

# FROM NATURAL PHILOSOPHY TO SCIENCE: THE DESCENT INTO THE DITCH

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"In the course of the nineteenth century this optimistic outlook [God as creator] became overcast. The marriage of fact and reason, of science and the universal laws of nature, proved to be somewhat irksome, and in the twentieth century it was, not without distress, altogether dissolved. Natural philosophy was transformed into natural science. Natural science became science, and scientists rejected, as a personal affront, the title of philosopher, which formerly they had been proud to bear. The vision of man and his world as a neat and efficient machine, designed by an intelligent Author of the Universe, gradually faded away." —Carl Becker

"One of the essential lessons of history is that if we use our own categories to describe the past we will seriously misjudge it." James Hannam

## I. Background

## II. Definitions

### A. Natural philosophy

### B. Science

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III. The problem: “Whirl is king, having driven out Zeus.” —Aristophanes

IV. Solutions

V. Applications

VI. Book recommendations

A. Carl Becker, *The Heavenly City of the Eighteenth Century Philosophers*

B. Abraham Kuyper, *Lectures on Calvinism: Calvinism and Science*

C. John Hannam, *The Genesis of Science*

D. Mitch Stokes, *How to be an Atheist*