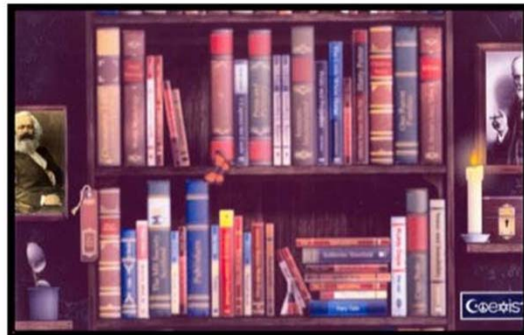


SATAN'S BOOKSHELF

*The Worst Books Ever
Written...
and Why Christians Should
Know Them!*

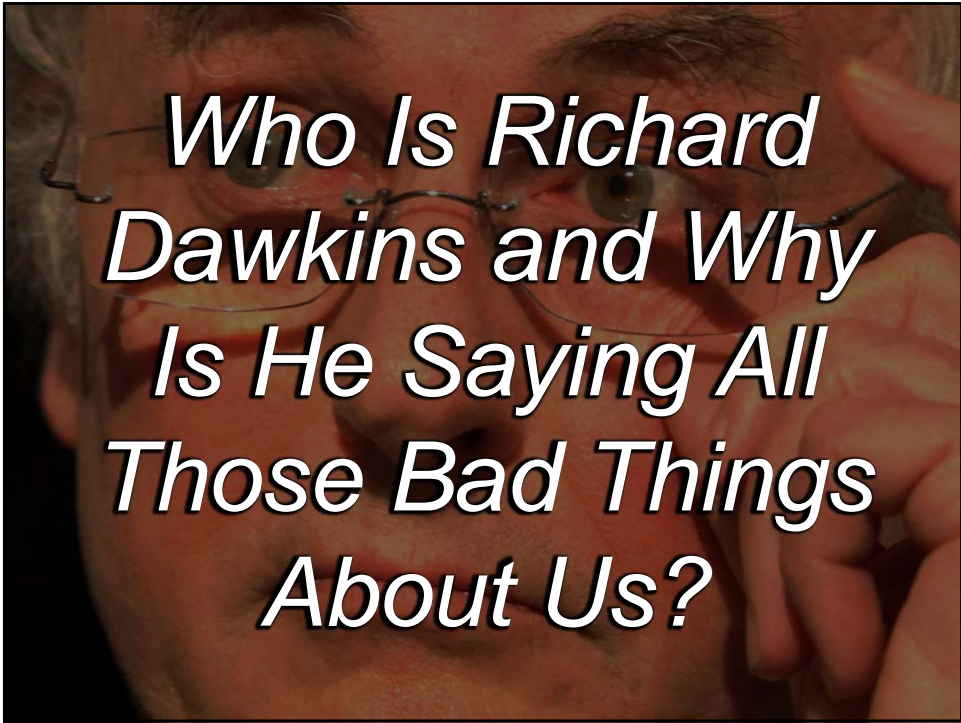


The God Delusion by Richard Dawkins

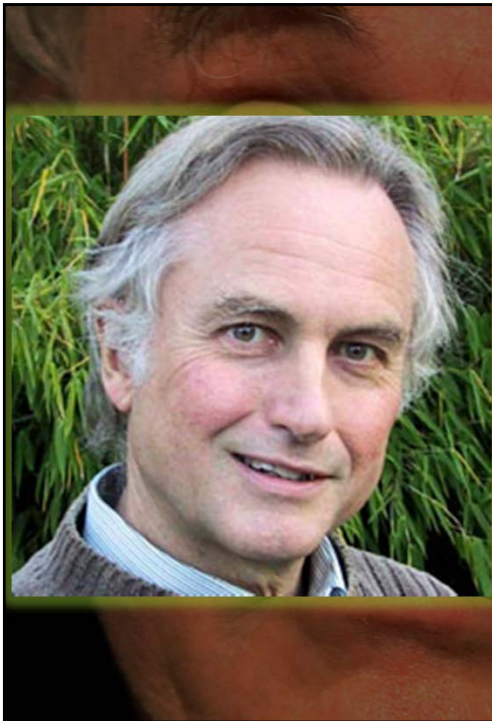
Richard G. Howe, Ph.D.

Emeritus Professor of
Philosophy and Apologetics
Southern Evangelical Seminary

Vice President, International Society of Christian
Apologetics

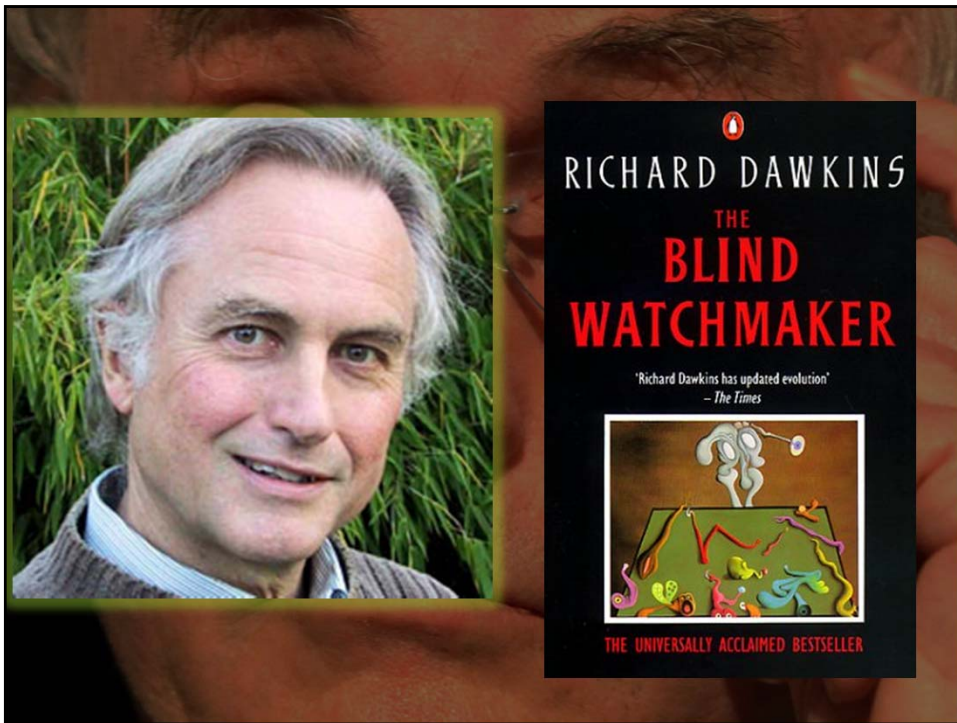
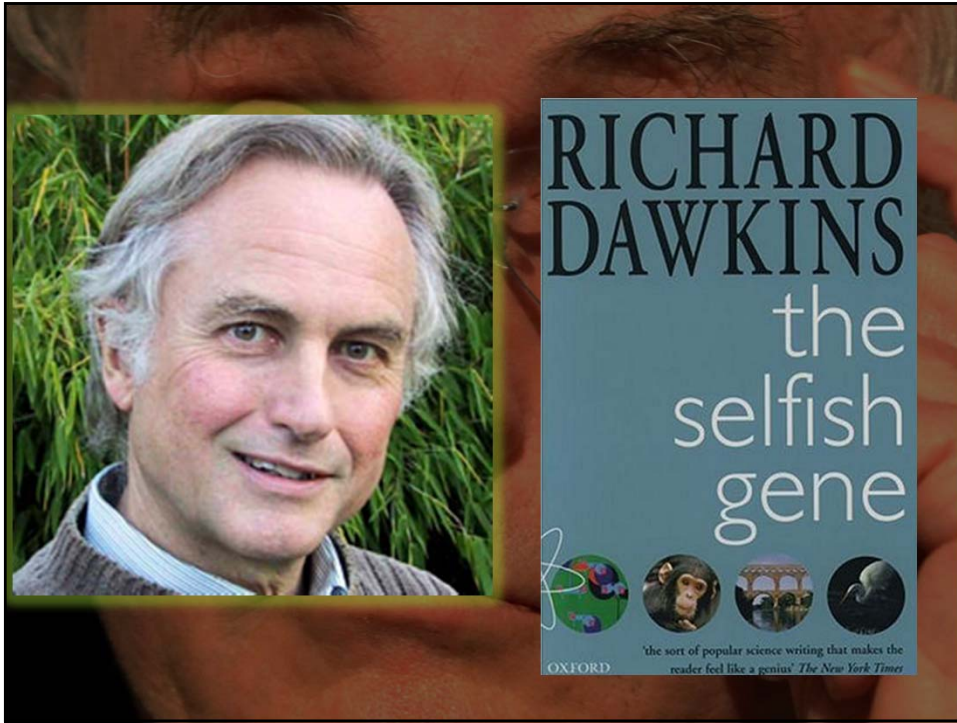


