



Volume 64 | Issue 1

Article 37

7-1-2021

Copan & Reeses' "Three views on Christianity and science" (book review)

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Recommended Citation

Mancuso, J. James (2021) "Copan & Reeses' "Three views on Christianity and science" (book review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 64: Iss. 1, Article 37.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55221/2572-7478.2282>

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Book Reviews



Copan, P., Reese, C. L. (Ed.). (2021). *Three views on Christianity and science*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. 214 pp. \$18.99. ISBN 9780310598541.

This book is well-suited for collections that seek to document the debate between faith and reason, between Christianity and science, between faith-based communities and the prevailing mindset that marginalizes them in mainstream media and publishing.

This book is a collection of nine essays, and three rejoinders, written by three prominent writers in this realm of discussion: Michael Ruse, Alister McGrath, and Bruce L. Gordon. Michael Ruse brings the view of an atheist who asserts that science and religion operate in separate realms, each answering a different set of questions, and that they are incapable of valid input in the realm of the other. McGrath asserts that though they are distinct areas of human endeavor, they can engage in dialogue that is meaningful and genuine. At the other end of the spectrum, we hear from Bruce Gordon who believes that science and religion inform each other, which he believes must be true because the entire universe is the product of a single, divine mind. Thus, in his construct, God exists and is revealed in both the observable truths of science and the revealed truths of scripture.

The tenor of the discussion is somewhat passionate at times, perhaps edgy or clipped occasionally, but overall, the content is spirited, lively, and academically rigorous. Each author presents his case using sound logic and professional level reasoning.

Editor Christopher Reese introduces the books by outlining the nature and scope of the contents and lays the groundwork for the debate. Editor Paul Copan brings the tome to a close by briefly summarizing each author's viewpoint and discussing common themes that come to fore in the dialogue. He also comments on fundamental aspects of the entire discussion such as biblical evidence and the problem of evil.

An extensive index helps readers locate passages related to topics and the writings of noteworthy scientists, theologians and philosophers.

Highly recommended for academic library collections that seek to provide deep and broad coverage of the debate between scientific method and faith-based understanding of the universe, as well as the interplay of the concepts of truth, epistemology, and worldview.

Reviewer

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