

the blackwell companion to natural theology

The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology: A Deep Dive into Faith and Reason

the blackwell companion to natural theology stands out as a monumental work that brings together some of the most profound insights into natural theology, a field that explores the relationship between reason, nature, and the divine. For anyone intrigued by questions about God's existence, the nature of faith, or the interplay between science and religion, this companion offers a rich, comprehensive guide. It's not just a book; it's an intellectual journey through centuries of philosophical, theological, and scientific thought that continues to shape contemporary discussions about spirituality and reason.

What Is Natural Theology?

Before delving into the significance of the blackwell companion to natural theology, it's helpful to clarify what natural theology actually entails. Simply put, natural theology is the study of God and divine things based on reason and ordinary experience of the natural world, without relying on revealed scriptures or religious authority. It is an attempt to understand the divine through observation, logic, and philosophical inquiry.

This approach has roots that stretch back to ancient philosophers like Aristotle and was further developed by medieval thinkers such as Thomas Aquinas. In modern times, natural theology has often intersected with scientific discoveries and philosophical arguments, contributing to debates about the existence of God, the problem of evil, and the nature of morality.

Why The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology Matters

The blackwell companion to natural theology is a carefully curated anthology featuring essays and discussions by leading scholars in philosophy, theology, and science. Its importance lies in how it bridges historical perspectives with contemporary challenges, offering a nuanced exploration of natural theology's key themes.

A Comprehensive Resource for Scholars and Curious Minds

Unlike many texts that cater exclusively to specialists, this companion is accessible to a broader audience. Whether you're a student, a theologian, or someone simply fascinated by big questions about existence, the book presents complex ideas in a clear and engaging

way. It covers a wide variety of topics, from classic arguments like the cosmological and teleological proofs to more modern considerations involving evolutionary biology and cognitive science.

Integrating Science and Philosophy

One of the standout features of the blackwell companion to natural theology is how it thoughtfully integrates scientific insights with philosophical reasoning. This is crucial because many people today struggle to reconcile scientific explanations of the universe with spiritual beliefs. The companion addresses these tensions head-on, offering perspectives that neither dismiss scientific findings nor reduce theology to mere superstition.

For example, essays within the volume explore how concepts from physics and biology can enrich our understanding of divine action and providence. This makes the companion an invaluable resource for anyone interested in the dialogue between faith and science.

Key Themes Explored in The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology

The richness of the blackwell companion to natural theology comes from its wide-ranging exploration of themes that have long fascinated thinkers across cultures and epochs.

The Classical Arguments for God's Existence

A significant portion of the companion revisits age-old arguments that have shaped natural theology:

- **The Cosmological Argument:** This argument looks at the existence of the universe and reasons that there must be a first cause or necessary being that explains why anything exists at all.
- **The Teleological Argument (Design Argument):** Observing order, purpose, and complexity in nature, this argument suggests the presence of an intelligent designer.
- **The Moral Argument:** This line of reasoning posits that the existence of objective moral values points toward a moral lawgiver.

The companion doesn't just restate these arguments; it critically examines their strengths, weaknesses, and contemporary interpretations, making it a dynamic resource for understanding their ongoing relevance.

The Problem of Evil and Suffering

No discussion of natural theology would be complete without addressing the problem of evil. The blackwell companion to natural theology dedicates significant attention to this challenging topic, exploring how believers and philosophers grapple with the coexistence of an all-powerful, all-good God and the reality of suffering.

The essays delve into various responses, from free will defenses to soul-making theodicies, providing readers with a balanced view of this enduring problem.

Natural Theology in a Pluralistic World

In today's globalized and diverse environment, natural theology faces the task of engaging with multiple religious traditions and secular viewpoints. The companion includes thoughtful reflections on how natural theology can dialogue with other faiths and secular philosophies, promoting mutual understanding without compromising its core insights.

