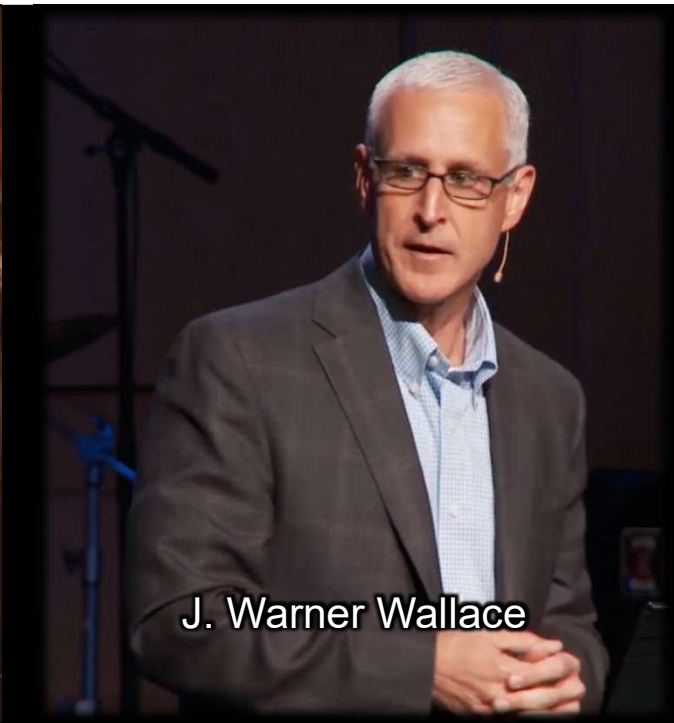
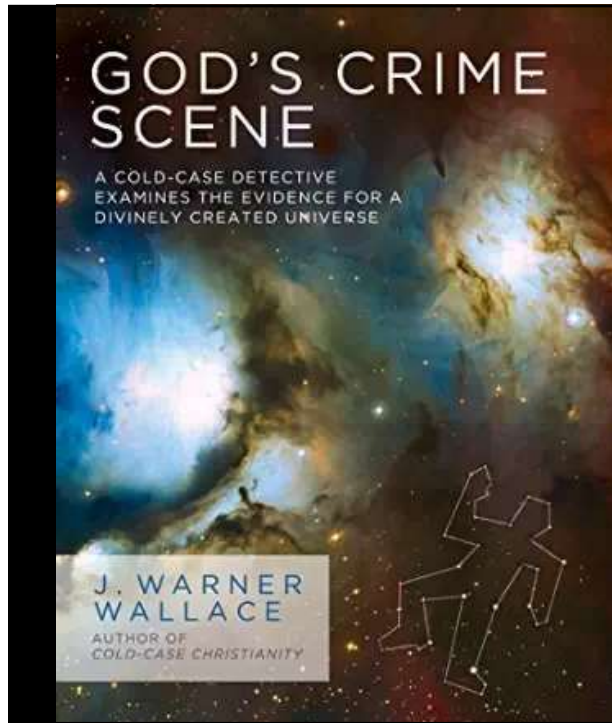


"The pages ahead will inform . . . and inspire."
RAVI ZACHARIAS
from the Foreword

