

God Is Not Dead

July 6-7, 2013

I. Great-Great Grandpas With Fur?

- A. Meet Archie
- B. Michigan High School Biology Standards
- C. The Darwinian Premise: Random Chance and Natural Selection
- D. The Reality – Bad Science

"Not one change of species into another is on record . . . we cannot prove that a single species has been changed." – Charles Darwin, *My Life and Letters*

E. The Real Darwinian Agenda—Eliminating God from the Discussion

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."
Romans 1:18-20

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."
Hebrews 11:6

II. God's Story of the Beginning of Time (Genesis 1)

- A. Space, Time and the Material World All Began at Creation
- B. God "spoke" the universe and all living things into existence
- C. Science Reveals Order, Complexity and Delicate Balance
- D. Order in Planetary Motion - Johannes Kepler (1571-1630)
- E. Men and Women Created as Unique Beings in the Image of God
- F. God Created Distinct Groups of Living Creatures
- G. Speaking Truth Into Our Culture: The "Gospel Gap"

"By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."
Hebrews 11:3

"For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm."
Psalm 33:9

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..."
1 Peter 3:15 NIV

III. "The Big Bang:" When Space and Time Began

A. Carl Sagan Departs and God Returns

"The Cosmos is all that is or ever was or ever will be."

"Matter exists eternally in time and space." Carl Sagan

B. God's Gamechangers: Three Discoveries that Changed Everything

Einstein's General Theory of Relativity (1915): $E=mc^2$

"The 'field equations of general relativity' prove that the universe began at a zero point in both time and space, which coincides with the biblical doctrine of creation out of nothing."
Dr. Stephen Meyer, Geophysicist

Edwin Hubble's Telescope (1929)

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."
Psalm 19:1

Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson and the Holmdel Antenna (1965)

"The best data we have [concerning the "Big Bang"] are exactly what I would have predicted, had I nothing to go on but the five books of Moses, the Psalms and the Bible as a whole.....If theism and the Judeo-Christian view are true, then we have reason to expect evidence of a finite universe. We now have evidence of a finite universe. Therefore, we have a reason to think that theism and the Judeo-Christian view of creation may be true."
Physicist Arno Penzias

C. Implications of the Fact that the Universe Had a Beginning

1. Whatever begins to exist has a cause
2. The universe began to exist
3. Therefore, the universe has a cause
4. The most rational and plausible explanation for the "cause" that brought the universe into existence is God acting as Creator.

IV. The Infinite Complexity and "Fine-Tuning" of the Universe for Life

A. God Says He Deliberately Created and "Fine-Tuned" the Universe For Us

For this is what the Lord says—he who created the heavens, he is God; He who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; He did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited—he says: "I am the Lord, and there is no other." Isaiah 45:18

B. Materialists: The Universe Evolved To Support Life By Random Chance

C. Science Reveals Order, Complexity and Delicate Balance

D. Order in Planetary Motion - Johannes Kepler (1571-1630)

Kepler's Third Law of Planetary Motion

"The square of the time of a planet's revolution is proportional to the cube of its mean distance from the sun."

"to graciously to cause that these demonstrations may lead to thy glory and to the salvation of souls."
Johannes Kepler, The Harmony of the World

E. Universe is Intricately Calibrated and Balanced—to Support Life

"The fine-tuning here is beyond comprehension. Having an accuracy of even one part out of 1060 is like firing a bullet toward the other side of the observable universe, twenty billion light-years away, and nailing a one-inch target."

William

Lane Craig, On Guard

F. British Astronomer Fred Hoyle (Shaken Atheist)

"Some super-calculating intellect must have designed the properties of the carbon atom, otherwise the chance of my finding such an atom through the blind forces of nature would be utterly minuscule. A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a superintellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as with chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature. The numbers one calculates from the facts seem to me so overwhelming as to put this conclusion almost beyond question."
Sir Fred Hoyle

G. Implications of Complexity and Fine-Tuning of the Universe

1. Order, complexity, fine-tuning of universe for life suggests design

2. Evidence of design implies that there is a designer.
3. Most probable explanation for the universe is God as Designer.