How The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology Enhances Your Understanding

Reading the blackwell companion to natural theology can transform how you think about religion, philosophy, and science. Here's how it enriches your perspective:

Deepening Critical Thinking Skills

The book encourages readers to analyze arguments carefully, weigh evidence, and consider alternative viewpoints. This sharpens critical thinking, which is valuable not just in theology but in everyday decision-making and intellectual pursuits.

Encouraging Open-Minded Dialogue

By presenting a variety of voices and traditions, the companion models respectful and open-minded dialogue. This is especially important in discussions about faith, where emotions and preconceptions can often cloud reasoned debate.

Providing Historical Context

Understanding how natural theology has evolved over time offers insight into how contemporary issues have been shaped by centuries of thought. The blackwell companion to natural theology situates modern discussions within this rich historical framework, making it easier to appreciate their depth and complexity.

Tips for Engaging with The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology

Given the breadth and depth of the companion, approaching it strategically can enhance your reading experience:

- **Start with the Introduction:** This section lays out the scope and goals of the book, helping you orient yourself before diving into individual essays.
- **Focus on Topics of Interest:** With so many subjects covered, prioritize chapters that resonate with your personal curiosity or academic focus.
- **Take Notes:** Jotting down questions or reflections as you read can deepen your engagement and aid retention.
- **Discuss with Others:** Whether in study groups, classrooms, or online forums, sharing insights and questions can broaden your understanding.
- **Revisit Difficult Sections:** Some essays may be dense or challenging; don't hesitate to reread and reflect slowly.

The Role of The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology in Contemporary Discourse

In recent years, natural theology has experienced a resurgence, partly due to renewed interest in the dialogue between science and religion. The blackwell companion to natural theology plays a pivotal role in this revival, offering a platform where new arguments and critiques can be presented thoughtfully.

Moreover, as secularism grows in many parts of the world, the companion provides tools for believers to articulate their faith intellectually and respectfully. It also aids skeptics and seekers in understanding the reasoning behind religious belief without resorting to caricatures or dismissals.

Supporting Interdisciplinary Research

The companion's interdisciplinary nature is one of its greatest strengths. Scholars from philosophy, theology, history, and science contribute to a multifaceted understanding of natural theology. This cross-pollination of ideas enriches each field and encourages innovative approaches to longstanding questions.

Educational Impact

Many universities and seminaries incorporate the blackwell companion to natural theology into their curricula, recognizing its value in educating the next generation of thinkers. Its comprehensive coverage makes it an ideal textbook or reference work for courses on philosophy of religion, theology, and related subjects.

Natural theology, as presented in this companion, isn't an abstract or outdated discipline. It remains a vibrant and essential field that continues to inspire inquiry and reflection about the ultimate questions of life.

The blackwell companion to natural theology invites readers to explore these questions with rigor, openness, and curiosity, making it a treasured resource in the ongoing quest to understand faith through the lens of reason and nature.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology' about?

'The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology' is a comprehensive collection of essays that explores the philosophical and theological study of natural theology, which seeks to understand God through reason and observation of the natural world rather than through revealed religion.

Who are some of the contributors to 'The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology'?

The volume features contributions from leading philosophers and theologians such as William Lane Craig, Alvin Plantinga, Marilyn McCord Adams, and Robert Audi, among others, providing diverse perspectives on natural theology.

When was 'The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology' published?

'The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology' was first published in 2009.

What topics are covered in 'The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology'?

The book covers topics including arguments for the existence of God (like the cosmological, teleological, and moral arguments), the problem of evil, the nature of divine attributes, and the relationship between science and religion.

Is 'The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology' suitable for beginners?

While accessible, the book is primarily aimed at advanced students, scholars, and those with some background in philosophy and theology, as it contains in-depth analyses and complex arguments.

How does 'The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology' contribute to contemporary debates?

The book provides rigorous philosophical discussions that engage with modern scientific developments and challenges to natural theology, thereby enriching contemporary debates in philosophy of religion.

Can 'The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology' be used as a textbook?

