THE R.U.S.H. BIBLE STUDY

THE GREATEST MINDS IN THE WORLD AND WHAT THEY THINK ABOUT GOD

APOLOGETICS PROJECT

KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FAST

DREAM CITY CHURCH

DAVID HOBRATH

To the great minds in history, and the God that created them. DH

Here is a list of prominent historical scientists who were deeply devoted Christians and whose faith and scientific inquiries went hand-in-hand:

Nicolaus Copernicus (1473–1543): The mathematician and astronomer who formulated the heliocentric model, placing the Sun at the center of the solar system, was a canon in the Catholic Church. He viewed his astronomical model as a revelation of the magnificent architecture created by the "Best and Most Orderly Creator."

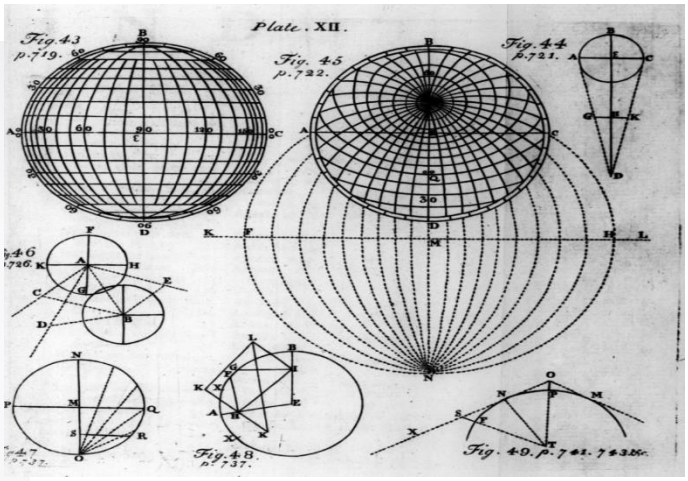
Johannes Kepler (1571–1630): The brilliant German astronomer who discovered the laws of planetary motion. Kepler was deeply pious, viewing his astronomical discoveries as "thinking God's thoughts after Him" and understanding geometry as a reflection of the divine mind.

Galileo Galilei (1564–1642): Often called the father of observational astronomy for his telescopic discoveries, Galileo remained a devout Catholic throughout his life. He famously argued that the laws of nature are written by God in the language of mathematics and that true science and scripture could never ultimately contradict one another.

An early Pascaline. An analogue calculator

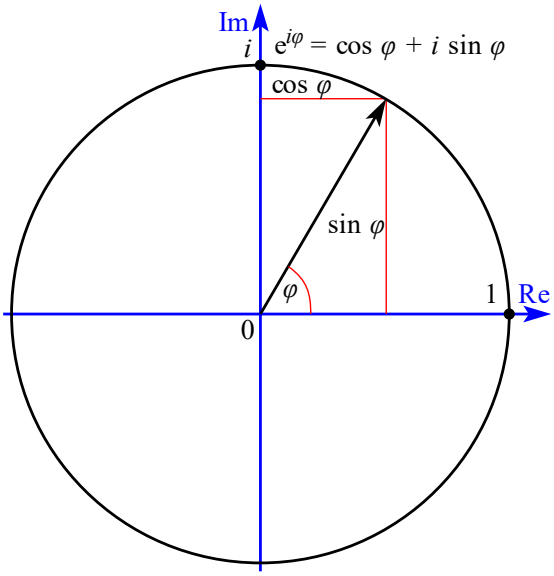
Blaise Pascal (1623–1662): A foundational figure in mathematics and physics, Pascal made major contributions to probability theory, projective geometry, and the study of atmospheric pressure (Pascal's law). Later in life, he dedicated himself intensely to Christian apologetics and philosophy, resulting in his famous work, Pensées.

Robert Boyle: 1627-1691 Often hailed as the father of modern chemistry and famous for Boyle's Law, he was deeply religious, wrote extensively on theology, and founded the Boyle Lectures to defend the Christian religion against unbelievers.