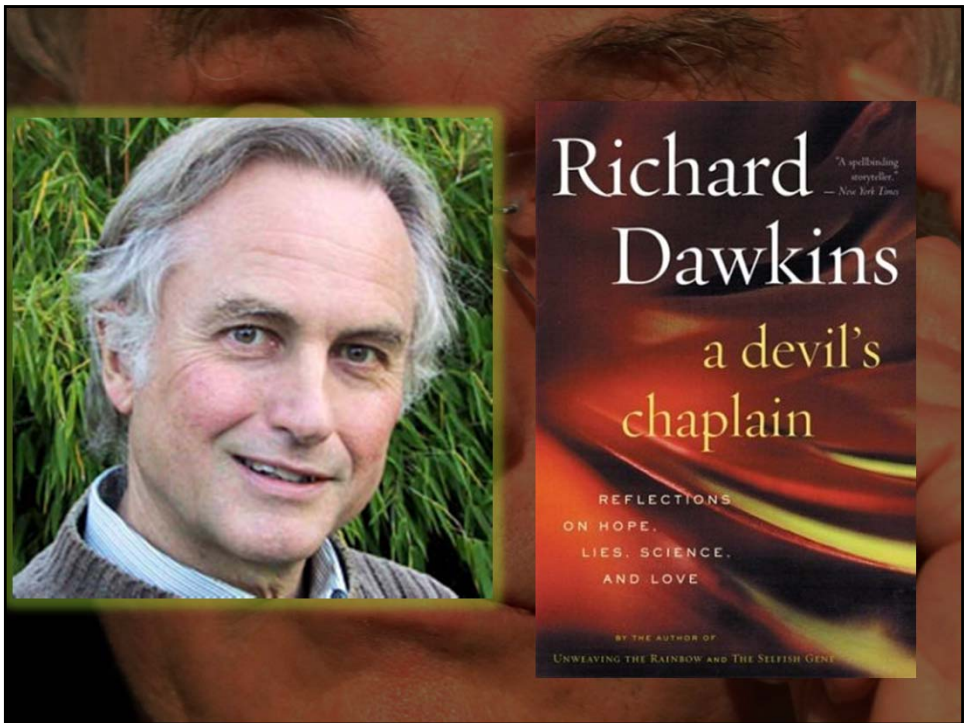
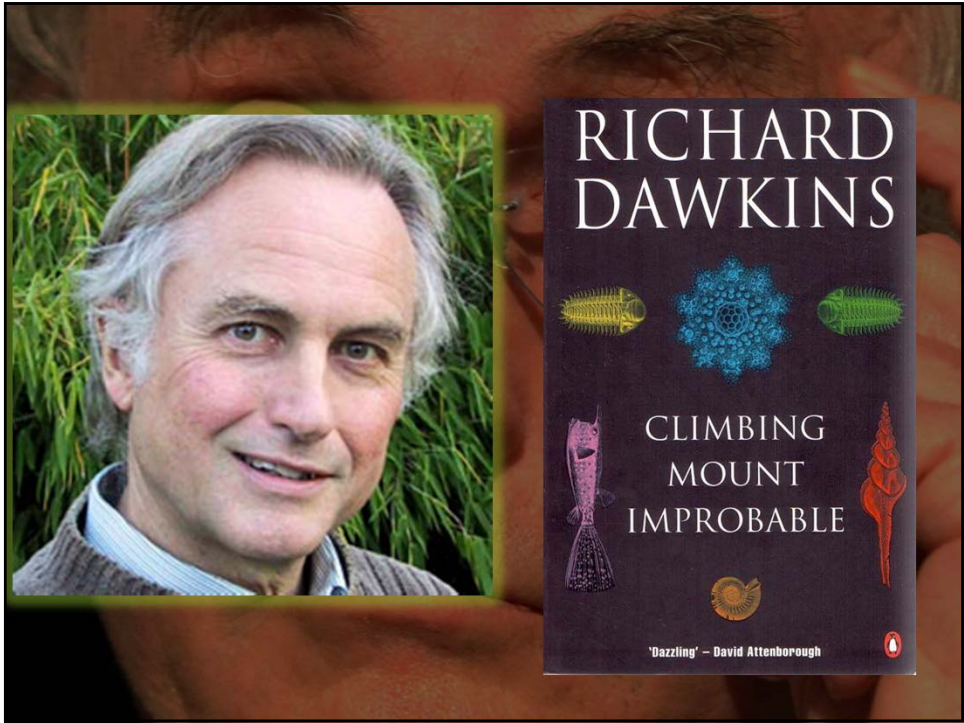
Who Is Richard Dawkins and Why Is He Saying All Those Bad Things About Us?

