

WitnessKit 2

God And Creation Class 24

Turning Points in the Controversy:

2 Points with No Explanation;

The Official Caricature of the Debate;

4 Reasons to be Skeptical;

Modernism v. Theistic Realism

Having AN Explanation

Is not the same thing
as having THE CORRECT explanation.

We know that in everyday life.

We forget

when an authority from the University says
*he has a materialist explanation for existence,
and hence, it is a fact.*

He even forgets that having AN explanation does not
equal having THE correct explanation.

In Stephen Hawking's pursuit of a "theory of everything,"
he is assuming that if such a theory is achieved, it
eliminates the God hypothesis.

There are some wild bulbs that

Grow and bloom every spring near my old house. I can create any number of explanations about how those bulbs arrived in the ground where they grow. None of those explanations **proves** that **NOBODY** planted them. The historic fact, whatever it may be, trumps my explanation.



Explanations and Facts

Materialist Science makes an assumption that materialist explanations are the only explanations allowed in science.

Then they create numerous materialist explanations to describe the natural world. They conclude, “Voila! God must not exist.”

An explanation does **not** “poof” God out of existence. Even a correct explanation that describes natural causes may only be accessing intermediate causes rather than ultimate causes.

For Example:

It is possible, based on train schedules, to create a mathematical model to predict where trains will be at a given time. Computers can be employed to track where the trains should be, versus where they are at a given time. A central control system can inform the individual train whether it is on schedule or not. That model can be perfectly correct. But that model does not tell WHO is driving the trains.

- Ultimate cause=entity driving the trains
- Intermediate cause=the schedule he/she/it is trying to keep

Describing what happened

Is not the same as describing why it happened.

Describing how something happened is not the same as describing why it happened.

If you fail to understand “the why,” even your description of “how” and “what” can be seriously flawed.

Turning-Point Truths

Knowing such facts, one would expect materialists to be more reserved about declaring God dead.

Two MAJOR points—in the existence of the universe as we know it—have no adequate materialist explanation. The God hypothesis is the best explanation for those points.

Even Darwinists admit those two points with no adequate materialist explanation.

We can be certain that the materialists have mistakenly

2 points
which defy
materialist
explanation

ruled God out, since they admit two important points with no adequate materialist explanation.

1. The creation of life from non-life
2. The creation of human consciousness.

The creation of life from non-life

Survival of the fittest cannot apply until something is alive and able to reproduce. Darwinism has **NO EXPLANATION** for the transition from **inorganic chemistry** to **life chemistry** in the first living “replicator.”

Inorganic chemistry proceeds by physical law plus chance. It goes in statistical directions, depending upon how many collisions molecules make with each, other under what conditions.

The creation of life from non-life

- Life chemistry is different. It proceeds by way of information in an amazingly complex choreography of molecular machines. Every living cell is a small perpetually-in-motion factory. Each cell depends on outside fuel to keep going. It diagnoses and repairs its broken pieces.
- If too much breaks, or if the fuel runs out, the life of that cell ends. Cell death means the chemistry reverts to law plus chance.
- And “Humpty Dumpty” does not come back to life.

We know that...

- All the right chemical components are present, at the moment of cell death. Yet, life does not spontaneously recur once the random decomposition chemistry of cell death is in process.
- Life chemistry and inorganic chemistry are very different phenomena. The chance transition goes only in one directional. It proceeds from life to death, NOT the other direction.

At most

Materialist explanations for the beginning of living molecules postulate ways to get **SOME** of the chemical components together. They do not explain how the components arrange themselves into information.

At cell death, **ALL** the components are together. They do not rearrange themselves back to life.

Another major problem:

