

A composite image of Earth and the Moon in space. The Earth is on the left, showing a large portion of its surface with blue oceans and white clouds. The Moon is on the right, showing its cratered surface. The background is a light gray gradient.

# ***Is There Any Proof that God is Real?***

**Is there any logical or scientific evidence for the existence of **God**, or is it something totally believed only by faith?**

**Jason D. Browning**

**May 9, 2008**

# Evidence is not Enough!

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- ▶ **No amount of evidence will convince someone who does not want to be convinced!**
- ▶ **RO 1:20** For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.
- ▶ **RO 1:25** They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator
- ▶ **RO 3:11** There is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.
- ▶ **JN 6:44** No one can come to me [Jesus] unless the Father who sent me draws him
- ▶ **2 PE 3:9b** He [the Lord] is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

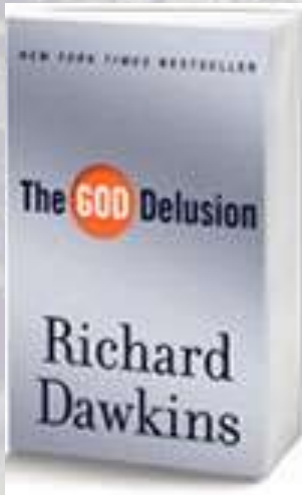
# *An Element of Faith is Necessary*

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## ▲ HE 11:6

**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.**

# *The God Delusion*



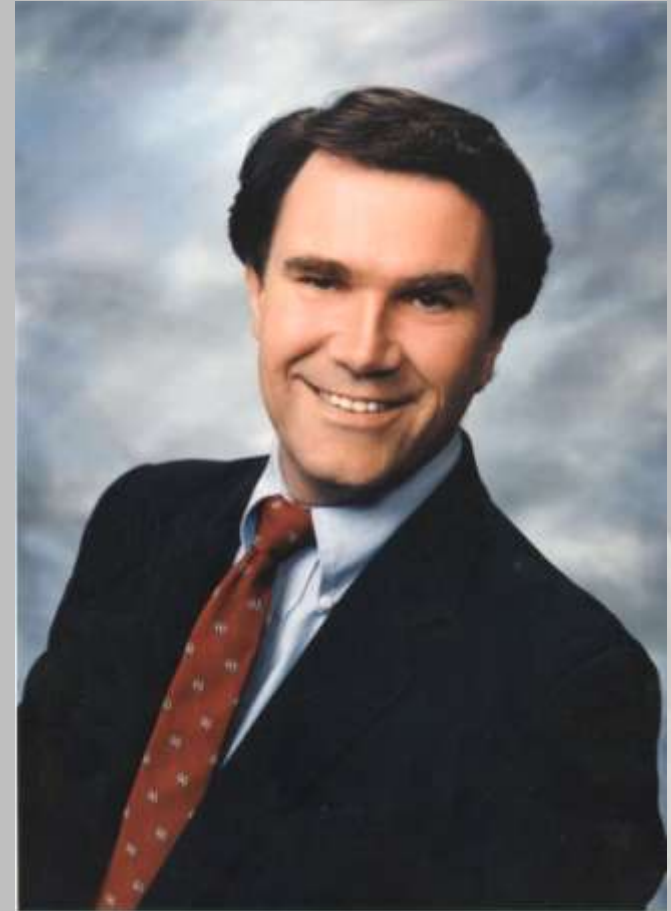
- ▶ International best seller book
- ▶ Currently #3 on New York Times Paperback Nonfiction best seller list
- ▶ The main conclusion of the book:
  - ▶ “The factual premise of religion – the God Hypothesis – is untenable. God almost certainly does not exist.” (page 189)



# ***The Great Debate: Does God Exist?***

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- ▶ **Dr. Greg Bahnsen vs. Dr. Gordon S. Stein**
- ▶ **Formal debate held at the University of California (Irvine) in 1985**
- ▶ **Discusses traditional proofs formulated over the last 900 years**



**Dr. Bahnsen**

# ***Evidences for God*** ***(Weakest to Strongest)***

- 1. The “wish” argument**
- 2. Faith**
- 3. Ontological argument (perfectness)**
- 4. Revealed theology**
- 5. Miracles**
- 6. Pascal’s wager**
- 7. Morality**
- 8. Religious experience, changed lives**
- 9. First cause, the existence of the universe**
- 10. Fine-tuning of the universe**
- 11. The origin of life**
- 12. Design**
- 13. Beauty (aesthetics)**
- 14. Laws of Logic**
- 15. Transcendental argument**
- 16. Consciousness – the human soul**
- 17. Information, irreducible complexity**

# ***I. The Wish Argument***

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## **The “wish” argument**

- ▶ **Without the existence of God people would have no reason to live or be good**
- ▶ **Most people believe in a God**
- ▶ **Objection: this isn't a proof, it is just a wish**

## 2. Faith

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### The argument from faith

- ▶ **The existence of God cannot be proven from reason, only by the use of faith**
- ▶ **Faith shows there is a God**
- ▶ **Objection: faith is believing something is so because you want it to be so, without adequate evidence**



# 3. *Ontological Argument*

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## The ontological argument

- ▶ **God is by definition perfect**
- ▶ **A necessary quality of any perfect object is that it exists – if it did not exist it would not be perfect**
- ▶ **God exists since God is perfect**
- ▶ **Objection: if perfectness is a quality of God, then he may be perfect – but he first must exist**

# 4. *Revealed Theology*

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## Revealed theology argument

- ▶ **The Bible says that God exists**
- ▶ **The Bible is the true Word of God**
- ▶ **Objection: circular reasoning**

# 5. Miracles

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## Argument from miracles

- ▶ **The existence of miracles (violations of natural law) requires the presence of a supernatural force**
- ▶ **Objection: it assumes that which is to be proven; in and of itself does not show the existence of God; it is more likely that a person is lying than that nature goes out of her course**

# 6. Pascal's Wager

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## Pascal's wager

- ▶ **We have nothing to lose by believing in a God**
- ▶ **We have a lot to lose if we do not believe and God turns out to be true after we are dead**
- ▶ **Objection: it is only true if you are right about a God and have picked the right religion; a God who punishes an atheist who led a virtuous life would be an irrational God**

