God, Chance And Purpose: Can God Have It Both Ways?
Scientific accounts of existence give chance a central role. At the smallest level, quantum theory involves uncertainty and evolution is driven by chance and necessity. These ideas do not fit easily with theology in which chance has been seen as the enemy of purpose. One option is to argue, as proponents of Intelligent Design do, that chance is not real and can be replaced by the work of a Designer. Others adhere to a deterministic theology in which God is in total control. Neither of these views, it is argued, does justice to the complexity of nature or the greatness of God. The thesis of this book is that chance is neither unreal nor non-existent but an integral part of God’s creation. This view is expounded, illustrated and defended by drawing on the resources of probability theory and numerous examples from the natural and social worlds.

Book Information
Paperback: 272 pages
Publisher: Cambridge University Press; 1 edition (March 3, 2008)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0521707080
Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.6 x 8.5 inches
Shipping Weight: 14.7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars  (See all reviews (6 customer reviews))
Best Sellers Rank: #1,603,229 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #357 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Creationism #2289 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Science & Religion #3099 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Religious

Customer Reviews
David Bartholomew is Emeritus Professor of Statistics at the London School of Economics and Political Science. His book offers a perspective on chance and divine action that only a statistician could provide. The problem that his book addresses is that chance suggests lack of purpose, and theology speaks of purpose. His solution is seeing chance within, not outside, the providence of God. "Chance plays a positive role in the world and . . . does not undermine God’s sovereignty." Bartholomew identifies three models of evolution: (1) Blind chance: little or no opportunity for God to act at all. (2) Purely deterministic: "God’s determinate actions successfully mimic chance and at the same time achieve other desired outcomes." (3) Mostly chance with
occasional intervention by God: a modest amount of direct action (obscured by chance) with a large dose of genuine randomness. "In this scenario there are many random happenings, and most of the time, the deity in charge has no more to do than to sit back and delight in the variety of creation. For example, he cites Simon Conway Morris' notion of convergence, according to which "evolution is liable to produce similar solutions to similar problems wherever and whenever they occur . . . making the emergence of something like ourselves a near-certainty" ("Life’s Solution: Inevitable Humans in a Lonely Universe" (Cambridge University Press, 2003)). Regarding the popular notion of God acting undetectably at the quantum level (as suggested by Robert Russell, John Polkinghorne, Nancey Murphy, and others), he concludes that "it is very doubtful whether there are any quantum events which God could influence whose outcomes might significantly determine what happens at the macro level.

Download to continue reading...

God, Chance and Purpose: Can God Have It Both Ways? Interviewing: BONUS INCLUDED! 37 Ways to Have Unstoppable Confidence in Your Interview! (BONUS INCLUDED! 37 Ways to Have Unstoppable Confidence in Your Interview! GET THE JOB YOU DESERVE!) (Volume 1) Daily Inspiration for the Purpose Driven Life: Scriptures and Reflections from the 40 Days of Purpose Look Both Ways Forex Dreaming: The hard truth of why retail traders don’t stand a chance... and how YOU can rise above and start WINNING I CAN CAN RELISHES, Salsa, Sauces & Chutney!!: How to make relishes, salsa, sauces, and chutney with quick, easy heirloom recipes from around the ... (I CAN CAN Frugal Living Series) (Volume 3) Your Playlist Can Change Your Life: 10 Proven Ways Your Favorite Music Can Revolutionize Your Health, Memory, Organization, Alertness and More Kids Can Make Money Too! : How Young People Can Succeed Financially--Over 200 Ways to Earn Money and How to Make it Grow Sound Check: How Worship Teams Can Pursue Authenticity, Excellence, and Purpose Interviewing: Interview Questions - Job Interview ! Learn How to Job Interview and Master the Key Interview Skills! BONUS INCLUDED! 37 Ways to Have Unstoppable ... Interview! GET THE JOB YOU DESERVE! Book 1) You Are Not So Smart: Why You Have Too Many Friends on Facebook, Why Your Memory Is Mostly Fiction, and 46 Other Ways You’re Deluding Yourself When Germs Travel: Six Major Epidemics That Have Invaded America and the Fears They Have Unleashed To Have and Have Not PASSIVE INCOME: TOP 7 WAYS to MAKE $500-$10K a MONTH in 70 DAYS (top passive income ideas, best passive income streams explained, smart income online, proven ways to earn extra income) Love the Home You Have: Simple Ways to...Embrace Your Style *Get Organized *Delight in Where You Are You Are Not So Smart: Why You Have Too Many Friends on Facebook, Why Your Memory Is Mostly Fiction, and d