

## Modern Science and the Scientists who Rooted their Science in a Christian Worldview

Partly adapted from Henry M. Morris, *Men of Science, Men of God*.

Most of the men featured here were professing Christians (in the broad sense of that term) that included Roman Catholics and Protestants. Although Protestants and Catholics disagree on matters of salvation, both still come from the same broad Christian worldview in which they share beliefs in the transcendent personal Triune God; a clear distinction between the Creator and the creation; creation *ex nihilo* (i.e., “out of nothing”); God’s ongoing natural and supernatural providence; and God as the source of objective truth, beauty, and morals. Others could be classified as theists (believers in the Judeo-Christian God but who did not necessarily identify as Christians). Nonetheless, they held that the study of science is a study of the works of God in creation. Nor would all the scientists here be considered creationists in the strict sense (holding to six-day creation and a young earth), but they would all reject naturalism, materialism, rationalism, and empiricism and saw the truths discovered in the natural world as coming from God as both the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. In other words, they were strongly influenced by a Christian worldview and the God of the Bible.

- Leonardo Da Vinci (1452-1519) – Often regarded as the father of modern science due to his extensive explorations and studies of physics, anatomy, dynamics, optics, hydraulics, and aeronautics. Mainly known as one of the greatest of the Renaissance artists who painted the famous *Last Supper* scene in a church in Milan, Italy.
- Nicolas Copernicus (1473-1543) – Astronomer who developed the heliocentric model of the solar system.
- Francis Bacon (1561-1626) – Established the scientific method that stressed experimentation and the principle of induction. He wrote: “There are two books laid before us to study, to prevent our falling into error; first, the volume of the Scriptures, which reveal the will of God; then the volume of the Creatures, which express His power.”
- Galileo Galilei (1564-1642) – Promoted the heliocentric cosmology of Copernicus but was censured by the Roman Catholic Church for doing so. Calvin and other Protestant Reformers looked on his views favorably. The Catholic Church later regretted its treatment of Galileo.
- Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) – Founder of the study of physical anatomy and furthered the study of celestial mechanics (i.e., planetary motion). He believed in “thinking God’s thoughts after him” (i.e. we are to reflect the truth God has revealed in Natural Revelation (Creation) and Special Revelation (the Bible)). He wrote, “Great is God our Lord, great is His power and there is no end to His wisdom.” He also wrote, “The chief aim of all investigations of the external world should be to discover the rational order which has been imposed on it by God, and which he revealed to us in the language of mathematics.”
- Blaise Pascal (1623-62) – Mathematician, philosopher, theologian, and father of hydrostatics and hydrodynamics. Developed differential calculus and the theory of probability. He was a Calvinist.
- Robert Boyle (1627-91) – One of the founders of the Royal Society of London, father of modern chemistry, discovered basic laws related to gas pressure, temperature and volume.
- Isaac Newton (1642-1727) – Father of modern physics. He discovered the universal law of gravitation, and developed calculus as a comprehensive branch of mathematics. He constructed the first reflecting telescope and developed the particle theory of light. He held to six-day creation and Ussher’s chronology of the world that Ussher dated as beginning in

4004 BC. He wrote, “We account the Scriptures of God to be the most sublime philosophy, I find more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history whatsoever.”

- Gottfried Wilhelm Leibnitz (1646-1716) – Prolific philosopher and considered one of the greatest mathematicians in history. Worked with Isaac Newton to develop calculus. He contributed to the later development of the Boolean system of logic. He also developed one of the most sophisticated approaches to “theodicy” (justifying the existence of God in the face of evil) with his *Best of All Possible Worlds* view.
- Michael Faraday (1791-1867) – Considered one of the greatest physicists in history. He further developed sound principles of scientific experimentation, especially in the area of electricity and magnetism. He discovered electromagnetic induction and the developed the magnetic lines of force. He was regarded as a humble follower of Christ and dedicated to his church.
- Samuel F. B. Morse (1791-1872) – Inventor of the telegraph. The first message he sent over the wire was, “What hath God wrought!” Morse wrote: “The nearer I approach to the end of my pilgrimage, the clearer is the evidence of the divine origin of the Bible, the grandeur and sublimity of God’s remedy for fallen man are more appreciated, and the future is illuminated with hope and joy.”
- Gregor Johann Mendel (1822-84) – Father of modern genetics.
- Louis Pasteur (1822-95) – A chemist and microbiologist who developed modern vaccines, the process of pasteurization, a microbial fermentation.
- Lord (William Thomas) Kelvin (1824-1907) – Known for his study of mathematics, physics, and electricity. He developed the second law of thermodynamics. Absolute temperatures stated in units of kelvin are named in his honor.
- James Clerk Maxwell (1831-79) – A mathematician who developed the theory of electromagnetic radiation. He is regarded as the founder of the discipline of electrical engineering and modern physics. Einstein believed Maxwell was responsible for advancing the scientific world that catapulted it into the remarkable discoveries of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. His discoveries led to Einstein’s theory of relativity and the development of quantum physics. Maxwell had practically memorized the book of Psalms of which he could supply chapter and verse of any quote. Before he died, a visiting minister said of him, “His illness drew out the whole heart and soul and spirit of the man: his firm and undoubting faith in the Incarnation and all its results; in the full sufficiency of the Atonement; in the work of the Holy Spirit. He had gauged and fathomed all the schemes and systems of philosophy, and had found them utterly empty and unsatisfying—‘unworkable’ was his own word about them—and he turned with simple faith to the Gospel of the Saviour.”