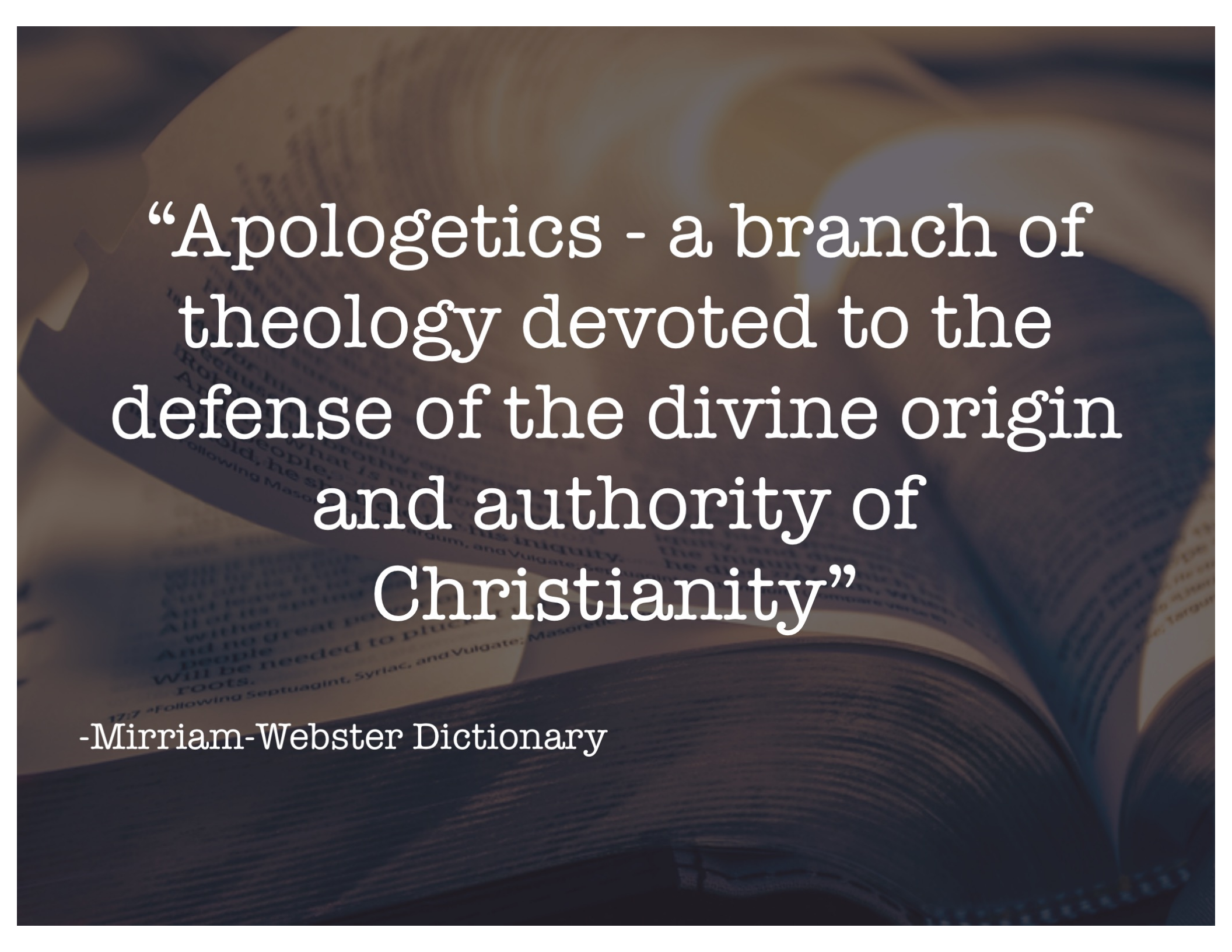




Why Should I Believe?



“Apologetics - a branch of
theology devoted to the
defense of the divine origin
and authority of
Christianity”

-Mirriam-Webster Dictionary

Chapter 1

If I Already Believe, Why Do I Need This Book?

“Apologetics - a branch of theology devoted to the defense of the divine origin and authority of Christianity” -Mirriam-Webster Dictionary¹

You might be wondering “why do I need to study about apologetics if I already believe?” 1 Peter 3:15 tells us to “always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have...” In thinking about this instruction, I’m afraid that we in the church have become willing to accept our religious beliefs without question. Especially if we have been raised in the faith. Belief is easy because we have always believed. Our parents believed, all our friends believe, our smart well-educated preacher believes. Why shouldn’t we believe? Often we simply don’t know what to say when we encounter someone who does not believe in God, and if we’re honest, we are afraid of anything more than the most superficial of spiritual conversations. However, we are commanded to be



What if I Already Believe?

Lesson 1

*Backing
Up Their
Claims*

What if I
Already
Believe?

Lesson 1

Luke 1:1-4 (ESV)

¹ Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, ² just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, ³ it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ that **you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.**

Acts 3:1-6 (ESV)

¹ Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ² And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. ³ Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. ⁴ And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” ⁵ And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”





Acts 3:7-10 (ESV)

⁷ And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸ And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and **entered the temple with them**, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹ And **all the people saw him** walking and praising God, ¹⁰ and **recognized him** as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And **they were filled with wonder** and amazement at what had happened to him.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (ESV)

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that **he was raised** on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that **he appeared to Cephas**, then **to the twelve**. ⁶ Then he appeared to **more than five hundred brothers** at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then **he appeared to James**, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

*Can You
Always
Start with
the Bible?*

**What if I
Already
Believe?**

Lesson 1

ALL I REALLY
NEED TO KNOW
I LEARNED IN
KINDERGARTEN

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ANNIVERSARY
EDITION

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ROBERT FULGHUM



Romans 1:18–20 (ESV)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For **what can be known about God is plain** to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For **his invisible attributes**, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, **have been clearly perceived**, ever since the creation of the world, in the **things that have been made**. So they are without excuse.

