

112, 407, 640 – CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS
Lesson 4 – The Defense Continues
The Defense of the Biblical Worldview – Part 2

II. Argument from Design (Teleological Argument) Continued

WHAT ABOUT LIFE ITSELF?

A. Design in Biological systems

Let's start with a significant quote by Molecular Biologist and Nobel Prize Laureate, Sir Francis Crick, who discovered the double-helical structure of DNA, who said:

"An honest man, armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that in some sense, the origin of life appears at the moment to be almost a miracle, so many are the conditions which would have had to have been satisfied to get it going.

Astronomer Sir Fred Hoyle agrees, stating:

"The trouble is that there are about two thousand enzymes, and the chance of obtaining them all in a random trial is only one part in $(10^{20})^{2,000} = 10^{40,000}$, an outrageously small probability that could not be faced even if the whole universe consisted of organic soup."

Here is an atheist saying that we did NOT rise up out of the primordial soup.

Biological systems are simply too complex.

For one thing, we have to realize that Darwin wrote his book, *The Origin of the Species*, in the days of the steam boat (1859).

We've learned a few things since then. Science – real science – has buried Darwin.

STORY: To me, some materialists today are like the guys on *Weekend at Bernie's*, trying to prop dead Darwin up and keep people believing he's still alive!

In Darwin's day, the cells was believed to be very simple. "a simple homogenous globule of plasm," as T.H. Huxley said in 1869

Now we know that they are filled with complex systems.

1. DNA – the "language" of life

Inside each and every one of the more than one-hundred trillion cells in your body is the double helix shaped DNA molecule.

It is a complex communication system of 3.1 billion bits of information in the form of a four letter chemical alphabet that instructs the cell how to link the amino acids together to form the proteins that make up our bodies.

This is how the process was explained in a documentary called *Unlocking the Mystery of Life*:

“In a process known as transcription, a molecular machine first unwinds a section of the DNA helix to expose the genetic instructions needed to assemble a specific protein molecule. Another machine then copies these instructions to form a molecule known as messenger RNA. When transcription is complete, the slender RNA strand carries the genetic information . . . out of the cell nucleus. The messenger RNA strand is directed to a two-part molecular factory called a ribosome. . . . Inside the ribosome, a molecular assembly line builds a specifically sequenced chain of amino acids. These amino acids are transported from other parts of the cell and then linked into chains often hundreds of units long. Their sequential arrangement determines the type of protein manufactured. When the chain is finished, it is moved from the ribosome to a barrel-shaped machine that helps fold it into the precise shape critical to its function. After the chain is folded into a protein, it is then released and shepherded by another molecular machine to the exact location where it is needed.” (Excerpt From: Lee Strobel. “The Case for a Creator.” iBooks.)

The complexities and design of DNA alone has caused some of the leading atheistic thinkers to renounce their atheism and become believers in Theism and Intelligent Design.

Most famously perhaps was Anthony Flew, an English Philosopher, and the most famous atheistic thinker (before Richard Dawkins came on the scene). He said:

“I now believe there is a God...I now think it [the evidence] does point to a creative Intelligence almost entirely because of the DNA investigations. What I think the DNA material has done is that it has shown, by the almost unbelievable complexity of the arrangements which are needed to produce life, that intelligence must have been involved in getting these extraordinarily diverse elements to work together.”

He also stated:

“we have all the evidence we need in our immediate experience and that only a deliberate refusal to “look” is responsible for atheism of any variety.”

Dean Kenyon, Professor of Biology repudiated the conclusions of his own book on the chemical origin of life, saying:

“This new realm of molecular genetics [is] where we see the most compelling evidence of design on the Earth,”

QUESTION: Why is this discovery of DNA so compelling an argument for Design and for God?

ANSWER: Because we know of only one source for information systems: Intelligence.

As Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft has said, “DNA is like computer code, only much more complex.”