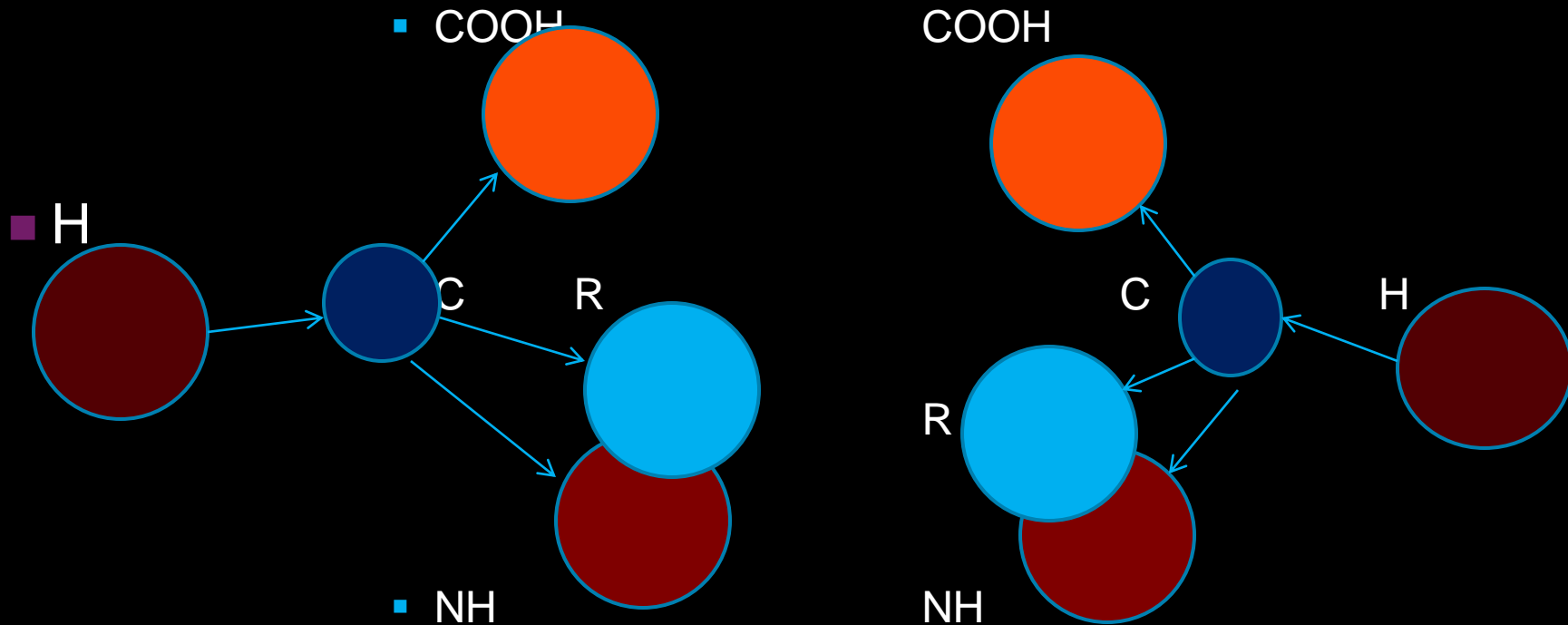
Almost all life proteins use only one side of mirror image molecules.

Inorganic chemistry **always** produces BOTH sides of the mirror. It is like throwing tens of thousands of coins—a statistical sample is always present—and a statistical sample produces equal numbers of head and tails.

The materialists have no explanation of how non-life chemistry, with both sides of the mirror present, turned into living chemistry, using only one side of mirror.

Mirror Image Molecules

A Generic Amino Acid



In the Generic Amino Acid

The functional groups are attached to a carbon atom, and the bond angles between groups are fixed. The COOH group is a carboxylic acid. The R group is a carbon chain which can have different atoms or groups attached to it. The NH group is an amine group. If you attempt to superimpose the two sides of the mirror over each other, they will not superimpose, even though they have exactly the same groups present.

Life from non-life?

- The materialists have no explanation for how the correct building blocks arrived in the right place at the right time, by chance. They have no explanation for how the always-one-directional-change from life to death in chemistry was reversed to initiate the first living replicator.
- Their origin stories need 4 elements:

4 elements needed for an origin story

1. A natural environment conducive to the chemistry of long chain life molecules such as DNA, RNA, or proteins.
 2. Some way to contain the chemicals so that they stay together for long periods, allowing rare chance events the time to occur. Every story requires this, but none of the stories explain how rare chemicals stayed together for eons.
 3. Some way to organize the molecules into information modules.
 4. Some way for replication to take place.
- None of the origin stories have all those elements.

Life from Non-Life?

Without some legal protection, the students in science class cannot point out the weaknesses of those origin stories. If their teacher is strongly committed to unguided evolution, any student who challenges may receive poor grades.

(Remember the assignment for students to write an essay called “Why I Believe in Evolution.” Commitment to materialism is not a valid “altar call” for science class.)

Life from Non-Life?

Without legal protection, the TEACHER cannot point out the weaknesses of those “first replicator” stories, unless she wants to be fired. At present, many of the materialist explanations only seem plausible because criticism is stifled. I, myself, loving science, experienced too much intimidation to ask the good questions in such classes. The teachers and professors thought they were doing us students a favor by presenting simplistic stories about the first cells.

Academic Freedom—An Application

The “strengths and weaknesses of scientific theories” language in the former Texas Science Standards

protected the academic freedom of teachers and students who wished to express dissent from prevailing views.

(That language has now been replaced with language that allows **analyses, evaluations, and critiques of scientific explanations**—still allowing some protection for open discussion.)

More Information about the Standards...

- The standards more specifically require students to “analyze and evaluate” the evidence for major evolutionary concepts such as common ancestry, natural selection, and mutations.
- *“Texas has sent a clear message that evolution should be taught as a scientific theory open to critical scrutiny, not as a sacred dogma that can't be questioned,”* said Dr. John West, Senior Fellow at Discovery Institute.

More Information about the Standards...

