Tony Morgan Memorial Lecture on Science, Faith and Culture

New College
June 5, 2018
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Unlikely Allies: Monotheism and the Rise of Natural Science

Rev. Dr Mark Worthing

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Scientific Revolution: 16th and 17th centuries
Science arose out of Puritan England
Science arose out of Protestantism
Science arose out of Catholicism
Science returns to the West:
The Christian Middle-ages
Jewish contributions
The Golden Age of Islamic Science
Nestorian Physicians and Translators
Origen and Augustine
The Age of Christian Neo-Platonism
Plato and Aristotle: Greek philosophical monotheism
A theory of the role of monotheism in the rise of science must contain the following elements

• 1. The argument must apply to monotheism in general
• 2. The argument must recognise that science progressed through a series of stages in a number of distinct historical periods
• 3. The argument must recognise that influences other than monotheism played significant roles.
Rejection of polytheism and the questioning of the natural world
The Unity of Knowledge
The Mind of God and the Natural Order
Monotheism and Intellectual Freedom
Peoples of the Book
The Christian Doctrine of Incarnation
Unlikely Allies