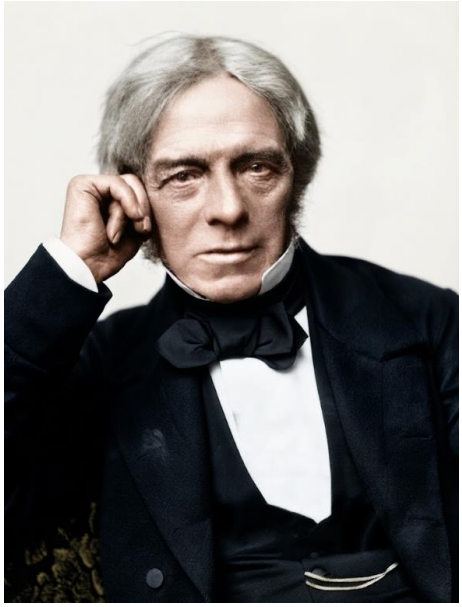


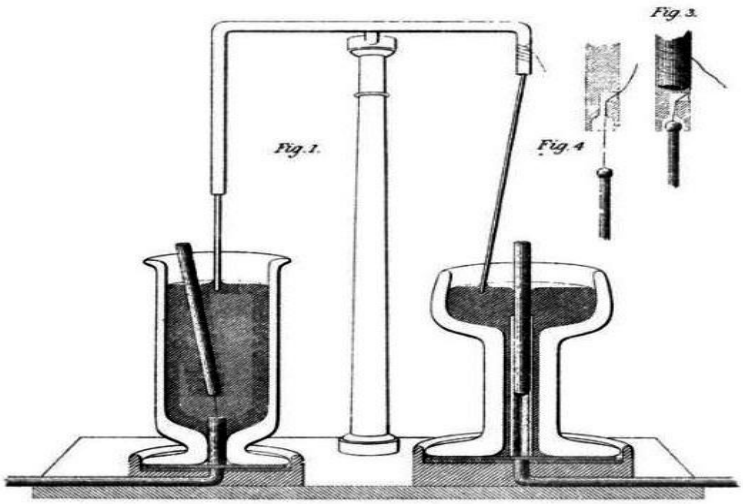
Sir Isaac Newton (1642–1727): Widely recognized as one of the most influential scientists of all time, Newton formulated the laws of motion and universal gravitation. Beyond physics and mathematics, he spent a significant portion of his life writing theological manuscripts, biblical chronologies, and commentaries, viewing his scientific work as a way to study God's orderly creation. Alongside his laws of motion and universal gravitation, Newton wrote extensively on biblical prophecy and theology. He maintained that the exquisite planetary system could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being.

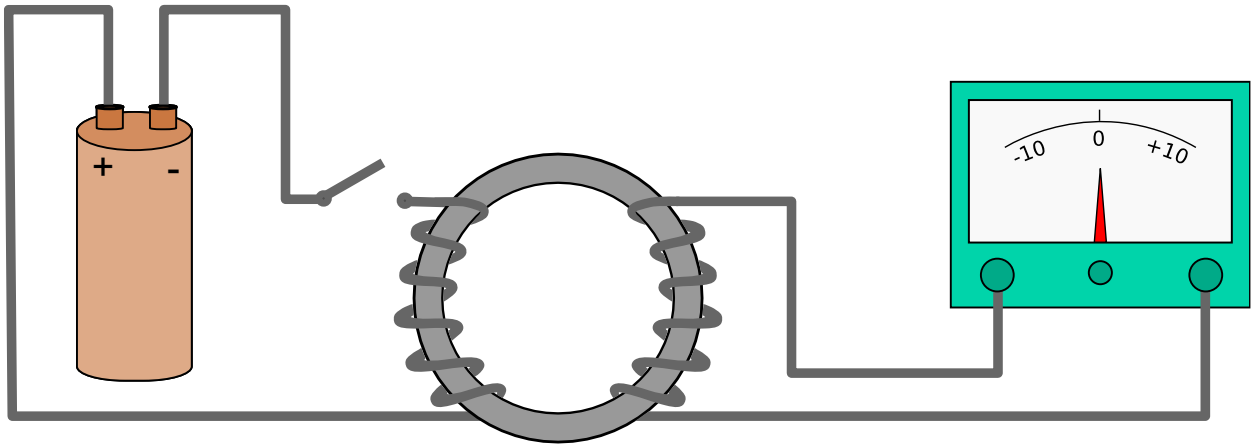
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750): Widely regarded as one of the greatest composers in Western classical music history. Bach was a devout Lutheran who inscribed Soli Deo gloria ("To God alone be the glory") on nearly all of his manuscripts, viewing his musical compositions as a direct form of divine service.



