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Priest's "Reason and wonder: Why science and faith need each other" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Priest, E. (Ed.) (2016). *Reason and wonder: Why science and faith need each other*. West Conshohocken, PA: Templeton Press. 211pp. \$14.95. ISBN 9781599475264

Reason and wonder: Why science and faith need each other discusses how science and religion are intimately tied together, despite often being considered separate entities. Eric Priest begins the book with an introduction that describes the relationship between science and religion, outlines a history of the meaning of each word, and provides a solid basis for why science and religion should be integrated – or, why science and faith need each other. Additionally, he describes how wonder and creativity are essential aspects of science, and how reason and creativity complement each other.

Throughout the remainder of the book, experts in various scientific disciplines discuss “how many different aspects of both science and faith involve reason and wonder” (p. 1). The authors of each chapter of this book (including Eric Priest, N. T. Wright, Keith Ward, and David Myers) discuss concepts including new atheism, natural law, reductionism, the origins of the universe, evolution, genes, psychology, miracles, and the New Testament – all from a perspective of genuine wonder.

While this book is full of scientific jargon, sometimes to the point of wordiness, it provides a fascinating look at the connection between science and religion, and the integration of reason and wonder. Even though the book is obviously geared towards a scientific audience, it’s overall message is one that should resonate with readers of all academic backgrounds. Hopefully, this book will help change the minds of those who believe that science and religion are in conflict and uncomplimentary.

Reviewer

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