

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00416-9 - *More Worlds Than One: The Creed of the Philosopher and the Hope of the Christian*

David Brewster

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

*Books of enduring scholarly value*

### Religion

For centuries, scripture and theology were the focus of prodigious amounts of scholarship and publishing, dominated in the English-speaking world by the work of Protestant Christians. Enlightenment philosophy and science, anthropology, ethnology and the colonial experience all brought new perspectives, lively debates and heated controversies to the study of religion and its role in the world, many of which continue to this day. This series explores the editing and interpretation of religious texts, the history of religious ideas and institutions, and not least the encounter between religion and science.

### More Worlds Than One

Sir David Brewster (1781–1868) was a distinguished scientist and inventor who frequently turned the results of his research to practical ends; his work on the diffraction of light, for example, led to his developing improved reflectors for lighthouses and inventing two popular Victorian toys, the stereoscope and the kaleidoscope. He was also active as the editor of the *Edinburgh Magazine* and the *Edinburgh Encyclopaedia* (1808–30) and contributed to the seventh and eighth editions of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, as well as writing many articles for a variety of philosophical and scientific journals. He was deeply religious, and in *More Worlds Than One* (1854) he set out to counter the arguments against extra-terrestrial life in William Whewell's recently published *Of the Plurality of Worlds* (also reissued in this series), urging that Whewell's 'extraordinary doctrine' was wrong on scientific grounds.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00416-9 - More Worlds Than One: The Creed of the Philosopher and the Hope of the Christian

David Brewster

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection will bring back to life books of enduring scholarly value across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00416-9 - More Worlds Than One: The Creed of the Philosopher and the Hope of the Christian

David Brewster

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

# More Worlds Than One

*The Creed of the Philosopher and the Hope of  
the Christian*

DAVID BREWSTER



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00416-9 - More Worlds Than One: The Creed of the Philosopher and the Hope of the Christian

David Brewster

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge New York Melbourne Madrid Cape Town Singapore São Paulo Delhi

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108004169](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108004169)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2009

This edition first published 1854

This digitally printed version 2009

ISBN 978-1-108-00416-9

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00416-9 - More Worlds Than One: The Creed of the Philosopher and the Hope of the Christian

David Brewster

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

# MORE WORLDS THAN ONE

THE CREED OF THE PHILOSOPHER

AND THE HOPE OF THE CHRISTIAN.

BY

SIR DAVID BREWSTER, K.H., D.C.L.,

F.R.S., V.P.R.S. EDIN., AND ASSOCIATE OF THE INSTITUTE OF FRANCE.

“Bright star of eve, that send'st thy softening ray  
Through the dim twilight of this nether sky,  
I hail thy beam like rising of the day,  
Hast thou a home for me when I shall die?”

“Is there a spot within thy radiant sphere,  
Where love, and faith, and truth, again may dwell;  
Where I may seek the rest I find not here,  
And clasp the cherished forms I loved so well?”

LONDON :

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

1854.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00416-9 - More Worlds Than One: The Creed of the Philosopher and the Hope of the Christian

David Brewster

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
PREFACE, . . . . .	v
INTRODUCTION, . . . . .	1
CHAP. I. Religious Aspect of the Question, . . . . .	9
II. Description of the Solar System, . . . . .	21
III. The Geological Condition of the Earth, . . . . .	37
IV. Analogy between the Earth and the other Planets, . . . . .	55
V. The Sun, Moon, Satellites, and Asteroids, . . . . .	88
VI. The Motion of the Solar System round a distant Centre, . . . . .	110
VII. Religious Difficulties, . . . . .	125
VIII. Single Stars and Binary Systems, . . . . .	156
IX. Clusters of Stars and Nebulæ, . . . . .	167
X. General Summary, . . . . .	178
XI. Reply to Objections drawn from Geology, . . . . .	198
XII. Objections from the Nature of Nebulæ, . . . . .	209
XIII. Objections from the Nature of the Fixed Stars and Binary Systems, . . . . .	219
XIV. Objections from the Nature of the Planets, . . . . .	233
XV. The Future of the Universe, . . . . .	253

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00416-9 - More Worlds Than One: The Creed of the Philosopher and the Hope of the Christian

David Brewster

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

## P R E F A C E.

HAVING been requested by the Editor of the *North British Review* to give an account of a work entitled *Of a Plurality of Worlds, an Essay*, I undertook the task, in the belief that it contained sentiments similar to my own, and that I should have the gratification of illustrating and recommending a doctrine which had long been the creed of the Philosopher, and the hope of the Christian. I was surprised, however, to find that, under a title calculated to mislead the public, the author had made an elaborate attack upon opinions consecrated, as I had thought, by

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00416-9 - More Worlds Than One: The Creed of the Philosopher and the Hope of the Christian

David Brewster

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi

## PREFACE.

Reason and Revelation ; and had, in concluding his argument, not only adopted the *Nebular Theory*, so universally condemned as a dangerous speculation, but had taken a view of the condition of the Solar System, calculated to disparage the science of Astronomy, and to throw a doubt over the noblest of its truths.

Under ordinary circumstances I should have contented myself with such an analysis and criticism of the work as could be given within the narrow limits of a Review ; but while the boldness of the author's speculations, and the ingenuity with which they were maintained, required a more elaborate examination of them, the new views which presented themselves to me during the study of the subject, demanded a copious detail of facts which could be given only in a separate Treatise. I have, therefore, devoted the principal part of the volume to a statement of the arguments in favour of a Plurality of Worlds, and have endeavoured, in the subse-



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00416-9 - More Worlds Than One: The Creed of the Philosopher and the Hope of the Christian

David Brewster

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

PREFACE.

vii

quent chapters, to answer the various objections urged against it by the author of the Essay, and to examine the grounds upon which he has attempted to establish the extraordinary doctrine, “ that the Earth is really the largest planetary body in the Solar System,—its domestic hearth, and the only world in the Universe !”

ST. LEONARD'S COLLEGE, ST. ANDREWS,

*April 25th, 1854.*