

Richard C. Lewontin / An evolutionist's "struggle" against supernaturalism ...

- Our willingness to accept scientific claims that are against common sense is the key to an understanding of **the real struggle between science and the supernatural**. We take the side of science **in spite of** the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, **in spite of** its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, **in spite of** the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, **because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism**. It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. **Moreover, that materialism is absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door**. The eminent Kant scholar Lewis Beck used to say that anyone who could believe in God could believe in anything. To appeal to an omnipotent deity is to allow that at any moment the regularities of nature may be ruptured, that miracles may happen.
- <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/1997/01/09/billions-and-billions-of-demons/>
- [Helpful Note: "A priori" —relating to or denoting reasoning or knowledge that proceeds from theoretical deduction rather than from observation or experience; in a way based on theoretical deduction rather than empirical observation: relating to or derived by reasoning from self-evident propositions.]



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- Britain's Science Council has spent the past year working out a new definition of the word "science". Here's what they've come up with: "Science is the pursuit of knowledge and understanding of the natural and social world following a systematic methodology based on evidence."

The Perspicuity of Scripture ...

- The Clarity of Scripture / From Grace to You: The doctrine of the clarity (or perspicuity) of Scripture (**that the central message of the Bible is clear and understandable, and that the Bible itself can be properly interpreted in a normal, literal sense**) has been a cornerstone of evangelical belief ever since the Reformation.
- The doctrine of the clarity of Scripture (often called the "perspicuity of Scripture") teaches that **"the meanings of the text can be clear to the ordinary reader**, that God uses the text of the Bible to communicate His person and will. The witness of the Church throughout the ages is that ordinary people, who approach it in faith and humility, will be able to understand what the Bible is getting at, even if they meet with particular points of difficulty here and there."
[<http://www.theopedia.com/clarity-of-scripture>]
- Perspicuity: **plain to the understanding especially because of clarity and precision of presentation**; clearness of style or exposition, freedom from obscurity. Clearly expressed and easily understood; lucid.



DEFINING "SCIENCE" ...

- The Science Council ... **Science is** the pursuit and application of knowledge and understanding of the natural and social world following a systematic methodology based on evidence.
- dictionary.com **"science"**: a branch of knowledge or study dealing with a body of facts or truths systematically arranged and showing the operation of general laws; systematic knowledge of the physical or material world gained through observation and experimentation; any of the branches of natural or physical science; systematized knowledge in general; knowledge, as of facts or principles.
- Define **"science"**: the intellectual and practical activity encompassing the systematic study of the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment;
- **Science: most basic definition—knowledge, systematic gathering of knowledge.**
- Merriam-Webster **"science"**: the state of knowing; knowledge as distinguished from ignorance or misunderstanding.
- **The word science comes from the Latin "scientia," meaning knowledge.**