Yes, it is often used in graduate-level courses on philosophy of religion and theology due to its comprehensive and scholarly treatment of natural theology topics.

Does 'The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology' address criticisms of natural theology?

Yes, the volume includes essays that critically examine traditional arguments and respond to skeptical challenges, offering balanced perspectives on the strengths and weaknesses of natural theology.

Where can one purchase or access 'The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology'?

The book is available for purchase through major online retailers like Amazon and academic publishers such as Wiley-Blackwell, and it can also be accessed in many university libraries.

Additional Resources

The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology: A Scholarly Examination

the blackwell companion to natural theology stands as a pivotal resource for scholars, students, and enthusiasts engaged in the study of natural theology. Published by Blackwell Publishing, this comprehensive volume gathers contributions from leading philosophers, theologians, and scholars to explore the rational basis of theological claims through reason and empirical evidence rather than revealed or scriptural sources. As natural theology continues to evolve within philosophical and religious discourse, this companion offers a critical and nuanced examination of its key concepts, arguments, and challenges.

In-depth Analysis of The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology

The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology serves as more than an introductory text; it is a sophisticated compendium that delves into the historical development, contemporary debates, and methodological frameworks that shape natural theology today. Edited by William Lane Craig and J.P. Moreland, two prominent figures in analytic philosophy of religion, the volume is meticulously structured to cover diverse perspectives and to facilitate critical engagement with the subject matter.

One of the central strengths of this companion lies in its interdisciplinary approach. The contributors include philosophers of religion, metaphysicians, epistemologists, and theologians, each bringing unique insights into the epistemic foundations and argumentative strategies of natural theology. This diversity ensures that readers are exposed to a variety of analytical tools and thematic concerns, from classical arguments like the cosmological and teleological proofs to contemporary discussions on the problem of evil and the interface between science and religion.

Historical Context and Evolution

Natural theology has a long-standing tradition that dates back to classical antiquity, with figures such as Aristotle and Aquinas laying foundational ideas that sought to prove God's existence through reason and observation of the natural world. The Blackwell Companion traces this historical trajectory, highlighting how natural theology has been interpreted and reinterpreted across different philosophical epochs.

The volume dedicates substantial attention to the medieval scholastic tradition, the Enlightenment period's critical challenges, and the resurgence of natural theology in the 20th and 21st centuries. This historical overview not only contextualizes the arguments but also illustrates the evolving nature of theological inquiry in response to scientific advancements and philosophical critiques.

Key Arguments and Philosophical Debates

Among the most extensively analyzed topics within the companion are the classical arguments for God's existence. The cosmological argument, which posits that the universe's existence demands a first cause or necessary being, is examined in its various forms—including the Kalam cosmological argument, to which editor William Lane Craig has contributed significantly.

Similarly, the teleological argument, or the argument from design, is explored with attention to contemporary scientific developments such as the fine-tuning of the universe. Contributors assess how modern cosmology and physics influence the plausibility and formulation of design arguments.

The companion also critically engages with objections and counterarguments, such as

those posed by the problem of evil and the argument from divine hiddenness. These analyses are important because they demonstrate the ongoing dialectic between natural theology and its critics, fostering a balanced understanding of the field.

Methodological Insights and Epistemology

Beyond the arguments themselves, *The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology* provides valuable insights into the methodologies employed in natural theological inquiry. Discussions on epistemology—the study of knowledge—are woven throughout, particularly concerning the rational justification for belief in God based on natural reason.

The text explores how natural theology navigates the boundary between faith and reason, addressing questions of evidentialism, fideism, and the role of background assumptions. This focus on epistemic issues helps readers appreciate the complexities involved in constructing and evaluating theological arguments outside of revealed religion.

Features and Comparative Perspectives

Compared to other works in the field, such as Plantinga's "Warranted Christian Belief" or the "Cambridge Companion to Natural Theology," *The Blackwell Companion* distinguishes itself through its breadth and collective expertise. Its editorial team and contributors are recognized authorities, lending credibility and depth to the discussions.

