



Georges Lemaître

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Born in 1894 in Belgium.

Georges was very curious and loved science, and he also loved God. He became a priest in the Roman Catholic church AND a brilliant scientist. He was kind, modest and very brave. As a young soldier, he fought in the First World War and received a special medal for his bravery. Georges was very good at maths and physics and enjoyed studying the cosmos (space and the universe). After a while, he discovered something new and amazing: that the universe had started from a single, extremely hot and heavy point. He also discovered that we can calculate this point in time, namely nearly 14 billion years ago, and that the universe has been expanding ever since. The explosion that marked the beginning of the universe is now called the Big Bang. However, at the time, many scientists including Georges' good friend Albert Einstein initially disagreed with this theory.

Georges Lemaître remained a committed Christian and worked for the Roman Catholic Church, including the leader of the church, the Pope. Georges was very clear: science and faith don't conflict. However, it's best not to mix up science and theology: theology is the study of God and religion, so it explores different things and questions to science.



Isaac Newton

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Born in England in 1642.

Isaac had a tough time as a child, but soon became a ‘polymath’, someone who knows a lot about lots of types of science. He was also a theologian, someone who studies God. Isaac’s most famous discoveries include the law of gravity and the three ‘laws of motion’, which describe the relationship between objects, forces and movement. Each child around the world will learn about these laws at school! They are relevant all the time, as they describe gravity and movement in the entire universe. They even confirmed the theory that planets move around the sun, and that our sun (and not the earth) is at the centre of our solar system. Isaac Newton discovered lots about light too, developed the telescope, and invented ‘calculus’, the mathematical study of ongoing change.

Isaac also studied the Bible and wrote about how to best interpret it. He warned people against seeing the universe as just ‘mechanical’ and said that God was behind it all: “So then gravity may put the planets into motion, but without the Divine Power (God) it could never put them into such a circulating motion, as they have about the sun”. Isaac Newton was one of the most significant scientists of all times and his scientific discoveries and laws kickstarted a new era: the Enlightenment.



Mary Anning

Mary Anning

Born in 1799 in England.

From a young age, Mary went out fossil hunting along the Dorset coastline with her dad. When she was 12, Mary discovered and identified the first ichthyosaur fossil. She found several plesiosaur and pterodactyl as well as fish fossils, which have helped scientists piece together the history of life on earth.

Mary had a tough childhood: her family was very poor, and she didn't go to school. And, more than once, she narrowly escaped death, including during her fossil finding adventures.

Until just over 200 years ago, fossils were just interesting pieces of rock; Mary's father collected prehistoric squid fossils and sold them to curious tourists as 'devil's fingers' (belemnites) and 'snake stones' (ammonites). Mary sold fossils to keep her family fed, but also loved reading scientific texts about palaeontology.

Mary contributed a lot to science, with her knowledge and writing, and very detailed drawings of fossils. But, in the nineteenth century, it was still very hard for women to be acknowledged as scientists. Eventually, Mary became a respected fossil specialist, and palaeontologists from all over the world visited her in Dorset.

Mary was a very faithful Christian and lived a life full of kindness and integrity, despite all the hardships she had to overcome. Her discoveries made a VERY important contribution to how people saw the history of life on earth, both the extinction of species and the development of new life forms. Until 1820 most people believed that God had made everything in the universe in six days, right at the beginning of creation, and that everything had always stayed the same. They thought that ideas about extinction and evolution of species would go against God's creation of a perfect world. Mary and other palaeontologists showed a different view, that evolution was part of God's plan.



Francis Collins

Francis Collins

Born in the United States of America in 1950.

Francis studied medicine and genes (DNA), the 'code' in our cells that work like an instruction book for our bodies. He has made lots of important discoveries, including ones that help treat serious illnesses, and led the biggest project ever about the genetic code in our cells, called the Human Genome Project. He has advised several American presidents on national health and science. Francis loves music, plays in a rock band and his wise proposals helped society a lot during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Francis Collins is a Christian and has written many books about science and faith. He even set up an organisation called BioLogos, to help people understand that Christianity and science can work well together, and that God can work through evolution. Francis Collins became a Christian as a doctor and believes that God created the world through evolution.



Kizzmekia Corbett

Born in the United States of America in 1986.

Kizzy is an African American biologist. Her chemistry teacher said that Kizzy was the brightest child she had taught in 30 years. At university, Kizzy started to study viruses and other pathogens. She discovered how they make us ill and how to develop remedies and vaccines.

Early in her career, Kizzy worked with sick children in Sri Lanka and then later, in 2014, she conducted many very complicated experiments to understand proteins in Corona viruses. Kizzy was one of the main inventors of a very important Covid-19 vaccine. She has also helped many people to learn to trust the vaccine and goes out into deprived areas to inspire young people.

Kizzy is a Christian and is passionate about giving back to the world, using her faith and intelligence.

Kizzy Corbett