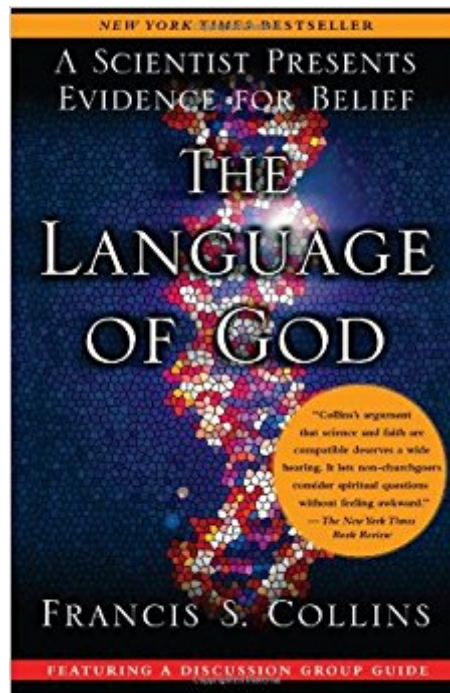




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The Language Of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence For Belief



Synopsis

An instant bestseller, *The Language of God* provides the best argument for the integration of faith and logic since C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*. It has long been believed that science and faith cannot mingle. Faith rejects the rational, while science restricts us to a life with no meaning beyond the physical. It is an irreconcilable war between two polar-opposite ways of thinking and living. Written for believers, agnostics, and atheists alike, *The Language of God* provides a testament to the power of faith in the midst of suffering without faltering from its logical stride. Readers will be inspired by Collins's personal story of struggling with doubt, as well as the many revelations of the wonder of God's creation that will forever shape the way they view the world around them.

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Customer Reviews

Collins, a pioneering medical geneticist who once headed the Human Genome Project, adapts his title from President Clinton's remarks announcing completion of the first phase of the project in 2000: "Today we are learning the language in which God created life." Collins explains that as a Christian believer, "the experience of sequencing the human genome, and uncovering this most remarkable of all texts, was both a stunning scientific achievement and an occasion of worship." This marvelous book combines a personal account of Collins's faith and experiences as a genetics researcher with discussions of more general topics of science and spirituality, especially centering around evolution. Following the lead of C.S. Lewis, whose *Mere Christianity* was influential in

Collins's conversion from atheism, the book argues that belief in a transcendent, personal God – and even the possibility of an occasional miracle – can and should coexist with a scientific picture of the world that includes evolution. Addressing in turn fellow scientists and fellow believers, Collins insists that "science is not threatened by God; it is enhanced" and "God is most certainly not threatened by science; He made it all possible." Collins's credibility as a scientist and his sincerity as a believer make for an engaging combination, especially for those who, like him, resist being forced to choose between science and God. (July 17) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

A devoutly Christian geneticist such as Francis S. Collins, author of *The Language of God* and leader of the Human Genome Project, can comfortably accept that "a common ancestor for humans and mice is virtually inescapable" or that it may have been a mutation in the FOXP2 gene that led to the flowering of human language. The genetic code is, after all, "God's instruction book." But what sounds like a harmless metaphor can restrict the intellectual bravado that is essential to science. "In my view," Collins goes on to say, "DNA sequence alone, even if accompanied by a vast trove of data on biological function, will never explain certain special human attributes, such as the knowledge of the Moral Law and the universal search for God." Evolutionary explanations have been proffered for both these phenomena. Whether they are right or wrong is not a matter of belief but a question to be approached scientifically. The idea of an apartheid of two separate but equal metaphysics may work as a psychological coping mechanism, a way for a believer to get through a day at the lab. But theism and materialism don't stand on equal footings. The assumption of materialism is fundamental to science. George Johnson is author of *Fire in the Mind: Science, Faith, and the Search for Order* and six other books. He resides on the Web at talaya.net --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Excellent: In my science teaching career I taught both biology and chemistry. To me, Collins has a partial answer to the old age concept of the creation as given in Genesis. This chronology of the first life on earth is the only credible outline for living matter since green plants had to precede animals in order to supply them food! As a Christian, Francis Collins, the scientist that led the mapping of the human chromosome which we pattern human genetic research after today brings a better understanding to the possibility of the origin of life. Martin Johnson

