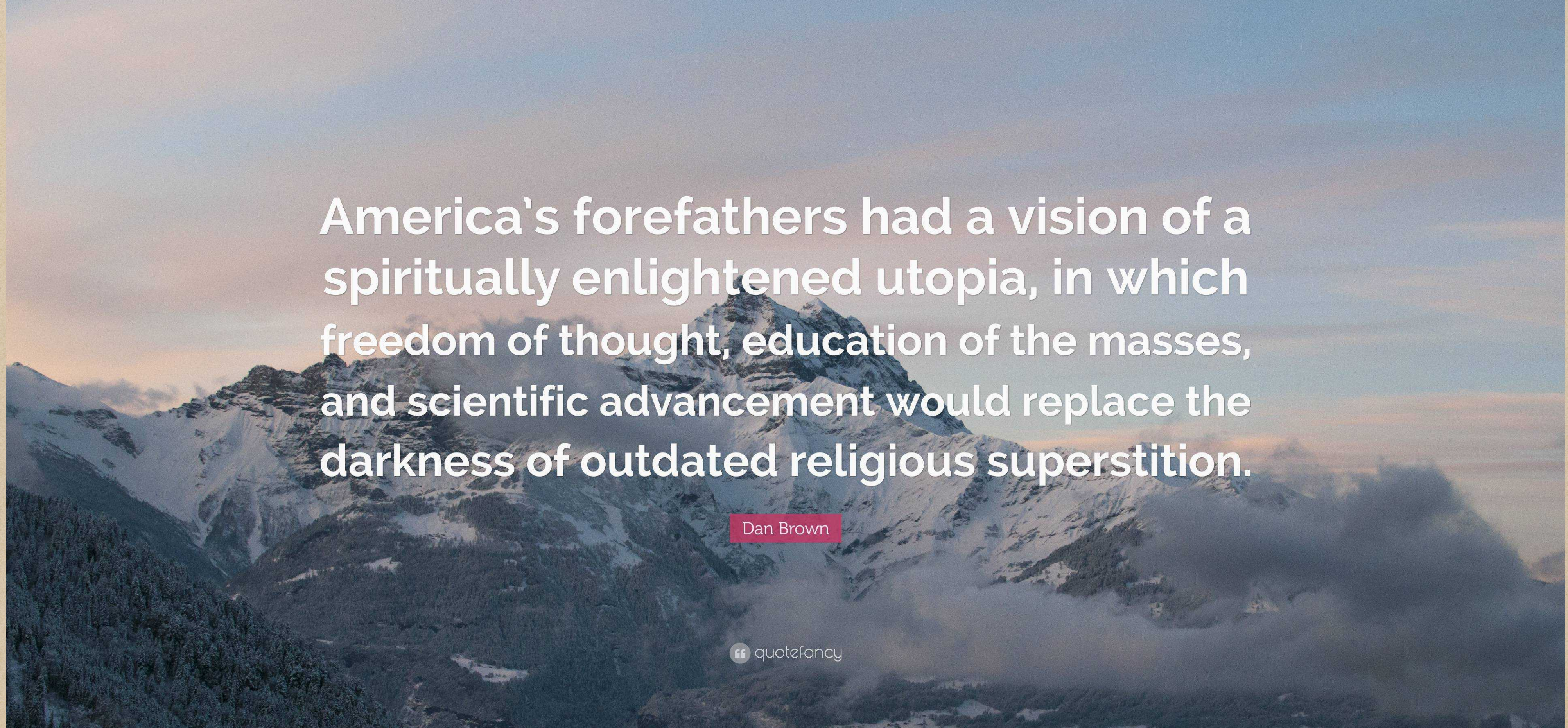


# Why am I a Christian...?



America's forefathers had a vision of a spiritually enlightened utopia, in which freedom of thought, education of the masses, and scientific advancement would replace the darkness of outdated religious superstition.

Dan Brown

quote fancy

Anthony Percy



# Agenda

- ◆ Definitions and Aids
- ◆ My Christian journey
- ◆ Science and Christian belief
- ◆ Gods law verses The new Civic religion, Humanism
- ◆ My Take on what's going on



## We need some definitions - 1

Why? Because “definitions” can be changed without you noticing!

- ◆ Science (1) - “Science is the pursuit and application of knowledge and understanding of the natural and social world following a systematic methodology based on evidence. ( Science Council)
- ◆ Science (2) - rigorous, systematic endeavor that builds and organizes knowledge in the form of testable explanations and predictions about the universe ( Wikipedia)
- ◆ Falsifiability is the assertion that for any hypothesis to have credence, it must be inherently disprovable before it can become accepted as a scientific hypothesis or theory.
- ◆ Scientism- is the opinion that science and the scientific method are the best or only way to render truth about the world and reality (Wikipedia)
- ◆ Humanism - Humanism is a rational philosophy informed by science, inspired by art, and motivated by compassion .... holds that values-be they religious, ethical, social, or political-have their source in human experience and culture... Humanism is: A joyous alternative to religions that believe in a supernatural god and life in a hereafter. ( American Humanist Association)



