The Evidence Of God

Introduction. The facts of science, properly examined, point toward the existence of a Creator (Colossians 1:16). Simply put, Darwinism is too far-fetched to be credible. Darwinism demands that you believe that nothing produces everything, non-life produces life, randomness produces fine-tuning, chaos produces information, unconsciousness produces consciousness, and non-reason produces reason.

Based on this, Darwinism would require quite a leap of faith. Would you be willing to make it? The central pillars of evolutionary theory quickly rot away when exposed to scrutiny. There are several good evidences that support the existence of God.

I. The Evidence Of Cosmology

A. As described by William Lane Craig, the argument of cosmology is simple yet elegant: First, whatever begins to exist has a cause; second, the universe had a beginning; therefore, the universe has a cause. This is a principle that is constantly confirmed and never falsified. We never see anything coming into being uncaused out of nothing.

B. In fact, the scientific evidence has accumulated to the extent that atheists are finding it difficult to deny that the universe had a beginning. There cannot be a scientific explanation of the beginning of the universe. Since it is the first state, it simply cannot be explained in terms of earlier initial conditions and natural laws leading up to it. So if there is an explanation of the first state of the universe, it has to be a personal explanation — that is, an agent who has volition or free will to create it.

C. Because the cause of the universe transcends time and space, it cannot be a physical reality. Instead, it must be nonphysical or immaterial.
   1. There are two types of objects that can be timeless and immaterial. One would be abstract objects, like numbers or mathematical entities. However, abstract objects cannot cause anything to happen.
   2. The second kind of immaterial reality would be a mind. A mind can be a cause, and so it makes sense that the universe is the product of an intangible mind that brought it into existence.

D. There is no ground for supposing that matter and energy existed before and was suddenly galvanized into action. For what could distinguish that moment from all other moments in history? It is simpler to postulate creation from a divine will constituting nature from nothingness.

E. One hundred years ago, Christians had to maintain by faith in the Bible that despite all appearances to the contrary, the universe was not eternal but was created out of nothing a finite time ago. Now, the situation is exactly the opposite. It is the atheist who has to maintain, by faith, despite all of the evidence to the contrary, that the universe did not have a beginning a finite time ago but is in some inexplicable way eternal after all. The Christian can stand confidently within biblical truth, knowing it is in line with mainstream astrophysics and cosmology (Acts 14:15).

F. Even once-agnostic astronomer Robert Jastrow conceded the essential elements of the gospel and modern cosmology are the same: “The chain of events leading

to man commenced suddenly and sharply …" There has never been a time in history when the hard evidence of science was more confirmatory of belief in God and what He did to create the world than today.

II. The Evidence Of Physics

A. One of the most striking discoveries of modern science has been that the laws and constants of physics unexpectedly conspire in an extraordinary way to make the universe habitable for life.

B. As recently as 30 years ago, a reasonable person weighing the purely scientific evidence on the issue would likely have come down on the side of skepticism. That is no longer the case. Today the concrete data point strongly in the direction of God. It is the simplest and most obvious solution to the anthropic puzzle.

C. One expert states that there are more than 30 separate physical or cosmological parameters that require precise calibration in order to produce a life-sustaining universe.
   1. For instance, physicist-philosopher Robin Collins has said, "Gravity is fine-tuned to one part in a hundred million billion billion billion billion billion." Compared to the total range of force strengths in nature, gravity has an incomprehensibly narrow range for life to exist.
   2. The cosmological constant (the energy density of empty space) is remarkably well-adjusted in our favor. This constant is necessary to prevent the universe from collapsing in on itself. The fine-tuning has conservatively been estimated to be at least one part in ten followed by 53 zeroes. That is incredibly precise.