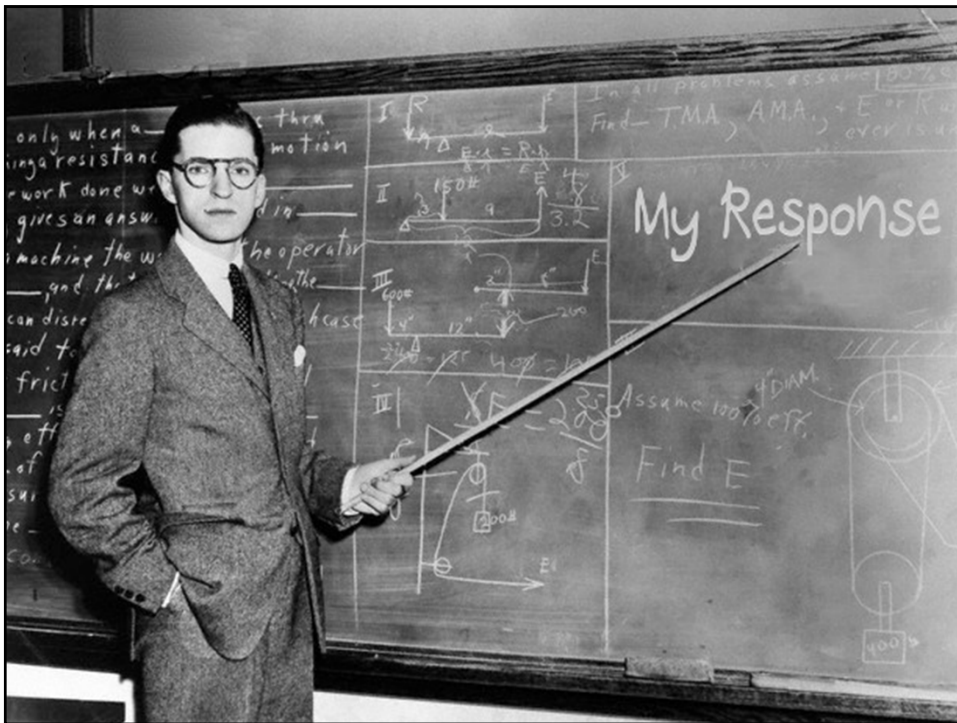
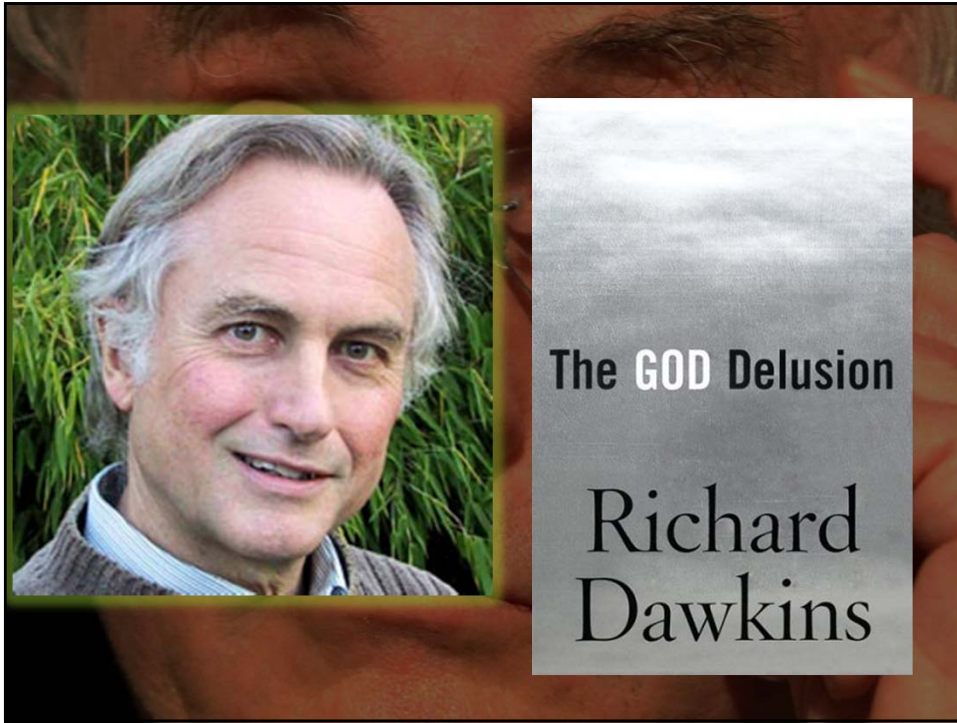


Richard Dawkins
Former Charles Simonyi
Professor of Public
Understanding of Science,
Oxford University

*Author of *The Ancestor's Tale*;
The Selfish Gene; *The Blind
Watchmaker*; *Climbing Mount
Improbable*; *Unweaving the
Rainbow*; *A Devil's Chaplain*;
and *The God Delusion**







Richard Dawkins and the *New Atheism*

Its Focus

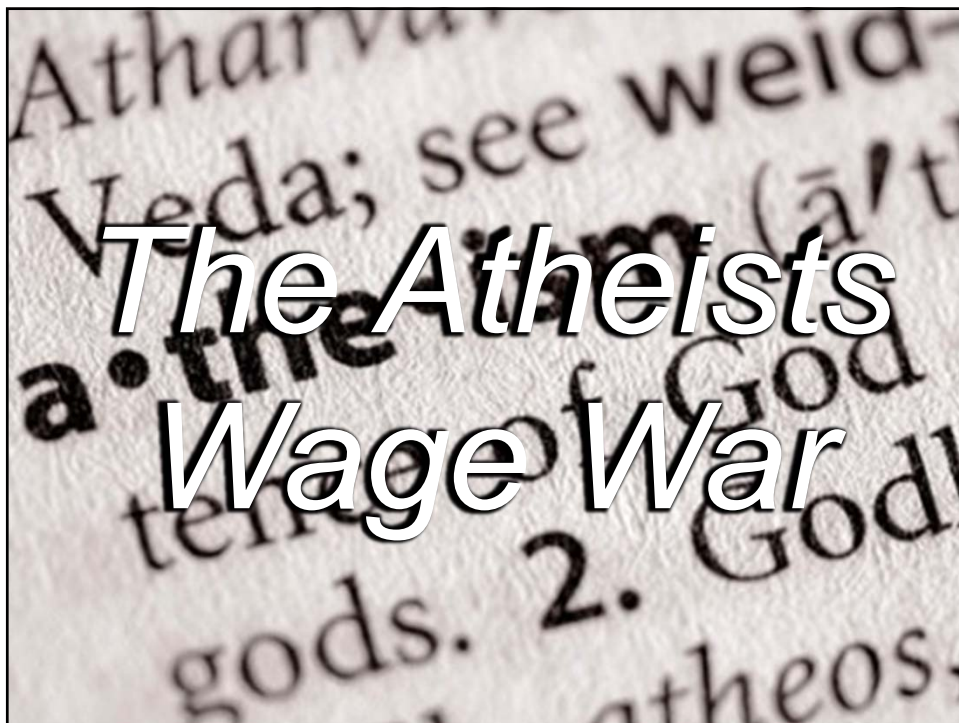
Its Grounding

Its Audience

Its Aim

Its Tone

Its Ignorance



The Atheists Wage War

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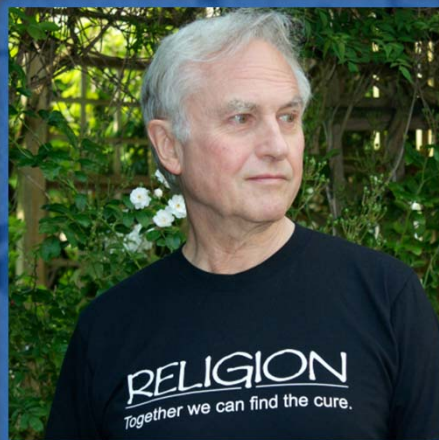
"If this book works as I intend, religious readers who open it will be atheists when they put it down."

[*The God Delusion*, p. 5.]



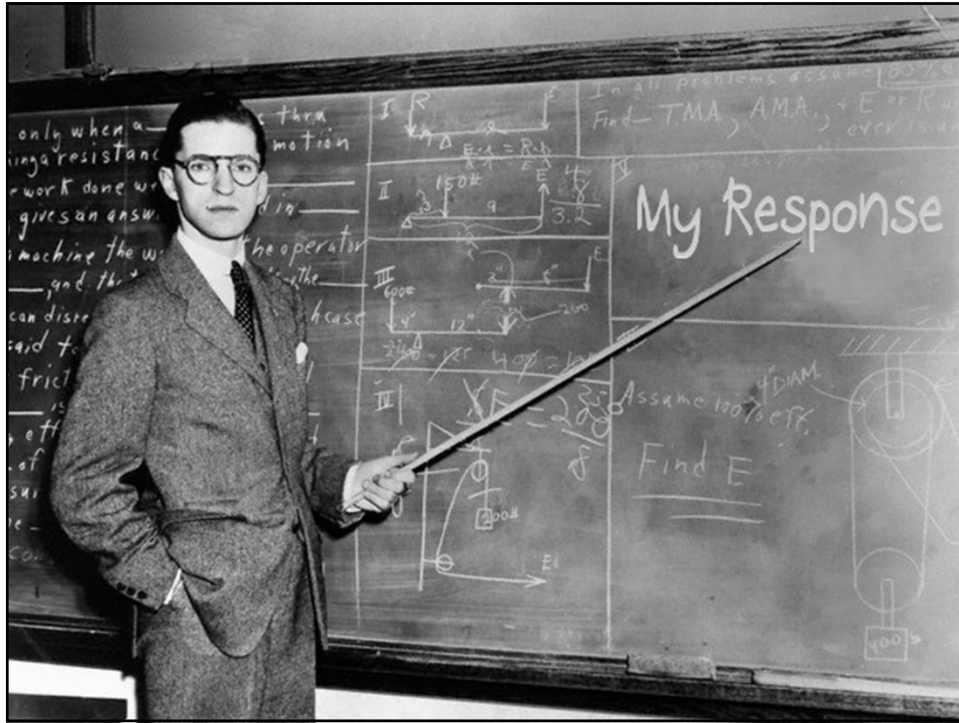
The Atheists Wage War

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"Fundamentalists know they are right because they have read the truth in a holy book and they know, in advance, that nothing will budge them from their belief. The truth of the holy book is an axiom, not the end product of a process of reasoning."

