



How I Changed My Mind About Evolution: Evangelicals Reflect on Faith and Science

Available June 2016

\$16, 204 pages, paperback

978-0-8308-5290-1

Reflections on Evolution and Faith

Twenty-five scientists, theologians, pastors and others reflect on their journeys to reconcile the perceived tension between the book of Genesis and evolution in *How I Changed My Mind About Evolution*. The book is the first in a new IVP series titled BioLogos Books on Science and Christianity and examines the widespread dichotomy of science and faith in evangelical thinking.

The narratives contained in *How I Changed My Mind About Evolution* show that Christianity and science need not be at war. 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

BioLogos Books on Science and Christianity is a partnership between IVP Academic and the BioLogos Foundation, which invites the church and the world to see the harmony between science and biblical faith as they present an evolutionary understanding of God's creation.

The book's editors are Kathryn Applegate, program director at BioLogos, and J. B. (Jim) Stump, senior editor at BioLogos.



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 bachelor's degrees in biophysics and mathematics at Centenary College 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.

Reflections on Evolution and Faith with Twenty-Five Scholars and Scientists

How I Changed My Mind About Evolution includes twenty-five personal essays from respected scientists, theologians, philosophers, pastors and biblical scholars on the journey to reconciling faith and science. This book is the first in a new series titled BioLogos Books on Science and Christianity and is edited by BioLogos program director Kathryn Applegate and BioLogos senior editor J. B. (Jim) Stump. Both editors regularly engage questions of faith and science in their work. In this interview, they elaborate on how evangelical Christians can accept science and the role story plays in that process.

What are the main ideas explored in *How I Changed My Mind About Evolution*?

Kathryn Applegate and J. B. (Jim) Stump: Christians can be serious about their faith and recognize the authority of Scripture, and at the same time accept the science of evolution. We try to convey this not through technical argumentation, but by giving first-person stories about reconciling evolution and Christianity. Furthermore, we want to show the importance of working through the issues as a community of faith, and showcase the diversity of people who embrace evolutionary creation.

Why did you compile personal narratives to address the division between evolution and Christian faith?

Applegate and Stump: The evangelical world is largely suspicious of evolution. Evolution is widely thought to undermine biblical authority, and the science itself is routinely bundled with ideology that is anti-Christian. Many Evangelicals, then, are not able to consider and evaluate the scientific data. They first need to hear from Christians who are serious about their faith and who have also accepted the science of evolution. That's what this book attempts to do: share the stories of serious Christians who accept science, as a way of building trust and knocking down barriers.

What readers will find the narratives in this book helpful and insightful?

Applegate and Stump: The appeal of the stories should range from academics and students to pastors and lay people. There are at least two different groups that will be interested in the book:

1. Christians who already agree with evolutionary creation. These people will draw encouragement from the book and find it to be a non-threatening conversation starter for those people they know who think differently.
2. Christians who do not agree with evolutionary creation, but are curious about it.

What needs does this book address?

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW CONTACT THE INTERVARSITY PRESS PUBLICITY TEAM:

Alisse Wissman, print publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4059 or awissman@ivpress.com
 Krista Carnet, broadcast and online publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4013 or kkcarnet@ivpress.com
ivpress.com/academic



Q & A



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 topics at 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 *The Blackwell Companion to Science and Christianity*.

Applegate and Stump: The book helps to bring the position of evolutionary creation further into the mainstream of Evangelicalism. This will help lay readers feel more connected to pastors and scholars who do accept evolutionary creation. It also introduces some philosophical and theological challenges that the contributors are still wrestling with, which demonstrates that uncertainty in some nonessentials of the faith is not the enemy, but a reality for any Christian who is seeking to put their faith to work. Finally, this provides many different models for people who are struggling to make sense of evolution and their faith.