



# Counting To God: A Personal Journey Through Science to Belief

*Douglas Ell*

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What if you could harmonize science and faith?

What if science itself pointed to a reality outside of space and time, and a Designer behind all that exists?

In *Counting to God*, Douglas Ell applies the lens of mathematical analysis to recent scientific discoveries, drawing startling conclusions.

We are in the midst of a scientific revolution, like the Copernican revolution - and equally opposed by guardians of the status quo. Scientific breakthroughs over the past half century contradict the popular paradigm that science and traditional religion do not mix. The ensuing, often heated, debates can be hard for outsiders to follow, because of both the volume of data involved and esoteric truth claims on each side.

Shining a new light on these debates, and perhaps providing the key to the truth, Ell uses scrupulous analysis and probability calculations to make a convincing case that the most advanced, sophisticated thinking in science not only allows for the idea of a designed universe, but encourages it.

As the adage says, numbers don't lie.

Ell's mathematical "proofs" may provide the turning point for a paradigm shift in the relation between scientific and religious truths.

An MIT graduate with a masters degree in theoretical mathematics, Ell surveys the current state of knowledge in seven areas where modern science supports the existence of God, including the history and physical laws of the universe and our planet, the origin and technology of life, evolution of species, and quantum physics.

Ell also discusses related issues, such as paradigm blindness, the multiverse, the God-of-the-gaps fallacy (and its current equivalent), the truly alien concept of "infinity," and others.

Although *Counting to God* is substantially a work of science, Ell writes in plain English - a "science for non-scientists" style - and gives examples in the form of thought exercises to illustrate concepts such as the true scale of very large numbers (critical to understanding what exactly can occur through random events over time).

How careful is the science? *Counting to God* has been endorsed by a number of leading scientists, including the head of the physics department at MIT.

A former non-believer, Ell traces his 30-year journey - following the evidence of science - from atheism to belief. Thus, while his book is about the existence of God, Ell's arguments address the world view of unbelievers and agnostics.

The ongoing "revolution of truth" in modern science is also a revolution of hope: By giving the lie to the truism that scientific discoveries have been contradicting the tenets of traditional religion, *Counting to God* provides a firmer foundation for those who already believe. At the same time, it opens the door to a higher reality, for anyone who believes in traditional science and the power of reason, yet wonders if there could be something more.

I highly recommend this thoughtful exploration of the relation between science and spirituality, two seemingly opposed descriptions of our world. Posed as a personal journey, Doug asks "How can we relate the descriptions of the spiritual and physical worlds?" Doug takes on the biggest questions of our time: cosmology, the origin of the universe and the biochemistry of genetics in a relevant and accessible way. Whether you agree with him or not, you will enjoy and learn from this book. -Professor Peter Fisher, Head of the Department of Physics, MIT

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