# *Pascal's Wager Decision Matrix*

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	<i>God exists</i>	<i>God does not exist</i>
<i>Wager for God</i>	<b>Gain all</b>	Status quo
<i>Wager against God</i>	<b>Misery</b>	Status quo

# 7. Morality

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## The moral argument

- ▶ **All people have moral values**
- ▶ **These values cannot be explained unless they were implanted by God**
- ▶ **Objection: people's moral values are an accommodation with their environment – they are a survival mechanism**

# Morality

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- ▶ **What is the source of our moral values? Our sense of right and wrong? Our desire for justice and fair play?**
- ▶ **There is no morality in matter – it is simply there**
- ▶ **Our morality points to the existence of a personal, moral Creator**
- ▶ **Ro 2:15 (The Message)** God's law is not something alien, imposed on us from without, but woven into the very fabric of our being at creation. There is something deep within us that echoes God's yes and no, right and wrong.

# 8. *Religious Experience*

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## The argument from religious experience

- ▶ **Many people claim a personal experience with God**
- ▶ **Objection: we cannot use our feelings as if they were valid information about the world**



# Changed Lives

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- ▶ **When Jesus Christ is believed and trusted, change takes place in the individual**
- ▶ **2 CO 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
- ▶ **RO 8:5b** those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires
- ▶ **1 CO 6:9b-11** Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders [10] nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. [11] And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

# 9. First-Cause

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## First-cause or cosmological argument

- ▶ **Everything must have a cause**
- ▶ **The universe had a cause**
- ▶ **That cause was God**
- ▶ **God is the first, or uncaused, cause**
- ▶ **Objection: what was the cause of God? If not everything needs a cause, perhaps the universe is one of those things that doesn't need a cause**

# *Cause and Effect*

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- ▶ **The scientific Law of Cause and Effect:**
  - ▶ **Nothing happens in and of itself alone**
  - ▶ **It is always the effect of one or more causes**
  - ▶ **No effect can be greater than its cause**
  - ▶ **A cause is the effect of a prior cause (like a line of dominos)**
- ▶ **Conclusion:**
  - ▶ **The chain of causes is infinite, or**
  - ▶ **The chain terminates in a great First Cause which was itself eternally un-caused**

# ***Cause and Effect – There is a Great First Cause***

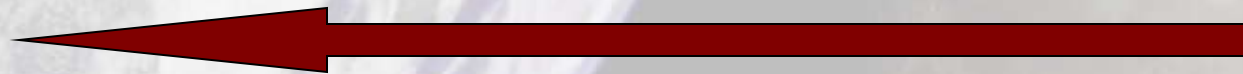
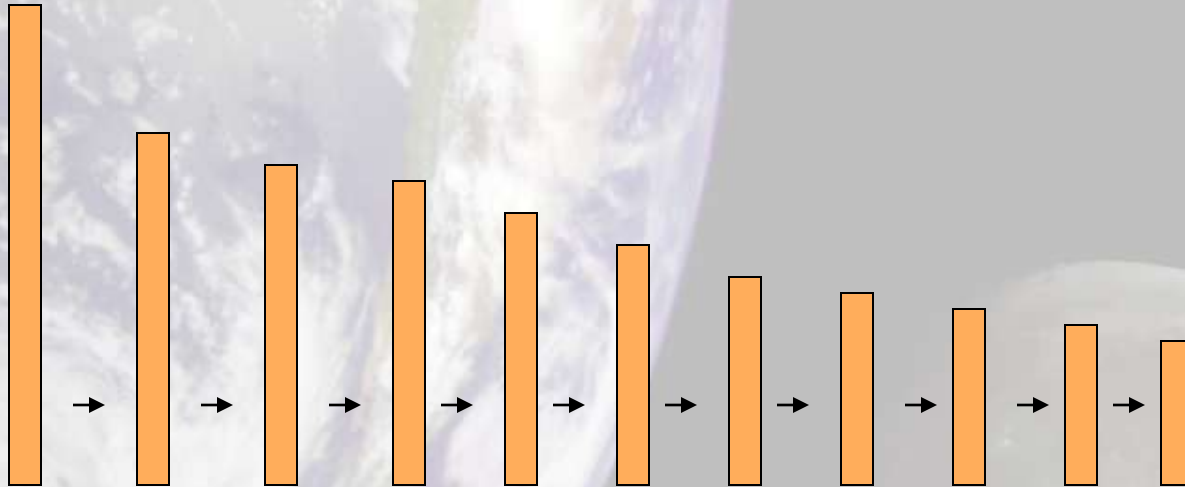
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- ▶ **If there were an infinite chain of causes...**
- ▶ **And since no effect can be greater than its cause,**
- ▶ **Then prior causes will need to increase in potency as they go backward in time,**
- ▶ **Until they become infinite in infinite time past,**
- ▶ **Requiring a great infinite First Cause**

# *Cause and Effect Illustration*

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**Great  
First  
Cause  
(God)**



**Back in Time**

# *The Existence of the Universe*

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- ① **Fact 1: Nothing cannot produce something**
- ② **Fact 2: We have something (the universe)**
- ③ **Therefore: Something is eternal:**
  - 1) the universe, or
  - 2) something greater than the universe (**God**)
    - **Otherwise there was a time when there was nothing, but nothing cannot produce something**
- ④ **Fact 3: The universe has been shown to have a starting point (the Big Bang) and is therefore not eternal**
- ⑤ **Conclusion: An eternal God must exist!**

# ***Dawkins: On Our Fine-tuned Universe***

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- ▶ **“there are many universes, co-existing like bubbles of foam, in a ‘multiverse’ ... The multiverse as a whole has a plethora of alternative set of by-laws. The anthropic principle kicks in to explain that we have to be in one of those universes (presumably a minority) whose by-laws happened to be propitious to our eventual evolution and hence contemplation of the problem.” (pages 173-174)**

# 10. Order, Design and Purpose

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**The fine-tuning of the universe, solar system and Earth**

