

Recommended Books on Science, Faith and Worldview

Arend Jan Poelarends

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References

1 Reformational Philosophy

- [1] Albert M Wolters. *Creation regained: biblical basics for a reformational worldview*. William B. Eerdmans Pub., Grand Rapids, Mich., 2nd edition, 2005.

Revised version of a book that came out about two decades ago. Important summary and application of the ideas of the reformational philosophy developed by the Dutchman Herman Dooyeweerd. Good introduction to a biblical and reformed worldview.

- [2] Roy A. Clouser. *The myth of religious neutrality: an essay on the hidden role of religious belief in theories*. University of Notre Dame Press, Notre Dame, Ind., revised edition, 2005.

Clouser, drawing upon the ideas of the Reformational philosophy developed by Dooyeweerd, challenges the idea that theories are objective, not based on any religious presupposition. Very important book for christian students and scholars.

2 Science & Faith

- [3] C. John Collins. *Science & faith: friends or foes?* Crossway Books, Wheaton, Ill., 2003.

In this very well written and well balanced book, Collins explores the relationship between science and faith, touching on many areas, including epistemology, proper interpretation of the bible, proper understanding of science, miracles and much more. One of the best books out there on the relation between science and faith!

- [4] Hugh Ross. *The creator and the cosmos: how the greatest scientific discoveries of the century reveal God*. NavPress, Colorado Springs, Colo., 3rd expanded edition, 2001.

Hugh Ross explores in this book the evidence for intelligent design, especially in the cosmos. He argues that all the signs of design point towards an intelligent creator and affirms the biblical creation account.

- [5] Guillermo Gonzalez and Jay Wesley Richards. *The privileged planet: how our place in the cosmos is designed for discovery*. Regnery Pub., Washington, DC, 2004.

Drawing from discoveries of contemporary science, Gonzalez and Richards make the case that not only all conditions for life on this planet are exactly met, but also that all conditions are right for research, meaning that this planet is designed for discovery and exploration of the rest of the universe.

3 Worldview

- [6] Michael W. Goheen and Craig G. Bartholomew. *Living at the crossroads: an introduction to Christian worldview*. Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, Mich., 2008.

As a companion to their book 'The Drama of Scripture' Goheen and Bartholomew wrote this book in which they explore the position of a christian on the crossroads of the biblical story and the western story. Written as an introductory level textbook for college students, not too many details, big picture, though very interesting.

- [7] James W Sire. *The universe next door: a basic worldview catalog*. InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, Ill., 4th ed edition, 2004.

Very well written book in which Sire explains the basics of Christian theism, deism, naturalism, nihilism, existentialism, Eastern pantheistic monism, New Age philosophy and postmodernism. Important introduction to the concept and consequences of a worldview.

- [8] James W Sire. *Naming the elephant: worldview as a concept*. InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, Ill., 2004.

After his best seller 'The Universe Next Door' Sire saw the need for a deeper study to the concept of worldview. Naming the Elephant fills this hole.

- [9] Brian J. Walsh and J. Richard Middleton. *The transforming vision: shaping a Christian world view*. InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, Ill., 1984.

How to think Christianly in a modern world? Walsh and Middleton argue that a coherent christian worldview is the only basis for hope, and is able to penetrate the structures of society reforming and remolding our culture.

- [10] J. Richard Middleton and Brian J. Walsh. *Truth is stranger than it used to be: biblical faith in a postmodern age*. InterVarsity, Downers Grove, Ill., 1995.

An attempt to reclaim the truth of the biblical faith in our contemporary postmodern times. Sympathetic to certain aspects of postmodern philosophy and critical of a christian worldview which is build on modernist foundations, they argue for a radical interpretation of the bible which will transform our chaotic culture and give hope for our world.

- [11] Nancy Pearcey. *Total truth: liberating Christianity from its cultural captivity*. Crossway Books, Wheaton, Ill., 2004.

Another contribution to the existing literature on worldview. Pearcey, who defines worldview as a biblically informed perspective on all reality, unfolds the history of philosophy and the different traditions that shaped the western thought and tries to sketch an integrated Christian way of living and thinking.

- [12] Lesslie Newbigin. *Foolishness to the Greeks: the Gospel and Western culture*. W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., Grand Rapids, Mich., 1986.