The companion's structure facilitates both thematic coherence and accessibility. Each chapter is self-contained yet interconnected, allowing readers to selectively engage with topics of interest or to read the volume as a comprehensive guide.

Pros and Cons of The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology

- **Pros:**

- Comprehensive coverage of classical and contemporary topics in natural theology.
- Contributions from leading scholars offering diverse viewpoints.
- Balanced treatment of arguments and their critiques.
- Integration of philosophical rigor with theological sensitivity.

- **Cons:**

- Academic tone may be challenging for lay readers without background in philosophy or theology.
- Some chapters assume familiarity with technical terminology and prior debates.
- The volume's size and density can be overwhelming for casual readers.

Target Audience and Usage

The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology is ideally suited for graduate students, academic researchers, and professionals in philosophy of religion and theology. It also serves as a valuable reference for clergy and laypersons interested in the rational foundations of faith. Given its comprehensive and analytical nature, the companion is frequently adopted in advanced university courses and research libraries.

Natural Theology in the Contemporary Intellectual Landscape

The relevance of The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology extends beyond academic circles. In an era marked by debates over science and religion, secularism, and interfaith dialogue, natural theology remains a vital arena for exploring questions about existence, meaning, and the divine.

The companion's engagement with scientific explanations, particularly in cosmology and biology, underscores how natural theology intersects with empirical discoveries. By evaluating arguments that appeal to the fine-tuning of physical constants or the complexity of biological systems, the volume fosters a dialogue between faith and reason that resonates with contemporary intellectual culture.

Moreover, the work's attention to objections such as the problem of evil ensures that natural theology does not shy away from challenging issues. This openness to critical scrutiny enhances the credibility and depth of the discussions.

In summary, The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology represents a significant scholarly contribution to the field. It offers readers a multifaceted exploration of natural theology's arguments, history, and epistemology, all while situating these discussions within ongoing philosophical and scientific conversations. For those committed to understanding the rational underpinnings of theological belief, this companion remains an indispensable resource.

[The Blackwell Companion To Natural Theology](#)

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the blackwell companion to natural theology: The Blackwell companion to natural theology William Lane Craig, James Porter Moreland, 2009

the blackwell companion to natural theology: The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology William Lane Craig, J. P. Moreland, 2012-02-27 With the help of in-depth essays from some of the world's leading philosophers, The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology explores the nature and existence of God through human reason and evidence from the natural world. Provides in-depth and cutting-edge treatment of natural theology's main arguments Includes contributions from first-rate philosophers well known for their work on the relevant topics Updates relevant arguments in light of the most current, state-of-the-art philosophical and scientific discussions Stands in useful contrast and opposition to the arguments of the 'new atheists'

the blackwell companion to natural theology: The Blackwell Companion to Science and Christianity J. B. Stump, Alan G. Padgett, 2012-03-12 A cutting-edge survey of contemporary thought at the intersection of science and Christianity. Provides a cutting-edge survey of the central ideas at play at the intersection of science and Christianity through 54 original articles by world-leading scholars and rising stars in the discipline Focuses on Christianity's interaction with Science to offer a fine-grained analysis of issues such as multiverse theories in cosmology, convergence in evolution, Intelligent Design, natural theology, human consciousness, artificial intelligence, free will, miracles, and the Trinity, amongst many others Addresses major historical developments in the relationship between science and Christianity, including Christian patristics, the scientific revolution, the reception of Darwin, and twentieth century fundamentalism Divided into 9 Parts: Historical Episodes; Methodology; Natural Theology; Cosmology & Physics; Evolution; The Human Sciences; Christian Bioethics; Metaphysical Implications; The Mind; Theology; and Significant Figures of the 20th Century Includes diverse perspectives and broadens the conversation from the Anglocentric tradition