D. If I were to flip a coin 50 times in a row and always come up on heads, you would know that I had rigged the game. Otherwise, it is simply not possible. The same is true for the fine-tuning of the universe — before you would conclude that random chance was responsible, you would conclude that there is strong evidence that the universe was rigged or designed (Nehemiah 9:6).
   1. The laws of nature seem to have been carefully arranged so that they can be discovered by beings with our level of intelligence.
   2. That not only fits the idea of design, but it also suggests a providential purpose for us — that is, to learn about our habitat and discover the Creator and to develop science and technology beneficial to us (Romans 1:19-20).

E. The heavens really do declare the glory of God, even more so for someone trained with physics and with eyes to see (Psalm 19:1-6). It is in the spirit of science to follow the evidence and its implications wherever they lead. Though man is not at the physical center of the universe, he appears to be at the center of its purpose. The coincidences are simply too amazing to have been the result of happenstance — as scientist Paul Davies said, "The impression of design is overwhelming."

III. The Evidence Of Astronomy

A. Since the days of Copernicus, who showed us that the universe does not revolve around the earth, scientists have postulated that we are nothing special as we live off the beaten path in a nondescript suburb of the vast Milky Way. We have no grand role, no meaning, no significance, and no reason for being.

B. It is turning out that the earth is anything but ordinary, that our sun is far from average, and that even the position of our planet in the galaxy is fortuitous. More and more scientists are studying the mind-boggling convergence of scores of extraordinary coincidences that make intelligent life possible on earth and concluding that this cannot possibly be an accident. The data imply that earth may be the only planet in the right place at the right time. We have found that our location in the universe, in our galaxy, in our solar system, as well as parameters such as the size and rotation of the earth, the mass of the moon and sun, etc., conspire together in an amazing way to make earth habitable.

C. In order to have life, you must have water as well as carbon, which serves as the core atom of the information-carrying structural molecules of life. But you also need a lot more. Humans require 26 essential elements. The problem is that not just any planetary body will be the source of all those chemical ingredients in the necessary forms and amounts. The earth's geology and biology interact very tightly with each other. You cannot think of life as being independent of the geophysical and meteorological processes of the planet. Scientists may have postulated that there are planets teeming with life strewn all over the universe, but that is not a logical assumption based on the evidence.
   1. The fact that the Milky Way is a spiral galaxy with the earth located out on one of its arms works together to create a narrow safe zone where life-sustaining planets are possible. We have enough building blocks to yield an earth, while providing a low level of threats to life. Furthermore, astronomers are learning how the other planets tie into the habitability of earth. For example, George Wetherill showed that Jupiter actually acts as a shield to protect us from too many comet impacts.
   2. The key to continued life on earth is the sun, whose nuclear fusion, taking place at 27,000,000 degrees Fahrenheit at its core, provides us with consistent warmth and energy 93,000,000 miles away. Although there are billions of discovered stars, our sun is really unusual. Our sun is not only the right mass, but it also emits the right colors — a balance of red and blue.
   3. In 1993 there was a remarkable finding that the moon actually stabilizes the tilt of the earth's axis. The tilt is responsible for our seasons so the moon is responsible for the stability of our climate. It also, along with the sun, regulates our tides which serve an important role by flushing out nutrients from the continents to the oceans, which keep them more nutrient-rich than they otherwise would be. They also help ocean circulations, which regulate the temperature of the earth.

D. Astrophysicist John A. O'Keefe said, "If the universe had not been made with the most exacting precision, we could never have come into existence." We are truly a cherished group of creatures by virtue of the creation of God (Job 26:7; Psalm 33:6, 9; Hebrews 11:3).

IV. The Evidence Of Biochemistry

A. Darwin said, "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organism existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down." If Darwinian evolution is

going to work, it has to succeed at the microscopic level of amino acids, proteins, and DNA. On the other hand, if there really was a designer of the world, then His fingerprints must be all over the cell.

