

Sir Isaac Newton
(1642-1727)

On the One True Creator and Designer

“The most elegant system of the sun, planets, and comets could not have arisen without the design and dominion of an intelligent and powerful being. And if the fixed stars are the centers of similar systems, they will all be constructed according to a similar design and subject to the dominion of One, especially since the light of the fixed stars is of the same nature as the light of the sun, and all the systems send light into all the others...He rules all things, not as the world soul but as the lord of all. And because of his dominion he is called Lord God, that is, Universal Ruler.”

Newton, I., General Scholium, The Principia, Mathematical Principles of Natural Theology, 1726

On the Attributes of God

“The supreme God is an eternal, infinite, and absolutely perfect being; but a being, however, perfect, without dominion is not the Lord God...and from true lordship it follows that the true God is living, intelligent, and powerful...He is eternal and infinite, omnipotent and omniscient, that is, he endures from eternity to eternity, and he is present from infinity to infinity; he rules all things, and he knows all things that happen or can happen. He is not eternity and infinity, but eternal and infinite; he is not duration and space, but he endures and is present. He endures always and is present everywhere, and by existing always and everywhere he constitutes duration and space.”

Newton, I., General Scholium, The Principia, Mathematical Principles of Natural Theology, 1726

On connecting our ways to His ways

“As a blind man has no idea of colors, so we have no idea of the ways in which the most wise God senses and understands all things....We see only shapes and colors of bodies, we hear only their sounds, we touch only their external surfaces, we smell only their odors, and we taste their flavors. But there is no direct sense and there are no indirect reflected actions by which we know innermost substances; much less do we have an idea of the substance of God.”

Newton, I., General Scholium, The Principia,
Mathematical Principles of Natural Theology, 1726

On worship of God

“We know him only by his properties and attributes and by the wisest and best construction of things and their final causes, and we admire him because of his perfections; but we venerate and worship him because of his dominion.”

Newton, I., General Scholium, The Principia,
Mathematical Principles of Natural Theology,
1726

On the Evolutionary “god” of Chance

“...a god without dominion, providence, and final causes is nothing other than fate and nature. No variation in things arises from blind metaphysical necessity, which must be the same always and everywhere. All the diversity of created things, each in its place and time, could only have arisen from the ideas and the will of a necessarily existing being.”

Newton, I., General Scholium, The Principia,
Mathematical Principles of Natural Theology, 1726