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# Scientist awarded prize for religion

## Barrow writes on cosmology

NEW YORK (AP) — John D. Barrow, a British scientist and writer whose work explores fundamental questions about the universe and humanity's place in it, has won a religion award billed as the world's richest annual prize.

In the past, the \$1.4 million Templeton Prize has honored Mother Teresa, the Rev. Billy Graham and Soviet dissident Alexander Solzhenitsyn. It recognizes advancement in knowledge of spiritual matters.

Mr. Barrow, 53, is known for his popular books and essays on cosmology, the study of the structure and history of the universe. His writing touches on topics such as the spiritual implications of the big bang, the nature of infinity and the limits of science in addressing some of humanity's most enduring unknowns.

"People look to science to



John D. Barrow (right), professor of mathematical sciences at the University of Cambridge and a noted cosmologist, was greeted by Dr. John M. Templeton Jr. in New York yesterday after winning the 2006 Templeton Prize valued at about \$1.4 million.

give them complete certainty, complete assurance, in the same way they look to religion," Mr. Barrow said.

In reality, he said, neither science nor religion can offer the kinds of ultimate truths that humanity craves.

"Religion is all about how we react to this uncertainty," he said. The award was announced yesterday at a press conference at the United Nations.

Mr. Barrow is the author of more than 15 books, including "Pi in the Sky," a consideration of the nature of mathematics and its relationship to the physical world. In 2002, he collabo-

rated with Italian director Luca Ronconi on an experimental play that dramatized the concept of infinity in five parts.

In his research, Mr. Barrow is trying to demonstrate fluctuations in the value of the fine structure constant, a fundamental number related to the strength of the electromagnetic force, over the universe's history. Changes in the so-called "constant" would suggest the existence of additional dimensions besides the four familiar ones of space and time.

The London native is a professor of mathematics at the University of Cambridge.

In giving the award to Mr. Barrow, the Templeton Foundation praised the professor for having "given theologians and philosophers inescapable questions to consider when examining the very essence of belief, the nature of the universe and humanity's place in it."

The Templeton Prize is named for investor and mutual fund pioneer John Templeton. It is administered by the Templeton Foundation, based in West Conshohocken, Pa.

The award will be presented May 3 by Prince Philip in a private ceremony at Buckingham Palace in London.