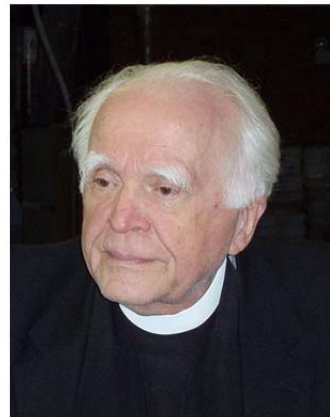


Science and Creation: A Rare Jewel of a Book

By James D. Nickel

In the 1980s, while teaching at a small Christian School in Australia (Fountain Center Christian School, Booleroo Centre, South Australia), I cut my scientific and historical teeth on *Science and Creation: From Eternal Cycles to an Oscillating Universe*, written by Father Stanley L. Jaki (1924-2009), holder of double doctorates (theology and nuclear physics). This book was first published in 1974 (a very rare edition) and revised in 1986.

Now unfortunately out of print (and expensive to buy if you can find a used copy ... but, it is available on Amazon Kindle for around \$16), this book reveals an eruditeness of historical analysis that is beyond compare. If you can digest its contents and study a few other titles by Jaki (e.g., *The Relevance of Physics*, *The Origin of Science and the Science of Its Origins*, *God and the Cosmologists*, and *The Road of Science and the Ways to God*), you have yourself a university education (and more). Most people holding doctorates in science and/or history do not have a grasp of the depth and breadth of this material as Jaki does.



Stanley L. Jaki

In essence, this book is the first systematic probing into perhaps the most puzzling, but least discussed fact of cultural history: the birth of science.

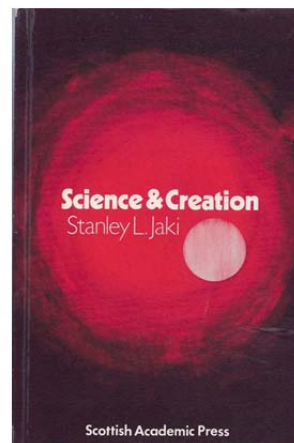
Here is a short summary of its chapters (the titles, in themselves, are eye-openers):

- The Treadmill of Yugas (an investigation of the faulty worldview of the Hindu culture).
- The Lull of Yin and Yang (the dialectics of the Chinese).
- The Wheels of Defeat (there is a lot of recent interest in the mathematics of the Mayan civilization; here is an in depth exposure of the Mayan way of thinking).
- The Shadow of Pyramids (The darkening shadows revealed by the animism of Ancient Egypt).
- The Omen of Ziggurats (the faulty Weltanschauung of the Ancient Babylonians is exposed).
- The Labyrinth of the Lonely Logos (In spite of their mathematical developments, the glory of the Classical Greeks was nothing but a labyrinth leading to ultimate decay).
- The Beacon of the Covenant (The Power of Biblical Revelation).
- The Leaven of Confidence (The Incarnation of Christ and its influence on changing the way a culture thinks about God, the world, and time).
- Delay in Detour (How the Arabic culture received the “pass” from the Greeks and dropped the football of science)

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- The Sighting of New Horizons (The tremendous shift in world view thinking that occurred in the High Middle Ages in Europe that eventually engendered the birth of modern science).
- The Interlude of “Re-naissance” (How the rationalism of the Renaissance, with its anti-Christian bias and underlying pantheism, short-circuited, for awhile, the birth of Modern Science).
- The Creator’s Handiwork (A wonderful analysis of how viewing creation from Biblical eyes, sans Platonism and Aristotelianism and pantheism, changes everything).
- On Murky Backwaters (The impact of Romanticism and its creation of pseudo-science plus an excellent analysis of Hegel’s dialectical thinking).
- Oscillating Worlds and Wavering Minds (How denying the power of Biblical revelation has impacted science in the 19th and 20th centuries).



As a result of continuous reflection, before Jaki died (i.e., during the first nine years of the 21st century), he wrote a few smaller works where he corrected some of his early thinking and assertions. But, the essence of his view of history and culture remained constant. To him, it was the Bible’s view of God, the world, and time, that provided the only viable foundation for the birth of modern science (and, for that matter, for the modern development of mathematics).

Although I do not agree with everything else Jaki has written, I was fortunate, in God’s providence, to meet him and to be the recipient of his kind and encouraging words. To not study Jaki is to deprive oneself of one of God’s gifts to the world of scholarship and life.