B. The entire cell can be viewed as a factory that contains an elaborate network of interlocking assembly lines, each of which is composed of a set of large, complex, highly calibrated protein machines. These complicated protein assemblies contain highly coordinated moving parts. We have probed to the bottom of life, so to speak — we are at the level of molecules — and there is complexity all the way down.
C. Biochemist Michael Behe has demonstrated this through "irreducibly complex" molecular machines. A system or device is irreducibly complex if it has a number of different components that all work together to accomplish the task of the system, and if you were to remove one of the components, the system would no longer function. An irreducibly complex system is highly unlikely to be built piece-by-piece through Darwinian processes, because the system has to be fully present to work.
    1. An example of this would be the cilia, which are whiplike hairs on the surface of cells. Among other functions, the cilia can move the cell through a fluid. You only get the motion of the cilium when you have all of the parts in place. None of the individual parts can do the trick by themselves. For evolution to account for that, you would have to imagine how this could develop gradually, but nobody has been able to do that. Evolution does not start with the completed cilium and take parts away; it has to build the system up from the bottom.
    2. The bacterial flagellum acts like a rotary propeller in the cell. Several types of proteins act as bushing material to allow the drive shaft to penetrate the bacterial wall and attach to the rotary motor. The size of the flagellum is only a couple of microns (a micron is about 1/20,000 of an inch). Even with all of our technology, we cannot even begin to create something like this. If you eliminate any one of the complicated parts of the flagellum, then it cannot function properly. It is irreducibly complex — and a huge stumbling block to Darwinian theory.
D. An interesting point to remember is that the complexity we see is not going to be alleviated by the more we learn; it can only get more complicated. We will only discover more details about the systems.
E. We certainly need to keep an open mind in science, but we should not ignore the most obvious explanation for all the evidence we have today (cp. Psalm 139:14). Science should be the search for truth, not merely the search for materialistic explanations. The great scientists of history, such as Newton and Einstein, never thought science's job was to come up with some sort of self-sufficient explanation for nature.

V. The Evidence Of Biological Information

A. The six feet of DNA coiled inside every one of our body's one hundred trillion cells contains a four letter chemical alphabet that spells out precise assembly instructions for all the proteins from which our bodies are made. It contains more organized information than the Encyclopedia Britannica. If the full text of the

encyclopedia were to arrive in computer code from outer space, most people would regard this as proof of the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence. But when seen in nature, it is explained as the workings of random forces.

B. In fact, the information needed to build the proteins for all the species of organisms that have ever lived — a number estimated to be approximately one billion — could be held in a teaspoon and there would still be room left for all the information in every book ever written. DNA serves as the information storehouse for a finely choreographed manufacturing process in which the right amino acids are linked together with the right bonds in the right sequence to produce the right kind of proteins that fold in the right way to build biological systems. This new realm of molecular genetics is where we see the most compelling evidence of design on the earth.
C. The organism accesses the information that it needs from DNA so it can build some of its critical components. In DNA, there are long lines of A (adenine), C (cytosine), G (guanine), and T's (thymine) that are precisely arranged in order to create protein structure and folding. To build one protein, you need 1,200 to 2,000 letters or bases — which is a lot of information. If you cannot explain where the information comes from, you have not explained life, because it is the information that makes the molecules into something that actually functions.
D. Scientist Bill Dembski has observed that even a simple protein molecule, or the gene to build that molecule, is so rich in information that all of time since the Big Bang would not give you the probabilistic resources needed to generate that molecule by chance.
    1. There is a minimal complexity threshold for an amino acid to be formed by chance, and the probabilities of everything falling into place on its own at random is unbelievably remote, along the magnitude of 10^{125}th power.
    2. Plus, according to the evolutionary timetable, all of this would have to be accomplished in a mere 100 million years, which is the approximate window of time between the earth cooling and the first fossils found.
E. Many origin-of-life scientists in the 1970s had become disenchanted with the options of random chance and natural selection, As a result, some theorized that chemical attractions may have caused DNA's four-letter alphabet to self-assemble or that the natural affinities between amino acids prompted them to link together by themselves to create protein.
    1. However, there is no attraction or bonding between the individual letters themselves. So there is nothing chemically that forces them into any particular sequence.
    2. The sequencing has to come from somewhere else. But no hypothesis has come close to explaining how information necessary to life's origin arose by naturalistic means.
F. The data at the core of life is not disorganized; it is complex and specific information that can accomplish an amazing task — the building of biological machines that far outstrip human technological capabilities. Information is not something derived from material properties; in a sense, it transcends matter and energy. Naturalistic theories that rely solely on matter and energy are not going

