

SCIENCE AND RELIGION: GOOD NEWS FOR BOTH

Michael Gladish¹

In 2011, Dr. Ian Thompson (PhD), a nuclear physicist in California, published a book titled *Starting Science From God*. In it he proposed rational scientific theories capable of explaining many of the mysteries of modern science based on the operation of God in the orderly steps and stages of creation. It was the beginning of a new era of study we now call “theistic science.”

Now this work has been complemented by another book just published by the Swedenborg Scientific Association, titled, *Intelligent Default*, by the Rev. Dr. Reuben Bell (DO, PhD). In this new work, Bell makes the case for Swedenborg’s theistic science in relation to “the problem of organic form.” As he says, it’s not a question of whether God created and maintains the world, it’s a question of HOW, and he answers that question in excruciating scientific and philosophical detail.

Both of these books were featured at a conference held at Bryn Athyn College, Bryn Athyn, PA, on Saturday, October 12th, 2019. Several other high-level scholars joined the authors in addressing a very privileged audience of over 50 men and women on everything from influx and correspondences to molecular biology and quantum physics, showing, again, in detail, HOW God works in the natural world.

In response to a question during a panel discussion, the speakers all said that their work was not an attempt to prove the existence of God to the atheists among us; but it was and IS a humble attempt to provide answers to many of the questions that science simply can’t answer, without recourse to certain illogical assumptions, or axioms, as, for example, that the world was created out of nothing, or that incredibly complex life forms arise and continue to exist “by chance.”

The concept of intelligent “default,” in particular marries the principle of orderly spiritual influence with the seemingly random distribution of physical matter such that life flows in when the forms are ready to receive it, and that they are made ready through an aggregating process embodying

1. Mike Gladish graduated Bryn Athyn College, 1969; then was ordained, 1973. He served as a pastor assistant in Toronto, then as pastor in Sydney, Australia, Los Angeles, Toronto, Calgary, Dawson Creek and Mitchellville, Maryland until retirement in 2019. Mike has been a regional pastor plus serving 18 years on the Bishop’s Advisory Committee.

the love and wisdom of God in every sub-atomic, quantum detail! This is not “creationism,” nor is it pure Darwinian evolution, but a whole new approach to the mysteries of how the world works based on the revelation for the New Church.

It is deep stuff, and as one who attended the conference (and labored to understand the books) all I can say is that it is incredibly interesting and convincing—if you have the patience for it. It is also incredibly inspiring, and useful not only for confirming one’s belief in God but also for answering the unanswered questions of science—in the language itself of science!