[*The God Delusion*, 282.]



My Response

First principles of metaphysics
 Foundational elements of thought and reason
 The nature of meaning and language
 What it means for a statement to be true
 How truth is known

Foundation

My Response



"There is an answer to every such question [about miracles], whether or not we can discover it in practice, and it is a strictly scientific answer. The methods we should use

to settle the matter, in the unlikely event that relevant evidence ever became available, would be purely and entirely scientific methods."

[*The God Delusion*, 59.]

- *Should scientific methods be used only for certain questions or for every question?*
- *Is this statement here provable by "entirely scientific methods"?*
- *If not, what kind of method should be used?*
- *Why can't that method be used for questions about miracles?*



"There is an answer to every such question [about miracles], whether or not we can discover it in practice, and it is a strictly scientific answer. The methods we should use

to settle the matter, in the unlikely event that relevant evidence ever became available, would be purely and entirely scientific methods."

[*The God Delusion*, 59.]

My Response

Arguments for God's Existence
World Views
Supernaturalism vs. Naturalism
Theism vs. atheism and pantheism
God

First principles of metaphysics
Foundational elements of thought and reason
The nature of meaning and language
What it means for a statement to be true
How truth is known

Foundation

My Response

Historicity
and Inspiration
of the Bible
Uniqueness of Christ
Christianity

Arguments for God's Existence
World Views
Supernaturalism vs. Naturalism
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God

First principles of metaphysics
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What it means for a statement to be true
How truth is known

Foundation

My Response

Premise A: The Bible is a basically reliable and trustworthy document.

Premise B: On the basis of this we have sufficient evidence to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

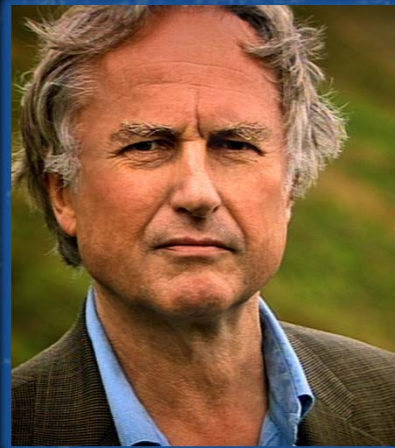
Premise C: Jesus Christ teaches that the Bible is the Word of God.

Conclusion: Therefore, the Bible is the Word of God and Christianity is true.



***On the So-Called
"War" Between
Science and Religion***

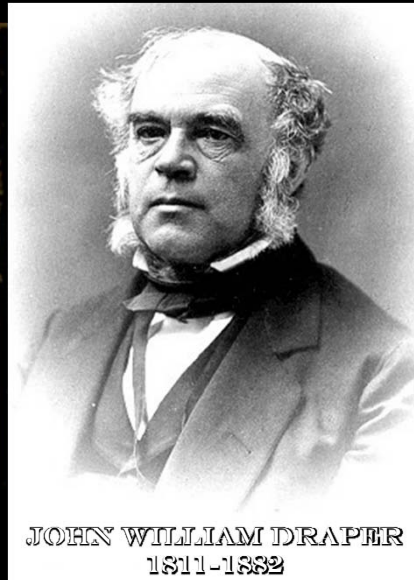
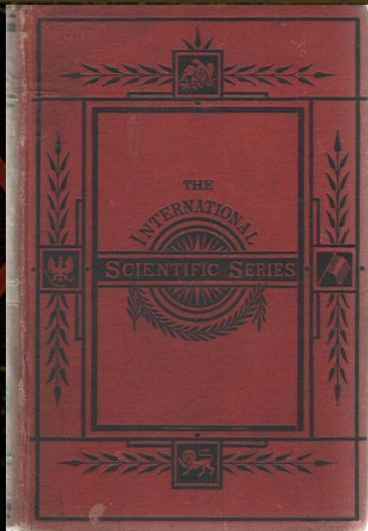
On the So-Called "War" Between Science and Religion



"As a scientist, I am hostile to fundamentalist religion because it actively debauches the scientific enterprise. It teaches us not to change our minds, and not to want to know exciting things that are available to be known. It subverts science and saps the intellect. ... Fundamentalist religion is hell-bent on ruining the scientific education for countless thousands of innocent, well-meaning, eager young minds."

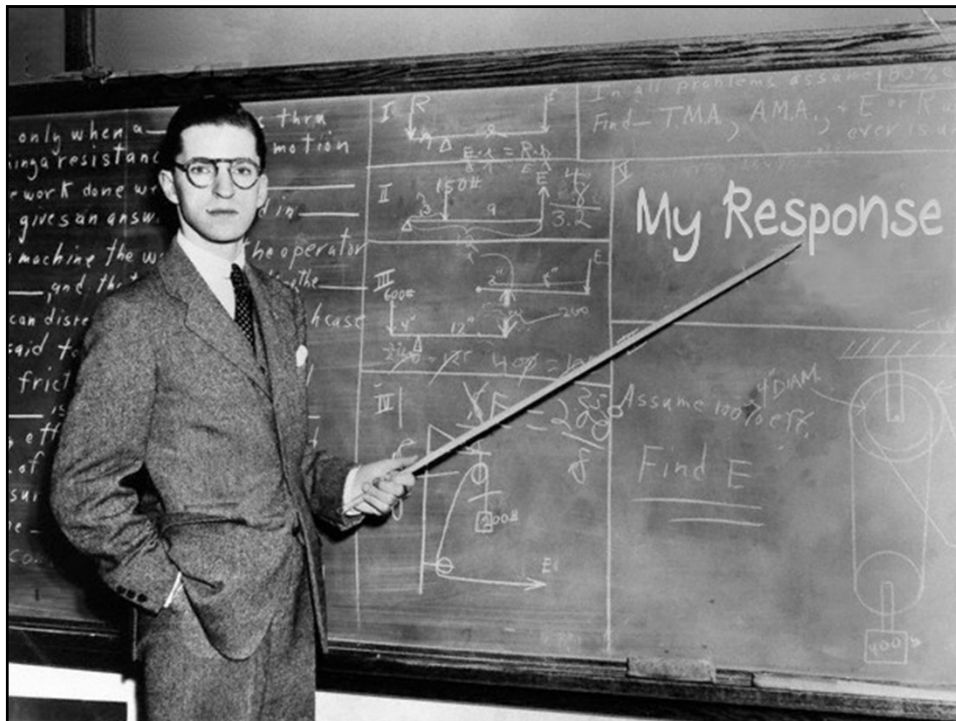
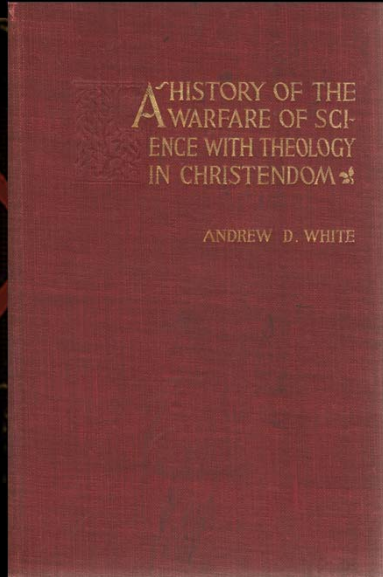
[*The God Delusion*, pp. 284, 286]

On the So-Called "War" Between Science and Religion



JOHN WILLIAM DRAPER
1811-1882

On the So-Called "War" Between Science and Religion



My Response

"The greatest myth in the history of science and religion holds that they have been in a state of constant conflict. No one bears more responsibility for promoting this notion than two nineteenth-century American polemicists: Andrew Dickson White (1832-1918) and John William Draper (1811-1882)."