- *“Contrary to the claims of the evolution lobby, absolutely nothing the Board did promotes ‘creationism’ or religion in the classroom. Groups that assert otherwise are lying, plain and simple. Under the new standards, students will be expected to analyze and evaluate the scientific evidence for evolution, not religion. Period.”—from NOTA BENE, the Discovery Institute Newsletter, 3/27/2009*

Texas Academic Standards

More of the new language:

“In all fields of Science; analyze, evaluate and critique scientific explanations of science by using empirical evidence, logical reasoning, and experimental and observational testing including examining all sides of scientific evidence of those scientific explanations so as to encourage critical thinking by the student.”

Is this enough freedom?

This brings us to our spectrum of possibilities for science class

Materialist Evolution with no criticism allowed	Materialist evolution WITH criticism allowed	Testing for Intelligent Design by the 4 mathematical criteria	Considering the possibility of Theistic Evolution	Considering the Possibility of Special Creation
This is what the scientific elites wanted for Texas public schools	This is what the state board decided	This is what would be a better decision	This is what most parents THINK is going on	This is what really happened in history
This is the only thing allowed in most universities, including Christian ones	This is much better science than the first option, but rarely tolerated	This gets professors fired	This is only allowed so long as the pros deem the Theistic part totally undetectable	This is not generally allowed

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1. The creation of life from non-life
2. **The creation of human consciousness.**

The creation of human consciousness.

The materialist explanation for the human mind is a form of circular reasoning.

The materialist claims that the mind is the product of unconscious chemical reactions in the brain—and that consciousness is illusion—that everything condenses to chemistry.

The creation of human consciousness.

- If chemistry is the only thing going on,
- that scientist's explanation for the mind is nothing more than an unconscious set of chemical reactions,
 - and the opposite explanation would be the same thing, and equally valid, chemically,
 - because it, too, would condense to chemistry.

The creation of human consciousness.

- The materialist has to assume his mind is **more than what he says it is** in order to make such an explanation. Then he has to deny his own assumption by his explanation, to retain his dogma of materialism.

What about when these controversies reach the news?

Our classes have gone into great detail about turning point issues in the controversies.

When these controversies reach the news— usually because some brave school board is trying to insert a little freedom into classroom discussions—

- The news media does not present the materials we have studied.
- Instead, the news media presents a caricature of the controversy, reflecting their foundational beliefs. That caricature influences public perception in a large way.
- We must recognize the caricature in order to overcome it.

We can prepare for open discussions by understanding

Elements of the Caricature of the Debate

The official Caricature of the Debate.

1. **Evolution is a simple process supported unequivocally by the fossil record and by scientific evidence today.**
2. Everybody believes it except for a disturbingly large group of fundamentalists, who are ignorant of the evidence and have no intellectual basis for dissent, and who take Genesis literally.

Evolution is a simple process supported unequivocally by the fossil record and by scientific evidence today.

- This view of evolution ignores the serious problems extrapolating current real time data to extremes—over the entire past history of the earth. It also ignores the body-plan problem in the fossil record—where the gaps in the record are large between differences in body plan, but sharks and octopi stay themselves for millions of years. Darwinian gradualism needs a different fossil record. Punctuated Equilibrium tries to get around the problem.

Evolution is a simple process ...

The current data cited to support the unguided “molecules to man” view are merely

- ▣ deletions in portions of gene pools due to outside stress.

Like the beaks of the finches, and the colors of moths, the gene pool changes are often **reversible** when conditions change.

It is LOGICAL to decide that those changes **do not prove** that finches and moths came from living blobs bobbing around in some primordial soup, with no outside help.

Evolution is a simple process...

- supported unequivocally by the fossil record and by scientific evidence today.
- This view treats **dissent** as **ignorance** by conveniently **ignoring** important facts.

We can prepare for open discussions by understanding

Elements of the Caricature of the Debate

The official Caricature of the Debate.

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Everybody believes evolution except those crazy fundamentalists...

This part of the caricature is employed to co-opt the middle ground for the materialist side. Since the vast majority of the population believe in the involvement of a Creator, the strict materialists have to bring up the *fundamentalist bogeyman* to bring the middle to their side. Nobody wants to be called a Fundamentalist!

The connotation of the word makes this a form of smear tactic. It is unfair to use that sort of word to stifle debate.

Everybody believes evolution except those crazy fundamentalists...

- An even bigger problem exists with this tactic. That problem is with God's opinion about the exchange. It may be that a literal interpretation of Genesis is more reasonable by far than a materialist explanation of origins. God may be quite displeased with turning that belief into a smear.
- Whether you take the first chapters of Genesis literally or poetically, the poetry of the Bible is about TRUTH.
- This is similar to using the word “religious” to mean “irrational”—that insult probably offends God very deeply.

Everybody believes evolution except those crazy fundamentalists...