DNA functions in much the same way, serving as a repository for a digital code containing instructions for telling our cells how to assemble amino acids in the right sequence so as to make proteins.

The issue is that computer code – or any digital code – is designed by a programmer, or an intelligent agent outside the system.

No computer code just self assembles to create a complex software program.

Someone has to put the information in.

SIMPLE EXAMPLE: If you saw a message on the beach that said, “Hello, Randy!” would you infer that over millions of years unguided, natural processes this message came to exist on its own?

NO! You’d assume some friends beat you to the beach and put that message in the sand!

Information implies intelligence.

NOT ONLY THAT, but it takes YOUR intelligence to be able to read it.

In other words, not only did some intelligence program the DNA molecule with information, but also programmed the cell to understand the message!

STORY: I grew up hearing films in school promoting evolution that would say all the time something like this: “Mother Nature knows how to form this or that.”

QUESTION: What are they doing?

ANSWER: Assigning intelligence to an unintelligent, unguided, natural process.

You can’t have it both ways!

If the universe is only material, it cannot be intelligent as well.

Saying that the complex genetic code in DNA randomly formed in such a way as to produce the complex systems in our bodies is like saying that you can throw a bunch of Scrabble letters on the floor enough times to eventually get Shakespeare’s Hamlet.

You decide.

The chance of even a single, simple protein forming by chance is one in 10¹²⁵.

To me, that is Design. To me, that is the finger of God.

2. Molecular Machines

Lastly today, we will address the issue of molecular machines.

Once thought simple, we have discovered that the cell is very complex, as we have already intimated by talking about the DNA molecule.

As we said, instead of being a globular, gelatinous mass, as was once thought, we have discovered that the cell is a very complex.

Furthermore, it is actually ran by various “molecular machines.”

Listen to what Michael Behe, famed American Biochemist and author of the best-selling, Darwin’s Black Box, said:

“Life is actually based on molecular machines,” he replied. “They haul cargo from one place in the cell to another; they turn cellular switches on and off; they act as pulleys and cables; electrical machines let current flow through nerves; manufacturing machines build other machines; solar-powered machines capture the energy from light and store it in chemicals. Molecular machinery lets cells move, reproduce, and process food. In fact, every part of the cell’s function is controlled by complex, highly calibrated machines.”

EXAMPLES:

1. The Cilium

Cilia are the whip-like hairs that line the outside of a cell.

They cause mobile cells, like sperm to move through fluid.

When scientists were able to look at these “hair-like” objects, they found that they were actually very complex molecular machines made up of about 200 protein molecules.

These protein parts function like rods, linkers, and motors that enable to cilium to move and propel the cell on its way.

Evolution cannot begin to explain how the parts “know” how to link together.

That requires information or programing, if you will, and information implies intelligence.

2. The Bacterial Flagellum

While the cilia function very much like oars moving cells along, the bacterial flagellum performs like a rotary propeller.

In fact, it's very much like an outboard motor.

It has a long, whip-like propeller made out of a protein called flagellin.

This whip-like motor is attached to a "drive shaft" by a hook protein, very much like a "universal joint," allowing the drive shaft to rotate freely.

Other proteins act like "bushings" allowing the "drive shaft" to penetrate the bacterial wall and attach to the rotary motor.

It has as its energy source a flow of acid through the bacterial membrane that scientists are still trying to understand.

Also, the propeller can spin at ten thousand RPMs. Furthermore, it can stop at a quarter turn and begin spinning at ten thousand RPMs in the opposite direction.

These biological machines are not only fascinating, but they present a death blow to Darwinism by challenging a test that Darwin himself had given regarding his theory.

Darwin said in his Origin of Species:

"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."

Long story short, these biological molecular machines are what are called irreducibly complex machines, which means they did not develop over time by this process by Darwin's process.

Darwinism only works on pre-existing simpler systems. These machines are irreducibly complex, meaning that they require all the parts to function.