- ▶ **The universe, our solar system, the earth, and life exhibit tremendous order, design, and purpose**
- ▶ **Earth is a complex machine where everything has a purpose and works together to support life**
- ▶ **Hugh Ross has documented 118 finely tuned characteristics of the Galaxy-Sun-Earth-Moon system for life to exist**
  - ▶ [http://www.reasons.org/resources/apologetics/design\\_evidences/20020502\\_solar\\_system\\_design.html](http://www.reasons.org/resources/apologetics/design_evidences/20020502_solar_system_design.html)



# *Some Examples of Fine-Tuning*

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- ▶ **The mass and size of the earth to have a livable atmosphere**
- ▶ **The distance of earth from the sun**
- ▶ **The tilt of the axis of the earth (insures the seasons and livable temperature differences)**
- ▶ **The presence of a single moon (causes the tides which cleanse the shores and aerate the oceans providing oxygen for the plankton, which is the foundation of the food chain)**
- ▶ **The composition of the atmosphere (78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen)**
- ▶ **The nitrogen cycle – lightning (100,000 bolts daily) gets nitrogen out of the air and into the soil for plant food**
- ▶ **The ozone layer – absorbs killer rays from the sun**
- ▶ **The strength of the magnetic field**
- ▶ **The rotation period of the earth (how long a day is)**

# Water

- ▶ **The ocean is the world's thermostat, keeping the earth's surface temperature within certain limits**
- ▶ **Water vapor provides the right amount of cloud cover**
- ▶ **Rain water cleanses the earth**
- ▶ **It is a universal solvent. In the human blood stream it holds in solution the minimum of 64 substances. Any other solvent would be a pure sludge.**
- ▶ **It has a high specific heat, so that chemical reactions within the body are kept rather stable**
- ▶ **Other than bismuth, it is the only liquid that is lighter when frozen, allowing lakes to freeze from the top down and not kill all the fish**

# ***Dawkins: On the Origin of Life***

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- ▶ **“We can deal with the unique origin of life by postulating a very large number of planetary opportunities. Once that initial stroke of luck has been granted ... natural selection takes over” (page 168)**

# *II. Origin of Life*

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## **Origin of life argument**

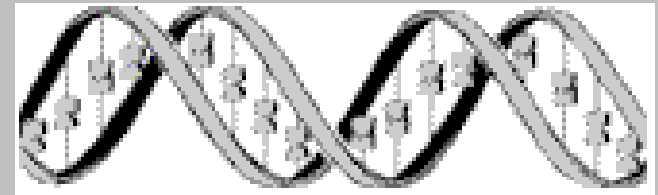
- ▶ **Life cannot originate from the random movement of atoms**
- ▶ **God was necessary to create life**
- ▶ **Objection: chemical composition and the physics of atoms are restricted, not random, and this is a simpler explanation for life**

# *The Existence of Life*

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## ▶ The creation of life is tremendously complex:

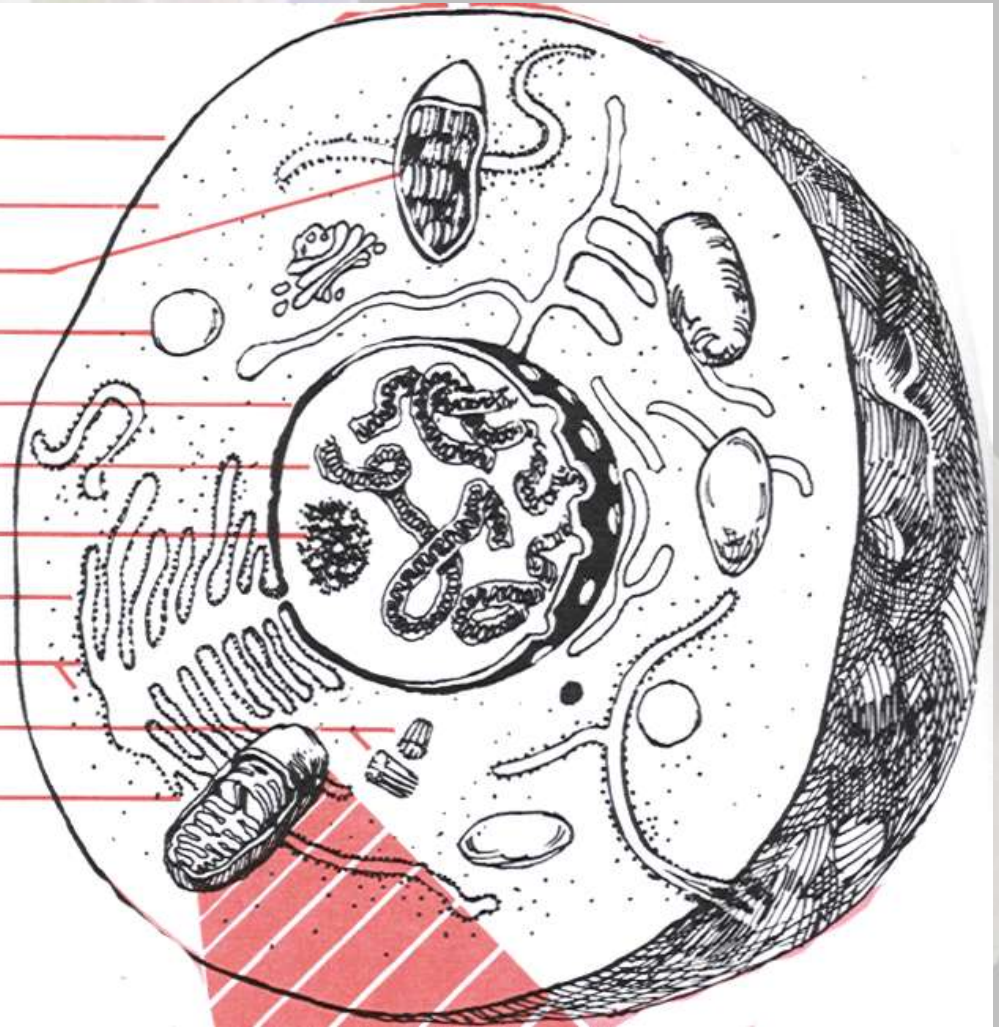
- ▶ Requires both DNA (the plan) and RNA (the copy mechanism) at the same time



- ▶ The average protein consists of a chain of 300-500 amino acids (of which there are 20 kinds). The odds of the spontaneous formation of a working protein is zero.
  - The odds of getting just 200 amino acids in correct order by chance = 1 in  $20^{200} = 1$  in  $10^{260}$
  - There are only  $10^{80}$  atoms in the whole universe!