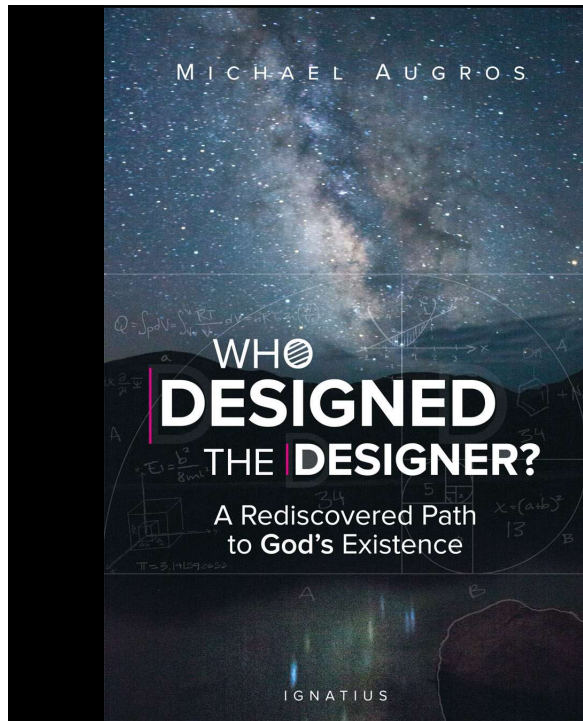
STEALING from GOD

Why atheists
need God to make
their case

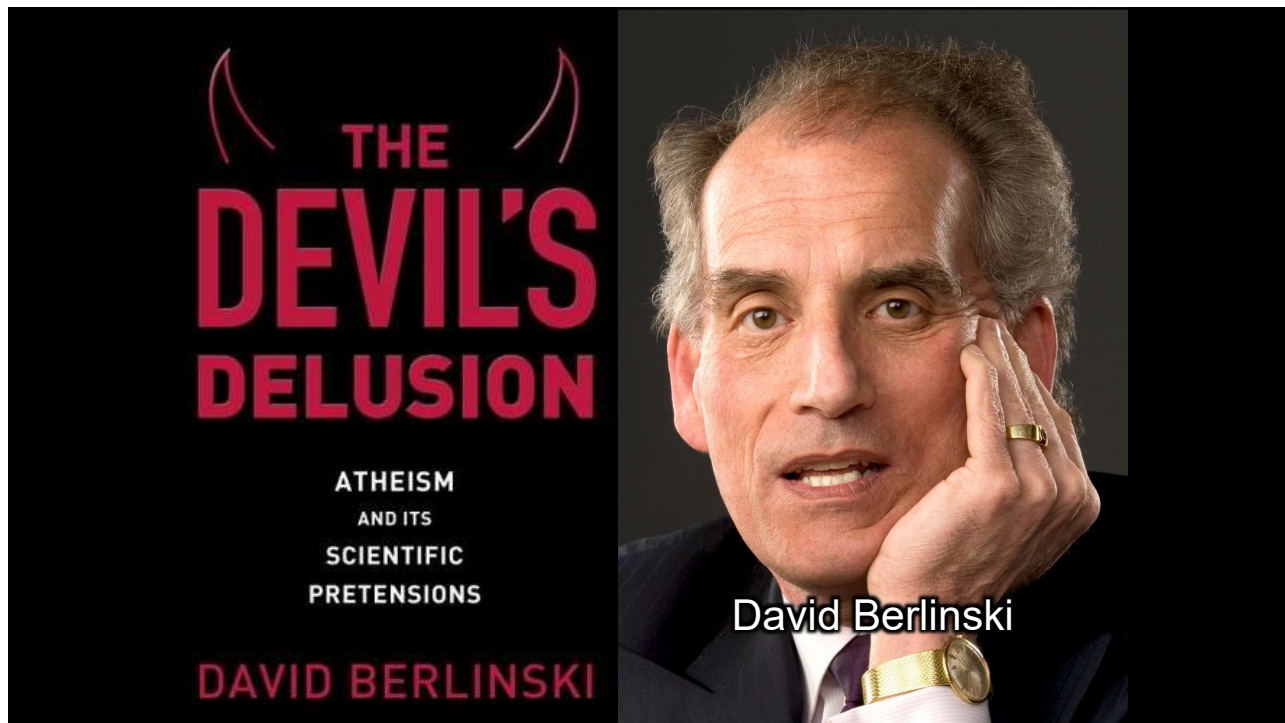