They could not have evolved by numerous, successive, slight changes over time.

3. Lastly and just for fun, let's take a moment to appreciate the complexity of the eye.

This is a quote from Dr. David N. Menton, Ph.D from an article entitled simply, The Eye.

"It has been estimated that 10 billion calculations occur every second in the retina before the light image even gets to the brain! It is sobering to compare this performance to the most powerful man-made computer. In an article published in the computer magazine Byte (April 1985) Dr. John Stevens said:
'To simulate 10 milliseconds of the complete processing of even a single nerve cell from the retina would require the solution of about 500 simultaneous non-

linear differential equations one hundred times and would take at least several minutes of processing time on a Cray supercomputer. Keeping in mind that there are 10 million or more such cells interacting with each other in complex ways it would take a minimum of a hundred years of Cray time to simulate what takes place in your eye many times every second.”

We are fearfully and wonderfully made!

For more info on the eye, Google: *Does the Human Eye Prove That God Exists*, Telegraph

In addition to the Cosmological and Teleological Arguments for God, there is the:

III. Archeological Argument (Record)

While we will not get into this argument in depth, it is a powerful one because it is one which Darwin himself recognized as one which could effectively bury his theory.

Darwin posited in his theory that all living creatures had a common ancestor: that we all proceeded from that same primordial goo!

Natural selection working by way of slight, successive variations over millions and millions of years is what would produce all the various species we see today, along with those which are now extinct.

For that to hold up scientifically, you would have to see many, many intermediate stages (representing the various transitional stages of development) in the fossil record.

In other words, evolution is very gradual. It takes no leaps.

QUESTION: What does the fossil record show?

ANSWER: Darwin wasn't even close.

Darwin knew the fossil record did not support him at the time, but was convinced that time would yield these intermediate, transitional stages in the fossil record.

In fact, THE VERY OPPOSITE is true.

THE CAMBRIAN EXPLOSION: Also known as the “Biological Big Bang.”

The Cambrian was a geological period that began a little over 540 million years ago.

The reason it's called an “explosion” is because up to this time, all we have in the fossil record is some jelly fish, sponges, and worms...

Then suddenly “BAM!” most of the major animal phyla show up, not in some primitive version of themselves, but as fully developed.

This shows us that animal life did not come gradually through some slow evolutionary process, but rather came fully formed all at once!

Mammals came later in the fossil record.

NOTE: What is even more condemning are the number of hoaxes, frauds, and badly mislabeled “fossils” that have been heralded as the “missing link.”

All have either been proven to be frauds or simply something other than initially claimed.

In short, there is NOTHING to support Darwin’s theory in the fossil record.

IV. Moral Argument for God

The real question to answer here is, “What is the basis for our values?”

Where do they come from?

Here are some choices...

1. Social conventions – (social relativism) society just decides what is right and wrong.
2. Personal Preference – (moral relativism) everyone chooses for themselves.
3. Evolution – they evolve in us as we trade in our fins for feet.
4. God – there a moral Law giver who hardwired the knowledge of right and wrong in us?

QUESTION: Do objective moral values exist? (That is values that are right independent of our likes or dislikes or how we feel about it?)

The moral relativist says, “No. We decide for ourselves what right and wrong is.”

QUESTION: If that is so, how do you determine what kind of behavior to punish?

If it’s all values are really relative:

- How could you fault someone for anything (why do we say the Holocaust was wrong for example)?
- Why are there certain things that trouble our conscience?
- Why do we suffer from guilt? (Guilt is the cornerstone for most mental disorders)
- Why do we know in our hearts when we’re wrong and feel the need to justify ourselves?

Romans 2:14-15 NLT

14 Even Gentiles, who do not have God’s written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. 15 They demonstrate that God’s law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right.

There is an objective moral law, hence an objective moral law Giver!

Next, we will move on to the arguments for the Christian faith beginning with the scriptures themselves.