# We need some definitions - 2

## so we are all on the same "page"

- ◆ Evolution theory (<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/evolution>)
  - ◆ "Descent with modification" (Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of the Species*, he does not mention the term Evolution)
  - ◆ [biological evolution] is change in the properties of groups of organisms over the course of generations... (Douglas Futuyma)
- ◆ Abiogenesis - the theory that the earliest life forms on earth developed from nonliving matter ([dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com))
- ◆ "Biological evolution and abiogenesis are distinct branches of science, although they are closely related in the context of a holistic evolutionary conceptual framework. The relationship between evolution and abiogenesis furnishes profound insights into the nature of science, a much emphasised aspect of modern science education" (Barend Vlaardingerbroek, "Abiogenesis in Upper Secondary Biology Curricula", 11/3/2020)



## We need some definitions - 3

### Whatch out for changing definitions...

- ◆ Spontaneous generation, the hypothetical process by which living organisms develop from nonliving matter; also, the archaic theory that utilized this process to explain the origin of life. ... By the 18th century it had become obvious that higher organisms could not be produced by nonliving material..." (Britannica) - dates back to Aristotle (384-322 BC)
- ◆ Religion - a particular system of faith and worship. (Oxford Dictionary)
- ◆ Faith - complete trust or confidence in someone or something (Oxford Dictionary)
- ◆ Jew - In common speech, the word "Jew" is used to refer to all of the physical and spiritual descendants of Jacob/Israel, as well as to the patriarchs Abraham and Isaac and their wives
- ◆ Philosophy of science - is a branch of philosophy concerned with the foundations, methods, and implications of science (Wikipedia)



# Aids for understanding - Bible

## What we have learned since leaving the JW's

- ◆ Most bibles today are translations
- ◆ Nearly all of the Bibles authors were Jewish
- ◆ Jesus was Jewish
- ◆ Understanding how a second temple jewish person thinks helps in understanding the Bible in depth
- ◆ Learning some Hebrew, Aramaic and Koine greek can be helpful.



# Aids for understanding - Science

## Its not what we were taught at school!

- ◆ Theory - "A formal statement of the rules on which a subject of study is based or ideas that are suggested to explain a fact or event Or more generally an opinion Or explanation." (Cambridge Dictionary)
- ◆ Fact - a thing that is known or proved to be true (Oxford Dictionary)
- ◆ "Scientific fact" - an observation that has been confirmed repeatedly and is accepted as true (although its truth is never final) - [vocabulary.com](http://vocabulary.com)
- ◆ Inductive reasoning - "People often use inductive reasoning informally in everyday situations".
  - ◆ Inductivist Turkey ( see Appendix D)
  - ◆ The problem with inductive reasoning is the probability of your conclusion being correct is very close to zero, as the turkey found out... - Nearly all human scientists use inductive reasoning in science...



# My Christian journey

- ◆ My kerygma, an engineers story
  - ◆ Age 4-14 Roman Catholic.
  - ◆ 14-40 Jehovahs Witness.
  - ◆ 40-64 Non-denomination Christian (free from religious organisations)
  - ◆ At 16, a question - How does the "theory of Evolution" affect the Bible?



# Science and Christian belief - 1

- ◆ “A high regard for science is seen as a modern religion, playing a similar role to that played by Christianity in Europe in earlier eras..” (AF Chalmers, What is this thing called science, introduction, xxii)
- ◆ “We will also find that a strong case can be made for the claim that scientific knowledge can be neither conclusively proved or conclusively disproved by reference to the facts, even if the availability of those facts is assumed” (AF Chalmers, What is this thing called science, introduction)
- ◆ Therefore you need FAITH to believe in scientific knowledge. - Is this what you were taught at school?
- ◆ How can one test if a theory is based on real science or pseudo-science?
  - ◆ “In so far as a scientific statement speaks about reality, it must be falsifiable; and in so far as it is not falsifiable, it does not speak about reality” (Karl Popper, The logic of Scientific Discovery; page 314)
- ◆ For more info look at the “philosophy of science”



# Evolution and Christian belief - 1

- ◆ "Evolution theory" does not discuss how life started... That theory is called abiogenesis - therefore no conflict with the Bible creation account
- ◆ Statistical Thermodynamics shows the the probability of chemical precursors like amino acids or simple proteins needed for life forming randomly is very, very small - Abiogenesis of a single cell by random nature is vastly improbable.
  - ◆ Therefore life must have been created...
- ◆ Don't fall for "closed system" verses "open system" thermodynamic arguments that Statistical Thermodynamics probabilities don't apply. Chemical Engineers sometimes treat the local environment as a "closed system" for practical purposes and the math still works!
- ◆ Sir Julian Huxley (Evolutionist) sees "humanism" as intrinsically linked to Evolution (see Appendix B)