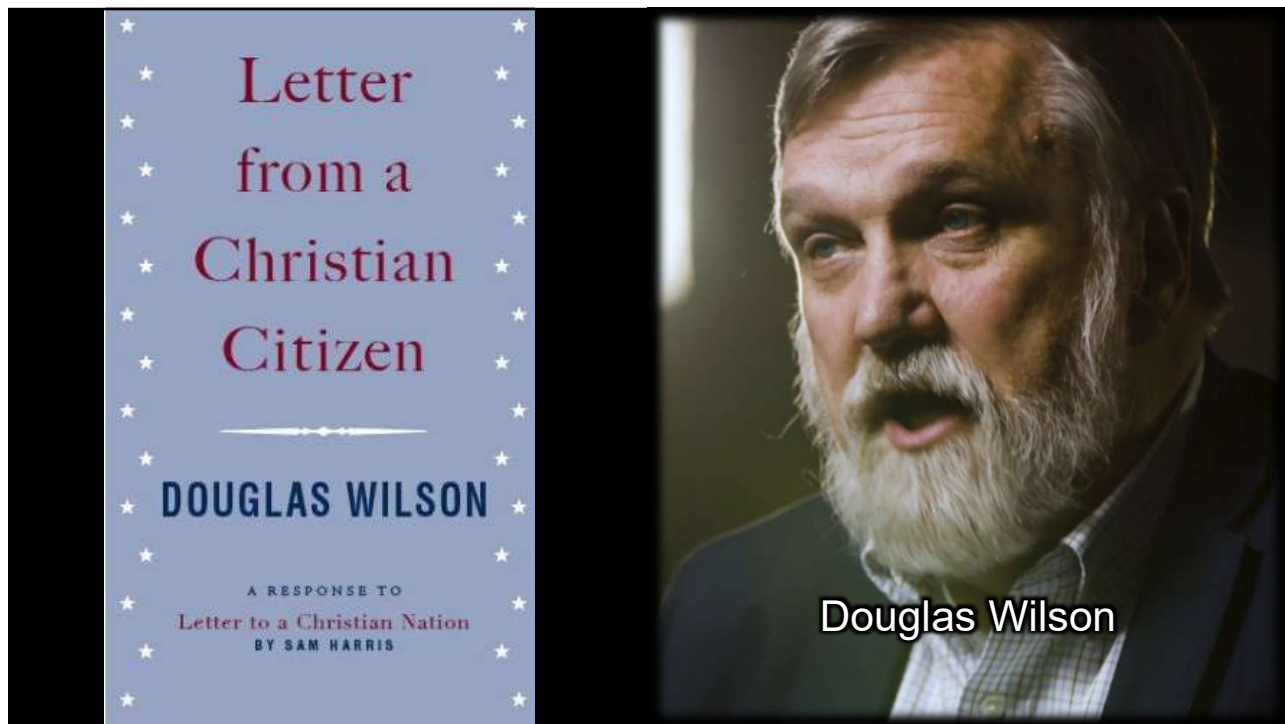
Frank Turek
coauthor of *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*

