

## Citation metadata

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## Main content

Article Preview :

SAVING DARWIN: How to Be a Christian and Believe in Evolution by Karl W. Giberson. New York: HarperOne, 2008. 256 pages, index. Paperback; \$24.95. ISBN: 9780061228780.

Physicist and ASA member Karl Giberson offers an easy-to-read book that nicely combines a historical analysis of the creation/evolution controversy with an advocacy for evolutionary theory. Giberson begins the book by describing his own journey from a fundamentalist creationism to an acceptance of evolution. He shares his story with a gentle touch of humor, maintaining a respect for the fundamentalists he once identified with. Throughout the book, Giberson examines both the scientific and cultural aspects of evolutionary theory, noting that "The creation-evolution controversy is only, in the most trivial sense, a scientific dispute. It is, instead, a culture war, fought with culture-war weapons by culture warriors."

After tracing his personal history, Giberson traces the history of evolutionary theory, beginning with a discussion of Charles Darwin. Here we learn of "three Darwins"--Lady Hope's "deathbed convert," the "sinister" Darwin who devised evolution out of a desire...

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Charles Darwin's thinking and writing on the subject of evolution and natural selection caused him to reject the evidence for God in nature and ultimately to renounce the Bible, God, and the Christian faith. Darwin's Early Religious Influences and Thoughts. Darwin did not lack religious influences in his youth. Baptized an Anglican and steeped in his mother's Unitarianism, young Charles was brought up to pray. He used to run the mile or so from home to school, concerning which he wrote, "I often had to run very quickly to be on time, and from being a fleet runner was genera That now seems to have changed with the publication of his most recent book, Saving

Darwin: How to Be a Christian and Believe in Evolution (go here for the Amazon listing). The subtitle is curious. Ordinarily one believes in a religion and attains competence in a field of scientific inquiry (does it matter if I believe that quarks really exist? isn't it enough that I can apply the standard model?). Giberson's subtitle inverts our ordinary epistemic attitudes (was it intentional?). The title is more interesting still — Saving Darwin. After some 30 years of proselytizing about evolution to Christian believers, the esteemed evolutionary biologist at the University of California, Irvine, has honed his arguments to a fine point. He has stories and examples at the ready, even a shock tactic or two at his fingertips. One out of five pregnancies ends in spontaneous miscarriage, he often reminds audiences. This richly illustrated tome not only attacks evolution but also links Darwin's theory to horrors, including fascism and even Satan himself. Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin has said she believes that creationism should be taught alongside evolution in schools. One in eight high school biology teachers already treat creationism as a valid alternative, according to a Pennsylvania State University poll.