Leslie Newbigin was an English missionary to the people in India. After he worked in India for many years he returned to England and noticed that the Gospel had become completely powerless in the culture. With the skills to contextualise the Gospel that he had learned in India, Newbigin wrote a couple of books in which he confronts the Gospel with the western culture and calls for a renewed sense of mission.

- [13] Lesslie Newbigin. *The Gospel in a pluralist society*. W.B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, Mich., 1989.

Newbigin analyses in this book the place of the Gospel in the pluralistic society of Western Europe, and he suggests how Christians can more confidently affirm their faith in such a context.

4 (Reformed) Epistemology

- [14] Nicholas Wolterstorff. *Reason within the bounds of religion*. W. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., Grand Rapids, Mich., 1976.

Exploration of the relationship between reason and faith, especially probing the role of faith in responsible scholarship. Very important book. Any Christian who studies/works in the academia should read this book.

- [15] Michael Polanyi. *Personal knowledge: towards a post-critical philosophy*. Routledge, London, 1997.

Scientist and philosopher Polanyi argues that the idea of objective knowledge does not exist. All knowledge is personal, not only influenced by personal circumstances but also built upon testimonies of others, unconscious assumptions etc. Have not read this book personally, but it was recommended to me more than one time.

5 Biblical Theology

- [16] Craig G. Bartholomew and Michael W. Goheen. *The drama of Scripture: finding our place in the biblical story*. Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, Mich., 2004.

Introduction to the biblical story, with an emphasis on the redemptive historical development of covenant and kingdom in the overarching biblical narrative. Very well written, as a textbook for college students, but not limited to them.

- [17] C. John Collins. *Genesis 1-4: a linguistic, literary, and theological commentary*. P & R Pub., Phillipsburg, N.J., 2006.

Collins, a professor of Old Testament at Covenant Theological Seminary, and with a science degree from MIT, wrote this commentary on Genesis 1-4 in which he applies literary discourse analysis to explore linguistic, literary and theological themes and brings them together in a coherent worldview. Very interesting book, written for the seminary student with knowledge of Hebrew, though also readable for the someone who does not master Hebrew.

- [18] Christopher J.H. Wright. *The mission of God: unlocking the Bible's grand narrative*. IVP Academic, Downers Grove, Ill., 2006.

Often we understand missions as white people going to not-white-people to share with them the Gospel. Wrights points out that mission is not so much our activity, but God's activity. God's mission is to reclaim the world and that includes the created order, and God's people have a designated role to play in that mission. Beginning with the Old Testament and the groundwork it lays for understanding who God is, what he has called his people to be and do, and how the nations fit into God's mission, Wright gives us a new hermeneutical perspective on Scripture. He argues for holistic mission, based in the mission of God, as the proper shape of Christian mission.

5.1 N.T. Wright

N.T. Wright is undoubtedly one of the most important New Testament scholars of the moment. Fortunately he is orthodox, has a high regard for the authority of Scripture and can be characterized as broadly reformed. He is a strong defender of the reliability of the Gospel accounts with regard to Jesus (over against for example the Jesus Seminar) and the historicity of the resurrection. Certainly a must read, though not always easy. His popular work, however, is very well readable, especially the very recent *Simply Christian* and *Surprised by Hope*

- [19] N. T Wright. *The resurrection of the Son of God*, volume v. 3 of *Christian origins and the question of God*. SPCK, London, 2003.

The most important book of the last decades which defends the historical accounts of the resurrection, drawing from an enormous amount of information from the time of Jesus. A scholarly work, so not easy

to read, but engaging with all major opposing views and containing a thorough exegesis of all relevant bible texts and Jewish worldviews.

- [20] N. T Wright. *Simply Christian: why Christianity makes sense*. HarperSanFrancisco, 1st ed edition, 2006.

A very creative attempt by Tom Wright to make sense of the Christian story, much like C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity*. Starting from the questions Why is justice fair? Why are so many people pursuing spirituality? Why do we crave relationship? And why is beauty so beautiful? he shows that the only religion that makes sense of these questions is the Christian religion, as revealed in the word of God ultimately in Jesus.

- [21] N. T Wright. *Surprised by hope: rethinking heaven, the resurrection, and the mission of the church*. HarperOne, New York, 1st ed edition, 2008.

Another important book by Tom Wright in which he challenges the common idea in christianity today that we go to heaven when we die, and replaces it with a more biblical understanding that the resurrection is a signpost to a new creation, in which this earth will be ultimately restored to its full purposes.