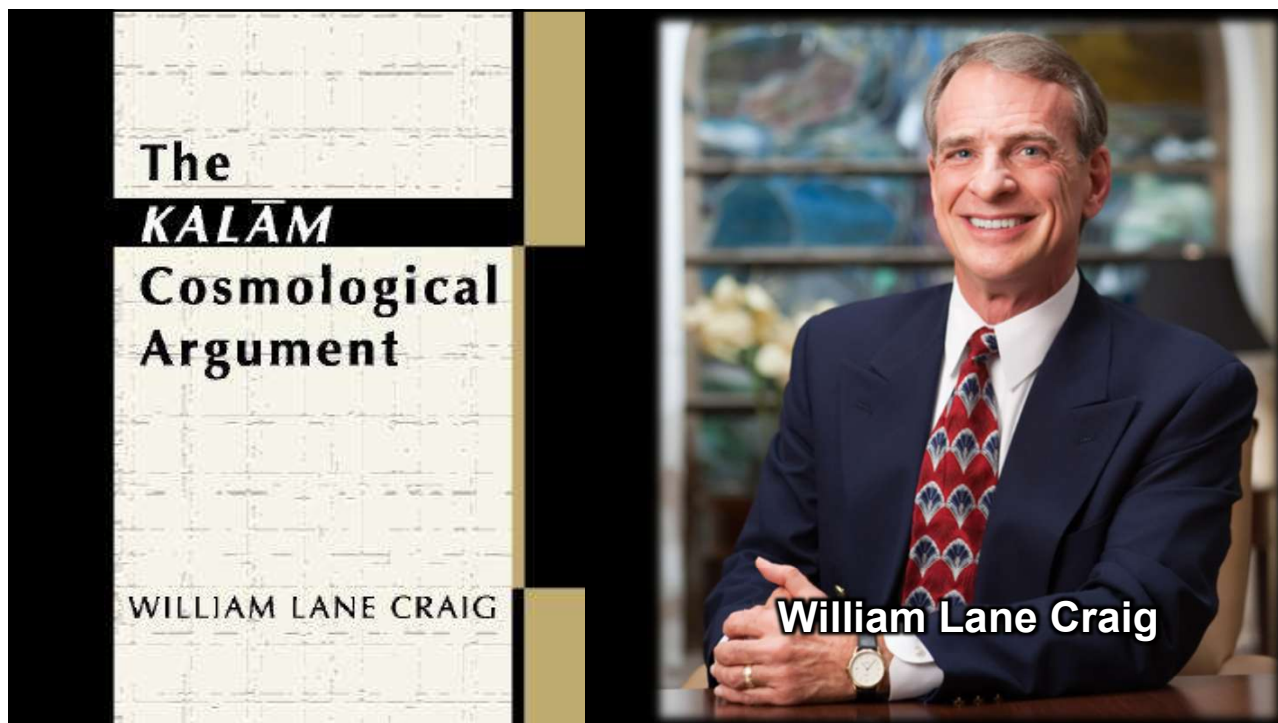


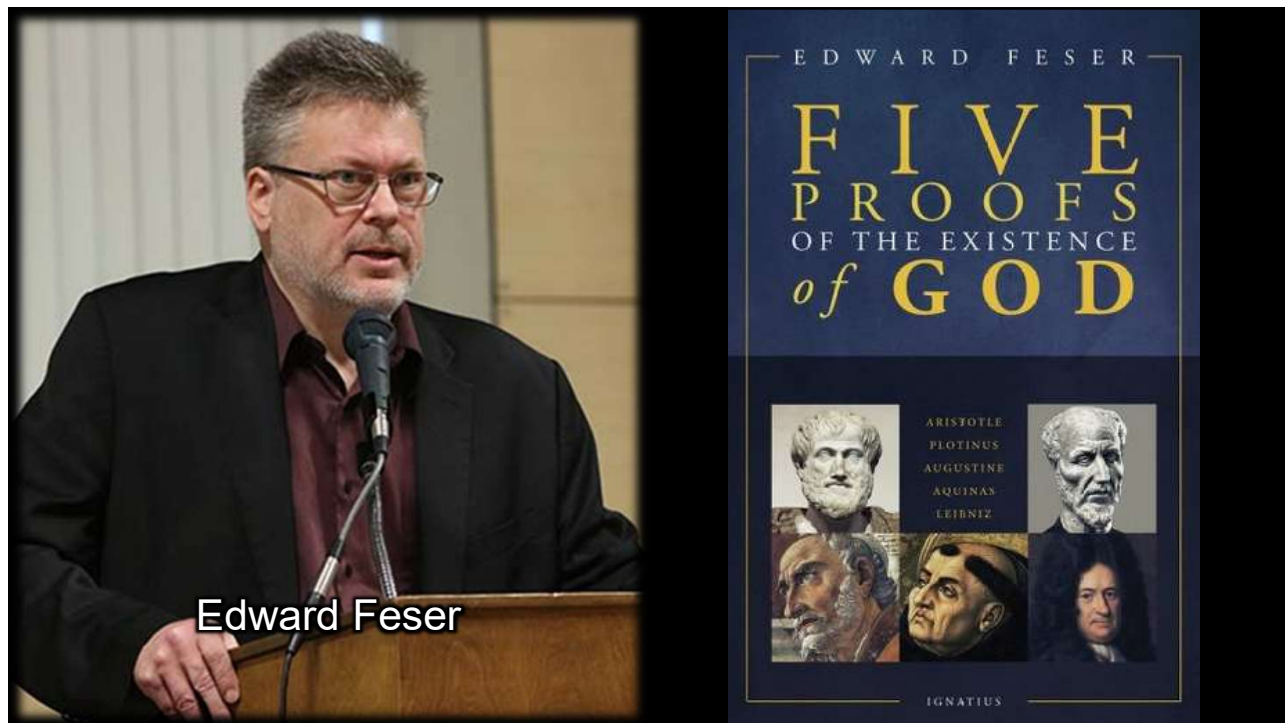