- One way to respond is to ask questions of the reporter: Do you actually believe that ONLY “Fundamentalists” think God had anything to do with origins? What percentage of the population are you calling “Fundamentalist?” What about the huge percentage of the population that regularly report belief in God? Do you think their rights of free speech should be removed in science class? Why do you think academic freedom stops outside the door of the science classroom? Do you think a materialistic explanation that denies God’s involvement deserves total dominance?

Everybody believes evolution except those crazy fundamentalists...

- What do you think about an integrated worldview? Do you think students should be able to integrate faith and science? Do you think faith is important?
- The second group of people who need to understand are the people **afraid** of being called “Fundamentalists.” That group needs to understand the ideas in this course, so that they will not be manipulated by propaganda. Some efforts need to be directed toward them in such a conflict.

Does the materialist explanation deserve its dominant status?

Reasons to be Skeptical Of Materialism

We have 4 good reasons to be skeptical of the materialist origins story.

1. **Astrophysics points to a creation event.**
2. The theory of everything may be only a myth, and even if it were developed, would not explain very much.
3. Natural selection does not explain MIND.
4. “The theory of the blind watchmaker” rests on dubious assumptions and ignores the weight of the fossil evidence.

Astrophysics points to a creation event.

- The Big Bang became the accepted scientific explanation for the beginning of the universe for the following reasons. The theory of general relativity implies it. The expansion of the universe, which implies a starting point, is confirmed two independent ways. One confirmation is by the Hubble “red shift” in the light of stars, and another is by the background radiation of the universe.

Astrophysics points to a creation event.

- The Big Bang has implications—that a definite beginning occurred, and that conditions were very different prior to it, including the likelihood that physical laws were not the same.
- This brings up Aristotle's argument of the Prime Mover—that the original sudden change had to be initiated by something outside itself—the First Cause.

Astrophysics points to a creation event.

- It brings up the Kalam argument– that if something begins to exist, it must have had a cause outside itself. The universe began to exist. It had a cause outside of itself.
- It brings up Genesis 1:1&3 “In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.... Then God said, ‘Let there be light, and there was light.’”

Astrophysics points to a creation event.

It brings up Hebrews 3:4

⁴ For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God. (NKJV)

Many passages confirm the idea of God as Creator.

Psalm 33:6-9 ⁶ By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. ⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses. ⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. ⁹ For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. (NKJV)

Astrophysics points to a creation event.

Even the peculiar-sounding—⁷ *He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses*—has a scientific meaning, because the earth would be a water-world if the surface were even. The gathering of the oceans was accomplished by the uneven surface of the planet, so that the “deep” serves as a storehouse for the water that would otherwise cover the surface.

Does the materialist explanation deserve its dominant status?

Reasons to be Skeptical

We have 4 good reasons to be skeptical of the materialist origins story.

1. Astrophysics points to a creation event.
2. **The “theory of everything” in physics may be only a myth, and even if it were developed, would not explain very much.**
3. Natural selection does not explain MIND.
4. The theory of the blind watchmaker rests on dubious assumptions and ignores the weight of the fossil evidence.

The theory of everything is unlikely to actually explain much.

- Stephen Hawking has developed a way around the idea of a Personal Beginning by working on a “*theory of everything.*”
- The theory of everything is a mathematical model designed to explain how **all the physical forces in the universe** relate to each other.
- So far, that mathematical model has eluded researchers for the last century. But physicists continue to search for it.

The theory of everything is unlikely to actually explain much.

- Calling a mathematical model for the physical forces of the universe a “theory of everything” is a bit of an exaggeration.
- The physical forces of the universe are not “everything.” They only seem to be “everything” if your mindset reduces “everything” to matter and energy.

The theory of everything is unlikely to actually explain much.

- Johnson's explanation: *Even if that movement has success, it cannot explain very much, and it certainly cannot explain the human soul or the way life came from non-life.*
- Hawkings' attempt confuses intermediate causes with ultimate causes, and confuses finding AN explanation with finding THE explanation.
- We **should** expect some degree of underlying unity among the diversity of forces in the universe, because God's MIND has given us unity within diversity at every level of existence. The unity points toward a unifying MIND, not away from it.

Does the materialist explanation deserve its dominant status?

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Natural selection does not explain MIND.

- We have already seen that people **need a mind** to begin **to explain a mind**. If the mind is nothing but the reaction of brain cells to stimuli, meaning it is either illusion or a physical irritation response, how does that explain logic?
- How does that explain consciousness?
- How does that explain our sense of self?

Natural selection does not explain MIND.

- How does that explain near-death experiences where the brain appears dead, but the person is conscious?
- How does that explain the ability of the mind to focus on particular ideas, rather than being distracted by all the sensory inputs it is experiencing?
- How does that explain the sense of justice written on our consciences, or the existence of conscience?

Natural selection does not explain MIND.

- If survival of the fittest is reality, why should our minds be morally repulsed by evil?
- And EVERY HEALTHY MIND IS REPULSED BY EVIL.

Does the materialist explanation deserve its dominant status?

