

FINDING GOD IN AN AGE OF SCIENCE

JOHN LENNOX + KEVIN SORBO

AGAINST *The* TIDE

A JOURNEY WITH A DIFFERENCE...

Against the Tide is a travelogue, a science documentary, an excursion into history, an autobiography and more! But at heart, it is the story of one man's daring stand against the tide of contemporary atheism and its drive to add belief in God to society's catalogue of dead ideas.

"I have taken a stand against atheism because I am convinced that it is perilously built on false premises and misinterpretations of evidence. Some of it is from science and some of it is from history. Properly understood, the evidence inexorably points to the existence of a creator God."

(Professor John Lennox)

"If that's true, the world needs to hear about it!"

(Kevin Sorbo, the film's co-producer and presenter)

In a film that, for the first time, brings together the evidence from science and evidence from history, follow John Lennox's battle for the truth about God, told throughout this journey with a difference - and experience the difference the evidence can make!

Study Guide

produced by Kharis Productions Ltd

www.againstthetidemovie.org

AGAINST THE TIDE

A STUDY GUIDE TO THE FILM

CHAPTER 1

Science and the God Question

1. Why is there something and not nothing? What do you think?
2. *"Religion teaches us to be satisfied with not understanding."* (Richard Dawkins)
How do you respond?
Does Dawkins make a reasonable point?
3. *"My faith is rational and evidence based; we can speak of being convinced between reasonable doubt."*
How can faith be considered 'rational'?
4. *"I don't understand how you get God and science as alternative explanations."*
What underlies the counter claim that science and belief in God are in conflict?
5. CS Lewis wrote *"In the Trinity term of 1929, I gave in and accepted that God was God."*
What do you think he meant by 'giving in'?
6. *"We have to decide on the basis of evidence; I know of no other way."*
Is that how most people make up their minds about God?
Is there any other way?
7. *"My parents encouraged me to investigate other people's worldviews."*
Is that a wise approach or too risky?
8. *"I decided on that day in Cambridge I would interact with others who do not share my worldview."*
What is the value of this strategy?
Is it best confined to a small minority of people well versed and confident in their beliefs?
9. *"Religion is the most common form of superstition"* says Alabama's Judge Pryor, quoting Dawkins' book *The God Delusion*.
How do you respond?
10. *"I believe the public need to hear there is another side: that God exists and that the Christian faith is true."*
What, in your view, does the general public think on the question of God's existence?
Are they aware of both sides of the argument?
11. *"The battle isn't between science and faith in God."*
Do you agree? If so, where does the idea of their incompatibility come from?
12. *"What science has now achieved is an emancipation from the impulse to attribute these things to a creator."* (Richard Dawkins)
To what extent is this equivalent to claiming that science can answer everything?
Is that a convincing view to hold?

CHAPTER 2

Thinking about the Wonder of the Universe

1. Consider the following quotes from atheists:

"We don't need a God to explain the universe." (Peter Singer)

"You don't need a God to create it; the universe is the ultimate free lunch." (Stephen Hawking)

"I do indeed think we are the winners in a cosmic lottery". (Steven Weinberg)

What is the alternative to God as an explanation of the existence of the universe?

2. *"Current scientific wisdom says it (the universe) comes from nothing."*

How is that argument justified by its advocates, such as Lawrence Krauss?

Do you think it is a sustainable argument?

3. John Lennox happily admits he is 'making much ado about nothing'.

Is he right to do so?

4. *"All science depends on scientists believing that that universe can be understood by human minds, in the form of mathematics mainly."*

What is the significance of that fact in relation to the existence of a creator?

5. *".....just one of many fine balances in the universe necessary to sustain life on earth."*

What is the relevance of the 'fine tuning argument' to the debate about God and science?

6. *"Because there is such a law such as gravity, the universe can, and will, create itself from nothing".* (Stephen Hawking)

Is this a logical argument?

CHAPTER 3

Thinking about Extreme Atheism in Practice

1. *"I travelled behind the Iron Curtain....That gave me an opportunity to see in depth an atheistic culture in operation."*
Why does John Lennox believe that institutional atheism leads to the destruction of important human values? Do you think he is correct?

CHAPTER 4

Thinking about the Wonder of life on Earth

1. John Lennox is asked *"How much of a threat to a belief in God is Darwinian evolution?"*
How would you respond?
2. How do you react to the following 'alternative to God' interpretations of the wonder of life?
"I don't think we need any miraculous views about how life gets going." (Peter Singer)
"It didn't need to be crafted. One day there was an invasion of a cell by a bacterium. They found that they could reproduce more effectively and they exploded across the biosphere."
3. *"You cannot deduce atheism as a worldview from biology."*
Why not?
4. *"At the heart of life is the genetic code."*
Why does John Lennox place so much emphasis on its importance?

CHAPTER 5

Thinking about the Wonder of Mind and Consciousness

1. *"Since consciousness is an immaterial aspect it cannot have been produced by purely material processes." (John Lennox).*
How do you respond to this argument and the atheist counter arguments below?

"It's extraordinary! Our consciousness has evolved as a mechanism of survival." (Peter Atkins)

"It has arisen through the process of evolution that has nevertheless thrown up beings capable of reasoning." (Peter Singer)

CHAPTER 6

Thinking about Jesus and History

1. *"I argue that there is evidence for the existence of an intelligent God behind the universe but Christianity goes further and it answers the question 'Who is this God?'"*
Why is it important to go further than science can take us in exploring the God question?
2. *"Christianity is built on the belief that the New Testament records are true."*
Why should anyone believe they are?
3. *"Religion is a fiction that just is never challenged."* (Sam Harris)
Is this true? Are such challenges, as are likely envisaged in this statement, beneficial in any way - and to whom?
4. *"There is substantial evidence that what scripture claimed happened here did happen."*
What do you think some of that evidence is?
5. How do you respond to the view that miracles are 'profoundly unscientific'?
6. Do you have any reason to accept that the disciple Peter was a very reliable reporter of events in the life of Jesus?

CHAPTER 7

Thinking about the Crucifixion and Resurrection

1. What do you see as the double significance of the resurrection of Lazarus in terms of being both 'a sign and a statement'?
2. Was the crucifixion of Jesus 'really necessary'?
How would you react to the view that God should be able simply to forgive — no fuss?
3. Consider the following quotations:
"The resurrection of Jesus! Never happened!" (Peter Atkins)
"People ask 'where's the proof?'" (Kevin Sorbo)
"You can't get proof like I do in my field of mathematics...What we do get are evidences, pointers, so that we can come to a conclusion beyond reasonable doubt." (John Lennox)
To what extent do you find evidence that points to the truth of the resurrection and takes you 'beyond reasonable doubt'?
4. In the gospel accounts of resurrection morning there are variations in the narratives. Is this a strength or a weakness in testing for the reality of Jesus' rising from the dead?
5. Speaking of his belief in the resurrection, John Lennox says: *'I'm convinced of it; not only as a Christian but as a scientist.'*
How convinced are you?