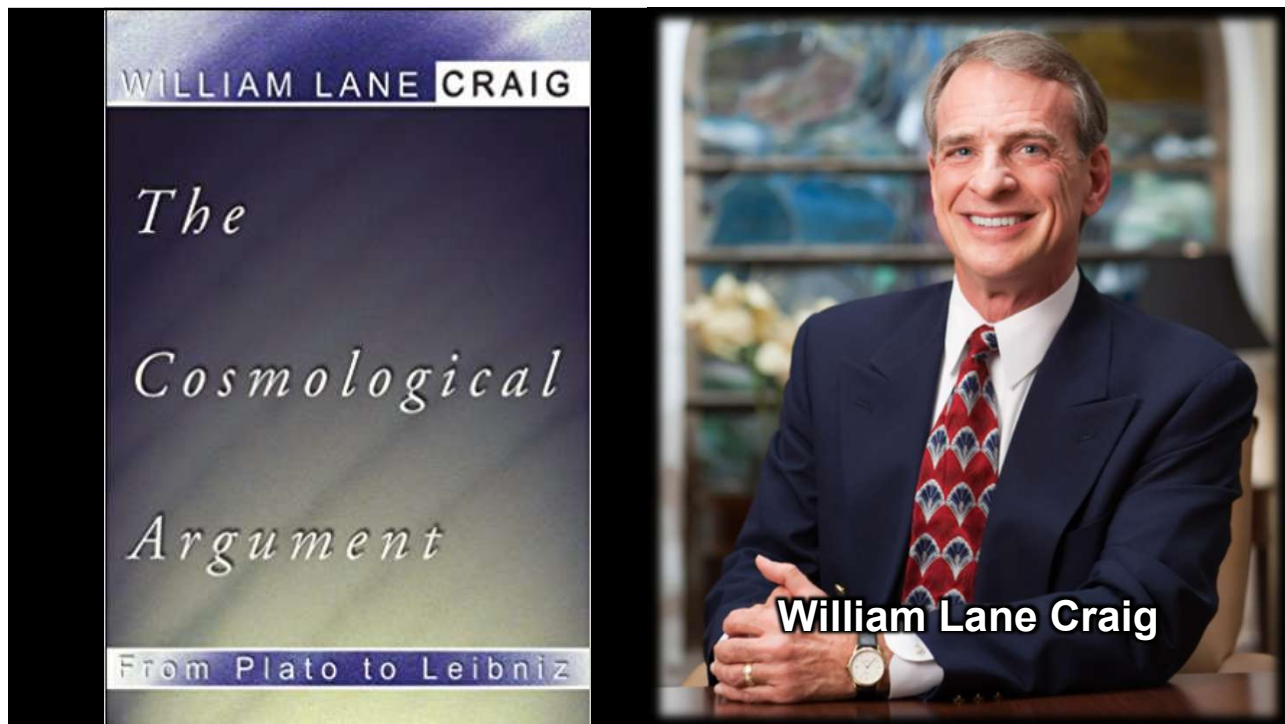
J. Warner Wallace

