

1986 *Theology and the
Scientific Imagination
from the Middle
Ages to the Seven-
teenth Century*

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Amos Funkenstein

This pioneering work in the history of science, which originated in a series of three Gauss Seminars given at Princeton University in 1984, demonstrated how the roots of the scientific revolution lay in medieval scholasticism.

A work of intellectual history addressing the metaphysical foundations of modern science, *Theology and the Scientific Imagination* raised and transformed the level of discourse on the relations of Christianity and science.

Amos Funkenstein was one of the world's most distinguished scholars of Jewish history, medieval intellectual history, and the history of science. Called a genius and Renaissance man by his academic colleagues, Funkenstein was legendary for his ability to recite long literary passages verbatim and from memory in Latin, German, French, Hebrew, Yiddish, and Greek decades after he had last read them. A winner of the coveted Israel Prize for History, Funkenstein was born and raised in Palestine and received his Ph.D. in history and philosophy at the Free University of Berlin in 1965, as one of the first Jewish students to receive a doctorate in Germany after World War II.

Author of seven books and more than fifty scholarly articles in four languages, Funkenstein was at the height of his powers in *Theology and the Scientific Imagination*, which ends with the author's influential discernment of the seventeenth century's "unprecedented fusion" of scientific and religious language. It remains a fundamental text to historians and philosophers of science.