Reasons to be Skeptical

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1. Astrophysics points to a creation event.
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4. **The theory of the blind watchmaker rests on dubious assumptions and ignores the weight of the fossil evidence.**

The theory of the blind watchmaker

Richard Dawkins book, THE BLIND WATCHMAKER, attempts to explain away the **appearance** of design in nature by claiming that **natural selection** is the blind watchmaker that produces the **illusion of design**.

For starters, Dawkins postulates a “replicator” molecule, produced by physical law plus chance, which was able to reproduce and remain intact long enough to make copies of itself.

The theory of the blind watchmaker

- Over long periods of time, random changes supposedly happened in the chemistry of the replicator. Favorable changes were transmitted to the next generation, while unfavorable ones died out. Gradually, over eons of time, the vast diversity of species we see today developed.

The theory of the blind watchmaker

- This theory does not address where the replicator gets its fuel supply in order to reproduce nor how it managed to have a favorable environment. Nor does it explain how it makes the shift from chance-driven chemistry to information-driven chemistry.
- This theory, farther along, does not adequately address the fact that multiple gene mutations would be necessary to make organ changes in the body plan of the offspring, and that every mutation in the set would have to be favorable throughout the time required to gain the entire set.

The theory of the blind watchmaker

- This blind watchmaker theory is counter to what we actually see in nature. In nature, survival of the fittest tends to produce rabbits that all look pretty much alike. Diversity among rabbits is produced in human-directed animal breeding, going away from survival of the fittest and toward protection of weak offspring.
- The sameness is called “stasis.”

The theory of the blind watchmaker

- The fossil record shows something similar to stasis—sharks remain sharks and octopi remain octopi the entire time they show up in the record. The gradual changes in the fossil record appear for animals within a narrow range, where the big differences, such as between fish and turtles, have no intermediates.
- The blind watchmaker should produce a fossil record that has all the categories blurring into one another. Instead, they are quite distinct.

The theory of the blind watchmaker

- In addition, most of the large groups show up very suddenly at the Cambrian interface, with only a few single celled animals and a few soft bodied simple creatures in the record beforehand. This is not what would be expected from blind-watchmaker gradualism.

The theory of the blind watchmaker

- The fossil record does not support natural selection from molecules to man. Since descent with modification is ultimately a historical theory, the historical evidence counts strongly against it.
- The next few slides detail the Cambrian explosion, where most phyla appear in an instant of geological time.

Background Detail: The theory of the blind watchmaker

The Cambrian explosion comprises 1.7% of geologic time for animal life. Yet of the 29 phyla in the fossil record, only 4 appear earlier than the Cambrian (Simple things like bacteria and sponges), and 19 new ones appear in that 1.7% Cambrian interval. The Cambrian ones include Chordata, sometimes called Vertebrata but with a few extras like sea squirts—a category at the top of the supposed tree of life which includes mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish, but which makes up only 3% of living animals.

Background Detail: The theory of the blind watchmaker

- An additional 6 phyla appear later in geologic time. Twelve phyla live today that have no fossils at all.—Discovery Institute’s “An Analysis of the Testimony of Professor David Hillis before the Texas State Board of Education on January 21, 2009, www.discovery.org/a/9941
- (Classification follows this set of categories, from broad to narrow: Kingdom, Phyla, Class, Order, Family, Genera or Genus, Species.)

Phillip Johnson points out

A set of 4 requirements the theory of the Blind Watchmaker must meet.

3 or 4 Conditions Necessary for blind watchmaker evolution to work

- First, favorable gene mutations must occur with enough frequency to build new body parts.
- Second, the favorable mutations must have NO unfavorable side effects.
- Third, the effects have to be strong enough to produce the desired change.
- Fourth, the genes must include instructions for all the systems of brain and body to incorporate the change into the working whole.

3 or 4 Conditions Necessary for the blind watchmaker form of evolution to work

In addition, these 4 conditions must be met, simultaneously, over and over and over again for each major change. Think of all the changes that had to occur from a bacterium to a primate.

Example: A gene that built a new pair of lungs to replace gills would not be effective unless it also instructed the blood supply to go to the lungs, and the muscles of the diaphragm to move the lungs to move air in and out, and the trachea to open to allow air into the lungs...

Example Continued: Lungs

... and the heart to be regulated in coordination with the lungs' motion, and the tissue chemistry and structure to be different from the gills'. That sounds like an awesomely purposeful set of chance genes.

IF the incorporation of a new gene requires multiple other genes to change at the same time, or structural changes in the mechanisms that cause cell differentiation, a chance mechanism seems absurd.

IF you have to have a Designer

- To make the Darwinian idea work, then,
- IF such a Designer communicated information about His work,
- THEN His communication would be a valuable addition to the study.
- If His communication could be validated as from Him and as generally accurate in so far as it can be tested,
- THEN that communication would be MORE valuable than speculation about the past from a materialist perspective.