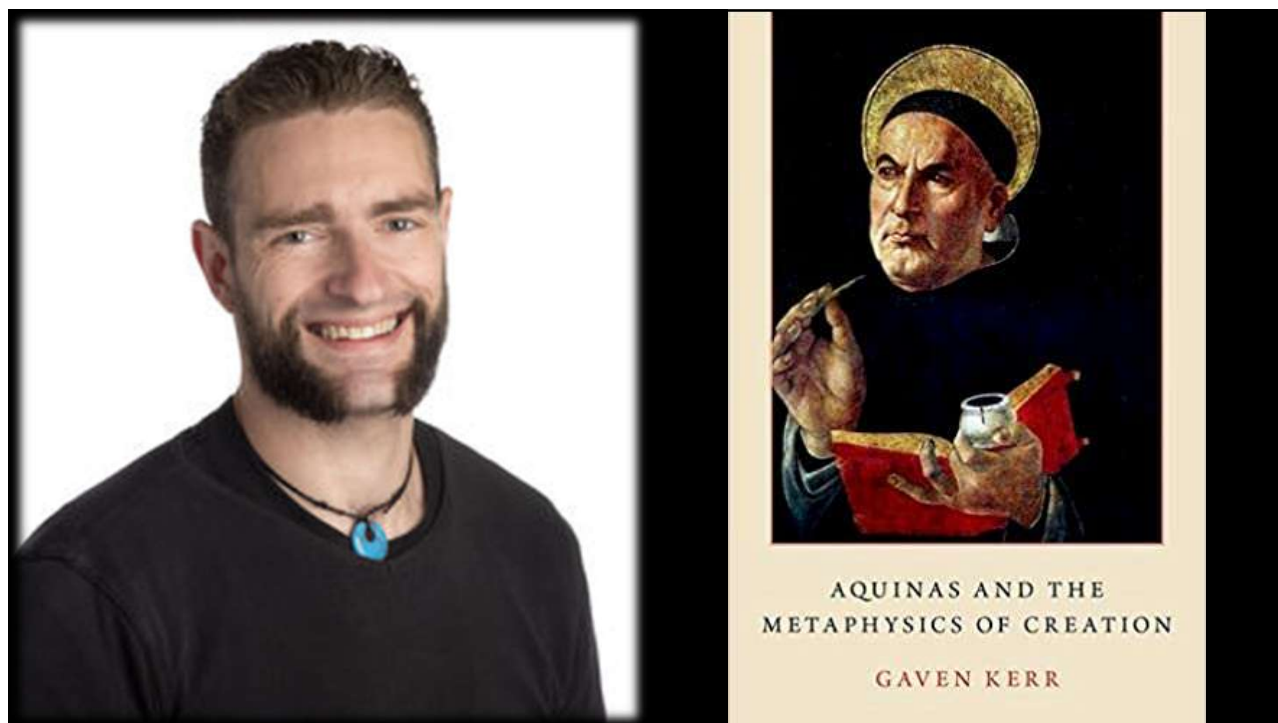


Michael Augros



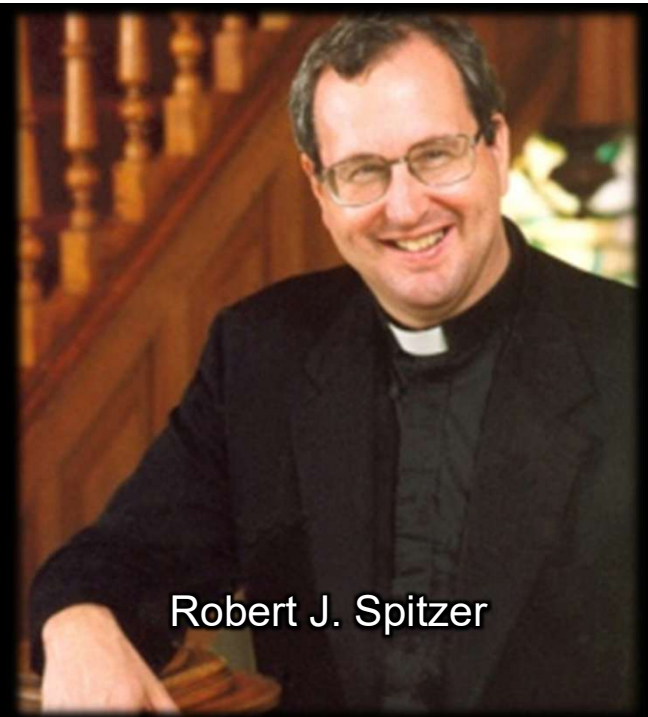
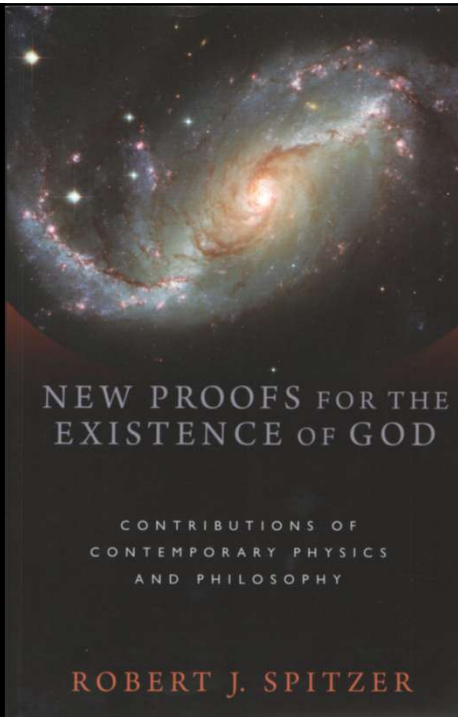