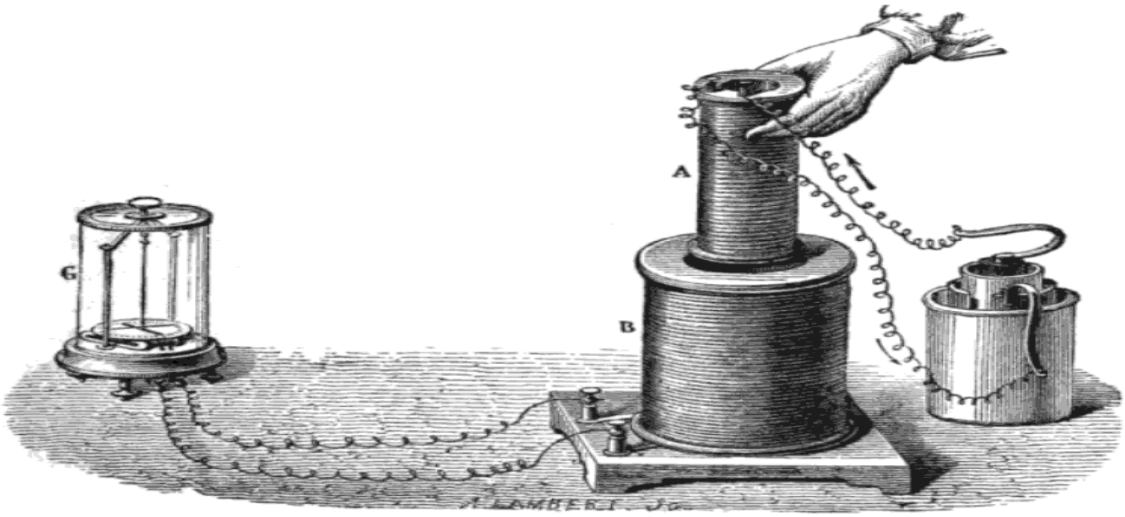
Leonhard Euler (1707–1783): One of the most prolific and brilliant mathematicians in history, whose notation and formulas form the bedrock of modern mathematics. Raised by a Calvinist pastor father, Euler openly defended his Christian faith against skepticism and wrote popular defenses of divine revelation.

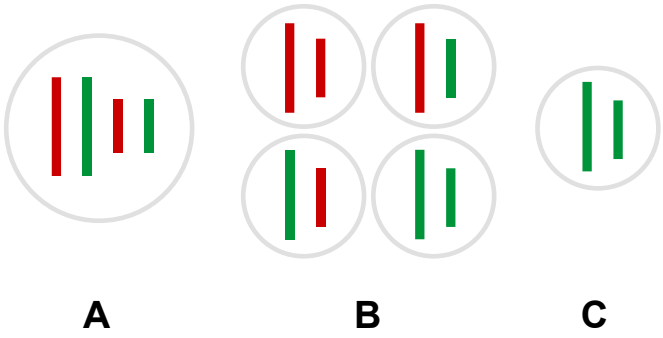




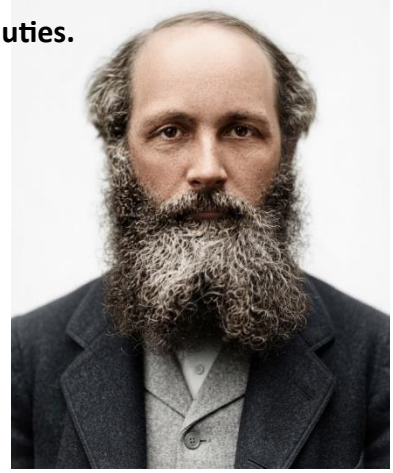


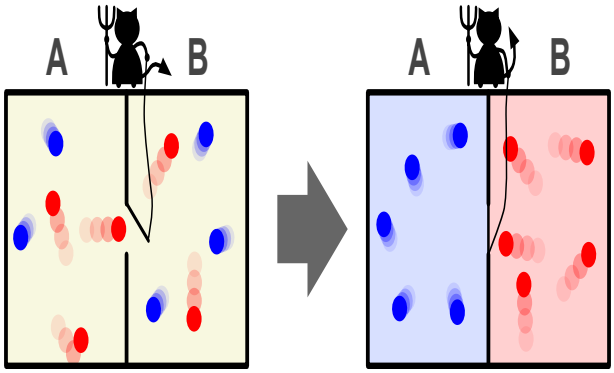
Michael Faraday (1791–1867): A pioneer in electricity and magnetism, Faraday invented the early electromagnetic rotary device that paved the way for electric motor technology. He was a devout member of a small Christian sect called the Sandemans, and his faith deeply influenced his humble lifestyle and his view of nature as a unified expression of God's power.