the blackwell companion to natural theology: Natural Theology James K. Dew, Jr., Ronnie P. Campbell, Jr., 2024-04-16 Natural theology is a matter of debate among theologians and Christian philosophers. In this book, top scholars in the fields of theology and Christian philosophy introduce readers to five prevailing views on the topic. Contributors include John C. McDowell, Alister E. McGrath, Paul K. Moser, Fr. Andrew Pinsent, and Charles Taliaferro. The contributors offer constructive approaches from major perspectives--contemporary, Catholic, classical, deflationary, and Barthian--in a multiview format to provide readers with the state of the question on natural theology. Each unit consists of an introduction by a proponent of the view under discussion, responses from the other contributors, and a final response by the proponent. James Dew and Ronnie Campbell provide a helpful introduction and conclusion. Offering a model of critical thinking and respectful dialogue, this volume provides a balanced, irenic approach to a topic of ongoing

debate. Students of theology, Christian philosophers, and readers interested in the theology and science dialogue will value this work.

the blackwell companion to natural theology: A Natural History of Natural Theology

Helen De Cruz, Johan De Smedt, 2024-06-11 An examination of the cognitive foundations of intuitions about the existence and attributes of God. Questions about the existence and attributes of God form the subject matter of natural theology, which seeks to gain knowledge of the divine by relying on reason and experience of the world. Arguments in natural theology rely largely on intuitions and inferences that seem natural to us, occurring spontaneously—at the sight of a beautiful landscape, perhaps, or in wonderment at the complexity of the cosmos—even to a nonphilosopher. In this book, Helen De Cruz and Johan De Smedt examine the cognitive origins of arguments in natural theology. They find that although natural theological arguments can be very sophisticated, they are rooted in everyday intuitions about purpose, causation, agency, and morality. Using evidence and theories from disciplines including the cognitive science of religion, evolutionary ethics, evolutionary aesthetics, and the cognitive science of testimony, they show that these intuitions emerge early in development and are a stable part of human cognition. De Cruz and De Smedt analyze the cognitive underpinnings of five well-known arguments for the existence of God: the argument from design, the cosmological argument, the moral argument, the argument from beauty, and the argument from miracles. Finally, they consider whether the cognitive origins of these natural theological arguments should affect their rationality.

the blackwell companion to natural theology: The Blackwell Companion to Substance

Dualism Jonathan J. Loose, Angus J. L. Menuge, J. P. Moreland, 2018-05-01 THE BLACKWELL COMPANION TO SUBSTANCE DUALISM “This is a terrific volume ... by a long way, the best currently available anthology on dualism, and a worthy addition to Blackwell’s distinguished series of Companions.” Tim Crane, Central European University “A major contribution to an ongoing transformation of analytic philosophy of mind.” Howard Robinson, Central European University “This high quality volume offers a rich variety of perspectives on substance dualism and will be a valuable resource for students and researchers in philosophy of mind and philosophy of religion.” John Cottingham, University of Reading “Thorough and fair ... the quality of the essays is high. This will certainly be the book on substance dualism.” Michael Tye, University of Texas at Austin Substance dualism has for some time been dismissed as an archaic and defeated position in philosophy of mind, but in recent years, the topic has experienced a resurgence of scholarly interest and has been restored to contemporary prominence by a growing minority of philosophers prepared to interrogate the core principles upon which past objections and misunderstandings rest. As the first book of its kind to bring together a collection of contemporary writing from top proponents and critics in a pro-contra format, the Blackwell Companion to Substance Dualism captures this ongoing dialogue and sets the stage for rigorous and lively discourse around dualist and physicalist accounts of human persons in philosophy. Chapters explore emergent, Thomistic, Cartesian, and other forms of substance dualism — broadly conceived — in dialogue with leading varieties of physicalism, including animalism, non-reductive physicalism, and constitution theory. Loose, Menuge, and Moreland pair essays from dualist advocates with astute criticism from physicalist opponents and vice versa, highlighting points of contrast for readers in thematic sections while showcasing today’s leading minds engaged in direct debate. Taken together, essays provide nuanced paths of introduction for students, and capture the imagination of professional philosophers looking to expand their understanding of the subject. Skillfully curated and in touch with contemporary science as well as analytic theology, the Blackwell Companion to Substance Dualism strikes a measured balanced between advocacy and criticism, and is a first-rate resource for researchers, scholars, and students of philosophy, theology, and neuroscience.