Science has not been my forte. But this is a fascinating book. Like many Christians, I had some skepticism. Can you really embrace both science and the Bible? Collins, a pioneering medical geneticist who headed the Human Genome Project presents a clear and sincere personal testimony of coming to faith in Jesus. He also discusses scientific discoveries in an easy-to-follow way that I actually enjoyed. He says we don't have to choose between science and God. Especially helpful is Collins's explanation of how and why a Bible-believing Christian may accept the theory of evolution.

This author of this book is obviously a thinker. He has presented scientific and philosophic ideas that investigate some of the deep questions of our time, including - is there a God. Some of his writing was so scientific, it was a little above my mind to be able to grasp (ie, there is an assumption that the reader knows scientific language). I might not subscribe to all of his conclusions, but I do appreciate his honest attempt to present the facts as he has studied them, and he is qualified to do so.

This is an erudite book and at times I got overwhelmed, but there is a ton of information and ideas that boggle the mind. It is being used in a bible study class and really makes us think about what we believe and why.

An interesting thought provoking read by an author with Impressive scientific credentials and obviously a deeply spiritual character. While I would challenge some of his religion based constructs the content of the book makes the reader think and consider issues possibly not previously contemplated. What more could you ask for?

Very accessible book given the heavy scientific topics covered. Clearly communicates how he believes in the existence of a divine creator and evolution (not necessarily of man from a lower species, but evolution in general). This is very similar to my understanding and belief system, but it was great to read much more detail into the science behind the master planner as well as the miracle of life.

Excellent book, it opens the debate and leads us to the solution of the dilemma. The Language of God is one of those books that leads to reflection without entering into contradiction with the higher spiritual feelings. I liked a lot reading this book and I can say unequivocally that readers will feel the

harmony in every chapter, in every paragraph. Well written and easy to read, full of examples which support the arguments of the author. Illustrated on some pages and with a magnificent glossary that helps readers to find what they need quickly. I learned a lot on their pages and my arguments are strengthened by the realization that religion and science are the two sides of the same coin. The religious and scientific thinkings are changing, adjusting to these new times and through documents like this book, that is happening. Readers can learn a lot about history, science history, biology, genetics, astronomy, and other topics. Enjoyment in reading. Excelente libro, abre el debate y nos conduce a la soluci3n del dilema. El Lenguaje de Dios es uno de esos libros que nos conduce a la reflexi3n sin entrar en contradicci3n con los sentimientos espirituales mas elevados. Me ha gustado much3simo la lectura de este libro y puedo decir sin temor a equivocarme que los lectores sentir3n la armon3a en cada capitulo, en cada p3rrafo. Bien redactado y de f3cil lectura, lleno de ejemplos, los cuales sustentan los argumentos de su autor. Ilustrado en algunas paginas y con un magnifico glosario que ayuda al lector a localizar lo que le interesa r3pidamente. He aprendido mucho en sus paginas y mis argumentos se fortalecen al darme cuenta que la religi3n y la ciencia son las dos caras de una misma moneda. El pensamiento religioso y cient3fico esta cambiando y se esta ajustando en estos nuevos tiempos y por medio de documentos como estos que esta realidad esta sucediendo. Provecho en su lectura.

I loved this book and will probably read it again soon. I've recommended it to my family members, as well. Sometimes it's difficult being a young scientist and a Christian. Dr. Collins talked about how science works with faith in God and not against it. He put everything I feel into words, so now when my atheist friends question me, I tell them to read this book to find out what I think about science and God. If you are a creationist and fear the impact scientific discoveries have on religion, then this book is especially for you. I recommend it for everyone. It's an easy read

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