

## The Backdrop

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Science is wonderful. Science has helped us understand the laws of nature, the elements, our solar system, and the known universe.

Through the pursuit of scientific discovery we have enjoyed many benefits through inventions and processes that have helped us grow food more efficiently, mechanize repetitive tasks, enjoy better health; peer farther into space, deeper into the oceans, and into infinitesimally small particles of matter.

Our lives are easier than the lives of our forefathers. We have harnessed the power of water and electricity and the atom, but we have not explained all their mysteries. We continue to advance new discoveries, amassing libraries of knowledge in every aspect of our existence, all because of science. Yet, even with such advancement and tremendous progress, we are still mesmerized by science and scientists.

We are beholden to the latest scientific *report* that has advanced a medical treatment, probed the human mind, explained a societal trend, or explained a mystery from our past. We are still learning and we accept these reports as fact. Science.

Science is not at fault for our idolatry; we are. We have been conditioned to accept the results of scientific inquiry because it is science. After all, science does not allow an individual's personality, whims, preferences, or mood swings to influence. Science boasts the removal of emotion, subjective impressions, and anything bordering on fantasy. Science is neutral. Science is honest. Science is true.

Scientific discovery is based on the *scientific method* that demands the unbiased observation and analysis of measurable things. Our society has worshipped this presumed objectivity to the point of believing every declaration made by modern science.

In this way, science has become the backdrop against which man understands himself and his universe.

However, since science is not equipped with instruments with which it can observe, measure, and analyze spiritual things, a tension exists between science and religion. Many (most?) scientists have concluded that God is a myth conjured up by ancient man to explain things not understood. Spirituality, some say, is little more than a psychological phenomenon to explain or pacify one's anxiety.

Science is wonderful, but it leaves man empty. Science cannot answer basic questions of reality found in the heart of man:

- Who am I?
- Why am I here?
- How/where can I find meaning?
- What is good? Is evil really evil?
- Does anything exist after death?

In truth, it is God who stands as the backdrop against which man finds understanding of himself, the universe, and his place in the universe. It is not man who explains God, but God who gives meaning and understanding to man. And God *revealed* himself to man . . .

**In the beginning . . . God!**

Mark Stinnett