Gregor Mendel (1822–1884): An Augustinian friar and abbot, Mendel discovered the fundamental principles of genetics through his meticulous breeding experiments with pea plants. He viewed his scientific research as entirely compatible with his monastic life and religious duties.



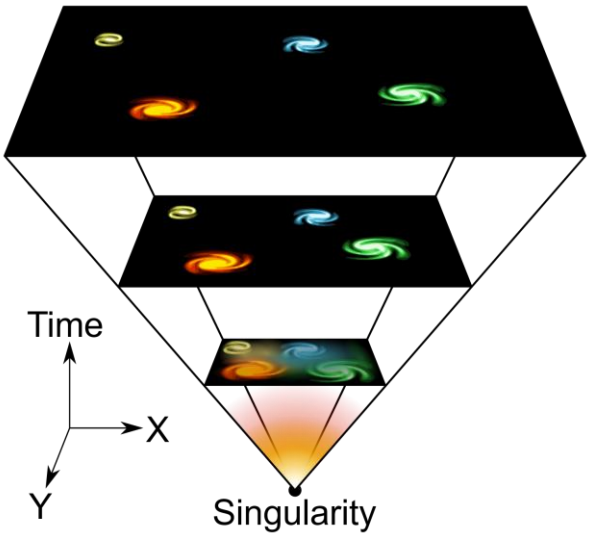


James Clerk Maxwell (1831–1879): Known for formulating classical electromagnetic theory (Maxwell's equations), which unified electricity, magnetism, and light into a single framework. Maxwell was an evangelical Christian who held a deep, orthodox faith and served as an elder in the Presbyterian Church.

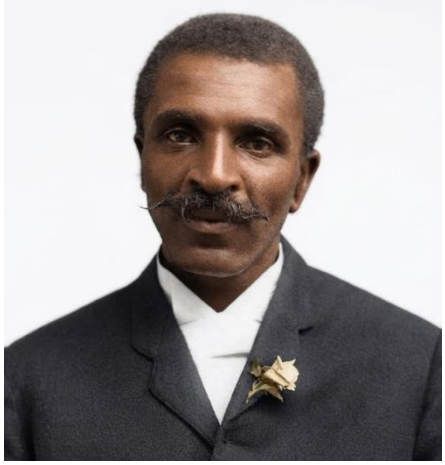
On his return to Cambridge, Maxwell writes to his recent host a chatty and affectionate letter including the following testimony,

"... I have the capacity of being more wicked than any example that man could set me, and ... if I escape, it is only by God's grace helping me to get rid of myself, partially in science, more completely in society, —but not perfectly except by committing myself to God ..."

Lord Kelvin (William Thomson) (1824–1907): A leading mathematical physicist and engineer who played a major role in the development of the second law of thermodynamics and absolute temperature scales. Kelvin was outspoken about his Christian faith, arguing that science pointed powerfully toward the existence of a creative designer.

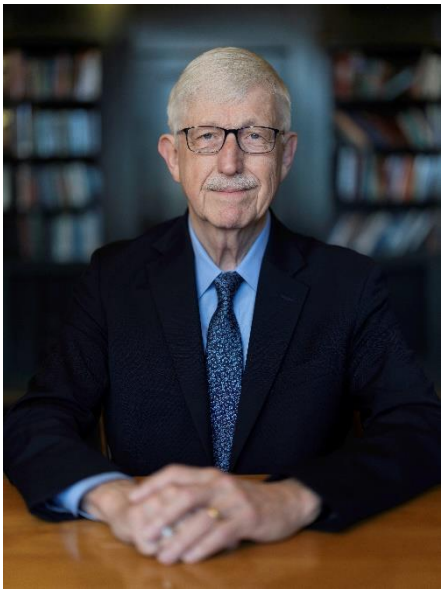


Georges Lemaître (1894–1966): A Belgian Catholic priest, astronomer, and professor of physics, Lemaître was the first to propose the theory of the expanding universe and the "Primeval Atom" hypothesis (known today as the Big Bang theory). He saw no conflict between his scientific cosmology and his faith, maintaining that the universe began as a planned divine initiation.