Intelligent Design

- Intelligent Design cannot tell us very much about the Designer, because it is limited to mathematics and its corollaries.
- Intelligent Design can serve as a bridge to other studies that can reveal more about the Designer.
- An integrated worldview stretches beyond science, in any case, with or without I.D.
- I.D. allows an integrated worldview to include important concepts such as universal moral principles. Those principles are more effective than survival of the fittest as a base for decision making.

If we open science class to Intelligent Design

- That would allow science to remain within the boundaries of the scientific method.
- It would **not** allow any kind of sectarian promotion in science class.
- It would also allow an open approach within science rather than a closed approach.
- All of those are good things.
- Our students need more—they need to understand the controversy. They need to be prepared to fit their faith into their intellectual life as they become adults.

Advice to parents

Until science becomes more open toward Intelligent Design, parents have an enormous responsibility to help their children in this subject.

- Ways to help include books, DVDs, websites.
- ALSO consider alternate forms of education, such as home schooling or religious education.
- Even then, make materials beyond the curriculum available to your students.

Given its shaky materialist foundations, Why is it so difficult to fight Modernism?

Why is the battle so difficult, to keep traditional ideas from being censored out of the public discussion?

We can see the difficulty of the task by understanding

5 claims the naturalists make to justify their dominance.

5 Claims
and How
to refute
them.

1. **Modernism rests on scientific naturalism “the way things really are.”**
2. Modernism is equivalent to rationality—miracles are arbitrary breaks in the chain of material causes and effects.
3. Modernism is liberating, especially as relates to gender roles and sex.
4. Modernism is democratic—its foundational knowledge is available to all.
5. Modernist government is acceptable to religious people.

Claim #1: **Modernism** rests on scientific naturalism “the way things really are.”

- Other systems—which claim moral universals from God—are founded on illusion, not reality. Going back to such a system would be going toward superstition.
- Social order should be founded upon reality, and the reality is that God exists. Many factors point to His existence.

We can see the difficulty of the task by understanding

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5 Claims and How to refute them.

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Claim #2: Modernism is equivalent to rationality

Miracles are arbitrary breaks in the chain of material causes and effects.

Science depends upon excluding miracle from consideration.

Religion is based upon superstition, not reason.

A rational Mind existent before the universe insures a rationally constructed universe. God explains in Job 38:33 that He is author of physical law. God asks, “Do you know the ordinances of the heavens, or fix their rule over the earth?”

Claim #2: Modernism is equivalent to rationality

Miracles are arbitrary breaks in the chain of material causes and effects. Science depends upon excluding miracle from consideration.

Religion is based upon superstition, not reason.

- If a rational God constructed the predictable laws of the universe, any interaction on His part would not be arbitrary, but would reflect His intelligence. The claim of the materialists confuses miracle with the irrational idea of magic.

Answer to Claim #2: Modernism is equivalent to rationality

- Science recognizes anomalies for which it has no direct cause and effect explanation—generally attributing them to the **chance event** category. Science does **not** require direct cause and effect predictability for **all** phenomena. Therefore the miracle issue is irrelevant.
- If God exists, miracles are rational possibilities. If God does not exist, miracles are not possible, but it is **NOT** irrational to consider the possibility of God's existence. Therefore it is not irrational to consider the possibility of miracle.

We can see the difficulty of the task by understanding

5 claims the naturalists make to justify their dominance.

5 Claims and How to refute them.

1. Modernism rests on scientific naturalism “the way things really are.”
2. Modernism is equivalent to rationality—miracles are arbitrary breaks in the chain of material causes and effects.
3. **Modernism is liberating, especially as relates to gender roles and sex.**
4. Modernism is democratic—its foundational knowledge is available to all.
5. Modernist government is acceptable to religious people.

Claim #3: Modernism is liberating, especially as relates to gender roles & sex.

- Modernism frees people from the illusion that outmoded cultural norms have permanent validity as commands of God. Perceived moral universals are really a stifling patriarchal code of sexual behavior. That code is seen as oppressive to women and sexual minorities.

- God's existence assures the existence of universals that make life better—that free humans from futility. His universals assure individual equality before Him and assure human worth.

Claim #3: Modernism is liberating, especially as relates to gender roles & sex.

- Modernism frees people from the illusion that outmoded cultural norms have permanent validity as commands of God. Perceived moral universals are really a stifling patriarchal code of sexual behavior. That code is seen as oppressive to women and sexual minorities.
- If modernism really worked better than traditional morality, we would expect (by its own standard) the modernist nations to be succeeding in the “survival of the fittest” category of offspring production. Instead, the modernist nations have declining birth rates.

Claim #3: Modernism is liberating, especially as relates to gender roles & sex.

- Modernism frees people from the illusion that outmoded cultural norms have permanent validity as commands of God. Perceived moral universals are really a stifling patriarchal code of sexual behavior. That code is seen as oppressive to women and sexual minorities.
- If modernism really worked better than traditional morality, we would expect people who ignore those outmoded commands to have happier or more productive lives than those who follow them. But the data contradict this.