# Gods law verses the new civic religion, Humanism

- ◆ Why do we have a conscience that gives us ABSOLUTE concepts of right and wrong along with a sense of justice? E.g absolute morals. - No real answer to the question of conscience from Evolution theory or Humanism/Scientism
- ◆ Humanists (see Appendix C) - are people who form their views on moral issues through gathering evidence.... Humanists, however, share an understanding that our world is best understood through science, observation and rational enquiry...  
Humanism Scotland Justice flyer
  - ◆ Science can not understand reality fully as shown earlier, so one needs faith in science for humanism !!!
- ◆ "...rights and wrongs are determined by objective facts or circumstances, that is, by the situations in which moral agents have to decide for the most beneficial course open to choice" (Joseph Fletcher, "Humanist Ethics: the Groundwork," quoted in Storer, Humanist Ethics, 255)
  - ◆ Relative not absolute morals (Not all humanists follow situation ethics) e.g good could be evil in some circumstances?
- ◆ "...Humanists are naturally committed to social justice as a prerequisite to peace and happiness for the greatest number and see it as a moral failing to stand by while others are denied their civil and human rights..." (American humanist association)
  - ◆ Is this really justice if its only for the majority? - Contrast with Matt 18:10-14



# What does the bible say?

- ◆ For what can be known about God is perfectly plain to them, since God has made it plain to them ever since the creation of the world, the invisible existence of God and his everlasting power have been clearly seen by the mind's understanding of created things....” Romans 1:19-20 New Jerusalem Bible
- ◆ “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter (Isaiah 5:20)
- ◆ ...What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices more over that one sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. In the same way, your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish. (Matt 18:10-14)



# My Take on what's going on..

## - Recipes for "Cooking the Science"

- ◆ Lets take an old 2000 year old theory called "Spontaneous Generation", add Darwin, add a "long time period of millions of years", mix to create a "evolutionary conceptual framework" and teach it as "Evolution".
- ◆ Lets take Gods ground breaking moral laws e.g the Ten Commandments, Torah, wait approx. 3300 years, say God does not exist, so humans invented his Gods own laws and call it Humanism...
- ◆ As an engineer, one knows you can't get "something from nothing" without doing something... (unless you redefine the definitions of the words "something" and "nothing" as they do in quantum theory) - The question then becomes, who is the doer?
  - ◆ We know who the "doer" is , his name is Yahweh, the one whose name means "He Brings into Existence Whatever Exists"
- ◆ Is my word not like fire, Yahweh demands, is it not like a hammer shattering a rock? (Jer 23:29)



# Appendix A - AF Chalmers & Karl Popper

- ◆ “In so far as a scientific statement speaks about reality, it must be falsifiable; and in so far as it is not falsifiable, it does not speak about reality” (Popper, *The logic of Scientific Discovery*; page 314)
- ◆ “We will also find that a strong case can be made for the claim that scientific knowledge can be neither conclusively proved or conclusively disproved by reference to the facts, even if the availability of those facts is assumed” (AF Chalmers, *What is this thing called science*, introduction, xxi)
- ◆ “A high regard for science is seen as a modern religion, playing a similar role to that played by Christianity in Europe in earlier eras..” (AF Chalmers, *What is this thing called science*, introduction, xxii)



# Appendix B - Humanism/Scientism & Evolution

- ◆ “Spontaneous generation, the hypothetical process by which living organisms develop from nonliving matter; also, the archaic theory that utilized this process to explain the origin of life. ... By the 18th century it had become obvious that higher organisms could not be produced by nonliving material...” (Britannica) - dates back to Aristotle (384-322 BC)
- ◆ “This new idea-system, whose birth we of the mid-twentieth century are witnessing, I shall simply call Humanism, because it can only be based on our understanding of man and his relations with the rest of his environment. It must be focused on man as an organism, though one with unique properties. It must be organized round the facts and ideas of evolution, taking account of the discovery that man is part of a comprehensive evolutionary process, and cannot avoid playing a decisive role in it.” (Sir Julian Huxley, his anthology, *The Humanist Frame*)



# Appendix C - Humanism

- ◆ “The classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and the new - the rotting corpse of Christianity, together with all its adjacent evils and misery, and the new faith of humanism, resplendent in its promise of a world in which the never-realised Christian idea of “love thy neighbour” will finally be achieved” (John Dunphy, The humanist, Jan/Feb 1983 p 26)
- ◆



# Appendix D - Inductivist Turkey

- ◆ The turkey found that, on his first morning at the turkey farm, he was fed at 9 a.m. Being a good inductivist turkey he did not jump to conclusions. He waited until he collected a large number of observations that he was fed at 9 a.m. and made these observations under a wide range of circumstances, on Wednesdays, on Thursdays, on cold days, on warm days. Each day he added another observation statement to his list. Finally he was satisfied that he had collected a number of observation statements to inductively infer that "I am always fed at 9 a.m.".
- ◆ However on the morning of Christmas eve he was not fed but instead had his throat cut!
- ◆ The problem with inductive reasoning is the probability of your conclusion being correct is very close to zero...