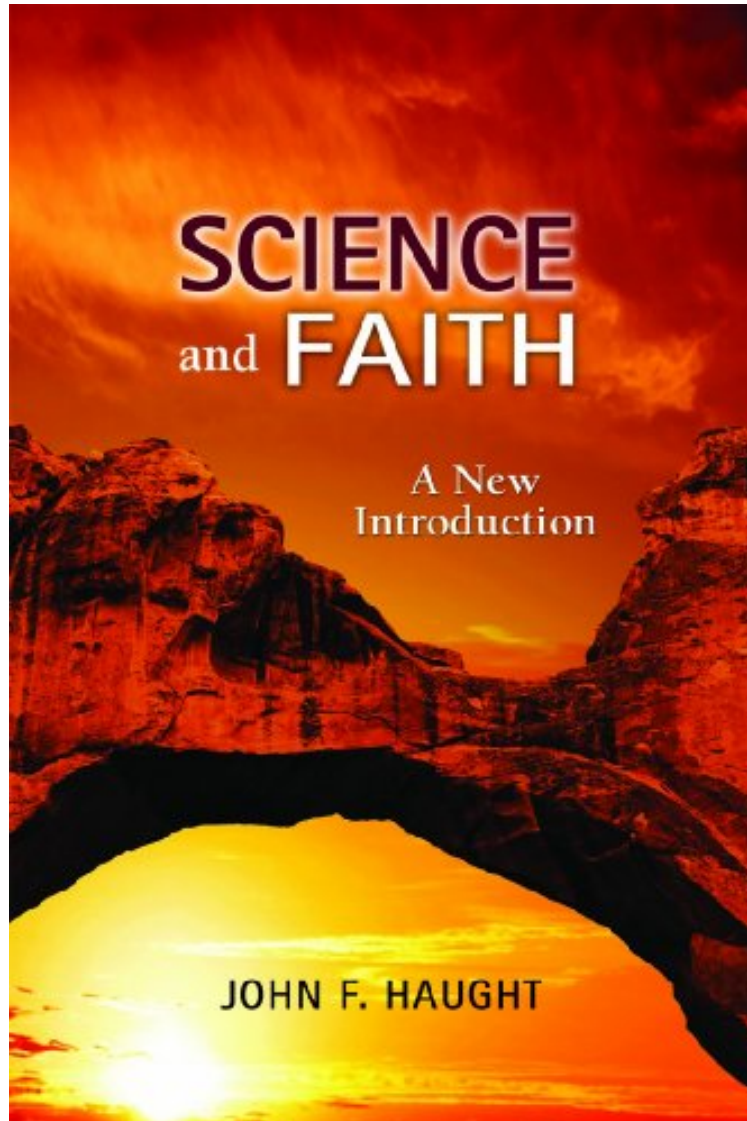


(Mobile ebook) Science and Faith: A New Introduction

Science and Faith: A New Introduction

John Haught

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John Haught : Science and Faith: A New Introduction before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Science and Faith: A New Introduction:

18 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Useful for my World Religions classroomBy Martin E. SchmidtMy students' biggest questions in religion class usually revolve around the relationship of science and religion. However, it's difficult for me as a non-scientist to feel confident that I am providing responsible perspectives on this vital and oftentimes contentious topic. Recently, I came across the writings of John Haught, a professor of theology at

Georgetown, and found him to be highly credible, intelligent, balanced, and well-informed about science as well as his primary area of theology. In his latest book, he takes his decades-long study and summarizes the debate between science and faith in responses to twelve questions, such as, do miracles really happen, is there life after death, etc? Responses to each question are written in the voices of three perspectives: conflict (scientists who oppose faith perspectives), contrast (usually people of faith who see science and religion as separate spheres of inquiry), and convergence (Haught's own perspective that opens a dialogue between science and faith). Convergence emphasizes that the universe's 14 billion-year history should be conceived as a drama rather than a static design in which human intelligence plays a special role in this unfolding story. As a religion teacher, this book provides me with confidence that I can approach students' big questions with an orientation that responsibly frames these issues, and with hope that there are thoughtful perspectives available which are working towards fruitful dialogue between the oft-polarized camps of science and religion.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. An attempt to find faith and meaning that is consistent with science

