

Helpful Readings on the Bible and Science

Books by pastors and scholars in the PCA on science and faith:

C. John Collins, *Science & Faith: Friends or Foes?* (Crossway, 2003)

*Collins is a professor at Covenant Theological Seminary (the PCA's seminary) and this book is "written for parents concerned about their children's studies, for students feeling their faith challenged by scientific inquiry, and for anyone interested in the interplay between science and faith" but without technical jargon.

Tim Keller, "Science Has Disproved Christianity," Chapter 6 in *The Reason for God* (Dutton, 2008)

*This is one of many issues raised by skeptical that Keller skillfully handles in this best-selling book.

PCA Position Paper on Creation from the 28th General Assembly, June 2000 (90 pages)

PDF Version: <http://www.pcahistory.org/creation/report.pdf>

For excerpts and a summary, e-mail Brian Dennert at Bdennert@trinityhinsdale.com

On the question of Adam and Eve:

C. John Collins, *Did Adam and Eve Really Exist: Who They Were and Why You Should Care* (Crossway, 2011).

*A recent release that examines the evidence for a real Adam and Eve and asserts their importance for modern life. Collins argues that the Bible and modern experience of human life presupposes a real Adam and Eve. He addresses both biblical and scientific questions.

Tim Keller, "Creation, Evolution, and Christian Laypeople," (14 Pages)

Downloadable: http://biologos.org/uploads/projects/Keller_white_paper.pdf

*Keller writes about major issues that Christian laypeople have with evolution, giving "popular-level pastoral answers and guidance," with a particular focus on the importance of a belief in a literal Adam and Eve.

On Genesis 1-2:

Henri Blocher, *In The Beginning* (InterVarsity, 1984).

*Geoff's favorite book on the topic: a rich and careful reflection on what the opening chapters of Genesis are meant to teach us

A Helpful Introduction to a Christian View of Science:

Del Ratzsch, *Science and Its Limits: The Natural Sciences in Christian Perspective* (InterVarsity Press, 2000)

Science & Its Limits is an excellent compact introduction to just what the title says – a Christian perspective on the natural sciences. Ratzsch, who teaches philosophy at Calvin College (Grand Rapids, MI), first sets a context for the reader with a brief history of modern science. He then

reviews significant developments in the philosophy of science over the past 50 years. Philosophy of science is a philosophical investigation of the foundations of science and the scientific method and deals with questions such as: what is objectivity? does doing science exclude faith claims? are there areas of reality science is not equipped to investigate? Ratzsch shows something that often comes as a surprise to many readers -- that our popular ideas about science as a perfect objective project which produces absolute truth is now the minority view of most philosophers and professional scientists. He then offers a typology for how faith and science can fruitfully relate, based on recognizing that science necessarily involves non-provable assumptions and that the scientific method is only suited to understanding empirical tangible reality. Finally, Ratzsch briefly shows why various popular contemporary claims about science and faith (from both secular and Christian thinkers) fail, due to misunderstandings and unacknowledged prejudice. In this context, Ratzsch offers a brief analysis (both positive and negative) of Creationism and Intelligent Design (ID), both popular among evangelicals.

The book is written for a wide audience and does not presuppose that readers have a background in science or philosophy. It offers a good general overview of issues related to faith and science but also has extensive end-notes and a good bibliography for those who would like more details and further reading.

Ratzsch also has a more academic work that presupposes some knowledge of philosophy and logic: *Nature, Design, and Science: The Status of Design in Natural Science* (State University of New York Press, 2001)

On Developing a Christian Worldview:

Al Wolters, *Creation Regained: Biblical Basics for a Reformational Worldview* (Eerdmans, 2005)

While there are many books currently available on Christian worldview (I counted over 20 a few years ago), *Creation Regained* is still one of the best. Standing in the tradition of Abraham Kuyper, Wolters lays out the basics of a Biblical worldview that is rooted in Reformed faith. Wolters (a professor emeritus at Redeemer College in Canada) shows how the over-all pattern of Scripture is that God is about the business of redeeming all of the fallen creation. It is this book which is responsible for the introduction into the Evangelical world of the summary phrase for this – Creation-Fall-Redemption. Wolters shows how all of life flows from the commitments of the heart, so that people and cultures live out of that heart commitment. Thus, a heart captured by Jesus Christ should and will lead to every area of life being transformed. This is true especially of the so-called non-spiritual areas – like economics, law, the arts, science, etc.