George Washington Carver (1864–1943): The prominent American agricultural scientist and inventor who discovered hundreds of uses for peanuts and sweet potatoes. Carver was a devout Christian and Sunday school teacher who frequently credited his faith and personal relationship with God as the ultimate source of his scientific inspiration.

Rev. Dr. John Polkinghorne (1930–2021): Before becoming an ordained Anglican priest, Polkinghorne was a prominent mathematical physicist and professor at Cambridge University who worked closely with quantum mechanics and particle physics. He wrote extensively on the deep compatibility between Christian theology and modern science, arguing that the rational intelligibility of the universe points directly to a divine mind.

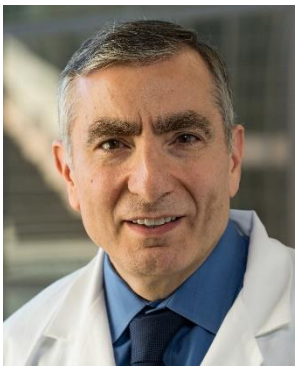


Dr. Francis Collins: 1950- present day One of the world's leading geneticists, Collins served as the director of the Human Genome Project and later as the director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He is profoundly outspoken about his personal conversion from atheism to Christianity, detailing his journey in his bestselling book The Language of God. He also founded the BioLogos Foundation to foster dialogue between science and Christian faith.

Dr. Alister McGrath: 1953-present day A molecular biophysicist and theologian who holds multiple doctorates from Oxford University. Initially an atheist who worked in molecular biology, McGrath converted to Christianity and became one of the world's most notable Christian apologists and scholars, vigorously defending the harmony of faith and science against New Atheism.

Dr. William D. Phillips: 1948-present day A Nobel Prize-winning physicist (awarded for his contributions to laser cooling of atoms) who is an active, vocal evangelical Christian and a member of the Maryland Community Church. He frequently lectures on how his scientific research does not conflict with his Christian faith, stating that science actually reveals an intricate order designed by God.

Dr. John Lennox: 1943-present day. A globally recognized mathematician, philosopher of science, and Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at Oxford University. While technically retired from active laboratory science, he remains one of the most prolific and outspoken contemporary defenders of the Christian faith, engaging in high-profile public debates with prominent secular scientists and atheists. "*This man has both one of the finest minds on the planet today, and an even finer heart and testimonies." DH*



Dr. James M. Tour is a prominent synthetic organic chemist, nanotechnologist, and professor at Rice University in Houston, Texas

Academic and Scientific Career

Title: He is the T. T. and W. F. Chao Professor of Chemistry, Professor of Computer Science, and Professor of Materials Science and NanoEngineering at Rice University.

Research Focus: His work spans nanoelectronics, graphene electronics (including "flash graphene" to convert waste into valuable carbon), carbon nanovectors for medicine, and water purification.

Output: He has authored over 850 research publications, holds more than 150 granted patents, and has an exceptionally high h-index reflecting extensive scientific citations.

Critiques of Origin-of-Life Theories

Abiogenesis Skepticism: Dr. Tour is widely known for publicly challenging current scientific models regarding the chemical origin of life (abiogenesis).

Chemical Hurdles: He argues that random chemical reactions cannot overcome foundational obstacles like synthesizing pure building blocks (carbohydrates, amino acids, nucleotides, lipids), achieving homochirality (left- or right-handed molecular uniformity), and driving non-spontaneous polymerizations without biological enzymes.

Scientific Debate: While he maintains his critiques are strictly rooted in organic chemistry, opinions on his arguments are mixed; critics often defend experimental methodology and accuse him of misrepresenting the field or promoting intelligent design, whereas supporters point to unresolved gaps in prebiotic chemistry.

Faith and Public Outreach

Personal Background: Raised in a secular Jewish home, he converted to Christianity at age 18 during college.

