

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The largest droplet is in the bottom right corner, while others are smaller and more numerous in the top left and bottom center areas.

ATHEISM AND SCIENTISM

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WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?

- ATHEISM – THERE IS NO GOD
- SCIENTISM – SCIENCE CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING
- SCIENCE
 - DICTIONARY.COM – “SYSTEMATIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE PHYSICAL OR MATERIAL WORLD GAINED THROUGH OBSERVATION AND EXPERIMENTATION.”
 - MERRIAM WEBSTER FOR KIDS – “KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE NATURAL WORLD THAT IS BASED ON FACTS LEARNED THROUGH EXPERIMENTS AND OBSERVATION.”
 - MICHAEL RUSE - “DEALS ONLY WITH THE NATURAL, THE REPEATABLE, THAT WHICH IS GOVERNED BY LAW.”

RICHARD DAWKINS – EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGIST

- “IF YOU WANT TO BELIEVE IN ... UNICORNS, OR TOOTH FAIRIES, THOR, OR YAHWEH – THE ONUS IS ON YOU TO SAY WHY YOU BELIEVE IT. THE ONUS IS NOT ON THE REST OF US TO SAY WHY WE DO NOT.”
- WHAT ARE THE EXPLICIT AND IMPLICIT MESSAGES IN THIS QUOTE?
- BY JUXTAPOSING MYTHICAL CREATURES WITH THE CHRISTIAN GOD, DAWKINS IS MOCKING BELIEVERS.
- SAYING THAT THE ONUS IS ON CHRISTIANS IS UNTRUE. ACTUALLY, THE BURDEN OF PROOF FALLS ON WHOEVER IS TRYING TO CONVINCe THE OTHER. IN MOST OF HISTORY, AND IN MOST SOCIETIES TODAY, THE DEFAULT ASSUMPTION HAS BEEN THAT GOD EXISTS. ONLY IN THE MODERN WEST HAS ATHEISM BEEN WIDESPREAD.
- BY SAYING “THE REST OF US,” DAWKINS IS PRETENDING THAT THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE DO NOT BELIEVE IN GOD. HE IS MARGINALIZING CHRISTIANS.

DOES SCIENCE DISPROVE GOD?

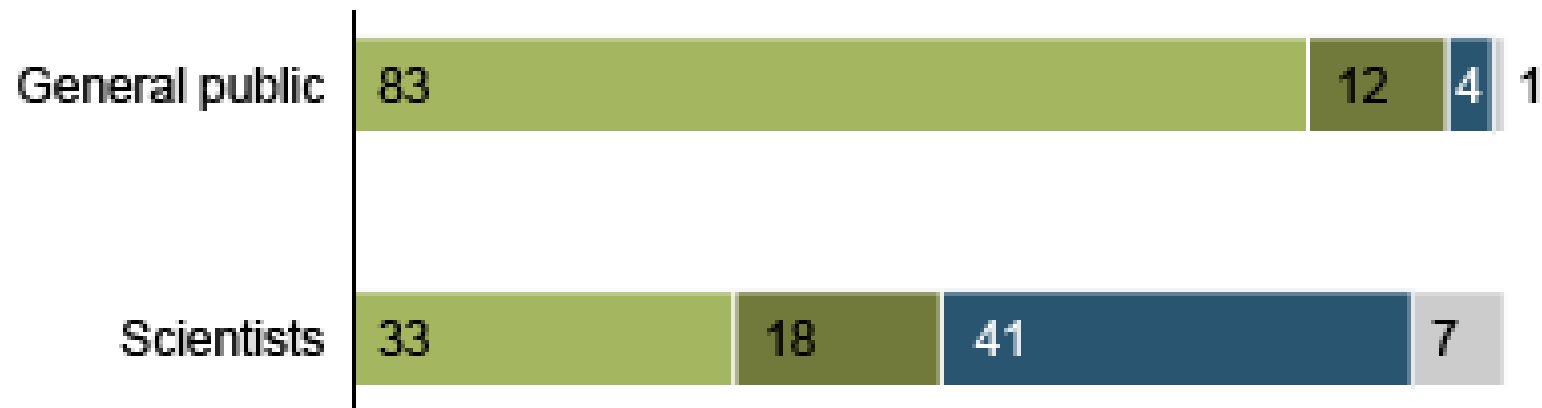
- GOD IS THE FUNDAMENTAL UNDERLYING ASSUMPTION OF THE UNIVERSE (PROVERBS 1:7).
 - WHETHER AN ASSUMPTION IS CONSIDERED A FACT DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON THE STANDARD OF EVIDENCE ONE REQUIRES TO BELIEVE.
- CREATION DECLARES THE GLORY OF GOD, BUT ONLY TO THOSE WHO ARE WILLING TO BELIEVE (PSALM 19:1).
- THE UNIVERSE DECLARES NOTHING ABOUT GOD FOR THOSE WHO REFUSE TO BELIEVE.
 - EVEN UNDER THE MOST NATURALISTIC DEFINITION, SCIENCE CANNOT SPEAK TO THE EXISTENCE OF GOD.
 - IF SCIENCE IS LIMITED TO THE NATURAL UNIVERSE, IT CAN SAY NOTHING DEFINITIVE ABOUT THE SUPERNATURAL, ABOUT MULTIVERSES, ABOUT PHILOSOPHY, ABOUT VALUES, OR ABOUT ANYTHING OUTSIDE THE NATURAL UNIVERSE.
 - EVEN IF THE UNIVERSE IS COMPLETELY SELF-CONTAINED, ALL WE CAN SAY IS THAT GOD HAS NOTHING TO DO.

DO SCIENTISTS REJECT GOD?

- EARLY SCIENTISTS SUCH AS ISAAC NEWTON AND JOHANNES KEPLER WERE DEDICATED CHRISTIANS. THEY BELIEVED THAT SCIENCE REVEALED GOD.

Religious Belief Among the General Public and Scientists

- % Who believe in God
- % Who don't believe in God, but do believe in a universal spirit or higher power
- % Who don't believe in either
- % Don't know/Refused (VOL.)



CREATION POINTS TO GOD

- THE UNIVERSE HAD A BEGINNING
- THE UNIVERSE IS FINELY TUNED TO SUPPORT LIFE
- THE UNIVERSE IS REGULAR
- THE UNIVERSE IS KNOWABLE
- THE UNIVERSE IS MORAL

QUESTIONS?