the blackwell companion to natural theology: *God and the Scientist* Fraser Watts,

2016-04-22 This book presents a celebration, survey and critique of the theological work of arguably the most important and most widely-read contributor to the modern dialogue between science and theology: John Polkinghorne. Including a major survey by Polkinghorne himself of his life's work in

theology, this book draws together contributors from among the most important voices in the science-theology dialogue today to focus on key aspects of Polkinghorne's work, with Polkinghorne providing responses. Anybody exploring contemporary aspects of the science-religion debate will find this book invaluable.

the blackwell companion to natural theology: The Oxford Handbook of Natural Theology Russell Re Manning, 2013-01-17 The Oxford Handbook of Natural Theology is the first collection to consider the full breadth of natural theology from both historical and contemporary perspectives and to bring together leading scholars to offer accessible high-level accounts of the major themes. The volume embodies and develops the recent revival of interest in natural theology as a topic of serious critical engagement. Frequently misunderstood or polemicized, natural theology is an under-studied yet persistent and pervasive presence throughout the history of thought about ultimate reality - from the classical Greek theology of the philosophers to twenty-first-century debates in science and religion. Of interest to students and scholars from a wide range of disciplines, this authoritative handbook draws on the very best of contemporary scholarship to present a critical overview of the subject area. Thirty-eight new essays trace the transformations of natural theology in different historical and religious contexts, the place of natural theology in different philosophical traditions and diverse scientific disciplines, and the various cultural and aesthetic approaches to natural theology to reveal a rich seam of multi-faceted theological reflection rooted in human nature and the environments within which we find ourselves.

the blackwell companion to natural theology: An Invitation to Analytic Christian Theology Thomas H. McCall, 2015-11-09 Analytic theology is a new and stimulating movement that uses the tools and methods of philosophy to help us understand and articulate Christian doctrine. Thomas McCall introduces us to analytic theology, explaining its connections to Scripture, Christian tradition and culture, and calling the discipline to deeper engagement with the traditional resources of the theological task.

the blackwell companion to natural theology: Science & Religion Alister E. McGrath, 2020-01-31 The leading introductory textbook on the study of religion and the natural sciences, including new coverage of the latest topics in the field Science and Religion provides students with a thorough introduction to the major themes and landmark debates in the interaction of science and religion. Incorporating history, philosophy, the natural sciences, and theology, this popular textbook examines how science and religion approach central questions and discusses the relationship between the two areas through the centuries. The authoritative and accessible chapters are designed for readers with minimal knowledge of science or theology. Written by one of the world's leading authorities on the study of religion and science, this fully revised and updated third edition addresses contemporary topics and reflects the latest conceptual developments in the field. New and expanded chapters and case studies discuss Scientism, evolutionary theodicy, the Theory of Relativity, warranted belief in science and religion, the influence of science and religion on human values, and more. The most up-to-date introduction to this exciting and rapidly growing field, this textbook: Offers an engaging, thematically-based approach to the subject Provides historical context for major events in science and religion Explores scientific and religious perspectives on Creation and the existence of God Discusses models, analogies, and issues at the intersection of science and religion One of the most respected and widely adopted textbooks in the field, Science and Religion: A New Introduction, 3rd Edition is an ideal resource for college, seminary, and university students in courses in science and religion; church or community courses in the relation of science and faith; and general readers looking for an inclusive overview of the field.