to be able to account for information. Only intelligence can (Job 31:15; Ecclesiastes 3:11).

VI. The Evidence Of Consciousness

A. Amazingly, many scientists and philosophers are concluding that the laws of chemistry and physics cannot explain the experience of consciousness in human beings. Consciousness, which Professor J. P. Moreland defined consciousness as our introspection, sensations, thoughts, emotions, free choices, etc. that make us alive and aware, is the single most important fact about our existence, except for life itself. Scientists simply do not have an adequate theory of how the brain causes conscious states, and we do not have an adequate theory of how consciousness fits into the universe.

B. The Bible makes it very clear that when the soul or spirit leaves the body, the body is dead and that if the spirit is somehow returned to the body, the whole person comes back to life (James 2:26). This duality is repeated in hundreds of places in the Bible. Indeed the formation of Adam as the first human being is expressly stated as the result of the animation of a body by a spirit, constituting it as a living soul (Genesis 2:7).

C. If the universe began with dead matter having no conscious, then how do you get something totally different — conscious, living, thinking, feeling, believing creatures — from materials that do not possess those characteristics? Darwin tried to reduce consciousness down to the brain, because he could tell a story about how the brain evolved. But consciousness cannot be reduced merely to the physical brain.

D. You either have the beginning with particles or the divine existence. If you start with particles, and the history of the universe is just a story about the rearrangement of particles, you may end up with a more complicated arrangement of particles, but you are still going to have particles. However, if you begin with an infinite mind, then you can explain how finite minds could come into existence (Genesis 1:27). What does not make sense — and which many atheistic evolutionists are conceding — is the idea of getting a mind to come into existence by starting with dead, mindless matter.

E. Scientists explain processes by showing that something had to happen due to antecedent conditions.
   1. Naturally speaking, however, the mind did not have to happen. In the future scientists will be able to develop more correlations between conscious states and states of the brain, but correlation is not explanation.
   2. To explain something scientifically, you have to show why the phenomenon had to happen given the causes. Scientists cannot explain the “why” behind consciousness, because there is no necessary connection between the brain and consciousness. It did not have to happen this way.

F. The existence of my soul gives me a new way to understand how God can be everywhere, and that is because my soul occupies my body without being located in any one part of it. In a similar way, God is fully present everywhere (Psalm 139:7-12). God occupies space in the same way the soul occupies the body. If space were somehow cut in half, He would not lose half His being.

G. Furthermore, by considering our consciousness, we get better insight into how God could have thoughts, beliefs, desires, and awareness. We understand how He can act with purpose. If we start with the mind of God, we do not have a problem explaining the origin of our mind.

Conclusion. Each of the six scientific principles contribute clues to His existence. Physics suggests the Creator is intelligent and involved. Astronomy shows the Creator is incredibly precise, implying care, concern, and purpose. Biochemistry and biological information demonstrate the Creator is creative. Consciousness shows the Creator's rationality, which suggests omnipresence and the credibility of life after death.

With Darwinism, someone's faith would have to swim upstream against the strong current of evidence flowing the other way. Putting your trust in the God of the Bible is nothing less than the most rational and natural decision you could make. But faith goes beyond merely acknowledging that the facts of science and history point toward God. Faith is responding to those facts by obeying our Lord. What will your answer be?

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