



A Meaningful World: How the Arts and Sciences Reveal the Genius of Nature

By Benjamin Wiker, Jonathan Witt

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Meaningful or meaningless?

Purposeful or pointless?

When we look at nature, whether at our living earth or into deepest space, what do we find?

In stark contrast to contemporary claims that the world is meaningless, Benjamin Wiker and Jonathan Witt reveal a cosmos charged with both meaning and purpose. Their journey begins with Shakespeare and ranges through Euclid's geometry, the fine-tuning of the laws of physics, the periodic table of the elements, the artistry of ordinary substances like carbon and water, the intricacy of biological organisms, and the irreducible drama of scientific exploration itself.

Along the way, Wiker and Witt fashion a robust argument from evidence in nature, one that rests neither on religious presuppositions nor on a simplistic view of nature as the best of all possible worlds. In their exploration of the cosmos, Wiker and Witt find all the challenges and surprises, all of the mystery and elegance one expects from a work of genius.

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Editorial Review

Review

"It is fully as gratifying to hear from teachers and writers who know science and literature as well as theology and who use their energy to assign God his rightful place." (Steve Van Der Weele, Calvin Theological Journal, November 2008)

"A good book for the math or science lover." (David Mills, The Pittsburgh Catholic, December 2009)

"Several outstanding books argue for Intelligent Design. However, *A Meaningful World* explores newer ground. In this book the authors widen the focus to the meaning and genius that are evident all around us." (Lay Witness, Fall 2007)

"*A Meaningful World* offers a compelling rebuttal to modern materialism and its reductionistic view of nature. The professional critics of intelligent design didn't see this book coming, and are unlikely to have a ready response to its argument." (Touchstone, July-August 2007)

"Wiker and Witt submit: 'A poison has entered human culture. It's the assumption that science has proven that the universe is without purpose, without meaning.' This is the primary popular assumption the authors tackle in *A Meaningful World*." (Terry Scambray)

"*A Meaningful World* is astounding, breathtaking! This is a book about both the beauty of science and the beauty of creation, a book I wish I had as an undergraduate taking science courses. Wiker and Witt draw us beyond design to the sheer grandeur, elegance and deep intelligibility of nature, all of which bespeak a creative Genius. It will help overcome the residual fear of science that plagues all too many devout believers, and instill a sense of childlike wonder at the splendor of our world. *A Meaningful World* admirably answers the call of Pope Benedict XVI to see the glory of God's wisdom, the Divine Logos, permeating creation. I can't wait to get this into the hands of my own teenagers, and even my college grads." (Scott Hahn, Ph.D., professor of theology and Scripture, Franciscan University, and president, St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology)

"Drawing on the works of Shakespeare, Euclid, Lavoisier and others, *A Meaningful World* draws parallels between the genius of these men and the genius evident in nature. I am not exaggerating much to say that *A Meaningful World* is in the same class as the works of human genius its authors describe. It displays rare depth and breadth. Scientists should read this book to regain their justification for doing science, and poets should read it to regain a ground for the meaning of their texts." (Guillermo Gonzalez, assistant professor of astronomy, Iowa State University, and coauthor of *The Privileged Planet*)

"In a world where materialism fails and where intelligent design is evident, how should we think about ourselves in the grand scheme of things? *A Meaningful World* masterfully answers this question, ramping up the cultural revolution begun by Phillip Johnson in the 1990s." (William A. Dembski, author of *The Design Revolution*)

"*A Meaningful World* is a wise and witty romp through the fallacies of reductionism. It is illustrated by charming examples that show how literature and science both teach us that we live in a world full of meaning, not the spiritually dead world in which the materialists would confine us." (Phillip Johnson, author

of Reason in the Balance)

"*A Meaningful World* is simply the best book I've seen on the purposeful design of nature. In sparkling prose Benjamin Wiker and Jonathan Witt teach us how to recognize genius, first in Shakespeare's plays and then in nature. From principles of geometry to details of the periodic table, the authors portray the depth, elegance, clarity and pure cleverness of a universe designed to nurture the intelligent life that one day would discover that design. *A Meaningful World* recovers lost purpose not only for science, but for all scholarly disciplines." (Michael J. Behe, author of *Darwin's Black Box*)

"I have been reticent to affirm the value of the cosmological argument from design, but no longer. Benjamin Wiker and Jonathan Witt have convinced me that from literature to mathematics, physics to biology, the very phenomena of the world breathe intelligence. *A Meaningful World* is a masterful argument, a tour de force, framed with brilliance and wit. Here is a convincing case for a universe charged not only with meaning, but with the glory of God." (James W. Sire, author of *The Universe Next Door* and *Why Good Arguments Often Fail*)

"*A Meaningful World* cleverly integrates the intricacy found in literary classics with the aesthetic beauty of scientific discovery and the unreasonable ability of the human mind to comprehend meaning in both. In this interesting book, we discover that meaning is inherent in nature at every level." (Gerald Schroeder, author of *Genesis and the Big Bang*, *The Science of God* and *The Hidden Face of God*)

From the Publisher
Features & Benefits

- * Reveals a universe of variety, artistry and meaning
- * Argues against the claims of naturalism and materialism
- * Shows the far-reaching implications of Intelligent Design
- * Considers biology, chemistry, literature, mathematics and more
- * Clear
- * Persuasive
- * Offers a mini liberal arts education in one volume

About the Author

Benjamin Wiker (Ph.D., Vanderbilt), is a full-time writer and senior fellow of Discovery Institute in Seattle, Washington. His work has appeared in such publications as *First Things*, *National Catholic Register*, *Crisis*, *Catholic World Report* and the *New Oxford Review*. Books he has written include *Moral Darwinism* and *Architects of the Culture of Death*.

Jonathan Witt (Ph.D., University of Kansas) is research fellow at the Acton Institute in Grand Rapids, MI and senior fellow with Discovery Institute's Center for Science and Culture in Seattle, Washington. He was formerly an associate professor at Lubbock Christian University. He has published articles in *Philosophia Christi*, *Touchstone*, *Literature & Theology*, *Windover* and *Princeton Theological Review* and *Philosophia Christi*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Wesley McFarland:

The book *A Meaningful World: How the Arts and Sciences Reveal the Genius of Nature* will bring that you the new experience of reading a book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book to study, this book very appropriate to you. The book *A Meaningful World: How the Arts and Sciences Reveal the Genius of Nature* is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can more readily to read the book.

Amanda Furr:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love *A Meaningful World: How the Arts and Sciences Reveal the Genius of Nature*, you are able to enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

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Rosemary Robinson:

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