

I encountered significant challenges while an undergraduate student research assistant of cosmologist Werner Israel, finding the evidence for an ancient cosmos overwhelming enough for me to switch into the safer, less faith-impacting (or so I thought), field of theoretical condensed matter physics for my doctorate. I marked that transition with a silly little claim that “cosmology can rightly deal only with the present and future.”

Over the next ten years, while completing my graduate studies, a postdoctoral position, and the early years of a faculty position, I read relevant theological and philosophical literature, including from within my Reformed tradition, and also engaged informally with some in the young-earth creationist community who were attempting to resolve cosmological questions. As a result, I became less convinced that the Bible clearly taught on the age of earth and cosmos, more convinced of the integrity of the fields of cosmology, astrophysics, and geology, and increasingly concerned about the claims of “scientific creationists.”

The RATE project (“Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth”) of the Institute for Creation Research and the Creation Research Society caught my interest, and I was even involved in a bit of the early peer-review process. It was not hard for me to tell that much of what was being claimed was not particularly scientific, and based on the kind of science-related interpretation of scripture of my youth. But I didn’t study the entire project in detail. I was therefore grateful for a helpful and thorough essay review by Randy Isaac in the June 2007 issue of *PSCF*, as well as his reply to the RATE Group’s response in the March 2008 issue, coupled with a reply by Kirk Bertsche in that same issue to a related article.

While I had been a member since 1996, this all helped me understand and appreciate more than before the nature, ethos, and value of ASA, with expert scientists who are committed Christians helping one another through respectful dialogue. These exchanges, along with many other important articles in *PSCF*, have been invaluable as resources to provide to students as well, to connect them with our network as they develop as scientists and as Christians.

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## 2008

**TIMOTHY LARSEN, “War Is Over, If You Want It’: Beyond the Conflict between Faith and Science,” *PSCF* 60, no. 3 (2008): 147–55.**

Over the years there have been many thoughtful, engaging, and insightful articles published in *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*. It is difficult to choose what has been the most impactful piece for me, but one that ranks up at the top of my list is Timothy Larsen’s “War Is Over, If You Want It’: Beyond the Conflict between Faith and Science.”

Not only has Larsen’s article helped me to articulate more clearly how the metaphor of warfare or conflict between the sciences and faith is a myth, but I have also found it helpful with students. Assigning it as reading for a class and then sitting down with students to discuss Larsen’s arguments and evidence has been very fruitful. Getting students to compare this article with the typical things they have heard in churches, schools, the media, and so forth, has proven to be very clarifying for them.

I would recommend Larsen’s article as a go-to piece to put in anyone’s hands who seems to think that Christianity has been at perennial war with the sciences. The article clarifies well how there may be some people who pursue conflicts between the sciences and faith—perhaps for atheistic or religious reasons—but there is no necessary conflict between scientific inquiry and good theology. This is an article I return to time and again.

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## 2011

**KEITH MILLER, “And God Saw That It Was Good’: Death and Pain in the Created Order,” *PSCF* 63, no. 2 (2011): 85–94.**

*Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* has been absolutely instrumental in my own development as a Christian paleontologist. I grew up in a community in which it was simply assumed that Christian faith was incompatible with the notions of an ancient universe and an evolutionary history for life on Earth.