# The Cell: Many Complex Parts Working Together

Cell Membrane  
Cytoplasm  
Plastid  
Vacuole  
NUCLEUS  
Nuclear Envelope  
Chromosome with DNA  
Nucleolus  
Endoplasmic Reticulum  
Ribosomes  
Centrioles  
Mitochondrion



From "Origin of Life", Bliss,  
Parker, Gish, Page 36

# 12. Design

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## Design or teleological argument

- ▶ **The universe exhibits wonderful design and order**
- ▶ **Design must have had a designer**
- ▶ **The designer (God) must be even more wonderful**
- ▶ **Objection: who designed God?**

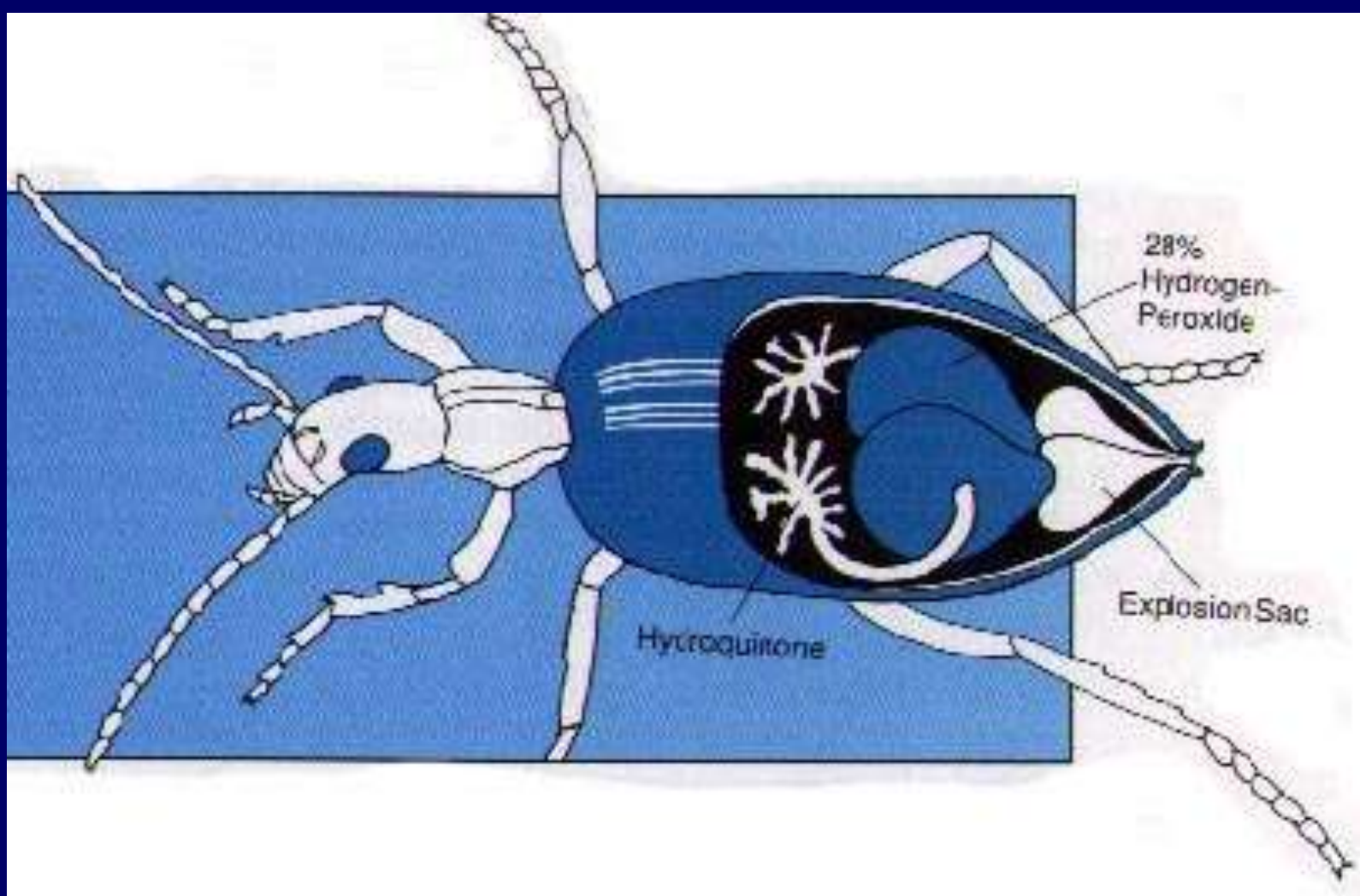
# *The Bombardier Beetle*

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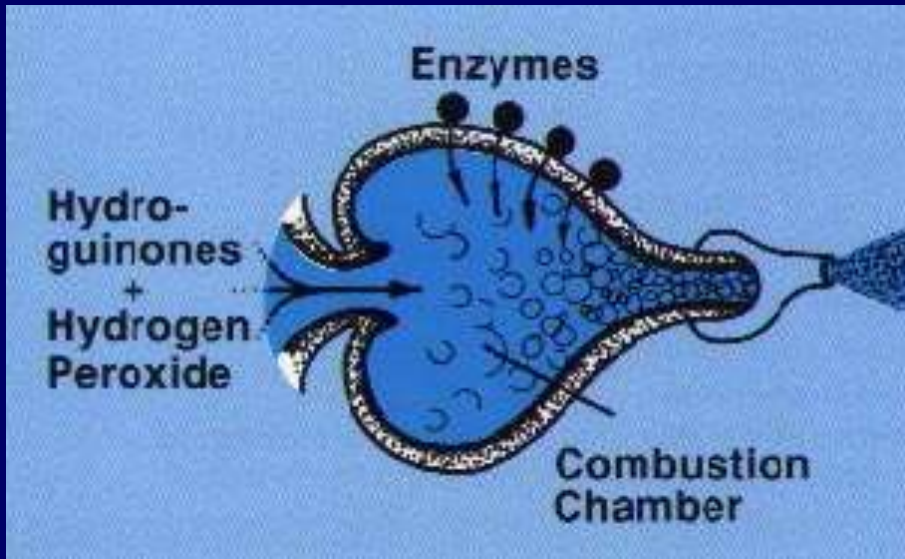


