



The Genesis of Science: How the Christian Middle Ages Launched the Scientific Revolution

By James Hannam

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Maybe the Dark Ages Weren't So Dark After All...

Here are some facts you probably didn't learn in school:

- People in the Middle Ages did *not* think the world was flat--in fact, medieval scholars could prove it wasn't;
- The Inquisition never executed *anyone* because of their scientific ideas or discoveries (actually, the Church was the chief sponsor of scientific research and several popes were celebrated for their knowledge of the subject);
- It was medieval scientific discoveries, methods, and principles that made possible western civilization's "Scientific Revolution".

If you were taught that the Middle Ages were a time of intellectual stagnation, superstition, and ignorance, you were taught a myth that has been utterly refuted by modern scholarship.

As a physicist and historian of science James Hannam shows in his brilliant new book, *The Genesis of Science: How the Christian Middle Ages Launched the Scientific Revolution*, without the scholarship of the "barbaric" Middle Ages, modern science simply would not exist.

The Middle Ages were a time of one intellectual triumph after another. As Dr. Hannam writes, "The people of medieval Europe invented spectacles, the mechanical clock, the windmill, and the blast furnace by themselves. Lenses and cameras, almost all kinds of machinery, and the industrial revolution itself all owe their origins to the forgotten inventors of the Middle Ages."

In *The Genesis of Science* you will discover:

- Why the scientific accomplishments of the Middle Ages far surpassed those of

the classical world;

- How medieval craftsmen and scientists not only made discoveries of their own, but seized upon Eastern inventions--printing, gunpowder, and the compass--and improved them beyond the dreams of their originators;
- How Galileo's notorious trial before the Inquisition was about politics, not science; and
- Why the theology of the Catholic Church, far from being an impediment, led *directly* to the development of modern science.

Provocative, engaging, and a terrific read, James Hannam's *The Genesis of Science* will change the way you think about our past--and our future.

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Editorial Review

From the Inside Flap

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PRAISE FOR THE GENESIS OF SCIENCE

"With an engaging fervour, James Hannam has set about rescuing the reputation of a bunch of half-forgotten thinkers, and he shows how they paved the way for modern science." —Boris Johnson, *Mail on Sunday*

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Hannam has done a fine job of knocking down an old caricature." —*Sunday Telegraph*

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From the Back Cover

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About the Author

JAMES HANNAM is a graduate of both Oxford and Cambridge where he studied physics and then gained a Ph.D. in the history of science. He lives in England with his wife and two children.

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