

Quotes from Famous Scientists about God

“The best data we have are exactly what I would have predicted had I nothing to go on but the five books of Moses, the Psalms, the Bible as a whole, in that the universe appears to have order and purpose.”

Arno Penzias (b. 1933), American physicist and Nobel Laureate for the discovery of the cosmic background radiation which substantiated Big Bang theory.

“The laws of [physics]...seem themselves to be the product of exceedingly ingenious design...[there] is for me powerful evidence that there is something going on behind it all...It seems as though somebody has fine-tuned nature's numbers to make the Universe...The impression of design is overwhelming.”

Paul Davies (b. 1946), contributed to black hole and Big Bang theories.

“The book of nature which we have to read is written by the finger of God.”

Michael Faraday (d. 1867), established the existence of the magnetic field, discovered electrolysis, diamagnetism, electromagnetic induction and benzene. He invented an early version of the electric dynamo. His work laid the foundation of the modern electrical system. By showing the inter-relation between magnetism and light, he laid the groundwork for a unified field theory.

“Religion and science demand for their foundation faith in God. For the former (religion), God stands foremost; for the latter (science), at the end of all thought, For religion He represents a basis; for science, a crowning solution towards a world view.”

Max Planck (d. 1947), the founder of quantum physics and one of the most important physicists of the twentieth century.

“The most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being.”

Isaac Newton (d. 1727), developed calculus and described it in Principia Mathematica, from which the above quote is taken. He described universal gravitation, the three laws of motion, and developed color theory. He wrote more on theology and religion than he did on science.

“I want to know how God created this world, I am not interested in this or that phenomenon, in the spectrum of this or that element. I want to know His thoughts, the rest are details.”

“The human mind is not capable of grasping the Universe. We are like a little child entering a huge library. The walls are covered to the ceilings with books in many different tongues. The child knows that someone must have written these books. It does not know who or how. It does not understand the languages in which they are written. But the child notes a definite plan in the arrangement of the books... a mysterious order which it does not comprehend, but only dimly suspects.”

“My religion consists of a humble admiration of the illimitable superior spirit who reveals himself in the slight details we are able to perceive with our frail and feeble minds. That deeply emotional conviction of the presence of a superior reasoning power, which is revealed in the incomprehensible universe, forms my idea of God.”

Albert Einstein (d. 1955), among his numerous discoveries, he developed the special and general theories of relativity, the law of mass-energy equivalence, and received a Nobel Prize for describing the law of photoelectric effect. He denied the inspiration of Scripture and the idea of the Chosen People.

“I am a scientist and a believer, and I find no conflict between those world views. ...and neither apparently do the 40 percent of working scientists who claim to be believers [in a personal God].

Francis Collins (b. 1950), leader of the Human Genome Project, director of the National Human Genome Research Institute.

“In the last few years astronomy has come together so that we’re now able to tell a coherent story [of how the universe began]...This story does not contradict God, but instead enlarges [the idea of] God.”

Joel Primack, Fellow of the American Physical Society, Professor of Physics at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He studies dark matter, particle astrophysics, cosmology and quantum field theory.

“As the depth of our insight into the wonderful works of God increases, the stronger are our feelings of awe and veneration in contemplating them and in endeavoring to approach their Author...So will he [the earnest student] by his studies and successive acquirements be led through nature up to nature’s God.”

William Lord Kelvin (d. 1907), inventor of the Kelvin temperature scale, ennobled for for his feats in science and engineering.

“When I tell a young person: Look, there is a new star, a galaxy, a neutron star 100 million light-years away, yet the protons, electrons; neutrons and mesons which are found there are

identical with those which are found in this microphone...Identity excludes probability. That which is identical is not probable...Therefore there is a cause, outside of space, outside of time, the master of being, which made being to be in this way. And this is God..."

"The being - I am speaking scientifically – which has caused things to be identical at a distance of billions of light-years, exists. And the number of identical particles in the universe is 10 raised to the 85th power...Do we wish then to take in the song of the Galaxies? If I were Francis of Assisi I would say: O Galaxies of the immense heavens, give praise to my Lord, for He is omnipotent and good. O atoms, O protons, O electrons, O bird-songs, O blowing of the leaves and of the air, in the hands of man as a prayer, sing out the hymn which returns to God!

Enrico Medi, chair of geophysics, University of Palermo

"While...media attention goes to the strident atheists who claim religion is foolish superstition, and to the equally clamorous religious creationists who deny the clear evidence for cosmic and biological evolution, a majority of the people I know have no difficulty accepting scientific knowledge and holding to religious faith."

"...Why do I believe in God? As a physicist, I look at nature from a particular perspective. I see an orderly, beautiful universe in which nearly all physical phenomena can be understood from a few simple mathematical equations. I see a universe that, had it been constructed slightly differently, would never have given birth to stars and planets, let alone bacteria and people. And there is no good scientific reason for why the universe should not have been different."

"Many good scientists have concluded from these observations that an intelligent God must have chosen to create the universe with such beautiful, simple, and life-giving properties. Many other equally good scientists are nevertheless atheists. Both conclusions are positions of faith...I find these arguments suggestive and supportive of belief in God, but not conclusive. I believe in God because I can feel God's presence in my life, because I can see the evidence of God's goodness in the world, because I believe in Love and because I believe that God is Love."

William D. Phillips, a Nobel Laureate in physics, fellow of the Joint Quantum Institute of the University of Maryland and the National Institute of Standards and Technology

"To find the metaphysical beliefs...governing scientific research...it would have been enough to speak of one belief, the belief in a personal rational Creator. It was this belief, as cultivated especially within a Christian matrix, which supported the [scientific] view for which the world was an objective and orderly entity investigable by the mind because the mind too was an orderly and objective product of the same rational, that is, perfectly consistent Creator.

Dr. Stanley Jaki, Templeton Prize winner, Distinguished Professor of physics, Seton Hall University

“I find it quite improbable that such order came out of chaos. There has to be some organizing principle. God to me is a mystery but is the explanation for the miracle of existence, why there is something instead of nothing.”

Allan Sandage (b. 1926), winner of the Crawford Prize in Astronomy. He was regarded as the pre-eminent observational cosmologist in the world from the 1950s through the 1970s. His research led him to become a Christian at the age of 50.

“We are, by astronomical standards, a pampered, cosseted, cherished group of creatures....If the Universe had not been made with the most exacting precision we could never have come into existence. It is my view that these circumstances indicate the universe was created for man to live in.”

John O’Keefe (d. 2000), NASA astronomer, major leader in the American lunar program and the first to propose the idea of the scanning electron microscope.

“I find it as difficult to understand a scientist who does not acknowledge the presence of a superior rationality behind the existence of the universe as it is to comprehend a theologians who would deny the advances of science. And there is certainly no scientific reason why God cannot retain the same relevance in our modern world that He held before we began probing His creation with telescope, cyclotron, and space vehicles.”

“Can a physicist visualize an electron? The electron is materially inconceivable, and yet it is so perfectly known through its effects that we use it to illuminate our cities, guide our airlines through the night skies, and take the most accurate measurements. What strange rationale makes some physicists accept the inconceivable electron as real, while refusing to accept the reality of God on the ground that they cannot conceive him?”

“My relationship with God is very personal. I think you can be on first name terms with Him, you know, and tell Him what your troubles are, and ask for help. I do it all the time and it works for me.”

Wernher von Braun, NASA engineer and scientist, designer of the Saturn rockets.