**The Bombardier Beetle has a complex and highly effective defense mechanism - he shoots very hot, irritating gases out of twin combustion tubes in his tail!**



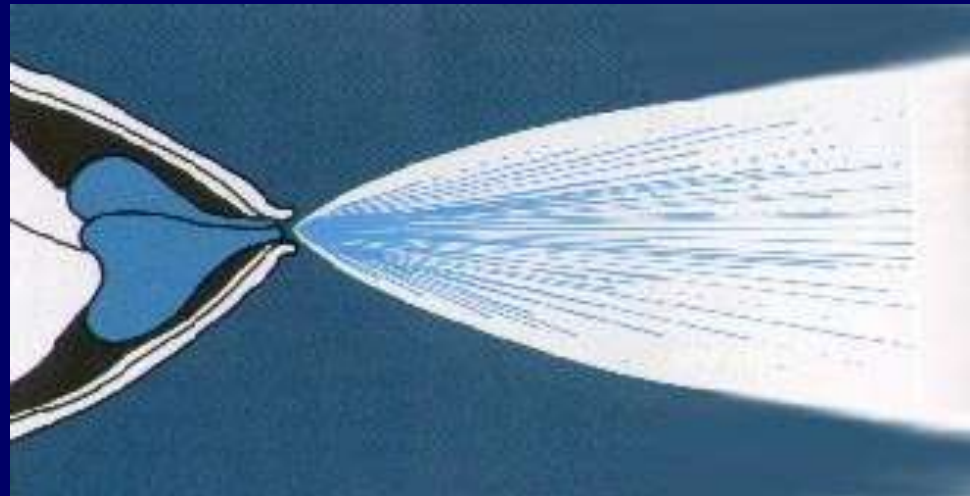


The beetle has twin chambers in which he stores two chemicals. He also makes an inhibitor which prevents them from reacting with each other when mixed.



When threatened, he squirts the chemicals into a combustion chamber.

Two enzymes are added causing the mixture to get very hot, which builds up pressure. The beetle then opens a valve to release the gas at his enemy!



**Unless all these pieces are in place and working together  
this is what would happen!**



# 13. Beauty (Aesthetics)

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## Beauty

There is much in the natural world that goes beyond being simply functional

- ▶ **The feathers of a Peacock**
- ▶ **Flowers of all kinds**
- ▶ **Tropical fish**
- ▶ ...



- ▶ **The development and existence of beauty is hard to account for via blind evolutionary physical processes driven only by survival of the fittest**



# *14. The Laws of Logic*

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## **Argument from the Laws of Logic**

- ▶ **The Laws of Logic only make sense within a theistic worldview, as they are “abstract universal invariant” entities**
- ▶ **They are non-material in nature and could not have arisen via material processes**
- ▶ **The atheist cannot justify these Laws**

# ***15. Transcendental Argument***

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## **The transcendental argument**

- ▶ **Without the existence of God it is impossible to prove anything**
- ▶ **An atheistic world cannot account for human thought which is more than electrochemical events**
- ▶ **How can reasoning be relied upon if it is just physical events inside a brain? What is happening inside of my brain may be different from what is happening inside of your brain.**

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“Dr. Stein tonight has wanted to use the laws of logic. I want to suggest to you one more time that Dr. Stein, in so doing, is borrowing my worldview. He is using the Christian approach to the world so that there can be such laws of logic, scientific inference, or what have you, but then he wants to deny the very foundation of it.”



# ***Dawkins: The Anthropic Principle***

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- ▶ **“The anthropic principle states that, since we are alive, eucaryotic and conscious, our planet has to be one of the intensely rare planets that has bridged all three gaps” (origin of life, origin of the eucaryotic/human cell, and origin of consciousness) (page 169)**

# 16. Consciousness

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## Consciousness

- ▶ The human brain is the most complex thing in the universe, far superior to any computer
- ▶ The human person is a unity of body + soul
- ▶ Soul = the immaterial part of you that is the “real”, inner you, more than the physical brain
  - ▶ **Consciousness, self-awareness**
  - ▶ **Thinking: creativity, reasoning**
  - ▶ **Emotions: love, hate, passion, sadness, ...**
  - ▶ **Sensations: pleasure, pain, thrill, rough, smooth, ...**
  - ▶ **Possessor of experiences**
  - ▶ **Free will: making choices, decisions**