the blackwell companion to natural theology: *Richard Hooker* Philip Hobday, 2023-09-07 For some, Hooker and Anglicanism are basically reformed; for others, fundamentally Catholic; for some embodying a 'middle way' between Roman Catholic and Protestant extremes; and for others simply confused and incoherent. This book challenges those perceptions by showing that 'reformed' and 'catholic' are not intrinsically opposed. Reading Hooker alongside a representative theologian of each tradition (the 'catholic' Aquinas and the 'reformed' Calvin) on theological method, Hobday

shows there is much greater congruity between theologies and theologians often considered in tension. On the role of scripture in theology, the theological capacity of human reason, and the place of tradition, these 3 theologians have far more in common than many subsequent commentators have understood. This book shows how both Hooker and the Anglicanism he defended in such elegant prose, can be coherently both 'catholic' and 'reformed' (rather than one, or the other, or some middle way). Relocating Hooker, and Anglicanism, in this way reveals them to be rich, fruitful conversation partners in ecumenical dialogue and theological debates across Christian traditions.

the blackwell companion to natural theology: Systematic Philosophical Theology, Volume 1 William Lane Craig, 2025-03-03 Offers a transformative journey through Christian doctrine, invites readers to engage with an intellectually enriching exploration of faith and reason Systematic Philosophical Theology is a multi-volume explication of Christian doctrine in the classic Protestant tradition of the loci communes. Blending the disciplines of biblical theology, historical theology, and analytic theology, this landmark series provides readers with a biblically faithful, philosophically coherent articulation of the full range of Christian doctrine. In the first volume of the series, Prolegomena, On Scripture, On Faith, distinguished theologian and philosopher William Lane Craig begins by introducing his conception of systematic philosophical theology, describing how it relates to biblical theology, dogmatics, fundamental theology, apologetics, and especially philosophy of religion. The chapters that follow defend the divine authority of Scripture, address the nature of faith, and discuss the rational justification for Christian faith. Throughout the text, Craig tackles deep philosophical issues that arise naturally from Christian doctrine, such as questions regarding the compatibility of biblical inspiration and human freedom. Taking a synoptic, integrative approach that lays the foundation for engaging with subsequent volumes in the series, Prolegomena, On Scripture, On Faith: Offers a deep integration of philosophy and theology Characterizes the main features of systematic theology, including its nature, goals, subject matter, and relations to adjacent disciplines Combines sacred and secular knowledge to build a synoptic worldview bridging the gap between theology and scientific disciplines Presents creative formulations of Christian doctrines, such as a Molinist doctrine of biblical inspiration Systematic Philosophical Theology, Volume I: Prolegomena, On Scripture, On Faith is essential reading for philosophers of religion, systematic theologians, analytic theologians, and Christian philosophers. It is also a valuable resource for students and scholars of religion, philosophy of religion, and theology, as well as laypeople and academics in other fields.

the blackwell companion to natural theology: Towards a Reformed Enlightenment Matthias Mangold, 2024-05-27 In Towards a Reformed Enlightenment: Salomon van Til (1643-1713) and the Cartesio-Cocceian Debates in the Early Modern Dutch Republic, Matthias Mangold offers the first in-depth investigation into the theological and philosophical convictions of an influential, yet hitherto much neglected, Dutch theologian working around the turn of the eighteenth century. With its strong contextual approach, this analysis of Van Til's thought sheds new light on various intellectual dynamics at the time, most notably the long-standing conflict between the Voetian and Cocceian factions within the Dutch Reformed Church and the reception of Cartesian philosophy in the face of emerging Radical Enlightenment ideas.

the blackwell companion to natural theology: Biblical Apologetics Clifford B. McManis, 2013-07-26 The book you are holding in your hands is perhaps the simplest, most straightforward summary and how-to guide for presuppositional apologetics now in print. It is both informative and practically helpful. I believe you will find it an extremely useful tool whether you are an professor at the seminary level seeking supplemental reading material or just a simple lay person looking for practical answers. Pastor McManis writes with crisp clarity in a way that is certain to give you fresh insight into what Scripture teaches about the defense of the Christian faith. I wish this book had been available when I was studying apologetics in seminary. John MacArthur, Pastor-Teacher, Grace Community Church; President of The Masters College and Seminary Cliff has rescued the discipline from the elite circle of the intelligentsia and returned it as a biblical theology of truth communication to the common people (i.e. to all believers). This volume will be of great help in the

restoration of the practicality of biblical apologetics as it was exemplified in the early Church. Hopefully, today's readers will be able to understand and put into practice the true nature of Peter's command in 1 Peter 3:15 as it is strategically situated in its defining context. George J. Zemek, Academic Dean, The Expositors Seminary, Jupiter, Florida.