Claim #3: Modernism is liberating, especially as relates to gender roles & sex.

- Once again, an additional problem occurs. God's opinion MATTERS about what the modernists call outmoded cultural norms. Since each person is accountable to God for his or her actions, a school system or university that encourages experimentation in forbidden territory is placing students in moral danger. Those "outmoded rules" were designed for life fulfillment and for a bright future for the next generation. Students ought not trifle with such profound power without regard to God's opinion.

We can see the difficulty of the task by understanding

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5 Claims and How to refute them.

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5. Modernist government is acceptable to religious people.

Claim #4: Modernism is democratic—its foundational knowledge is available to all.

Science is open to reason, and that makes it democratically available, whereas religion and its rules are arbitrary and closed to members outside of the group.

God's universals are democratic and assure a level playing field for all. Universals are necessary for individual worth to be recognized. Without universals, group-defined value tends to marginalize individuals. Science has no source for universals.

We can see the difficulty of the task by understanding

5 claims the naturalists make to justify their dominance.

5 Claims
and How
to refute
them.

1. Modernism rests on scientific naturalism “the way things really are.”
2. Modernism is equivalent to rationality—miracles are arbitrary breaks in the chain of material causes and effects.
3. Modernism is liberating, especially as relates to gender roles and sex.
4. Modernism is democratic—its foundational knowledge is available to all.
5. **Modernist government is acceptable to religious people.**

Claim #5: Modernist government is acceptable to religious people.

□ Modernism is not inherently anti-religious, so long as religion keeps to its proper place—behind closed doors and out of the public square. Modernist tolerance stops whenever the religious people start demanding that their beliefs be treated as possibly **true** rather than subjective illusions.

Theistic realism assures government that is fair to all and accountable to high standards. Since God is real, the government that ignores His wishes may endanger its people.

“It may be rational to argue about whether God is real or unreal, but it clearly is irrational to ASSUME that a God who **is** real can be safely ignored.”—Phillip Johnson

Personally, I believe Theistic Realism is **too** general a description.

- Not just any God will do. The God accepted as the basis for law has to be a GOOD God—NOT a deterministic God.
- The God with the best track record is the God of the Bible, from whose legal theory we obtained the freedoms we enjoy in the USA. The United States is a unique experiment in liberty under law, and nowhere else did the theory develop to give us the freedom under the rule of law that we have enjoyed here for the last 200+ years. We should not throw away that understanding for a generalization.

Not just any God will do.

- At this point, we see that Intelligent Design, for all its value, is not enough.
- Intelligent Design is agnostic about who the Creator is. It cannot tell us.
- We need to search for the real God in a different way. We need communication from Him in order to find Him. The first WitnessKit course is about that communication. The WitnessKit Bible Study opens up a framework for individual and group study of the Bible. It is a framework that will make lifelong individual study more clear.

Not just any God will do.

- We can search for God in 3 ways, all at the same time. We can search through prayer—asking Him directly to help us find Him.
- We can search for Him in the Bible, on a daily and weekly basis.
- We can search for Him philosophically, by weeding out concepts about Him that could not be correct. This is important, because many false ideas are pervasive in our world. This cannot be done in a vacuum. It needs to be balanced by Bible study and prayer, renewing our minds through listening to His ideas.

Not just any God will do.

- The Biblical view of God teaches that God loves you and wants you to find Him—that if you search for Him with all your heart, you will surely find Him.
- Modernism says God is unknowable.
- Postmodernism says you create your own truth including God—which means nothing is objectively true.
- Islam teaches that God is unknowable, that only His will can be known, and then only by what happens, not by principle.
- Which religious worldview is a better place to search for God?

Proverbs 30:5

Every word of God is tested. He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

Psalm 1

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful, But his delight is in the law of the LORD and in His law does he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season. Its leaf shall not wither, and whatsoever he does will prosper.

Homework

In 3 sets

Homework Class 24 Set 1

- Read Proverbs 8:1-36. What does this passage say God had at the beginning of His way?
- If God makes this attribute available to us, what do we have to do to receive it, according to verses 17, 32 -34?
- What other mental traits go with it in verses 12-16?
- Which of God's emotional attributes go with it, according to verses 17 and 31?
- What rewards go with finding this, according to verses 18-21 and 32-36?
- What consequences go with failing to find this, according to verse 36?

Homework Class 24 Set 1

- How is this concept related to the idea of a Personal Beginning?
- If this passage is correct about the association of God's personal nature, and worthy attributes and rewards for those in His favor, what consequence does teaching materialism have in the lives of young adults?
- Does teaching materialism motivate or demotivate students to search for this attribute?