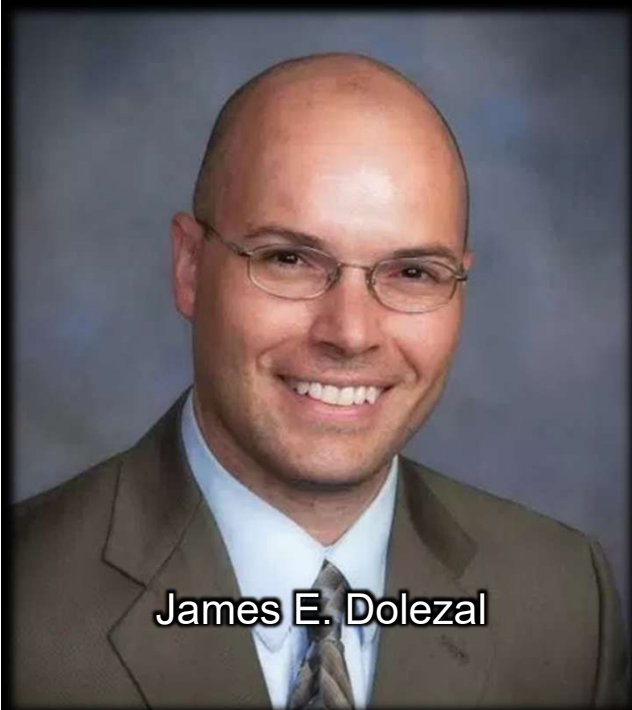




Thomistic Existentialism & Cosmological Reasoning

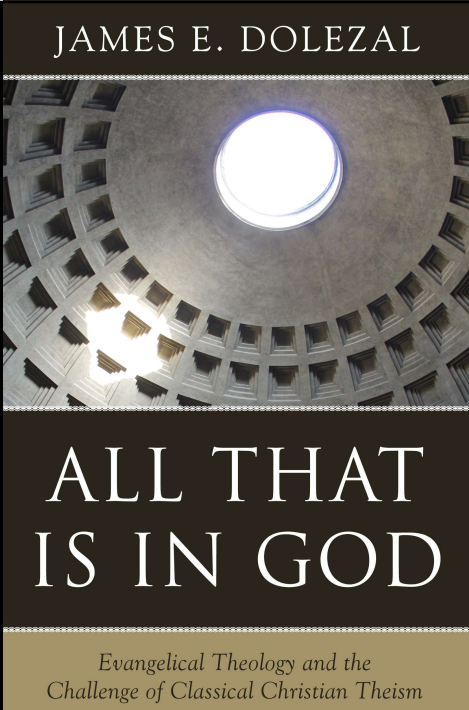
JOHN F. X. KNASAS





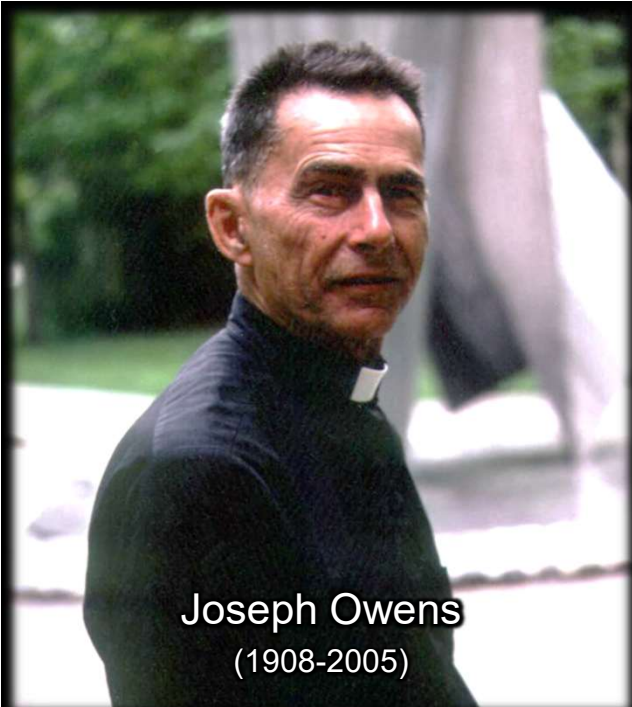
James E. Dolezal

JAMES E. DOLEZAL

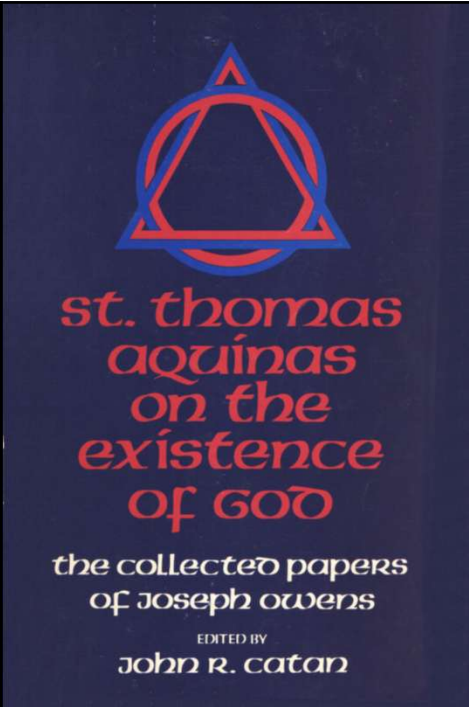



ALL THAT IS IN GOD

Evangelical Theology and the Challenge of Classical Christian Theism



Joseph Owens
(1908-2005)