[*Galileo Goes to Jail and Other Myths about Science and Religion* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2009), 1-2]



Ronald L. Numbers
University of Wisconsin-Madison

My Response

"One of the greatest tragedies of our time is this impression that has been created that science and religion have to be at war."

— Francis Collins



My Response

- The medieval Roman Catholic Church gave more financial and social support to the study of astronomy for over six centuries than any other, and probably all other, institutions.



My Response



- The medieval period gave birth to the university which developed with the support of the papacy. (By 1500 there were about 60 universities across Europe educating a cumulative total of several hundred thousands students.)

My Response



- About 30% of the curriculum covered subjects and texts concerned with the natural world.

My Response



Michael H.
Shank

Professor of Early Science
University of Wisconsin

“Between 1150 and 1500, more literate Europeans had had access to scientific materials than any of their predecessors in earlier cultures, thanks largely to the emergence, rapid growth, and naturalistic arts curricula of medieval universities.”

[Michael H. Shank, "Myth 2: That the Medieval Christian Church Suppressed the Growth of Science," in Ronald L. Numbers, ed. *Galileo Goes to Jail and Other Myths about Science and Religion* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2009), 26-27.

My Response



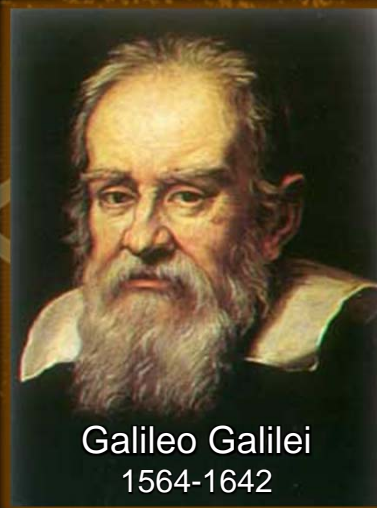
Michael H.
Shank

Professor of Early Science
University of Wisconsin

“If the medieval church had intended to suppress the inquiry into nature, it must have been completely powerless, for it utterly failed to reach its goal.”

[Shank, p. 27]

My Response

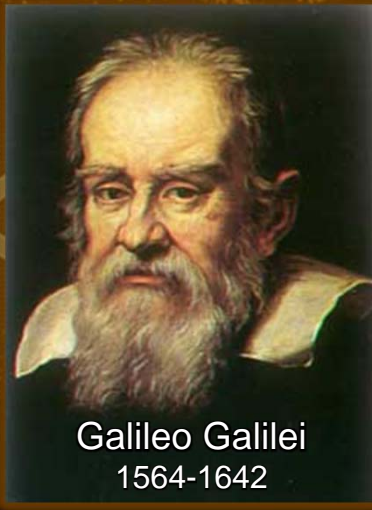


Galileo Galilei
1564-1642

My Response

Summation

1. There can be no doubt that Galileo's embracing the Copernican system got him into serious trouble with the Church officials.

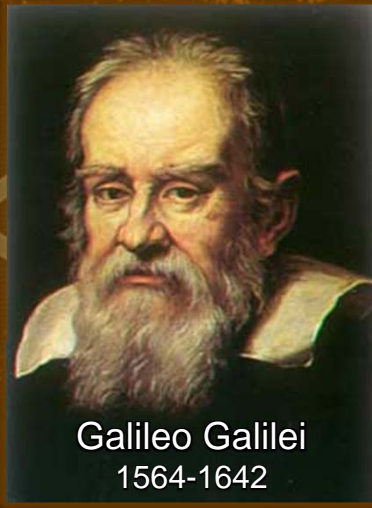


Galileo Galilei
1564-1642

My Response

Summation

2. But it must be remembered that his views were just as much in conflict with the reigning *scientific* views of the universities as they were with the reigning *theological* views of the Church.

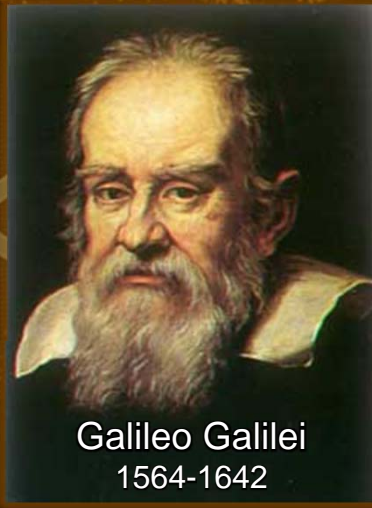


Galileo Galilei
1564-1642

My Response

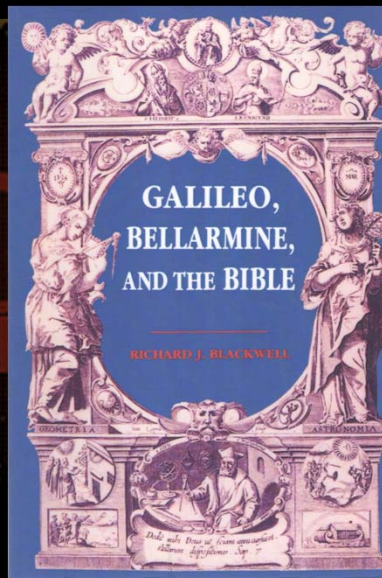
Summation

3. Thus, the Galileo affair is just as much a commentary on the conflict between *science* and *science* as it is a commentary on any conflict between *science* and *religion*.