# *The Human Soul – Created by God*

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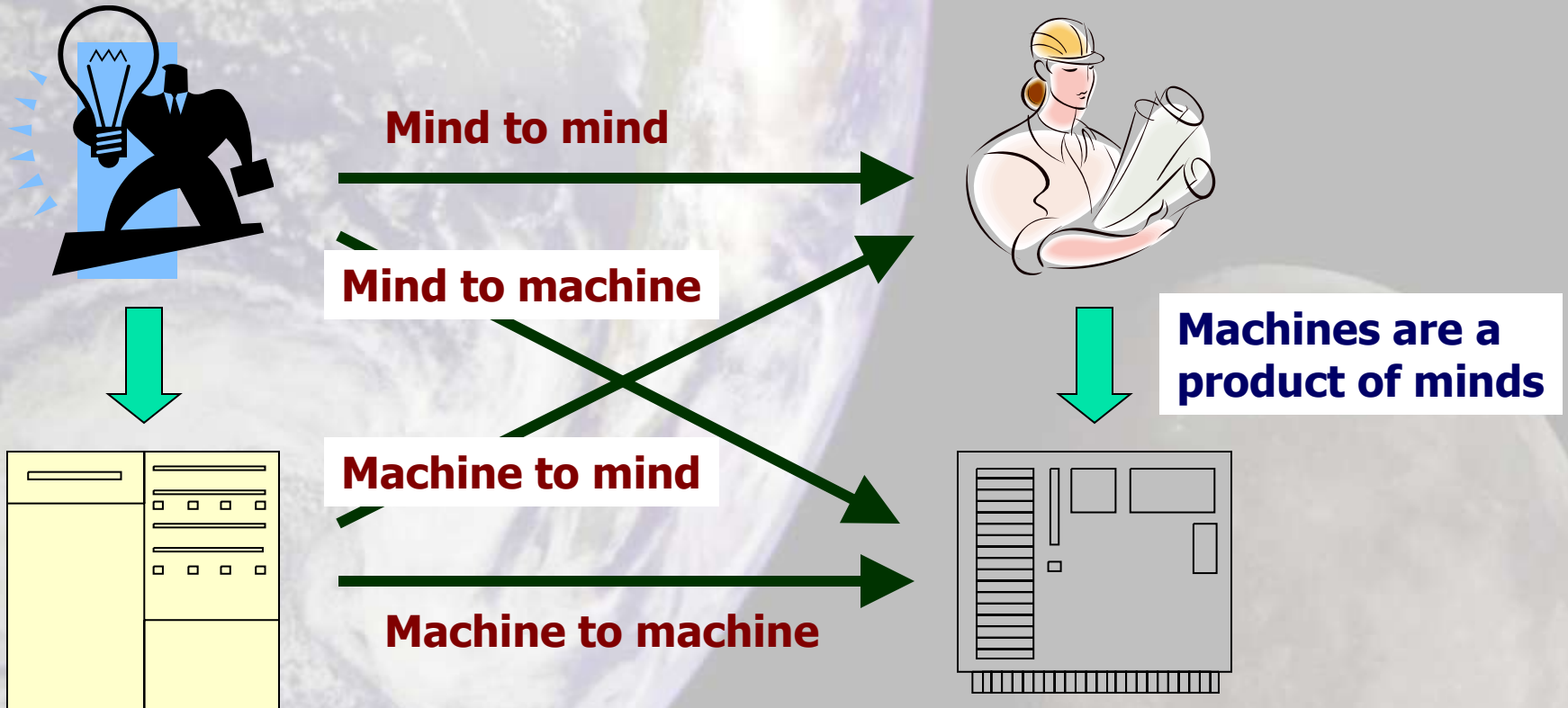
- ▶ The soul and the brain can interact with each other, but they are not the same
- ▶ Conclusion: the soul could not have originated through evolutionary, physical processes
- ▶ **PS 103:1** Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- ▶ **MT 10:28** Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.
- ▶ **I TH 5:23b** May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ▶ **MT 22:37** Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ [38] This is the first and greatest commandment.”

# ***17. Dawkins: On Information***

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- ▶ **“Darwinian natural selection is the only known solution to the otherwise unanswerable riddle of where the information comes from.” (page 138)**

# Information = Message with a Purpose

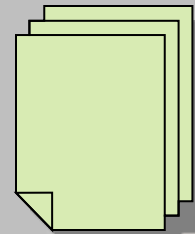
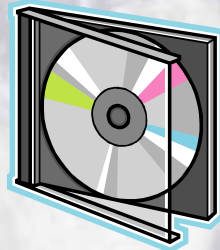


Information communicates purposeful ideas from one mind/machine to another mind/machine

# ***Information is a Mental Concept***

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**We must not confuse the physical representation of information with the information itself!**

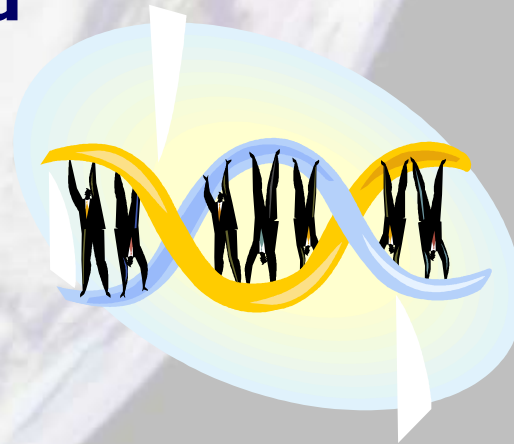


**The information content in this PowerPoint presentation is the same whether it is on a computer hard-drive, a CD, seen projected on a screen, printed as a hardcopy, or read to you**

# ***The DNA is NOT the Information***

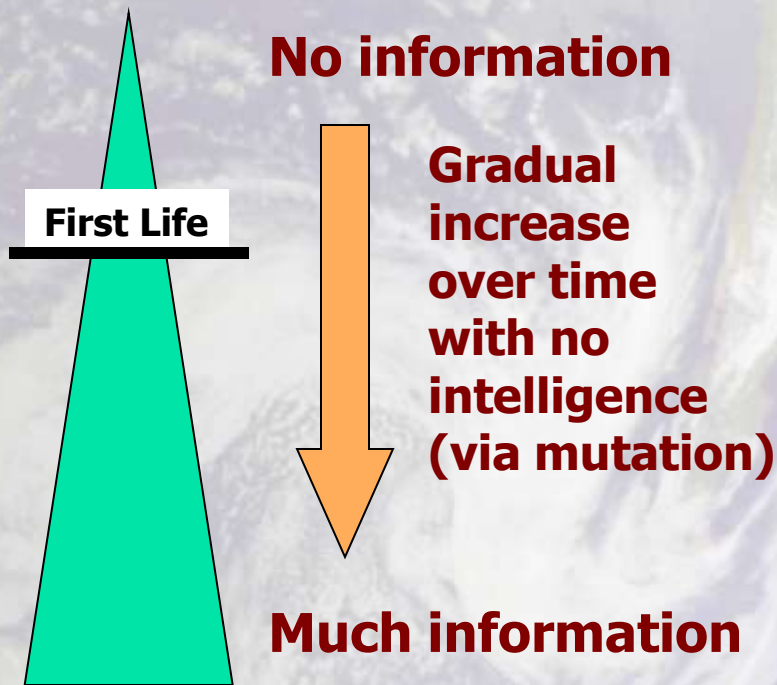
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- ▶ **The DNA of life houses information BUT IS NOT THE INFORMATION ITSELF!**
- ▶ **Modifying the physical housing (mutating the DNA) can never create new information!**
- ▶ **The information of life originated from the mind of God**