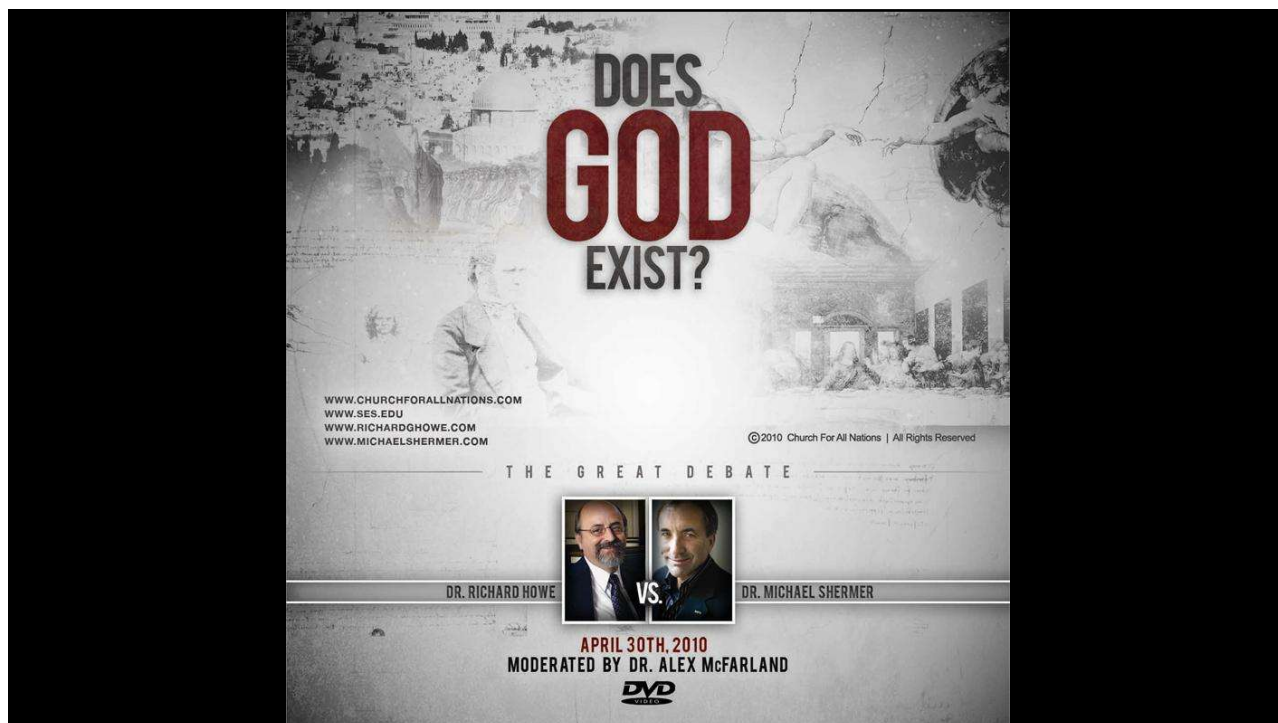
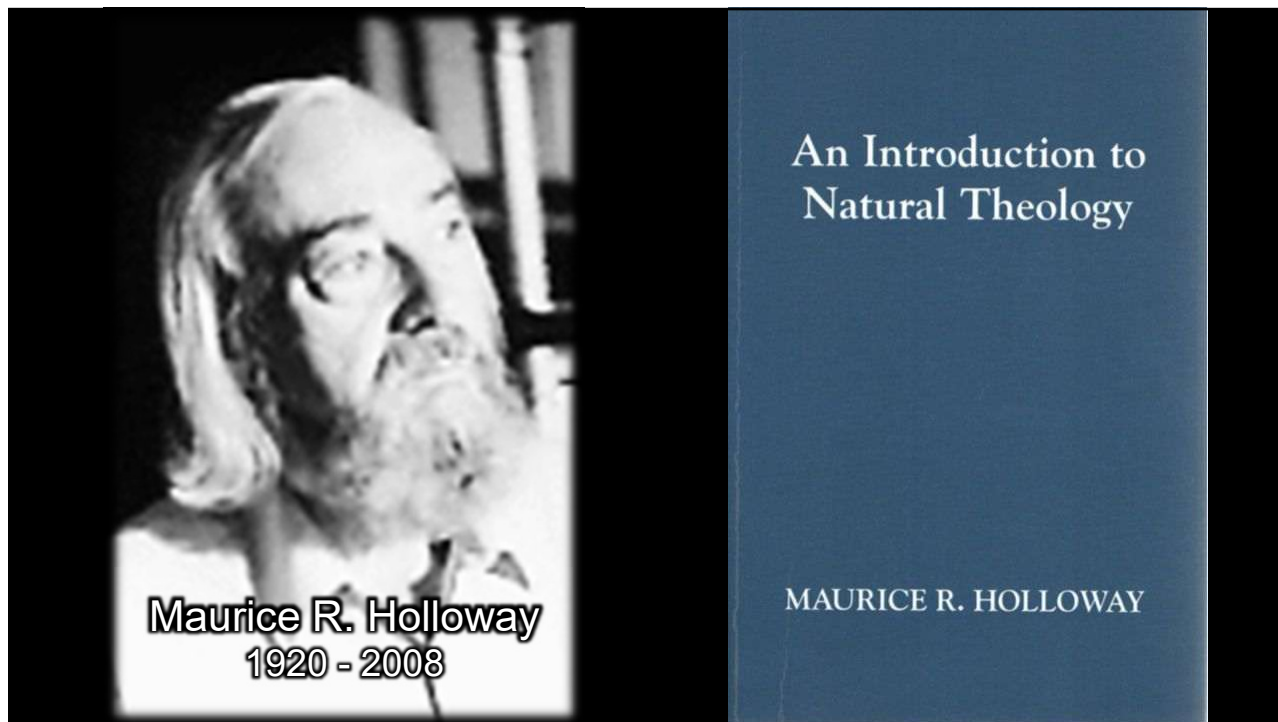




st. thomas aquinas on the existence of GOD

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.
www.richardghowe.com

Southern Evangelical Seminary
www.ses.edu