Homework Class 24 Set 1

- Read REASON IN THE BALANCE, chapter three. Hawkings' A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME is full of religious words. When he wrote the book, did he believe in God?
- What is a singularity?
- Where do singularities exist now?
- How do singularities relate to the Big Bang?
- Why were scientists resistant to the idea of the Big Bang?

Homework Class 24 Set 1

- There is a logical argument called the Kalam Argument which goes like this. If something began to exist, it had to have a cause outside itself. If the universe began to exist, the universe had to have a cause outside itself. Therefore, a First Cause must exist outside the universe. Thus the Big Bang implies a First Cause outside the universe, which blows away the closed universe idea of the philosophical materialist. This is the logical certainty that causes the materialists so much discomfort.

Homework Class 24 Set 1

- How is the materialist scientist in a logical circle when explaining the mind as a mere effect of matter?
- What answer does Johnson give to Donald Johanson's idea that one cannot accept the technological benefits of science without accepting the whole materialist story of origins?

Homework Class 24 Set 1

- For those who believe micro-evolution proves macro-evolution as unguided change from one body type to another, where are the two points in the story of evolution that they may admit have no real explanation?
- If someone created a satisfactory story without God, explaining those two points, would the creation of that story prove that it was correct?

Homework Class 24 Set 2

- Read I Corinthians 15:39 and describe the large divisions in the animal kingdom found there.
- Does this include humans within same category as the beasts? Why or why not?
- Read REASON IN THE BALANCE chapter four. What is “the official caricature” of the creation-evolution debate?
- How does Johnson rebut that caricature?

Homework Class 24 Set 2

- Why does Johnson insist that skepticism about extrapolationist evolution is reasonable?
- Does “extrapolationist evolution” point to an infinitely wise creator in Gould’s view?
- What is the “blind watchmaker” thesis?
- Is this the dominant view of the scientific establishment?
- How do they postulate a transition from non-life to life without a Creator?
- What are the three conditions Johnson lists that must be met for the blind watchmaker form of evolution to work?

Homework Class 24 Set 2

- What would one expect the fossil record to look like if the Darwinian story of macro-evolution were true?
- According to Johnson's description, what does the fossil record look like?
- How does Gould's punctuated equilibrium model of evolution demonstrate that the Darwinian model does not match the fossil evidence?
- What is the Cambrian explosion and why is it important?

Homework Class 24 Set 3

- Read Colossians 1:9-28 and 2:1-3. How would you compare the Christian grand metaphysical story of purpose in creation to the grand metaphysical creation story of science?
- Read REASON IN THE BALANCE chapter five. What four reasons does Johnson list to be skeptical of the grand metaphysical story of science?

Homework Class 24 Set 3

- Which side of the evolution/ intelligent design debate is excluding the middle ground, and which side is including it?
- Do you think the public realizes which side is excluding the middle ground based on the news accounts they read or hear?
- What are the two inconsistent responses the evolution side produces when asked to consider the possibility of intelligent design?

Homework Class 24 Set 3

- A heuristic assumption is one which is not justifiable or provable, but which is useful for helping to solve a problem. What danger with heuristic assumptions did Johnson mention? What remedy does Johnson suggest to prevent that problem?
- What logical contradiction did Johnson mention on page 94 that calls the origin assumptions of science into question?
- Why is the number of red dwarf stars important?

Homework Class 24 Set 3

- While Johnson is not advocating one theory over another, he points out that these ideas have great cultural importance. Their tentative nature is often not taken into account to cushion their cultural impact. Also, their tentative nature suggests that alternate theories, such as intelligent design, should be allowed into the cultural milieu, because both kinds of theories are tentative.
- What is the difficulty with deciding who should audit the books – who is qualified on the outside, to critique the naturalistic basis of science?

Homework Class 24 Set 3

- What techniques prevent active theists from having a place at the academic table?
- How do theists cope with these forms of discrimination so they can maintain respectability?
- What is the “god of the gaps” fallacy?
- The techniques of the study of intelligent design are mathematical. They identify a region statistically that in real time always indicates the presence of intelligent activity. The mathematics cannot rule out intelligence outside that region, but can demonstrate intelligence within the region.

Homework Class 24 Set 3

- When these techniques are used historically in origins studies, they indicate the presence of intelligence in at least two realms – in the appearance of new organs and body forms in biology, and in the extreme fine tuning of the universe to be conducive to our planet and life. If mathematical techniques affirm the appearance of design in nature, it should be within reason to discuss that affirmation in science class. Johnson is suggesting that Theists insist on opening the rules of science to avoid assuming that possibility out of existence.

Homework Class 24 Set 3

- Because of losses in the courts, the proponents of Intelligent Design are no longer advocating ID for public schools. This development makes individual action to spread the ideas even more important. Discovery Institute creates new materials in science continually and makes them available in the form of DVDs, books, newsletters, and articles. They host seminars for university students as well.
- The Institute for Creation Research publishes materials that integrate science and faith from the religious side. Both are valuable approaches.