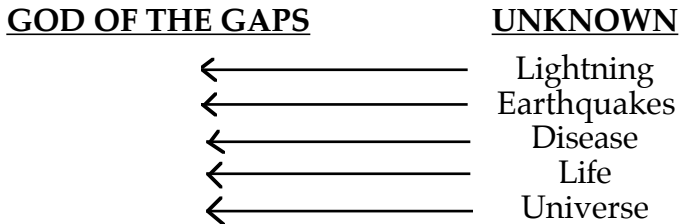


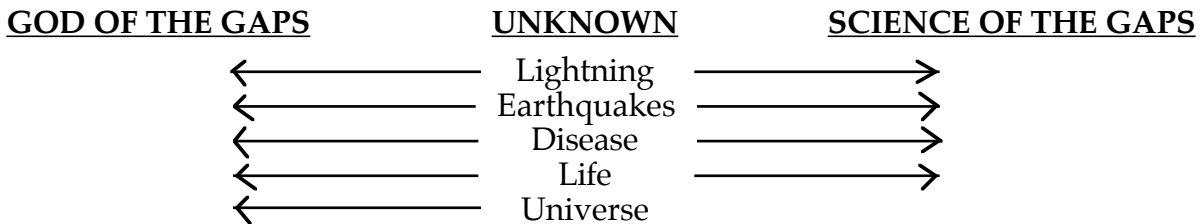
# GOD OF THE GAPS vs. SCIENCE OF THE GAPS

by August Berkshire

The term “god” has historically been used to try to explain the unknown in nature. For example:



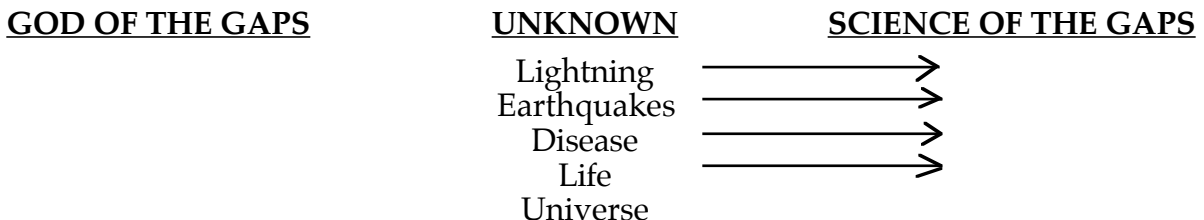
However, the idea that “god did it” was not enough of an answer for us. We wanted to know *how* “god did it.” Eventually, humans invented the scientific method as the best means of discovering the truth about the natural world.



Most theists are content with this solution. They believe their god acts through these natural forces, which he created. They even accept evolution, though they believe their god either set things in motion initially to eventually produce humans, or that their god guided evolution along the way to produce humans. Either scenario is known as “theistic evolution.”

Note that science does not yet know if the universe came into existence “from nothing” at some point in the past or whether it always existed in some form.

However, atheists observe that the term “god” does not actually give us any information. We don’t know what a god is, nor what mechanism a god uses to create or change anything. Therefore, atheists say, we don’t need this meaningless term.



Though science is still studying the source of the universe (if there was one), the “god of the gaps” doesn’t get it by default. For now, it remains in the the Unknown column. However, given the success of secular science, and the poor track record of religious “revelation,” it’s a good bet that science, not religion, will provide us with any answers humans are able to obtain about the universe or anything in it.