Science and Theology

Introduction

How do God and Nature Intersect?

How do Science and Theology Intersect?

Three Models

- Conflict

- Coexistence

- Collaboration

Psalm 29

- Call for the mighty to acknowledge God
- Vs. 1-2: A call to humble worship
- Vs. 3-9: Compares God's might to the power of a thunderstorm on Mt. Hermon
- Vs. 10-11: A promise for God's people

Calvin on Psalm 29

"What a monstrous thing is it, that while all the irrational portion of the creation tremble before God, men alone, who are endued with sense and reason, are not moved! Moreover, though they possess genius and learning, they employ enchantments to shut their ears against God's voice, however powerful, lest it should reach their hearts. Philosophers think not that they have reasoned skillfully enough about inferior causes, unless they separate God very far from his works. It is a diabolical science, however, which fixes our contemplations on the works of nature, and turns them away from God."

Conflict?

- "The popular antithesis between science, conceived as a body of unassailable facts, and religion, conceived as a set of unverifiable beliefs, is assuredly simplistic." John Brooke, *Science and Religions: Some Historical Perspectives*
- Galileo and the Catholic Church
- Overlooks the long history of Christian scientists
  - Galileo
  - Isaac Newton
  - Copernicus
  - Boyle
  - Maxwell
  - Mendel
  - Darwin

Coexistence?

- Doesn't work
- Miracles?
- Providence?
- Job 1-3

Collaboration

- Seems to work best
- Atheists don't think so!
- Christians hold different views
  - How does God interact with His universe?
  - When did/does God interact with his universe?
  - Are these interventions acts of creation, or of providence?

Why Does it Matter?

- Issue of faith
- Issue of relevance
- The Ultimate Issue: man's rebellion
- Romans 1:18-20

The Current Landscape

- Two poles
- Four Debates
- Six Views
  - Naturalistic Evolution
  - Nonteleological Evolution
  - Planned Evolution
  - Directed Evolution
  - Old-earth Creationism
  - Young-earth Creationism