



SCIENCE AND RELIGION

TO EACH ITS
OWN

WHAT IS SCIENCE AND ITS CLAIMS

- ▶ The intellectual and practical activity encompassing the systematic study of the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment.
- ▶ Science seems to provide the only reliable path to knowledge
- ▶ Matter is the fundamental reality in the universe
- ▶ Only science can progressively disclose the nature of the real

WHAT IS RELIGION AND ITS CLAIMS

- ▶ The word religion is not in the Bible at all
- ▶ Christianity is not a religion
 - ▶ Religion is a natural phenomenon of people trying to make sense of the universe as they understand it and even as they understand what they understand scientifically in the places where they live.
- ▶ You know, this is a very important part of Christianity, you not only have **didaskalia** which is ‘teaching’ and **homologia** which is confessing the faith, and **martyria** which is witnessing or testifying to the faith, **diakonia** which is serving people in the light of our faith but we have **apologia** where you have to try to make a defence or give a good answer.
- ▶ Well, this happened in history and we cannot deny it. We Christians must not deny it.
 - ▶ Galileo
 - ▶ Crusades
- ▶ Religion is not perfect

CORE ISSUES

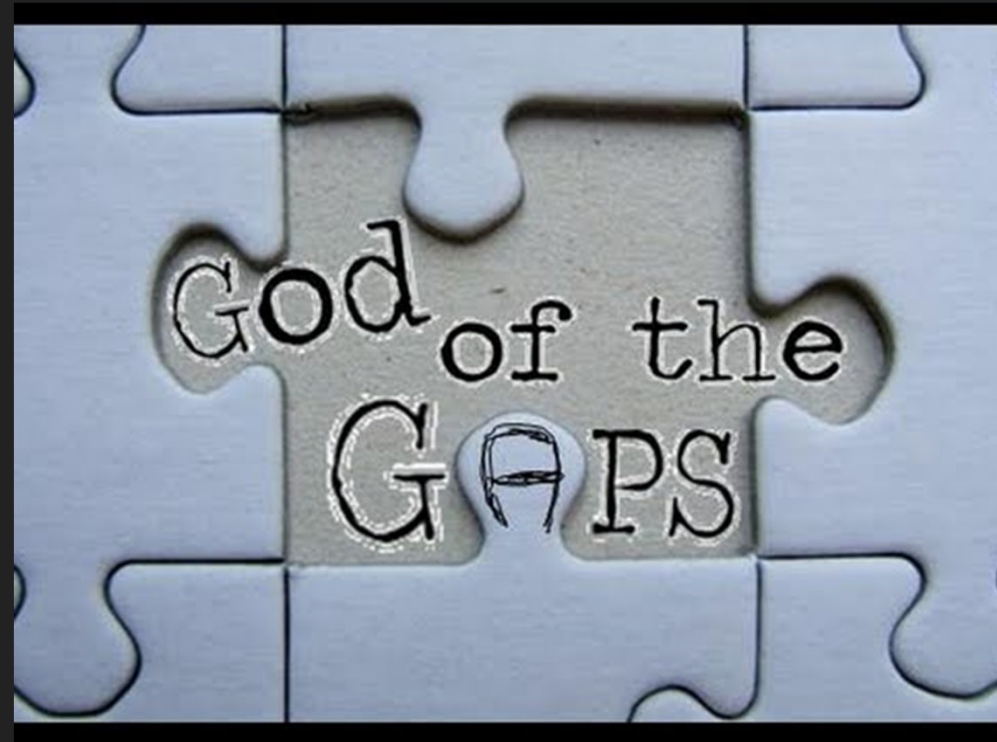
- ▶ Uncaused Cause
- ▶ God of the Gaps
- ▶ Order to Disorder
- ▶ Study of DNA
 - ▶ Mathematical improbability

UNCAUSED CAUSE - THOMAS AQUINAS

- ▶ Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274)
 - ▶ Since the Universe could, under different circumstances, conceivably not exist (contingency), its existence must have a cause – not merely another contingent thing, but something that exists by necessity (something that must exist in order for anything else to exist).[15] In other words, even if the Universe has always existed, it still owes its existence to an uncaused cause,[16] Aquinas further said: "... and this we understand to be God