Integration of Faith and Science: He frequently speaks on how his Christian faith and daily study of Scripture coexist with his academic career, asserting that empirical science does not contradict true biblical texts.

Several prominent physicians, surgeons, and medical researchers throughout history and into modern times have been profoundly outspoken about their Christian faith, viewing their medical vocations as a direct extension of serving Christ:

Dr. Joseph Murray (1919–2012): A devout Catholic surgeon who performed the world's first successful human kidney transplant in 1954, an achievement that earned him the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Throughout his life and career, he spoke openly about how his medical ethics and deep commitment to preserving human life were anchored in his Christian worldview.

Dr. Ben Carson: 1951- present day. A renowned retired pediatric neurosurgeon famous for successfully separating conjoined twins joined at the head and directing pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Carson has been deeply outspoken throughout his career and public life about his Seventh-day Adventist Christian faith, frequently crediting God with guiding his hands during complex surgical operations.

Dr. Paul Brand (1914–2003): A pioneering orthopedic and hand surgeon who revolutionized the treatment and rehabilitation of people suffering from leprosy (Hansen's disease) in India and the United States. Driven by his deep Christian faith and upbringing as the son of missionary parents, he viewed the intricate design of the human body—particularly the gift of physical pain—as a testament to God's careful creation.

Dr. Francis Collins: 1950-present day. While globally recognized for leading the Human Genome Project, Collins is a physician-geneticist who has written extensively about his Christian conversion from atheism. In his book The Language of God, he details how practicing medicine and uncovering the digital code of human DNA deepened his awe for God as the Creator.

C. Everett Koop (1916–2013): A legendary pediatric surgeon who served as the Surgeon General of the United States. Koop was an outspoken evangelical Christian whose medical career and public health advocacy were explicitly motivated by his biblical convictions regarding the sanctity of human life.

Here are 20 quotes from historically respected scientists and thinkers regarding the existence of God, faith, and the relationship between science and the God of Scripture:

1. **Albert Einstein:**

   "The scientist is possessed by the sense of universal causation. His religious feeling takes the form of a rapturous amazement at the harmony of natural law, which reveals an intelligence of such superiority that, compared with it, all the systematic thinking and acting of human beings is an utterly insignificant reflection."

2. **Isaac Newton:**

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

3. **Max Planck:**

   "Both religion and science require a belief in God. For believers, God is in the beginning, and for physicists, He is at the end of all considerations... To the former, He is the foundation, to the latter, the crown of the edifice of every generalized world view."

4. **Galileo Galilei:**

   "I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with senses, reason, and intellect has intended us to forego their use and by some other means to give us knowledge which we can attain by them."

5. **Charles Darwin:**

   "It is impossible to consciously think that this grand and wonderful universe, with our conscious selves, arose through chance; whether we look as an equivalent to a blind necessity in physical causation or to the purposeless action of natural selection, this seems to me the most adequate explanation." (Note: Darwin often expressed a complex view, navigating between theism and agnosticism later in life, but frequently acknowledged the grand design of the universe.)

6. **Johannes Kepler:**

   "Those lazy philosophers who do not trace the supreme cause of the world from the things which are in the world are greatly mistaken... Geometry existed before the creation, is co-eternal with the mind of God, is God Himself."

7. **Louis Pasteur:**

   "A little science takes you away from God, but more of it takes you back to Him."

8. **Werner Heisenberg:**

"The first gulp from the glass of natural sciences will make you an atheist, but at the bottom of the glass God is waiting for you."

9. **Gregor Mendel:**

(The pioneering geneticist and friar) "My scientific studies have made me more and more convinced of the truth of the teachings of my religion, because they reveal a wonderful order and purpose in nature."

10. **Michael Faraday:**

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

11. **René Descartes:**

"The whole universe is a machine operating according to fixed physical laws, but its original design and initial impulse must be attributed to a divine creator."

12. **Robert Boyle:**

"From the terrible height and depth of the heavens, and the vastness of the universe, we learn to admire the greatness and majesty of the Creator."

13. **Arthur Compton:**

(Nobel Laureate in Physics) "An evolving universe unfathomably complex and orderly points to a grand architect who set the entire process in motion

with a deliberate purpose."

14. **Guglielmo Marconi:**

"I proudly believe in God... I believe not only in the mysticism of religion, but also in the science of nature."

