

#### 4 Hasn't science disproved God?

*Hasn't science disproved God?* That's a frequently asked question Christians come across. How do you answer it?

The word science is from the Latin *scientia*, meaning "knowledge". It's the effort to understand better how the physical world works and it works with observable evidence.

The word God is most often understood as meaning the invisible creator of the universe.

How can science prove or disprove someone or something that's outside the observable?

If you could observe God you'd be above his level and he'd no longer be God.

The idea of God is of someone over everything so no scientist could ever stand over him to prove or disprove his existence.

How do you tackle the question about science getting the upper hand over God?

You need to tackle what's called materialism. This is the view that the material world is all there is. There's no soul or God – and this conflicts with pretty well all religions.

To hold that what can be observed with your eyes or scientific instruments is all that matters is to rule out the spiritual side of things altogether.

A materialistic world view like this has moral consequences. When you set your heart on obtaining material goods you end up depriving other people of their basic needs.

A narrow scientific viewpoint like materialism is good for describing what's around us. It's not good at helping us use the things around us to the best advantage. Science tells us *how* the world works whilst the God thing is about how it *should* work!

*Hasn't science disproved God?* There are some aspects of science today that are less materialistic and more open to God and the spiritual realm.

The Big Bang scientific theory is the most famous example. It shows space and time had a beginning and fits in with there being someone who began everything.

Priest and physicist John Polkinghorne has written a book called *Quantum Physics and Theology – An Unexpected Kinship*. In it he comments on how the revelation of scientific truth depends on the imagination of scientists as well as the truth awaiting revelation. The study of God, he says, similarly

doesn't just depend on the seeker's imagination but also on historical facts, like those about Jesus.

Another argument to build bridges with is this. Science has its surprises just as God does!

The fact that light is seen as particles or waves in Quantum Theory isn't a million miles from Jesus being seen as God and man or God as three persons in one substance.

The fact that metals go superconductive at low temperatures and break the usual law of resistance is like Christ's resurrection breaking the law of mortality. These are surprising exceptions that prove the rules.

*Hasn't science disproved God?* Behind this question is the expectation that science is about facts and the things of God are wishful thinking.

There's a lot of wishful thinking in science though, and there are a lot of facts claimed about God - like his creation, and Jesus living, dying and rising.

An example of 'wishful thinking' in science is the present theory of the multiverse. This is the theory that the universe as we know it is set within a series of universes. Isn't *that* wishful thinking? You can't see the multiverse – it's an act of faith to believe in it!

By contrast the revelation of God in Judaism and Christianity has a factual basis. It's linked to historical events like the Old Testament Exodus and the resurrection of Jesus that can be investigated by people who want to weigh up their truth.

*Hasn't science disproved God?* Perhaps the main force of this question is to point to the alleged *benefits* of science compared to those of, say, Christianity.

In answering along those lines it's right to admit science has changed our lives. It's also to be admitted that scientific knowledge has brought harm. The discovery of atomic physics led to the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

It comes back to science's role at helping us with how we live our lives and Christianity's role in guiding us to the best way to live our lives. Both are important. However much scientific knowledge we gain, human beings will always need wisdom to live their lives.

God will always be important to *homo sapiens* which means 'man who is wise'. There's something about human beings that seeks a vision and God is the ultimate vision.

*Total 759 words - just over 4.5 minutes to read*

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