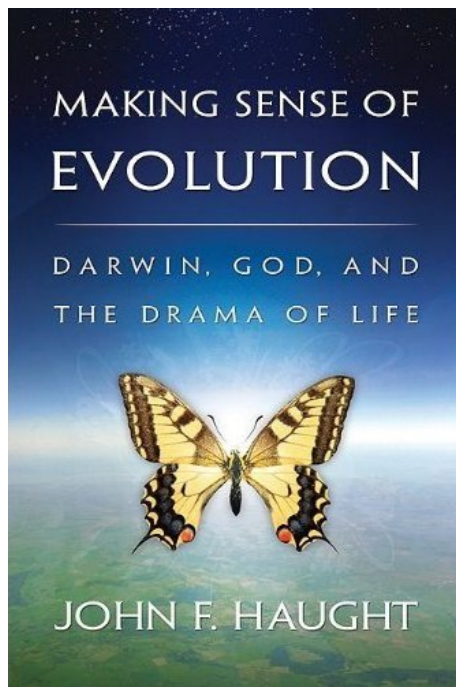


BOOK REVIEW

Haught, John F., *Making Sense of Evolution: Darwin, God, and the Drama of Life*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010.



John Haught, a leading voice in evolution theology, offers a creative approach to the question of how reconciliation between evolution and Christian theology might begin.

Evolution makes good sense. The question is whether it makes good theological sense as well. In this groundbreaking volume, Haught argues for a focus on evolution as an ongoing drama – a drama within which divinity plays a purposeful and transformative role.

Haught describes his book as "an invitation to Charles Darwin and his disciples to join in a conversation with contemporary Christian theology on the question of what evolution means for our understanding of God and what we take to be God's creation."

He goes on to say: "In one way or another, Darwin has altered our understanding of almost everything that concerns theology. Most of the following chapters, therefore, consist of brief meditations on an aspect of life that Darwin's science requires theology to reconsider. Evolutionary science strains the meaning of almost every topic with which religious thought has traditionally been concerned. I list these relevant themes alliteratively as design, diversity, descent, drama, directionality, depth, death, duty, devotion, and, of course, deity. I devote a separate chapter to each."

At the conclusion of his study of this alliterative medley, Haught reflects: "Evolution allows us to realize that human beings are invited to participate in the great work of creation. If we fail to keep this evolutionary perspective alive, our sense of ethical obligation – and for the Christian the following of Christ – is in danger of being reduced to blind obedience to arbitrary imperatives or divine commands, or perhaps simply to seeking a reward in the hereafter. ... Even though Darwin himself seemed oblivious to the potential his discoveries have to stimulate theological, spiritual, and ethical renewal, his theory of evolution is a great gift to Christian theology and spirituality as they seek to interpret Jesus' revolutionary understanding of God for our own age and future generations."