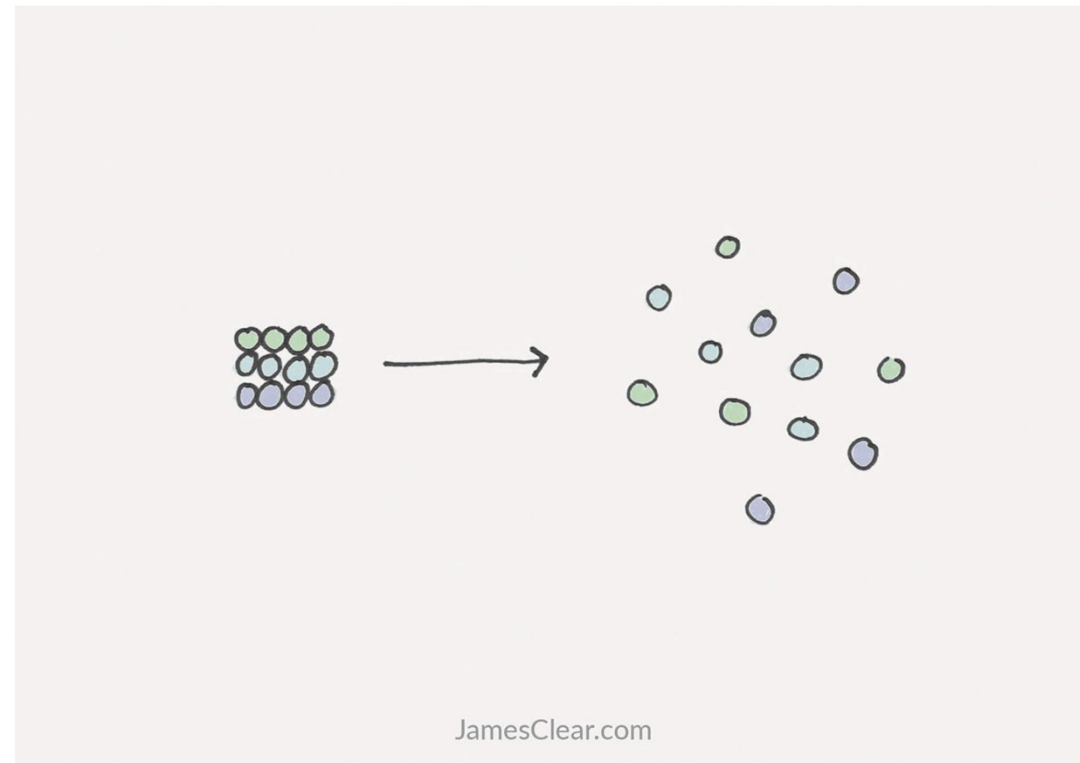
GOD OF THE GAPS - COMMON ANSWER TO SCIENCE

- ▶ Theological Perspective in which gaps in scientific knowledge are taken to be evidence or proof of God's existence
- ▶ What happens when what we say is God today science proves later on?
- ▶ Either God did the whole thing or he didn't.
- ▶ Either he was a part of the whole process or he was not.



ORDER TO DISORDER - LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS - ENTROPY

- ▶ A Law that states that as time progresses whatever is ordered it will become disordered
- ▶ A common argument against coming from single celled organisms



SCIENCE

STUDY OF DNA



ANTHONY FLEW'S CONVERSION

- ▶ Nature obeys Laws
 - ▶ What explains the fact that we can count on nature to be uniform in these and hundreds of other ways? Most of us simply take this for granted. Scientists apply and formulize the laws of nature, but the metaphysical “why” question is beyond the reach of their field.
- ▶ The fact that there is a Universe at all
 - ▶ The now well-established scientific fact that the universe had a beginning is a powerful pointer to divine creation. Astrophysicists tell us that about 15 billion years ago—give or take a few billion years—all of the matter of the universe was condensed into a single, infinitesimal point. Then ... BANG (or perhaps BOOM, no one is quite sure which), the matter exploded at roughly the speed of light, and the universe has been expanding ever since. This Big Bang theory essentially affirms the biblical idea that there was a beginning to space and time.
- ▶ The impossibility of life emerging spontaneously from non-living matter.

MATHEMATICAL IMPROBABILITY

- ▶ The expansion rate of the Big Bang had to be accurate to within one part in 10 with 55 zeroes. Any slower and the universe would have collapsed. Any faster and there would be no stars or planetary systems. In either case, life would not be possible.
- ▶ The force of gravity had to be accurate to within one part in 10 with 40 zeroes. Otherwise, stars could not form, and life would be impossible.
- ▶ The mass density of the universe had to be accurate to within one part in 10 with 60 zeroes. Otherwise, life-sustaining stars could not have formed
- ▶ In the early 1980s two scientists, Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe,⁸ calculated the odds of life emerging from non-living matter to be one in 10 with 40,000 zeroes. To put this enormous figure in perspective, consider that the number of atoms in the known universe is 10 with 80 zeroes—a paltry sum by comparison.
- ▶ Moreover, consider the fact that statisticians, as a general rule, consider any “possibility” less than one in 1050 to be impossible.



SCIENCE AS A FORM OF ATHEISM AND OUR MORALS

- ▶ Psalm 14:1
 - ▶ “the fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God’”
- ▶ The atheist’s problem is rebellion against the plain truth of God, as clearly revealed in nature. This rebellion is prompted by immorality, which diminishes understanding, and a genuine ignorance results. This is not a loss of intelligence so much as a selective intellectual obtuseness or imperviousness to truths related to God, ethics, and human nature. But the root of this obtuseness is moral in nature.

HOW TO OVERCOME

- ▶ Life of Holiness
 - ▶ Bible
 - ▶ Liturgy
 - ▶ The Fathers

END

QUESTIONS