By Panoptes I would recommend this book for anyone who is searching for a perspective that is consistent with our current scientific understanding of life and the cosmos yet seeks to interpret that foundational knowledge into a system of meaning. Even those with a more polarized mindset will benefit for reflecting on the author's portrayal of their own perspective and it's possible reconciliation with an opposing view. The religious fundamentalist and the scientific materialist will both be challenged, although this book is not meant to be a thorough refutation of those positions. The book is unusual in two ways. Firstly, each chapter is dedicated to a distinct "big question" and is fairly self-contained. That said, later chapters do make reference to some ideas first encountered in earlier ones. Secondly, each chapter presents an answer to the chapter's question from each of the three positions I will describe below: conflict, contrast and convergence. Written in the first person, the feel is conversational, making the reading much smoother. The overall theme of the author seems to follow a classic Hegelian construct of thesis-antithesis-synthesis. The thesis and antithesis positions are that science and faith are either in conflict/contradiction with each other, or that they are separate and contrasted from each other. The synthesis position of the author, "convergence", brings science and faith into alignment as distinct layers of explanation of common 'big questions'. Make no mistakes, this is a philosophical/theological work, although the author ensures the technical argumentation is kept only to a necessary minimum and is thus very readable by those not versed or particularly drawn to philosophical thought, including this reviewer. It is, essentially, a work of theology, so the reader should be aware that the language of the book is rich in concepts of hope, value, covenant, love and, of course, faith. But these terms are attempted to be applied in a meaningful way to an unfolding story of the Universe. The reader should also know that this book is not a deep review or explanation of modern science. That said, it is important to know that the author, in the introduction, establishes the framework by which the convergence "synthesis" position is supported. Essentially, current cosmology and biology describe a Universe that is dominated, as the author describes, by structure, chance and time. Lots of time. The history of the Universe and the emergence of greater levels of complexity is the common theme of Big History, or as the author calls it, the new cosmic story. The crux of his 'convergence' position is that the evolving Universe can be interpreted as an unfolding story, one not yet complete but in the process of becoming. Likewise, from the other side, Faith, can also be reinterpreted away from literalist traditions in light of the new cosmic story and give the Universe a sense of meaning and coherence that is beyond the scope of the descriptive approach of science. Both science and faith, then, mutually support each other in our quest to read the story of the Universe. Those familiar with Teilhard de Chardin will see his influence on the author. Overall, this book expanded my mind to new possibilities to consider although I think the author still needs to develop some ideas more thoroughly (like the convergence view of resurrection) and how Eastern religions correspond to this new interpretation. Still, I give this book 5 stars without reservation because the author delivers what he set out to do, the framework of a conversation that is respectful of all sides that is intellectually honest and stimulating, and is approachable by the target audience.¹ of 1 people found the following review helpful. Conflict, Contrast, or Convergence

By Paul R. Bruggink The book is structured around three ways of relating science and religion: conflict, contrast, and convergence. The book is a comparison of the conflict, contrast, and convergence views on twelve different topics. The presentation of each view on each topic is written as if by a proponent of that view on that topic, presenting the view and defending it against the other views. In his book, the conflict view refers only to the views of scientific skeptics of religion, and the contrast position primarily discusses the science side. The convergence option frequently focuses on the theme of an awakening, unfinished, ongoing cosmic drama of a universe still in the making and what that means to individual lives. He gives due credit to Pierre Teilhard de Chardin for inspiration regarding this concept. On miracles (Chapter 4), Haught's description of the contrast position would be unacceptable to evangelical Christians (e.g., Christ's resurrection wasn't literal). The description of the convergence position on miracles was also rather weak. Although Haught does conflict and convergence very well, I'm not convinced that he gets contrast right, even from the scientific side, let alone the faith side. The structure of the book lends itself to some repetition, but overall, it is a helpful introduction to and/or review of the issues around science and faith.

Lays out three distinct ways of responding to the main theological concerns and religious difficulties raised by the

natural sciences today: conflict, contrast, and convergence.

John Haught has managed to create an imaginary, provocative dialogue where several spokespersons argue either for or against different positions about science and faith whether there exists conflict, contrast or convergence between them. His book represents a masterly summary of sophisticated debates in very accessible form. It opens one's eyes to the complex depths of reality and convincingly proves that there is still plenty of room for theology in an age of science. But it also shows that now, when we are faced with an immense evolutionary journey that is still going on and full of promise, theology requires fresh expression in the light of transformative scientific knowledge. Readers are invited to become participants in the ongoing dialogue and will enjoy the lively debates and critical reflections offered here. Full of strong arguments, helpful explanations and wise guidance, this inspiring book will be of enormous benefit to college students and anyone trying to work out their own answers to deeply troubling questions about science and faith in a fast changing world. --Ursula King, Institute for Advanced Studies University of Bristol, England

During the last couple of centuries...we entered an explosion of knowledge unprecedented in two hundred thousand years of human existence, giving rise to questions regarding its larger significance, especially with respect to more traditional understanding, such as theology. This questioning will occupy all of the twenty-first century, and will include any number of mistaken hypotheses and disappointing dead ends, many of the argued with the extremes of passion always present when matters of ultimate concern are debated. In the midst of this fray, we have the work of John Haught. For anyone interested in entering this ongoing and vital conversation between science and theology, there is not better gateway than his *Science and Faith: An New Introduction*. --Brian Thomas Swimme, Professor of evolutionary cosmology, California Institute of Integral Studies

John Haught's new book is a marvelous introduction to the contemporary dialogue between science and religious faith. This engaging, stimulating, fresh, and profound book will be widely used in college courses and by ordinary Christians seeking answers to the important questions we face in the twenty-first century. --Denis Edwards, Flinders University, Australia

About the Author John Haught is Senior Fellow, Science Religion at Woodstock Theological Center, Georgetown University. He has authored eighteen books and numerous articles and reviews. He lectures internationally on issues related to science and religion.