

## Introduction



Presently we are addressing questions people have about THEISM (i.e. questions about God and His existence).

QUESTION: “*How do you know that God exists? ... How can you believe in someone you can’t see?*”

### ***The First–Cause Proof***

1. Whatever had a beginning had a cause
2. The universe had a beginning
3. Therefore, the universe had a cause

The first cause proof uses questions regarding the origin of universe to show that God is its cause.

### ***The Moral Proof***

1. Every moral law had a moral lawgiver
2. There is a moral law
3. Therefore, it had a moral lawgiver

The moral proof uses the God-given standard of right and wrong that is in each one of us.

### ***The Design Proof (tonight’s study)***

1. Every design had a designer
2. The universe has a design
3. Therefore, the universe had a designer

The design proof uses order and design in our world to demonstrate that an intelligent designer is responsible.

## **1. Every design had a designer**

ILL: Watch found on a beach ...

## **2. The universe has a design**

Earlier this summer we showed *A Case For A Creator* by Lee Strobel. In this video Lee presents evidence that our universe is filled with things that have design. Below is a summary of some of the information presented in the video that you can use to show someone that our universe has design.

# **1. Evidence From Physics**

## **(a) Existence of Laws of Physics**

Altogether there is a least 30 separate laws that are needed for life to exist. Wipe out just one of these laws and there would be no life!

*For example ...*

1. Without gravity that pulls matter together there would be no planets and stars or complex organisms.
2. Without a strong nuclear force there would be nothing to hold protons and neutrons together, thus no atoms and no chemistry.
3. Without the electromagnetic force there would have no bonding between chemicals and have no light.

## **(b) Fine-Tuning of Laws of Physics & Physical Constants**

The laws of physics are balanced on a raiser's edge for life to exist! There are at least 30 separate laws that must be finely tuned to produce a life sustaining universe. For example ...

### **(1) Strength of Gravity**

*ILL:* Imagine a ruler with one inch increments stretched across our universe (a distance of some 14 billion light years). The ruler represents the possible range of gravity. It is situated in exactly the right one inch mark on the rule so that life is possible. If you change it by just one inch the effect on life would be catastrophic.

### **(2) Cosmological Constant**

The *Cosmological Constant* describes the expansion speed of space in the universe. If it expands too quickly no material objects such as stars or planets could form. It is fine tuned to 1 part in a hundred million, billion, billion, billion, billion, billion.

*ILL:* The odds of this fine-tuning can be compared to traveling hundreds of miles in space and throwing a dart that hits a bulls-eye that is one trillionth of a trillionth of an inch (i.e. less than the width of a single atom).

### **(3) Strong Nuclear Force**

The strong nuclear force binds atoms together. If the strength of this force was to decrease by one part in 10,000 billion, billion, billion, billion the only element left in the universe would be hydrogen.

The fine-tuning of laws of physics rules out that they are the result of random chance processes. It demonstrates the cosmos must be designed by someone with intelligence.

### **(4) Planet Earth**

There is at least 20 characteristics that are required for a planet to support complex life ... here are just some of them:

1. oxygen rich atmosphere
2. a large quantity of liquid water
3. large continental land masses
4. home star of the right temperature and mass
5. orbital path that is neither too far or too close to the home star
6. a moon large enough to stabilize the tilt of the planet's axis and movement of its tides
7. a magnetic field strong enough to deflect the sun's radiation
8. a position in the relatively narrow habitable zone in a spiral galaxy

***What are the odds of all the necessary factors for life appearing at the same time on the same planet?*** A conservative estimate is  $1/10^{15}$  OR **1/1,000,000,000,000,000** (i.e. extremely unlikely ... impossible!).

Planet earth obviously meets all of the necessary requirements for life to exist!

## **2. Evidence From Astronomy**

The ability of man to study our universe and make scientific discoveries provides evidence of design. The things that make our planet habitable also set up the best conditions for scientific discovery.

- a. Our planet's oxygen rich atmosphere that provides a transparent window
- b. Our moon's size insures perfect solar eclipses which have enabled us to learn important information about our sun and about light
- c. Our position in the Milky Way gives us a clear unimpeded view of our galaxy and universe

It appears that things have been set up for us to do astronomy and make scientific discoveries of our universe.

## **3. Evidence From Biological Machines**

Scientists, especially back in the days of Darwin, use to think that the cell was very simple. Actually, it is extremely complex!

Looking into a cell is like looking into an automobile factory. We are made up of trillions of cells that have to work perfectly together just like all the machines in an automobile factory.

Each of the biochemical machines is a master piece of engineering and nanotechnology. They are essential to such things as vision, photosynthesis and the production of energy.

**ILL: *Bacterial Flagellum*** ... one of the most efficient machines in the universe ... it is a biological motor that runs at 100,000 rpm, has forward/reverse, is water cooled, has a stator, has a rotor, has a u-joint, has a drive shaft, has a propeller ... in all it has about 40 different protein parts that are all necessary for it to exist and function.

**The Law Of Irreducible Complexity** ... all the parts that are necessary for a system to function (i.e. if you remove one part you lose function of that system).

**ILL: A mouse trap** ... 5 basic pieces ... a catch to hold bait, a strong spring, a thin bent rod called the hammer, a holding bar to secure the hammer in place, a platform on which these parts are mounted ... all parts must be present in order for it to perform its function.

Likewise, all 40 protein parts are necessary for the flagellum to work.

Charles Darwin, in *Origin of Species*, he wrote, "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive slight modifications my theory would absolutely break down."

It has been demonstrated that these biological machines could not have been formed by numerous, successive slight modifications.

## **4. Evidence From Biological Information**

The DNA molecule is the most efficient information processing system in the universe. The discovery of the information bearing properties of DNA and RNA is a fundamental challenge to all materialistic theories of the origin of life.

DNA is the carrier of genetic information in the form of a 4 character digital code, like a software program. The information is stored in the precise arrangement of 4 chemical represented by letters A – C – T – G. This is the language of life and helps form all the structures of life. It is the most densely packed and elaborately detailed assembly of information in the known universe.

The amount of biological information necessary to build all of the proteins that have ever been needed for all of the organisms that have ever existed on earth could be put into a teaspoon. We'd still have room left over to store all of the information contained in every book ever written.

The most fundamental facing biology today: *Where did the information for DNA come from? How did it arise in the first place?*

Lot's of people try to explain it by the chemical properties of the parts of the DNA. *That would be like explaining the information in this morning's paper by explaining how the ink sticks to paper. It does not explain how the ink got arranged to convey a message that we can read and understand.*

Time and chance fall far short from explaining how complex information in the DNA could have arisen by natural processes. Time and chance cannot account for the complex assembly of genetic code in DNA.

**ILL:** Mathematicians have calculated that a universe with monkeys typing relentlessly throughout the oldest estimated age of the universe would have no realistic chance of producing Shakespeare's play, Hamlet, let alone a transcript of the genetic information required to build even the simplest living cell.

There is only one known cause for the origin of information, and that cause is intelligence. If we are finding complex information inside every living cell, could it not be the signature of an intelligent creator?

### **3. Therefore, the universe had a designer**

#### ***The Design Proof (summary)***

1. Every design had a designer
2. The universe has a design
3. Therefore, the universe had a designer

### **CONCLUSION**

**Psalm 19:1-4**

**Romans 1:20-23**

Where does the evidence point? The evidence of intelligent design in our universe points to an ultimate designer!