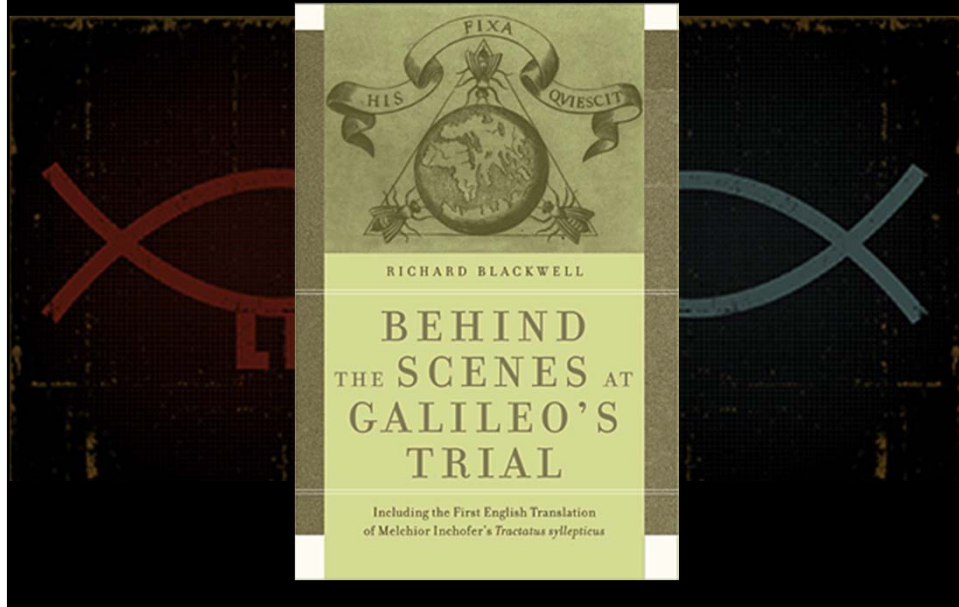


Galileo Galilei
1564-1642

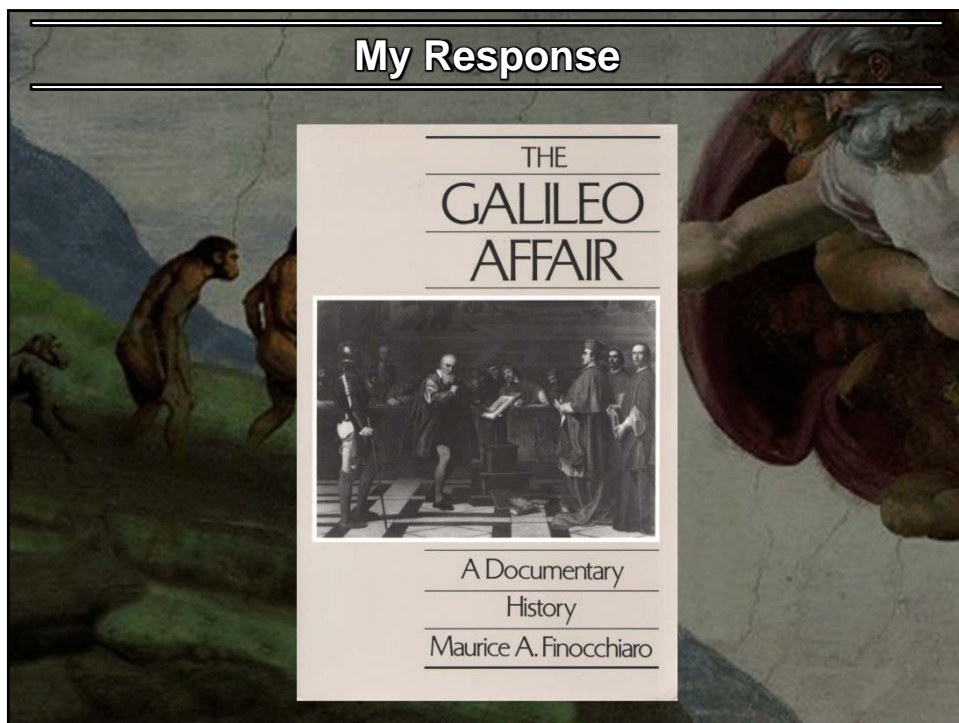
My Response

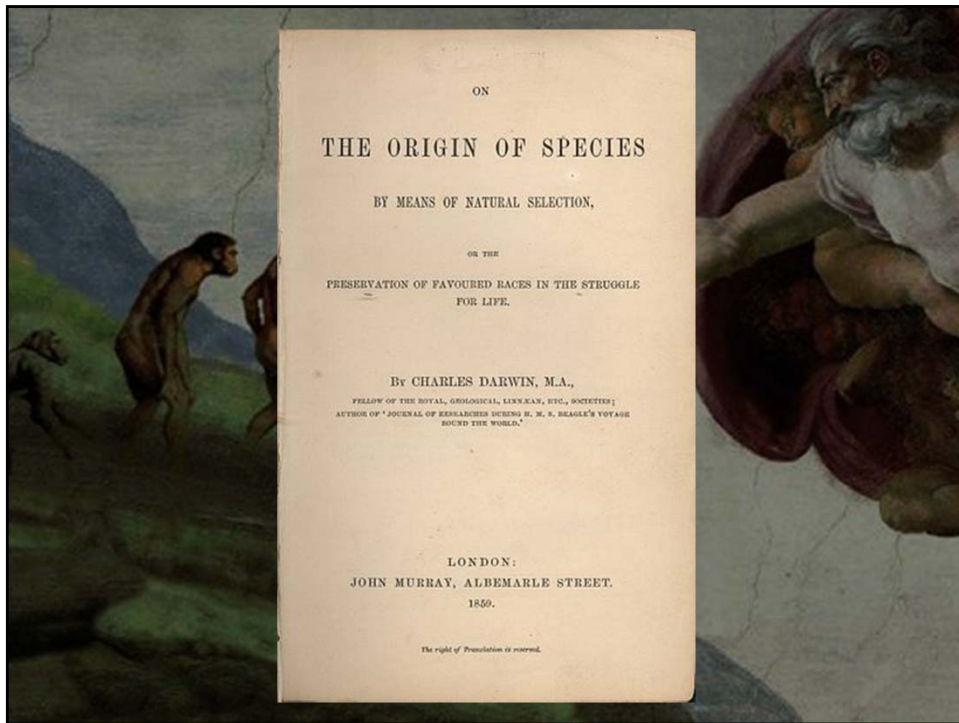
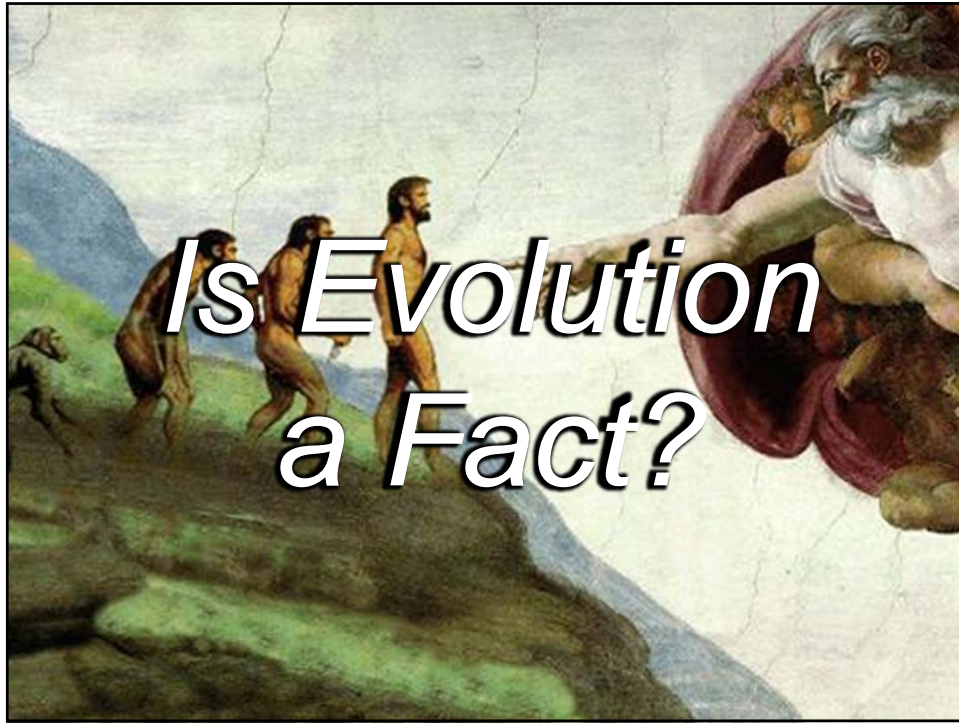


