



How I Changed My Mind About Evolution: Evangelicals Reflect on Faith and Science (BioLogos Books on Science and Christianity)

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Perhaps no topic appears as potentially threatening to evangelicals as evolution. The very idea seems to exclude God from the creation the book of Genesis celebrates. Yet many evangelicals have come to accept the conclusions of science while still holding to a vigorous belief in God and the Bible. How did they make this journey? How did they come to embrace both evolution and faith? Here are stories from a community of people who love Jesus and honor the authority of the Bible, but who also agree with what science says about the cosmos, our planet and the life that so abundantly fills it. Among the contributors are Scientists such as

- Francis Collins
- Deborah Haarsma
- Denis Lamoureux

Pastors such as

- John Ortberg
- Ken Fong
- Laura Truax

Biblical scholars such as

- N. T. Wright
- Scot McKnight
- Tremper Longman III

Theologians and philosophers such as

- James K. A. Smith
- Amos Yong
- Oliver Crisp

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How I Changed My Mind About Evolution: Evangelicals Reflect on Faith and Science (BioLogos Books on Science and Christianity) From imusti Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #96682 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 2016-06-11
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .53" w x 5.50" l, .0 pounds

- Binding: Paperback
- 200 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"This collection of firsthand experiences is important for showing that firm belief in the truth-telling character of Scripture can support, rather than undermine, the best scientific investigations. It also provides more solid evidence for the good that BioLogos is doing to transform science and religion from a war zone to an instructive conversation." (Mark Noll, Francis A. McAnaney Professor of History, University of Notre Dame)

"This book captures the convictions and stories of an array of Christians whose scholarship, reflection, faith and community have brought them to affirm God's use of evolution in the processes of creation. Consider their stories. Ponder their convictions. May your journey too be one that fully opens to worshipful wonder and scientific discovery." (Mark Labberton, president, professor of preaching, Fuller Theological Seminary, author of *Called*)

"While very few people seem to care about science as a philosophical construct, many people care about how scientific findings impact their understanding of life, love, meaning and faith. No scientific concept draws us into these contemplations more than evolution, which leads us to ask big questions about our nature and God's. This book should be embraced as a treasure. In it you will find unique minds wrestling with how we got here and what our evolutionary history has to do with God, the Bible and the depth of our lived experience. I promise this book will challenge you on nearly every page as you discover new insight after new insight." (Andrew Root, Olson Baalson Associate Professor of Youth and Family Ministry, Luther Seminary, principal leader, Science for Youth Ministry)

"Atheists often cite religious opposition to evolution as a reason for their unbelief. This wonderful collection of essays by Bible-believing Christians demonstrates how unnecessary it is to oppose evolution in the name of faith. What is striking about the authors in this volume is the sheer range and diversity of their own spiritual journeys in coming to terms with science. It is my prayer that evolution might cease to be seen as a threat to faith on the part of some Christians rather than as an integral aspect of God's created order for which the Christian can rightly give praise." (Denis R. Alexander, emeritus director, The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion)

"If we want to converse with someone, we must first be willing to listen, to understand. And these stories are easy to listen to?so well written, so personally engaging, so reflective of committed faith. You will find yourself liking the contributors as you get a glimpse into their thought processes. As someone who studies and ministers in the area of faith and science, I commend the authors and editors for this nicely done book." (C. John "Jack" Collins, professor of Old Testament, Covenant Theological Seminary)

"The conflict between Christian faith and science is long-standing and significant, and no issue has been more central to this perceived tension than evolution. In this welcome collection of essays, leading Christian thinkers explain their reasons for affirming evolution while remaining committed to their faith. It is to be hoped that this volume will find a wide readership, especially among those who struggle to relate their faith to the consensual canons of science." (John R. Franke, theologian in residence, Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, IN)

"Debates about the origins of the universe and human life have raged within religious communities for more

than a century, and today they are fiercer than ever. Many Christians have given the impression that religion and science are at irreconcilable odds, leaving people of faith who find science credible without a way forward. *How I Changed My Mind About Evolution* seeks to dissolve this false dichotomy. It holds the Bible in high regard without discrediting science's conclusions. If you are looking for a resource that is both biblically sound and scientifically serious, this is a great place to start. The ideas are convincing, the writing is appropriately accessible and the concepts are bursting with hope." (Jonathan Merritt, religion writer for The Atlantic, author of *Jesus is Better Than You Imagined*)

About the Author

Kathryn Applegate (PhD, The Scripps Research Institute) is program director at BioLogos, where she designs and coordinates programs aimed at translating scholarship on origins for the evangelical church. She earned bachelors degrees in biophysics and mathematics at Centenary College of Louisiana and a PhD in computational cell biology from The Scripps Research Institute (La Jolla). At Scripps she developed computer vision algorithms and mathematical models of the cell's internal scaffold, the cytoskeleton. Kathryn enjoys an active involvement in both the science and faith community and in her church. She and her husband Brent have two young children and love exploring the state parks of Michigan together.

J. B. (Jim) Stump (PhD, Boston University) is senior editor at BioLogos, where he oversees the development of new content and curates existing content for the BioLogos website and print materials. He has also been a philosophy professor and academic administrator, and he frequently speaks to churches and other groups on the intersection of science and Christianity. He is the author of *Science and Christianity: An Introduction to the Issues*, coauthor of *Christian Thought: A Historical Introduction* and coeditor of *How I Changed My Mind About Evolution* and *The Blackwell Companion to Science and Christianity*.

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