

Study Three: Christianity and Science

- **The Theological Roots of Science**
 - Is there a dichotomy between religion and science?
 - Modern science arose out of the middle ages and Christianity
 - This was due to Christianity's emphasis on reason
 - Christianity moved the world from an enchanted universe to one that was based on creed and law
 - Example: Aquinas' argument for the existence of God
 - A comes from B comes from C
 - This cycle must stop at some point with a beginning
 - God is the first cause
 - Every series depends on something outside of the series
 - Everything in the universe needs a cause, however, God is not part of the universe
 - Even the argument for evolution depends on this sort of reasoning
 - It is the like the author and a book
 - Evolutionists question the cause of God, but it is a false argument
 - These arguments come from reason, and from reason modern science was born

- **Christianity and the invention of invention**
 - Scientist marvel at the order of the universe and the existence of laws
 - The idea of an ordered, law filled universe comes from Christianity
 - It originated with the pre-Socratic Greeks and was revived by Christians who saw the idea in the character of God
 - John 1:1 promotes a God of rationality
 - Creation has a supernatural underpinning, but is not supernatural itself
 - During the middle ages schools and the university system was developed by Christians
 - The foundational scientists of modern science were Christians.

- The atheist fable of Galileo

- The Fable: Christianity persecuted the great scientist and kept their discoveries at bay and thankfully science was persistent and won over the evil ignorance of religion
- People today believed the church taught the earth was flat, however, both the Greeks and Christians knew of the spherical nature of the world
- Prior to the 20th century, only one scientist was executed...in the 20th century many scientists have been executed under atheistic regimes
- Up until the 1500's people accepted the views of Ptolemy
 - The earth was the center of the universe, the solar system revolved around it
 - This was the classical, not the Christian view
 - Copernicus had suggested that the sun was the center and dedicated his book to the Pope, however, he had no proof
- Most of the stories about Galileo and his experiments are myth
 - He never dropped objects from the Tower of Pisa
 - A student did the dropping experiment and due to imperfect conditions, the objects did not fall at the same rate
- The Church was divided between Copernicus and Ptolemy
 - The Jesuits agreed with Galileo's Copernican conclusions
 - However, they did not believe he had deciding proof
 - The pope and the head of the inquisition both admired Galileo
- Galileo agreed he did not have good proof and agreed to not start more of an argument in the church and scientific community
 - After several years, the head of the inquisition became pope
 - Galileo published his theories saying they were proven
 - His ultimate proof was the ocean waves, which proved to be wrong
 - His book made the pope an ignorant character called "Simpleton"
 - He also attempted to show that Scripture should be interpreted in an allegorical way, after being told to not make theological judgments
 - He would have prevailed in his trial, but his prior agreement not to discuss his findings was brought forth
 - He was found guilty of breaking his agreement and asked to recant his absolute view, which he did
 - He was not thrown into prison, convicted of heresy, or tortured
 - He was allowed to continue to practice science
- The Church changed to the Copernican view later as new evidence came to light
 - Galileo is the only example of the church standing in judgment of scientific theory
 - The trial was unfair, but not a judgment against scientific progress