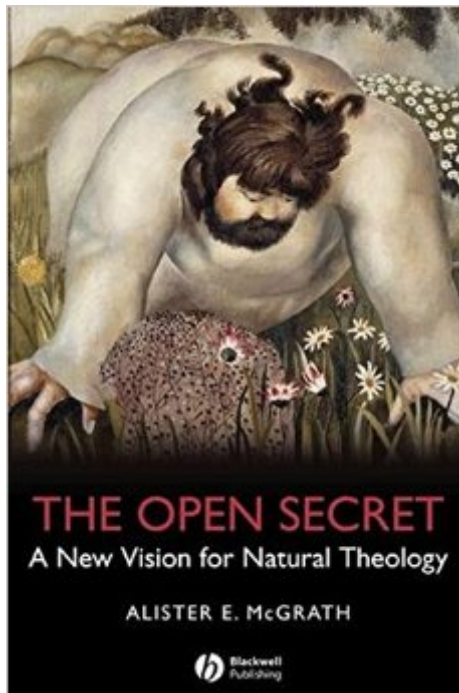


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# The Open Secret: A New Vision For Natural Theology



## Synopsis

Natural theology, in the view of many, is in crisis. In this long-awaited book, Alister McGrath sets out a new vision for natural theology, re-establishing its legitimacy and utility. A timely and innovative resource on natural theology: the exploration of knowledge of God as it is observed through nature

Written by internationally regarded theologian and author of numerous bestselling books, Alister McGrath Develops an intellectually rigorous vision of natural theology as a point of convergence between the Christian faith, the arts and literature, and the natural sciences, opening up important possibilities for dialogue and cross-fertilization Treats natural theology as a cultural phenomenon, broader than Christianity itself yet always possessing a distinctively Christian embodiment Explores topics including beauty, goodness, truth, and the theological imagination; how investigating nature gives rise to both theological and scientific theories; the idea of a distinctively Christian approach to nature; and how natural theology can function as a bridge between Christianity and other faiths

## Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Wiley-Blackwell; 1 edition (April 28, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1405126914

ISBN-13: 978-1405126915

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,697,930 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #107 inÂ Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Theism #2016 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Nature Writing & Essays #3293 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Religious

## Customer Reviews

The enterprise called "natural theology"-- popularly understood to be the attempt to prove the existence of God "naturally," apart from any religious presuppositions-- has found a rather splotchy reputation in the gossip of "respectable" theologians and philosophers. Yet just as it was wise to question the defamatory gossip of "that girl" in high school, it is equally prudent for theologians and philosophers to critically reevaluate sullied subjects such as this. The recent wave of interest in natural theology suggests that they are doing just that. On the crest of this wave of interest, we find

the distinguished Oxford Professor of Historical Theology, Alister McGrath. McGrath has asserted his position in the forefront of this subject by touching on natural theology in several of his written works in recent years, including *The Science of God* (2004), his three-volume *Scientific Theology* (2002-2003), as well as *The Order of Things* (2006). In his most recent efforts, however, he has trained his focus specifically on a reassessment of "natural theology" both through the recent conference he held at Oxford in June 2008--"Beyond Paley: Renewing the Vision for Natural Theology"--and his latest book *The Open Secret: A New Vision for Natural Theology* (Blackwell Publishing, 384p, released April 2008). In this new book, McGrath sets forth "to develop a distinctively Christian approach to natural theology, which retrieves and reformulates older approaches...." (3).

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