V. DNA: The Language of God

A. We are “Knit Together” by God

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them
 Psalm 119:13-16

- B. The Intricate Structure of DNA Implies a Superhuman Designer
- C. DNA: Power Tools in Our Cells
- D. Modern Biology: Design is an Illusion
- E. Infinite Improbability of DNA Strands Occurring Randomly
- F. Implications of the Complex Design of DNA
 1. Intricacy, complexity, function of DNA in living cells suggests design
 2. Evidence of design implies that there is a designer
 3. Most probable explanation for the design of DNA is God as Designer

VI. Where Do We Go From Here?

- A. Recognize that science does not oppose, but confirms Genesis account
- B. God as Creator in Genesis 1 is the most rational explanation for life
- C. Pray that God will guide you to engage others on “The Big Questions” (Why are we here? Who is God? What does God want? My story?)
- D. Fire a “ferret round” of faith into another’s life to change their trajectory
- E. Pray, pray, pray, but leave the outcome to the Holy Spirit

Notes and Quotes

What We’re Teaching Our Kids

“It is widely accepted that Earth’s present day life forms have evolved from common ancestors by processes that include natural selection. In the scientific community, evolution has been a unifying principle that provides a framework for organizing most of biological knowledge into a coherent picture. It has been accepted by the scientific community that evidence for evolution is found in the fossil record and is indicated by anatomical and chemical similarities evident within the diversity of existing organisms.”

Michigan DOE High School Biology

Curriculum Expectations

Games With Fossils

“According to paleoanthropologist Misia Landau, theories of human origins ‘far exceed what can be inferred from the study of fossils alone and in fact place a heavy burden of interpretation of the fossil record—a burden which is relieved by placing fossils into pre-existing narrative structures.’ In 1996, American Museum of Natural History Curator Ian Tattersall acknowledged that ‘in paleoanthropology, the patterns we perceive are as likely to result from our unconscious mindsets as from the evidence

itself.”
 Biologist Jonathan Wells, American Spectator

The Materialist’s Bad Dream

“For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak. As he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians, who have been sitting there for centuries.”

Astronomer Robert Jastrow, God and the Astronomers

The Infinite Complexity and “Fine-Tuning” of the Universe for Life

“Gravity is fine-tuned to one part in a hundred million billion billion billion billion billion.”

Physicist Robin Collins

The so-called “weak force,” one of the four fundamental forces of nature operating within the nucleus of an atom, is so finely tuned that a change in its value by even one part out of 10^{100} would have prevented a life-permitting universe. William Lane Craig, On Guard

A change in the value of the “cosmological constant”, which drives the acceleration of the universe’s expansion—by as little as one part in 10^{120} would have rendered the universe life-prohibiting.
 William Lane Craig, On Guard

The probability that the “low entropy” state in which the universe began could exist by random chance alone is on the order of one chance out of $10^{10^{123}}$

Roger Penrose,

Oxford

Intricate Structure of DNA Implies a Superhuman Designer (from The Language of God)

- Single human cell contains 3.1 billion characters arranged in precise sequence of four digit cryptographic codes
- Live reading of code at a rate of 3 letters per second, day and night, would take 31 years
- Printing code out in standard font on normal paper would create a tower as high as Washington Monument

Infinite Improbability of DNA Strands Occurring Randomly

“Mathematicians agree that any requisite number beyond 10^{50} has, statistically, a zero probability of occurrence (and even that gives it the benefit of the doubt!). Any species known to us, including the smallest single-cell bacteria, have enormously larger number of nucleotides than 100 or 1000. In fact, single cell bacteria display about 3,000,000 nucleotides, aligned in a very specific sequence. This means that there is no mathematical probability whatever for any known species to have been the product of a random occurrence.”
 Mathematician I.L. Cohen, Darwin was Wrong: A Study in Probabilities

Recommended Reading

On Guard: Defending Your Faith With Reason and Precision, William Lane Craig

God Is Not Dead: Evidence for God in an Age of Uncertainty, Rice Brooks

The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief, Francis Collins

Is God Just a Human Invention?: And 17 Other Questions, McDowell and Morrow

The Signature in the Cell: DNA and the Evidence for Intelligent Design, Stephen Meyer

What’s So Great About Christianity?, Dinesh D’Souza

Does God Exist? (video based study by Dr. Stephen Meyer free through Right Now Media)