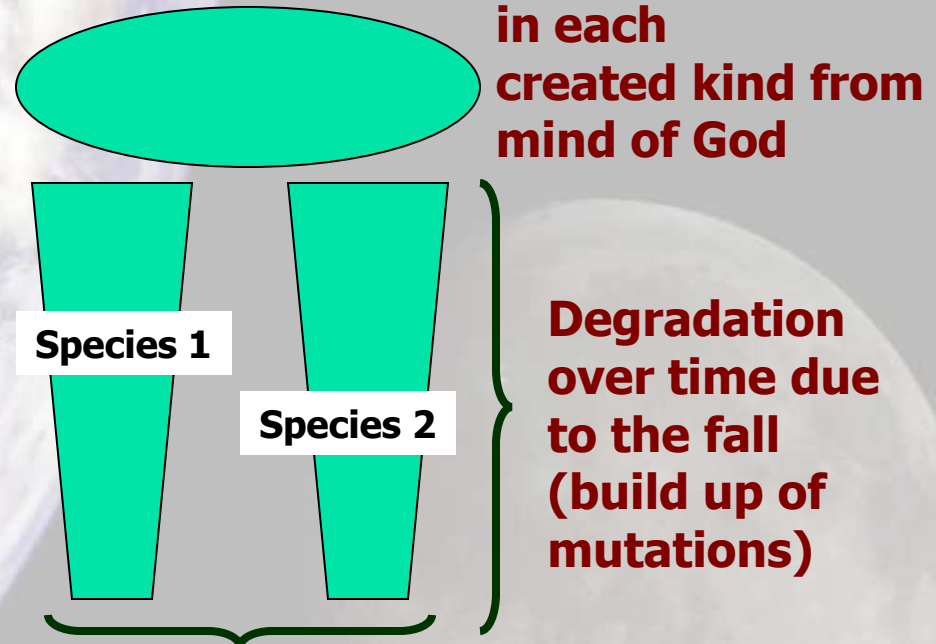
# Evolutionary vs. Creation Views of Information

## Evolutionary View



**Note: mutation / natural selection only operates after the first replicating life form exists**

## Creation View



**Kind diversifies into species due to environmental differences expressing different subsets of existing information**



*Dawkins's example:*

Initial sequence:

WDLMNLT DTJBKWIRZREZLMQCO P

Predetermined target sentence:

METHINKS IT IS LIKE A WEASEL

*First test:*

*Gen. 01* WDLMNLT DTJBKWIRZREZLMQCO P

*Gen. 02* WDLTMNLT DTJBSWIRZREZLMQLO P

*Gen. 10* MDLDMNLS ITJISWHRZREZ MECS P

*Gen. 20* MELDINLS IT ISWPRKE Z WECSEL

*Gen. 30* METHINGS IT ISWLIKE B WECSEL

*Gen. 40* METHINKS IT IS LIKE I WEASEL

*Gen. 43* METHINKS IT IS LIKE A WEASEL

# *Gitt's Response to Dawkins*

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- ▶ **Page 102: “Dawkins selects a target sentence and his entire program is designed towards this goal. This game can be played with any random initial sequence and the goal will always be reached, because the programming is fixed. Even the number of letters is given in advance. It is obvious that no information is generated, on the contrary, it has been predetermined.”**

# ***A Naturalistic Origin of Information is ... Impossible!***

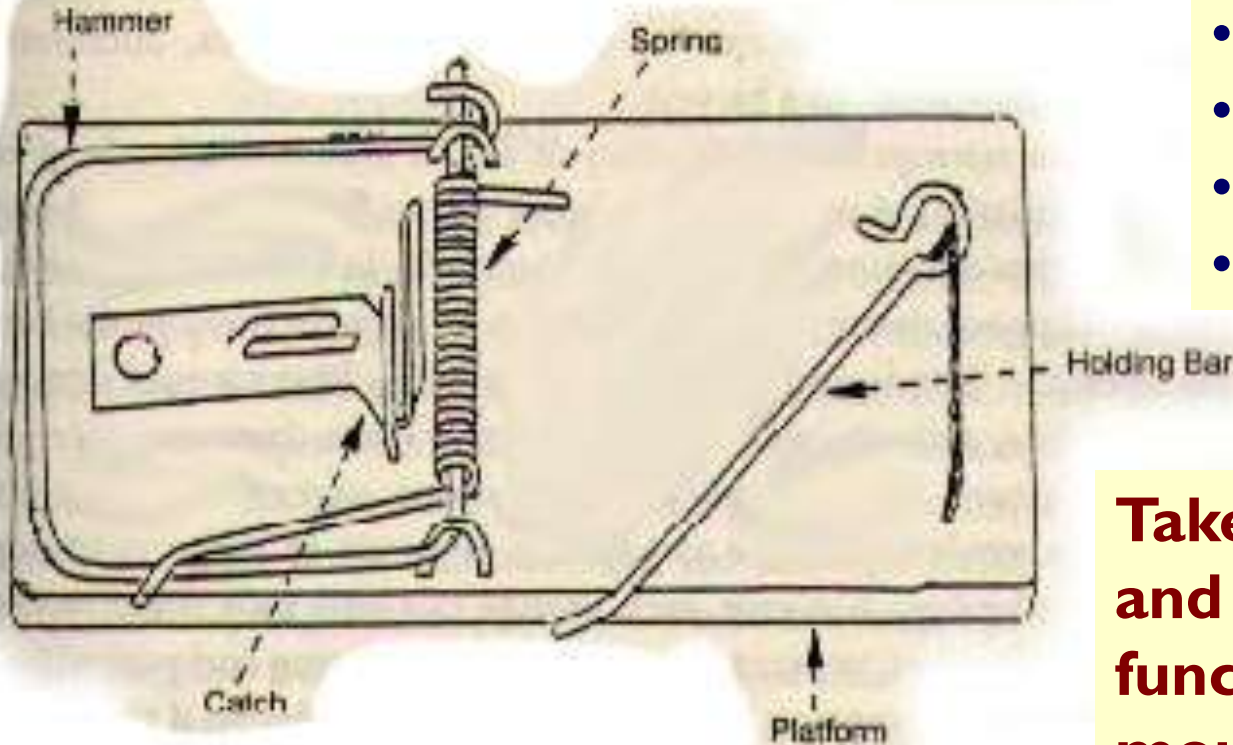
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- ▶ **“The basic flaw of all evolutionary views is the origin of the information in living beings. It has never been shown that a coding system and semantic information could originate by itself in a material medium, and the information theorems predict that this will never be possible. A purely material origin of life is thus precluded.”**