15. **Francis Bacon:**

"God never performed a miracle to convince atheism, because His ordinary works convince it."

16. **Blaise Pascal:**

"There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus."

17. **Erwin Schrödinger:**

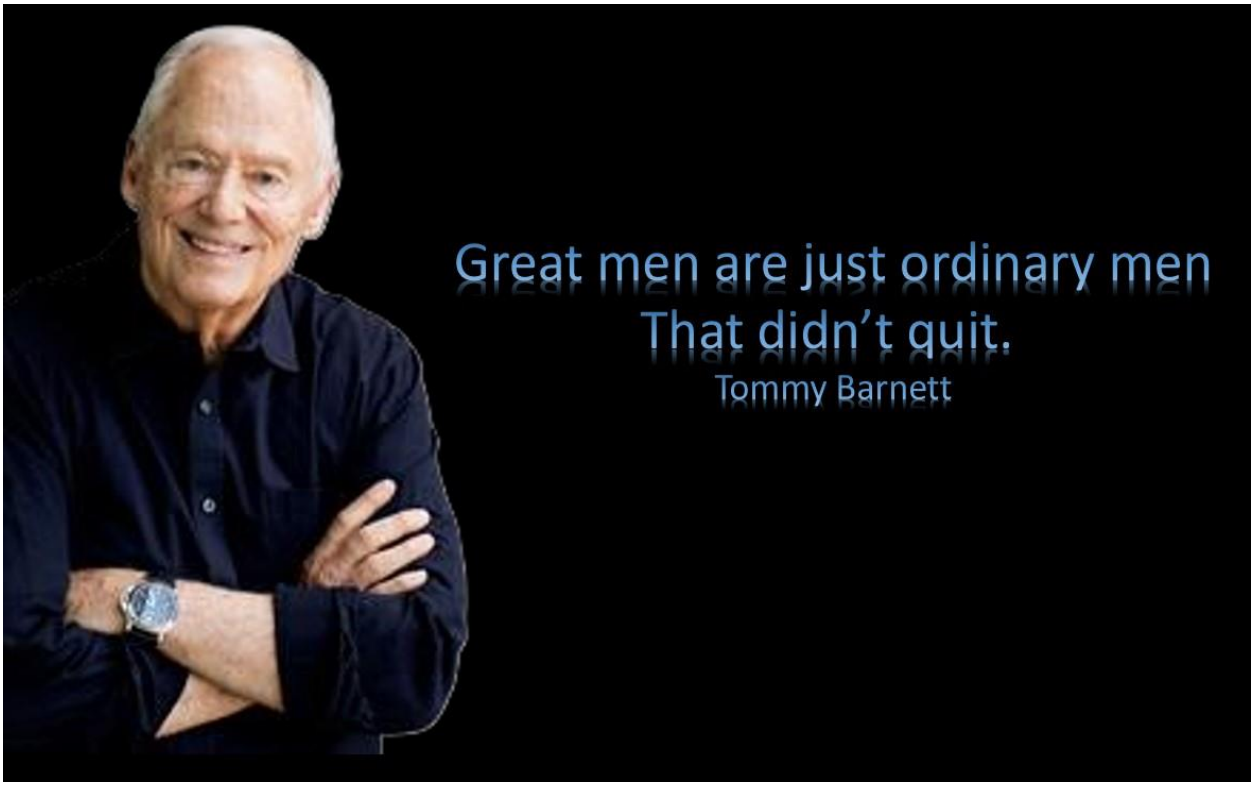
"The scientific world-view is very deficient. It can give us a lot of factual information, but it is ghastly silent about all and sundry that is really near to our heart, that really matters to us. It knows nothing of beautiful and ugly, good and bad, God and eternity."

18. **Lord Kelvin:**

(William Thomson) "Overpowering strong proofs of intelligent and benevolent design lie all around us... if you think strongly enough, you will be forced by science to the belief in God, which is the foundation of all religion."

19. **Carl Linnaeus:**

"The Earth's creation is the work of an infinite, omnipotent God, whose wisdom is displayed in the structural harmony and interconnectedness of every living species."

20. **Antony Flew:**

(Renowned philosopher of science) "Science proper cannot provide an answer to the ultimate question of why there is something rather than nothing, but the integrated complexity of the physical world points decisively toward an ultimate intelligence."