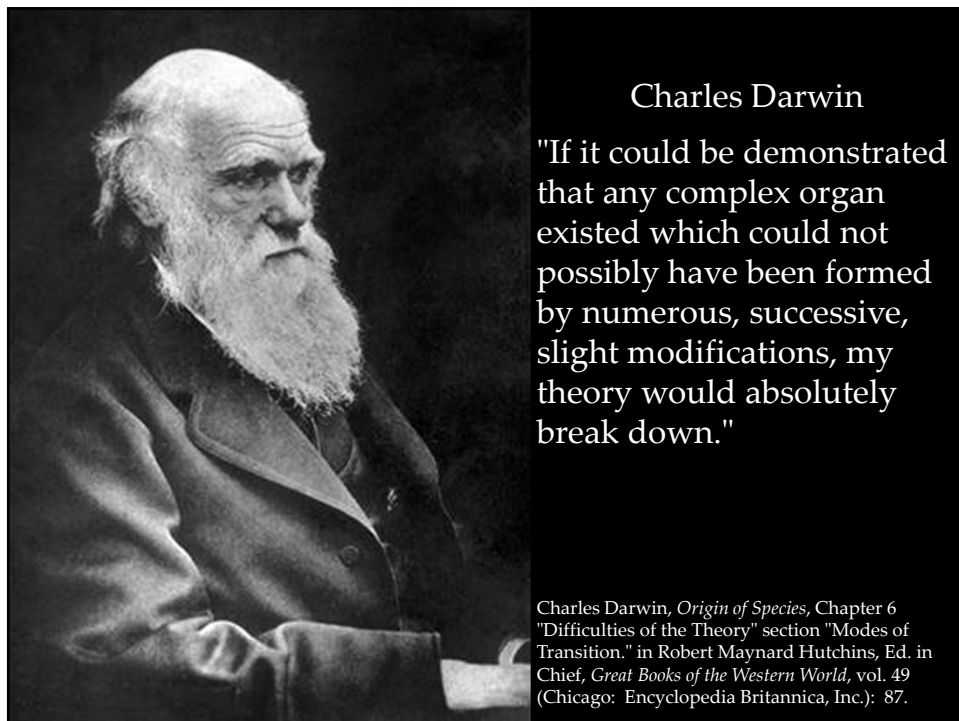
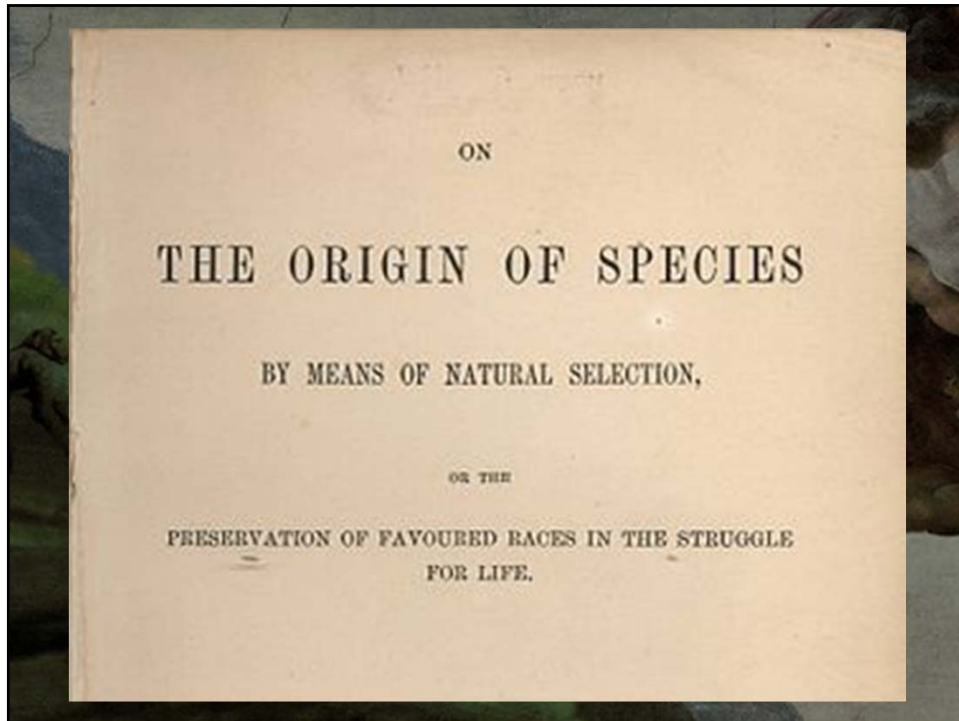
My Response

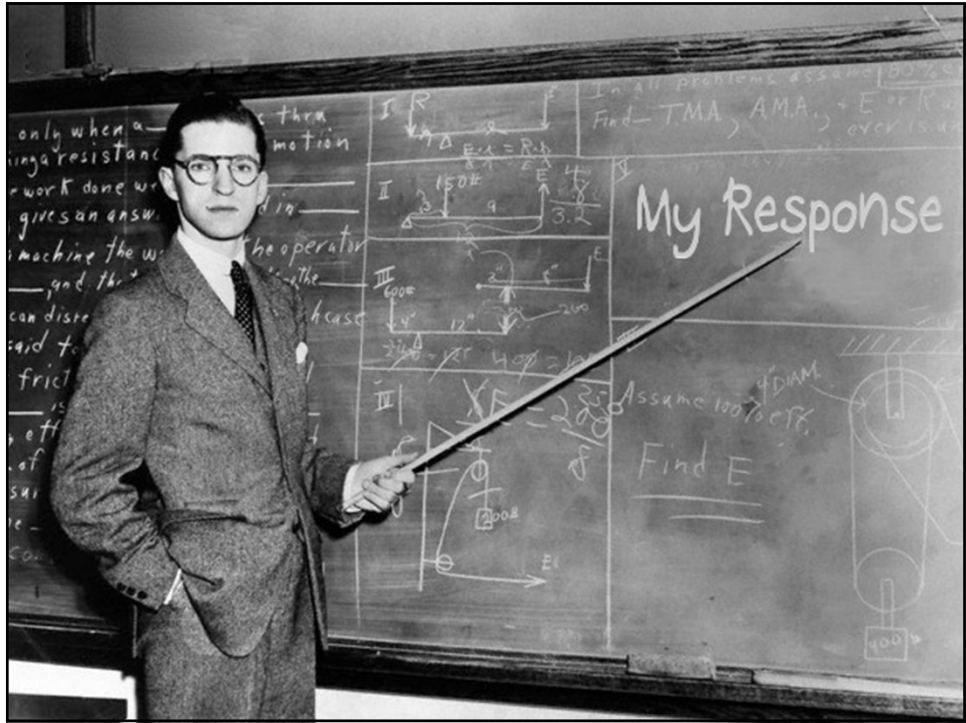


My Response

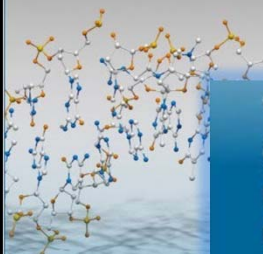








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"We are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life. Careful examination of the evidence for Darwinian theory should be encouraged."

"We are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life. Careful examination of the evidence for Darwinian theory should be encouraged."

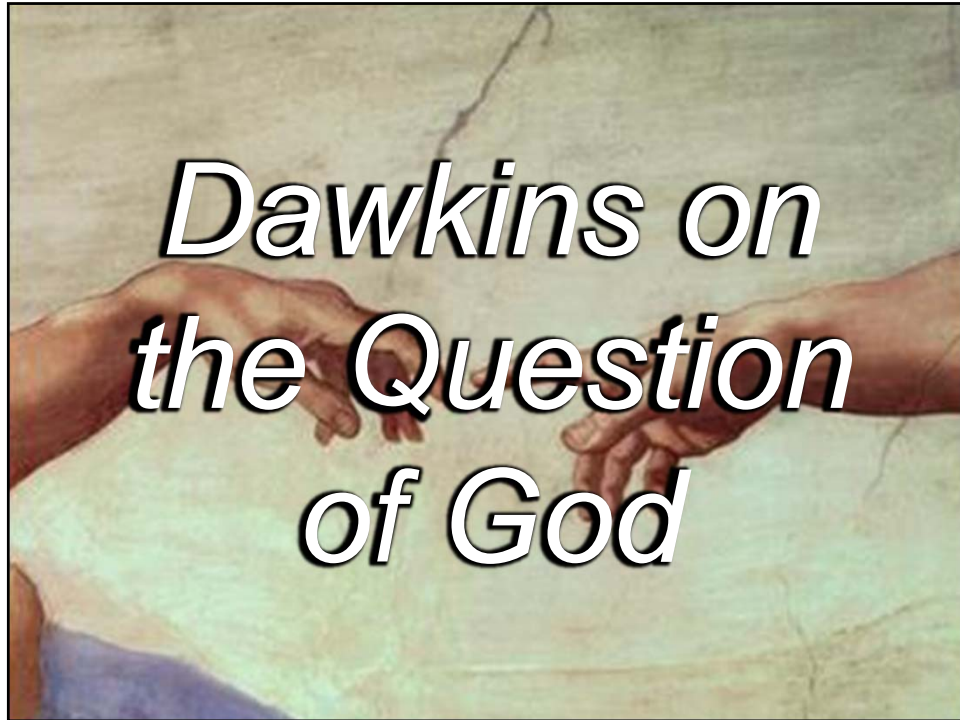
Scientific Darwinism. to be heard.

order to pose as a philosopher, since it is primarily a worldview. And an awful one, as George Bernard Shaw used to say."

