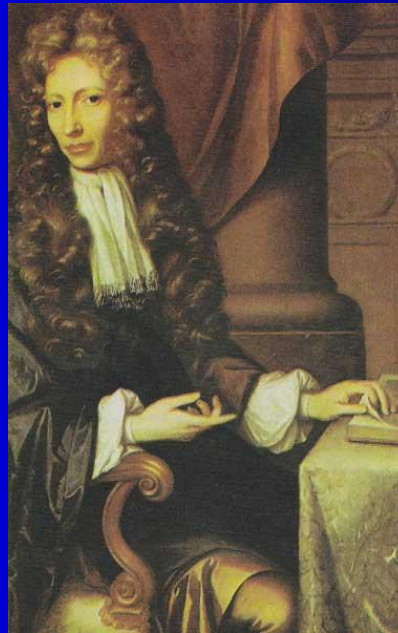
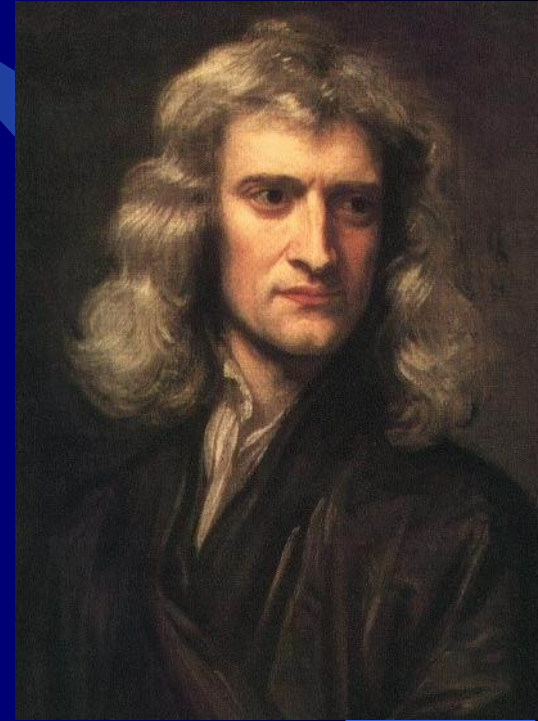


# God and Methodological Naturalism in the Scientific Revolution



Robert C. Bishop  
Wheaton College



# Some Strands Contributing to the Scientific Revolution

- Doctrine of Creation: Ontological Homogeneity
  - Everything created is of the same order of being

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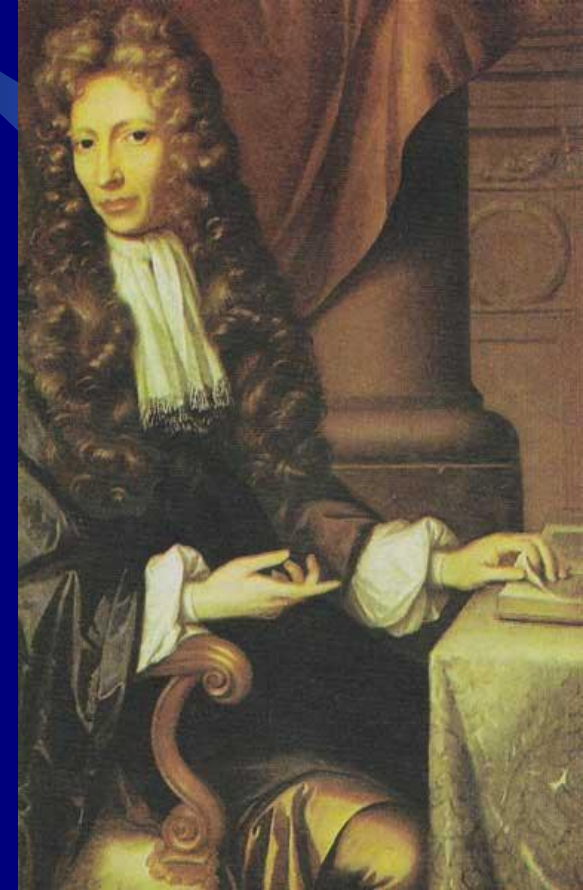
# Some Strands Contributing to the Scientific Revolution

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- Two Books Metaphor
  - Nature written in the language of mathematics

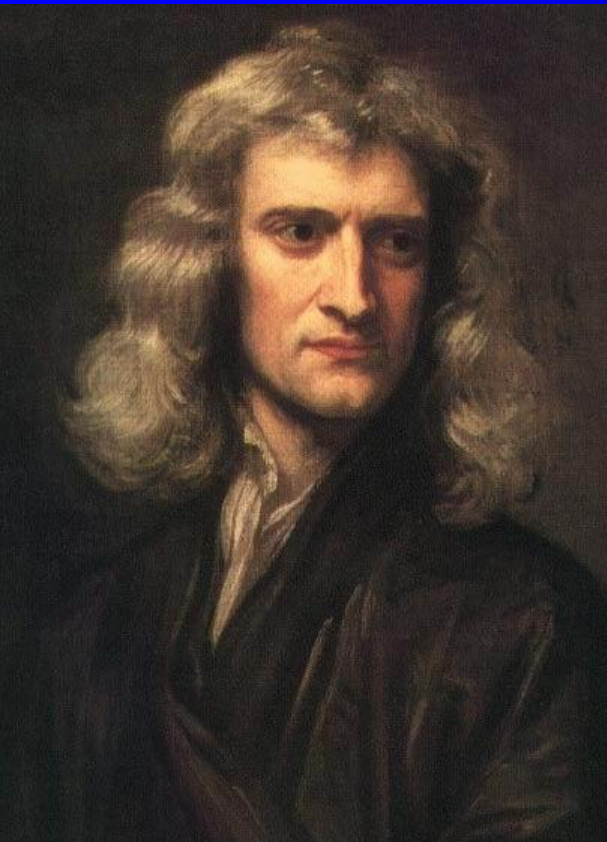


# Robert Boyle

- Theologically motivated natural philosophy
- *Christian Virtuoso*
  - “For [natural philosophers] consult experience both frequently and heedfully; and...they are careful to **conform their opinions to it**; or if there be just causes, reform their opinions by it”



# Isaac Newton



- Used thought experiments involving simplifications/idealization of realistic situations
- Developed mathematical models for these idealized situations
- Applied idealized models to real situations & compared results
- Reduced idealization/simplification of models until achieving experimental agreement

# Conclusion

- “Undergirding such scientific activities in the early-modern period was the firm conviction that the study of nature is itself an inherently religious activity. The secrets of nature are the secrets of God. By coming to know the natural world we should, if we observe and understand rightly, come to a better understanding of their Creator” (Principe 2009).