the blackwell companion to natural theology: Crossing Traditions: Essays on the Reformation and Intellectual History Maria-Cristina Pitassi, Daniela Solfaroli Camillocci, 2017-11-20 English Irena Backus' scholarship has been characterised by profound historical learning and philological acumen, extraordinary mastery of a wide range of languages, and broad-ranging interests. From the history of historiography to the story of Biblical exegesis and the reception of the Church Fathers, her research on the long sixteenth century stands as a point of reference for both historians of ideas and church historians alike. She also explored late medieval theology before turning her attention to the interplay of religion and philosophy in the seventeenth century, the focus of her late research. This volume assembles contributions from 35 international specialists that reflect the breadth of her interests and both illustrate and extend her path-breaking legacy as a scholar, teacher and colleague. Français La recherche d'Irena Backus témoigne d'une culture historique et philologique étendue, de son impeccable maîtrise des instruments linguistiques et de la multiplicité de ses centres d'intérêt. Ses études sont aujourd'hui une référence essentielle pour les spécialistes de l'histoire intellectuelle, de l'histoire de l'exégèse biblique et de la réception des Pères de l'Eglise pendant le long XVI^e siècle. Seiziémiste de formation, elle s'est également aventurée dans d'autres chronologies, en s'intéressant à l'Eglise de la fin du moyen âge et à la philosophie de ce XVII^e siècle qui l'a de plus en plus passionnée et qui constitue aujourd'hui son centre d'intérêt majeur. Ce recueil célèbre son long et original enseignement et ses grandes qualités de chercheuses et de collègue.

the blackwell companion to natural theology: Christian Natural Law and Religious Freedom Alex Deagon, 2025-06-30 Deagon addresses the need for a robust theoretical foundation for religious freedom that accounts for its transcendent nature. What is the idea of religious freedom? Where does it come from? Why should it be protected? These important questions for understanding religious freedom are usually addressed through secular and immanent foundations which are unable to sufficiently grapple with the religious nature of religious freedom – its connection with the divine. Deagon proposes an alternative approach rooted in Christian Natural Law. In Part I of the book, Deagon defines and develops Christian Natural Law, identifying three consistent themes: Love, the True and the Good. In Part II, Deagon deploys Christian Natural Law to articulate a theological framework for religious freedom which shows that religious freedom is an individual and social good, is oriented to the true and is grounded in love. In doing so, Deagon offers a new foundation for religious freedom which properly considers it as a matter of both human and divine action. This book will be of interest to those engaged in law and religion studies, in particular scholars of religious freedom, theology and jurisprudence and human rights.

the blackwell companion to natural theology: God, Science, and Religious Diversity Robert T. Lehe, 2018-07-24 Two major obstacles to belief in God in the twenty-first century are the idea that science is incompatible with religious faith, and the idea that the diversity of religions undermines the credibility of belief that any one religion could be truer than the others. This book addresses both of these challenges to belief in God and explores a connection between them. It argues that science and religion are not only compatible, but that some recent scientific discoveries actually support belief in the existence of the Creator God. The diversity of religions is widely believed to undermine the credibility of religious truth claims because of the assumed lack of any way to settle disagreements between different religions. This book argues that one rational way to adjudicate disagreements between the claims of diverse religions is to assess their consistency with contemporary science. The book considers how Christian theism and Buddhism fare in harmonizing their metaphysical frameworks with contemporary scientific cosmology. Although both theistic and Buddhist worldviews resonate with many recent scientific discoveries, the Big Bang theory and cosmic fine-tuning favor the Christian doctrine of creation.

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