Dr. Raul Leguizamon, Pathologist, and a Professor of Medicine at the Autonomous University of Guadalajara, Mexico



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Dawkins on the Question of God

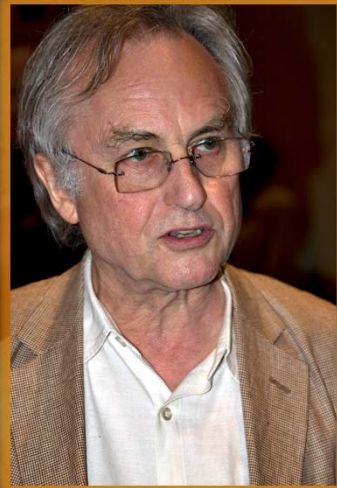
Dawkins on the Question of God



"Unlike some of his theological colleagues, Bishop Montefiore is not afraid to state that the question of whether God exists is a definite question of **fact.**" [The Blind Watchmaker, 37-38]

"The presence or absence of a creative super-intelligence is unequivocally **a scientific question**, even if it is not in practice—or not yet—a decided one." [The God Delusion, 59-59]

Dawkins on the Question of God



"These arguments rely upon the idea of a regress and invoke God to terminate it. They make the entirely unwarranted assumption that God himself is immune to the regress."

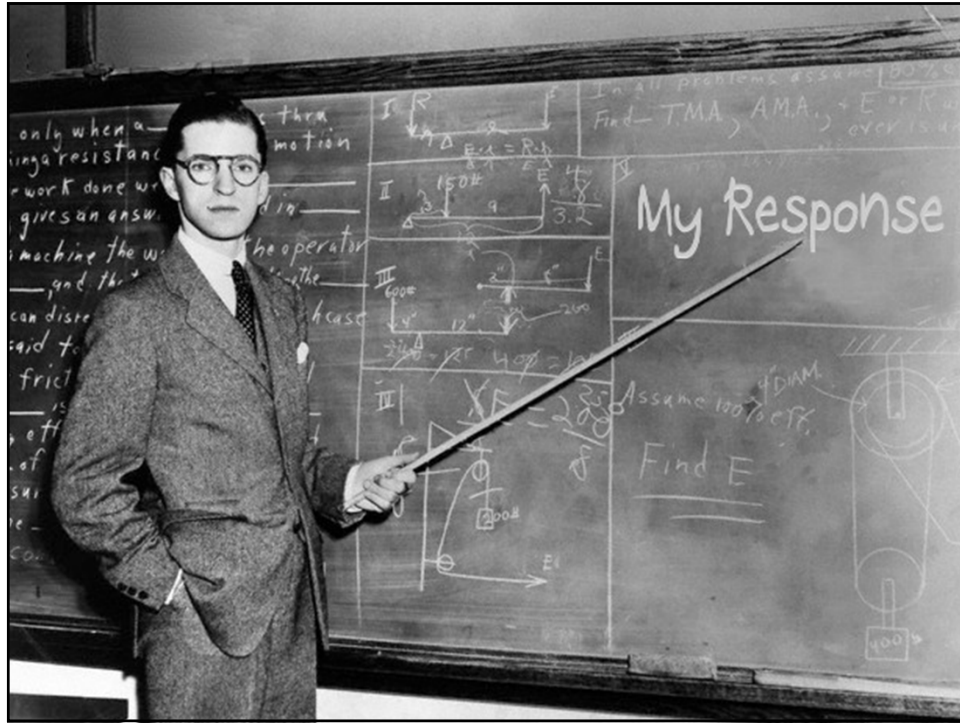
[*The God Delusion*, 77]

Dawkins on the Question of God

"Even if we allow the dubious luxury of arbitrarily conjuring up a terminator to an infinite regress and giving it a name, simply because we need one, there is absolutely no reason to endow that terminator with any of the properties normally ascribed to God."

[*The God Delusion*, 77]





My Response

Dawkins makes three fatal mistakes in his speculation regarding the existence of God.

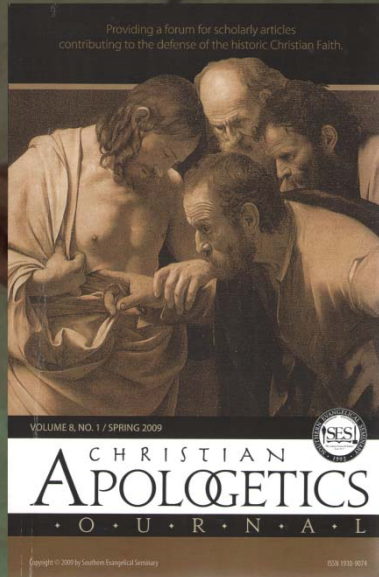
My Response

1. *Dawkins does not recognize when a question is philosophical rather than scientific. Indeed, he seems altogether incapable of even understanding the difference.*

My Response

2. *Dawkins is entirely ignorant of the two types of infinities in the different arguments for God's existence. In his defense, some might say that most people are unaware of this. But at least most people don't write books flaunting what they don't know.*

My Response



My Response

Volume 8 Spring 2009 Number 1

CHRISTIAN APOLÖGETICS JOURNAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTELLIGENT DESIGN: ITS NATURE, LIMITATIONS, AND FUTURE <i>J. Thomas Bridges</i>	3
EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH: IS THERE A LIMIT TO THE MEDICAL IMPERATIVE TO END SUFFERING AND DISEASE? <i>Mark Foreman</i>	21
AN ASSESSMENT OF BRAIN DEATH AS A MEANS FOR PROCURING TRANSPLANTABLE ORGANS <i>D. Scott Henderson</i>	41
DIVINE FOREKNOWLEDGE: TWO ACCOUNTS <i>Matthew Graham</i>	55
TWO NOTIONS OF THE INFINITE IN THOMAS AQUINAS' <i>SUMMA THEOLOGICAE I, QUESTIONS 2 AND 46</i> <i>Richard G. Howe</i>	71
BOOK REVIEWS	87

My Response

Volume 8 Spring 2009 Number 1

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TWO NOTIONS OF THE INFINITE IN THOMAS AQUINAS' <i>SUMMA THEOLOGIAE I, QUESTIONS 2 AND 46</i> <i>Richard G. Howe</i>	71
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Welcome to the Virtual Office of Dr. Richard G. Howe



Richard G. Howe, Ph.D.



Richard G. Howe is a writer as well as a public speaker and debater in churches, conferences, and university campuses on issues concerning Christian apologetics and philosophy. He is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Apologetics at [Southern Evangelical Seminary](#) in Charlotte, North Carolina where he still teaches part-time.

Dr. Howe has a BA in Bible from [Mississippi College](#), an MA in Philosophy from the [University of Mississippi](#), and a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the [University of Arkansas](#).

Both his master's thesis and doctoral dissertation focused on the issue of the existence of God. His master's theses is titled "An Analysis of William Lane Craig's Kalam Cosmological



Links

Cool Links

My Response

3. *Dawkins, in treating of Aquinas's arguments, fails to realize the philosophical reasons why (in Aquinas's estimation) God possesses all the attributes He does.*