Real View Books

Book Catalog #47

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(This catalog supersedes all previous catalogs)
This booklet on the Intelligent Design theory of evolution was prompted by the front-page report which The New York Times devoted to that theory in three consecutive days this past August. Those reports and other cover stories surely exposed an aspect of that theory which is its at least indirect connection with biblical fundamentalism.

But that theory has in its armor other and far more serious chinks about which Christians, who take seriously Saint Paul's warning in the Romans that their service is a "reasoned service," should be fully aware.

On no account should they espouse the fallacy of the "biblical" doctrine of the special creation of each species. This notion flies in the face of sound exegesis and sane theology.

The shortcomings, often very serious, of Darwinian theory cannot be remedied with Intelligent Design theory, which philosophically cannot cope with design and purpose. Moreover, it is a subtle rehash of the doctrine of special creation. Even worse, as it claims to be a "scientific" theory of evolution, it implies that design, insofar as it means purpose (and indeed divine purpose) can be the object of measurements, which is the touchstone of truth in science.
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Stanley Ladislas Jaki (Jáki Szaniszló László, 1924–2009), a Hungarian-born Catholic priest of the Benedictine Order, was Distinguished Professor at Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey. With doctorates in theology and physics, for more than forty years he specialized in the history and philosophy of science. The author of over fifty books and over 350 articles, he served as Gifford Lecturer at the University of Edinburgh (1974–75, 1975–76) and as Freemantle Lecturer at Balliol College, Oxford. He lectured at major universities in the United States, Europe, and Australia. He was honorary member of the Pontifical Academy of Science, membre correspondant of the Académie Nationale des Sciences, Belles-Lettres et Arts of Bordeaux, and the recipient of the Lecomte du Noüy Prize for 1970 and of the Templeton Prize for 1987.

In addition, he established the RealView Books series of Catholic Classics to reprint books that are significant to the understanding and defense of Christian doctrine and culture. Each of these books has a long and instructive introduction by Father Jaki.