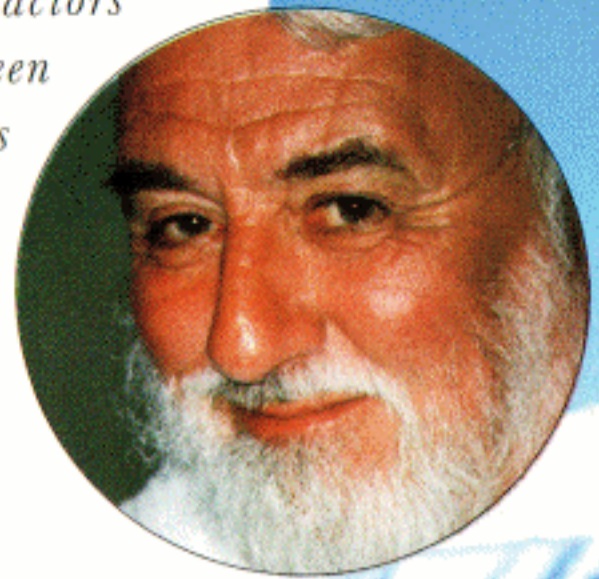


Sam Berry studies the environmental and ecological factors leading to genetic changes in animals. He has been President of leading national and international bodies in his field, including the Linnean Society, the British Ecological Society, the European Ecological Federation and the Mammal Society.



PROFESSOR R.J. (SAM) BERRY FRSE

SCIENCE IS THE STUDY OF GOD'S WORKS

My research has taken me to many wonderful places—Antarctica, the Andes, coral atolls, Atlantic islands—and more and more I am convinced that God has revealed himself in both creation and the Bible. It is a privilege and exciting as a scientist 'to think God's thoughts after him', in the words of Kepler. And as Calvin said, 'Being placed in this most delightful theatre, let us not decline to... delight in the clear and manifest works of God.'

Our scientific discoveries may force us to look again at our interpretations of particular Bible passages, but that is very different from questioning their authority as God's words. It is always worth remembering Galileo's words, who, after finding evidence that the Earth moves round the Sun, wrote that the Bible 'teaches us how to go to heaven, not how the heavens go'. We must be ruthless in seeking what God is trying to say through his word, and always be prepared to change our understanding.

I became a Christian in the year before I took science 'A' levels. My response to the explanation that Christ had taken upon himself the sins of the world, including my own, was a logical decision, based upon evidence in exactly the same way as I was being trained to gather scientific evidence and draw conclusions from facts and experiments. The correctness of that decision has been repeatedly confirmed for me both objectively (in terms of the consistency of Christian understanding of the world and God's account of it in the Bible) and subjectively (my experience of God working in my own life, including answering prayer).

Time after time, apparent conflicts between science and faith prove to be about our understanding of the Bible or nature, and not about God Himself.

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● Professor of
Genetics at
University
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