Psalm 19:1-3 (ESV)

- ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his
handiwork.**
- ² Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.
- ³ There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.

"It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid or insane (or wicked, but I'd rather not consider that)"

-Richard Dawkins

(Popular atheist, author, and anti-religion activist)

*Evolution
is NOT a
Universal
Belief*

What if I
Already
Believe?

Lesson 1

Elaine Ecklund, a sociologist at Rice University conducted a detailed **survey of nearly 1700 scientists** at elite American research universities (including Columbia, Cornell, Duke, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, MIT, Princeton, Stanford, Yale and others) and conducted **275 follow up interviews**, the most comprehensive study to date on the religious beliefs of elite scientists. In her book "**Science vs. Religion: What Scientists Really Think**", she revealed that nearly **half of the scientists** surveyed **claimed to be religious** with **20 percent attending worship** on a regular basis. She noted that many of these scientists practiced a "**closeted faith**" fearing ridicule by their peers and professional repercussions

Ben Stein

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Intelligence
Allowed**



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has expelled smart new ideas
from the classroom**

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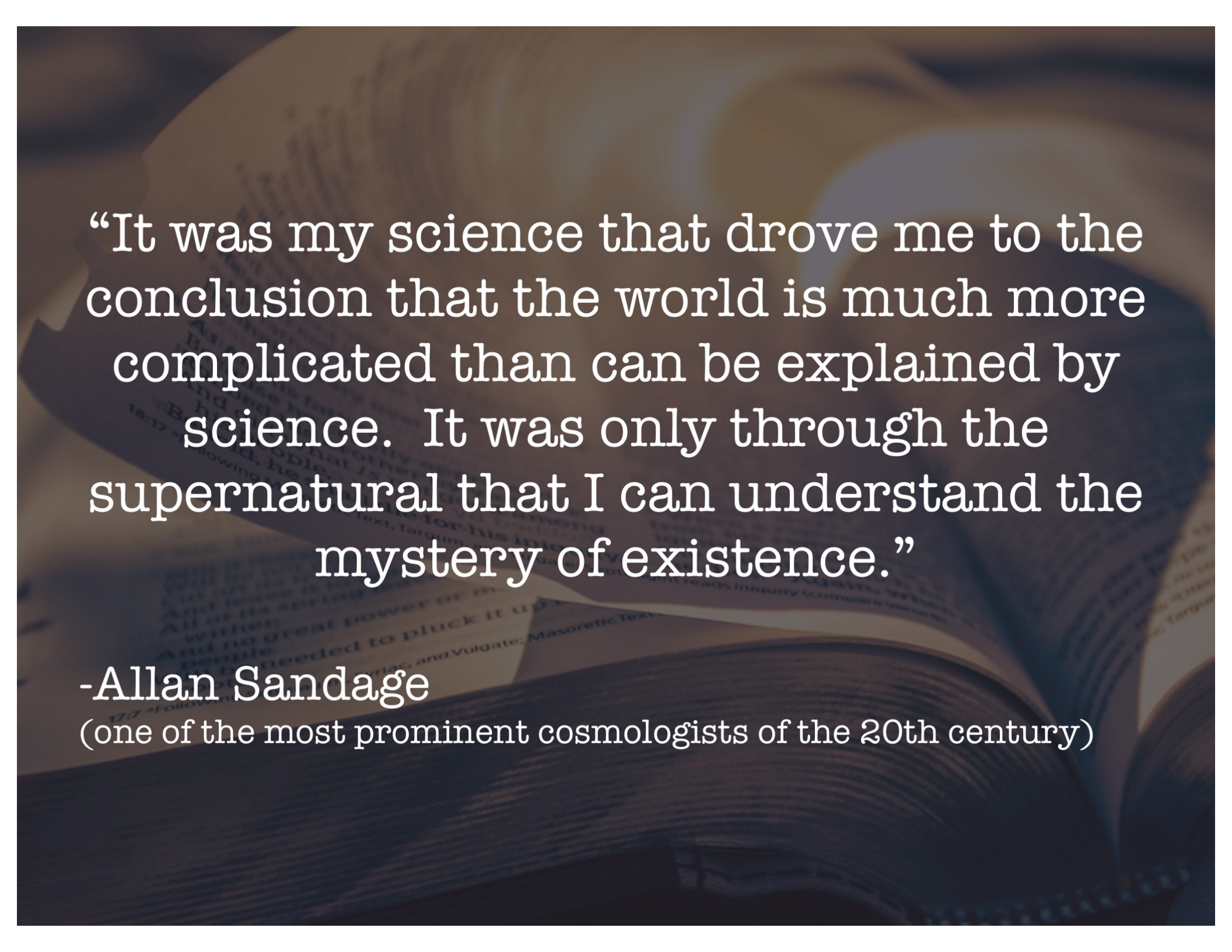


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“It was my science that drove me to the conclusion that the world is much more complicated than can be explained by science. It was only through the supernatural that I can understand the mystery of existence.”

-Allan Sandage

(one of the most prominent cosmologists of the 20th century)

Biochemical Predestination

Kenyon, Dean H.



17:7 -Following Septuagint, S
And no great
people
Will be needed
roots,
17:7 -Following Septuagint, S

18:17 -Following Masoretic T
Behold, he shall
his people,
And did what
Robbed his
Because he cry
As for his father
Heshai