

Cambridge Elements

Elements in the Problems of God

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EVOLUTION AND CHRISTIANITY

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Evolution and Christianity

Elements in the Problems of God

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Abstract: This Element discusses the relationship between Christianity and evolutionary theory, with special emphasis on Darwinian evolutionary theory (Darwinism). The Creationists argue that the two are incompatible and it is religion that is the truth and Darwinism the falsity. The New Atheists argue that the two are incompatible and it is religion that is the falsity and Darwinism the truth. Through a careful examination of both Darwinian theory and Christianity, this Element shows that both extremes are mistaken. It accepts that there are difficult issues to be solved, for example the problem of evil – which some think is exacerbated by Darwinism – and the necessary appearance of *Homo sapiens* – which is problematic if evolutionary theory does not guarantee progress and the evolution of humans as the apotheosis. However, it argues that there are ways forward and that Christianity and evolutionary thinking can be shown to be compatible.

Keywords: Christianity, Darwinism, warfare, independence, integration

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