# *Irreducible Complexity: Take away one part and it doesn't work*

**A mousetrap has:**

- **Platform / Base**
- **Spring**
- **Hammer**
- **Catch**
- **Holding Bar**



**Take one part away  
and it will no longer  
function as a  
mousetrap!**

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**The problem with evolution is:**



**Nothing Works  
Until  
Everything Works!**

# *The Central Argument of “The God Delusion”*

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- 1. One of the greatest challenges to the human intellect, over the centuries, has been to explain how the complex, improbable appearance of design in the universe arises.**
- 2. The natural temptation is to attribute the appearance of design to actual design itself. In the case of a man-made artefact such as a watch, the designer really was an intelligent engineer. It is tempting to apply the same logic to an eye or a wing, a spider or a person.**

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**3. The temptation is a false one, because the designer hypothesis immediately raises the larger problem of who designed the designer. The whole problem we started out with was the problem of explaining statistical improbability. It is obviously no solution to postulate something even more improbable. We need a ‘crane’, not a ‘skyhook’, for only a crane can do the business of working up gradually and plausibly from simplicity to otherwise improbably complexity.**

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**4. The most ingenious and powerful crane so far discovered is Darwinian evolution by natural selection. Darwin and his successors have shown how living creatures, with their spectacular statistical improbability and appearance of design, have evolved by slow, gradual degrees from simple beginnings. We can now safely say that the illusion of design in living creatures is must that – an illusion.**



# Response

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- ▶ **“Darwin and his successors” have not shown “how living creatures, with their spectacular statistical improbability and appearance of design, have evolved by slow, gradual degrees from simple beginnings”**
  - ▶ **Information cannot arise from a naturalistic process!**
  - ▶ **Dawkins concept of “cumulative selection” to explain information is fatally flawed!**
  - ▶ **Information is not even a physical concept! It is always the result of an intelligence!**

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**5. We don't yet have an equivalent crane for physics. Some kind of multiverse theory could in principle do for physics the same explanatory work as Darwinism does for biology. This kind of explanation is superficially less satisfying than the biological version of Darwinism, because it makes heavier demands on luck. But the anthropic principle entitles us to postulate far more luck than our limited human intuition is comfortable with.**

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**6. We should not give up hope of a better crane arising in physics, something as powerful as Darwinism is for biology. But even in the absence of a strongly satisfying crane to match the biological one, the relatively weak cranes we have at present are, when abetted by the anthropic principle, self-evidently better than the self-defeating skyhook hypothesis of an intelligent designer.**

# Response

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- ▶ The multiverse theory is not science
- ▶ It could never be proven
- ▶ Why is this idea “self-evidently better than the ... hypothesis of an intelligent designer?”
- ▶ It belongs in the category of a “wish” argument!

# ***Final Thoughts on “The God Delusion”***

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- ▶ **The strongest argument for the necessary existence of God – information – is not addressed in the book**
- ▶ **“The whole problem we started out with was the problem of explaining statistical improbability. It is obviously no solution to postulate something even more improbable.”**
  - ▶ **God is not improbable - Dawkin’s wants to fit God into the realm of the physical, but we have shown that something must be eternal, and we know it is not the universe itself**

# Who Made God?

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- ▶ Possibly the most frequently asked question by skeptics is “who made God”?
- ▶ Answer: God is eternal, un-made, un-caused
  - ▶ God exists outside of time
    - 2 PE 3:8b With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.
    - He can look forward in time:
    - RO 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son
    - He hears the prayers of millions of people at the same time
  - ▶ According to Einstein's Theory of Relativity, space and time are related, and if there is no space, there is no time
    - Before the universe existed, there was no time!

# God is Eternal

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- ▶ **EX 3:15** God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, `The LORD, the God of your fathers--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob--has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.
- ▶ **HE 13:8** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
  - ▶ The question “who made God” is logically an invalid question because it is asking a time-based question (“when did God begin”) applied to a timeless environment

# ***Why is the Evidence Rejected by Some?***

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- ▶ **PS 14:1** The fool says in his heart, “There is no **God**.”
- ▶ The problem of evil and suffering is the main reason for the rejection of **God** by some
- ▶ If **God** is all-powerful and all-good, as is claimed:
  - ▶ He should be able to stop evil
  - ▶ He should want to stop evil
  - ▶ **Conclusion:** since we have evil, such a **God** must not exist



# ***But There are Some Explanations***

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- ▶ **God gave us free will, which means that some will choose to do evil**
  - ▶ **GE 2:16** And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; [17] but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."
- ▶ **Because of the sin of Adam and Eve, God cursed the creation, allowing natural disasters to take place**
  - ▶ **GE 3:17b-18** Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you
  - ▶ **RO 8:21** that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay
- ▶ **If a Christian were always protected from all harm, people would profess to be Christians for the wrong reason – the desire of this protection, and not for the love of God**

# ***God is Absolutely Necessary to Explain***

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- ✓ **The origin and fine-tuning of the universe**
- ✓ **The origin and fine-tuning of the Earth**
- ✓ **The origin of life**
- ✓ **The source of the information content of living things**
- ✓ **The origin of human consciousness**
- ✓ **Human reasoning to even consider whether or not **God** exists!**

# Conclusions

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- ▶ **There is overwhelming evidence for the necessary existence of God for those who are willing to acknowledge it**
- ▶ **“There is a Somebody behind the universe. He is a God who has mind, emotions, conscience and will himself – a complete personality”**

**Paul E. Little, “Know Why You Believe”, p. 33**

# References

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- ▶ **Recommended for further study:**
- ▶ **Little Paul E., *Know Why You Believe*, Intervarsity Press, 2000**
- ▶ **Kennedy, D. James, *Why I Believe*, Word Publishing, 1999**
- ▶ **Morris, Henry M., *Many Infallible Proofs*, Master Books, 1974**