

The God Who Is There

part I

Pointers

Review: World View

- ❖ *World View: should answer four questions coherently and must correspond to all reality*
- ❖ *Origins: Why is there something rather than nothing?*
- ❖ *Purpose: What is the meaning to life?*
- ❖ *Morality: Why is there evil and suffering in the world? What is “right and wrong”?*
- ❖ *Destiny: Where is it all going?*

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As biochemists discover more and more about the awesome complexity of life, it is apparent that its chances of originating by accident are some minute that they can be completely ruled out. Life cannot have arisen by chance

Sir Fred Hoyle, The Intelligent Universe

The probability of life originating from accident is comparable to the probability of the unabridged dictionary resulting from an explosion in a printing factory.

Professor Edwin Carlston, biologist at Princeton University

“Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose. “Don’t let appearances deceive you.... Instead they are crafted by a blind watchmaker – mutation and natural selection

Richard Dawkins, The Blind Watchmaker, pg. 1

"Biologists must constantly keep in mind that what they see was not designed, but rather evolved." Francis Crick, co-discoverer of the DNA double helix, What Mad Pursuit. (beach ball)

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“The origin of life appears to be almost a miracle, so many are the conditions which would have had to be satisfied to get it going.”

In the Beginning, Scientific American, Feb. 199, p. 125

The Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago in the Life over time exhibit. – “Once upon a long, long, long, long time ago, something amazing happened. Life began.”

Romans 1:18-23: Common Sense Evidence and Scientific Evidence

Psalm 19:1-6 - Natural Revelation

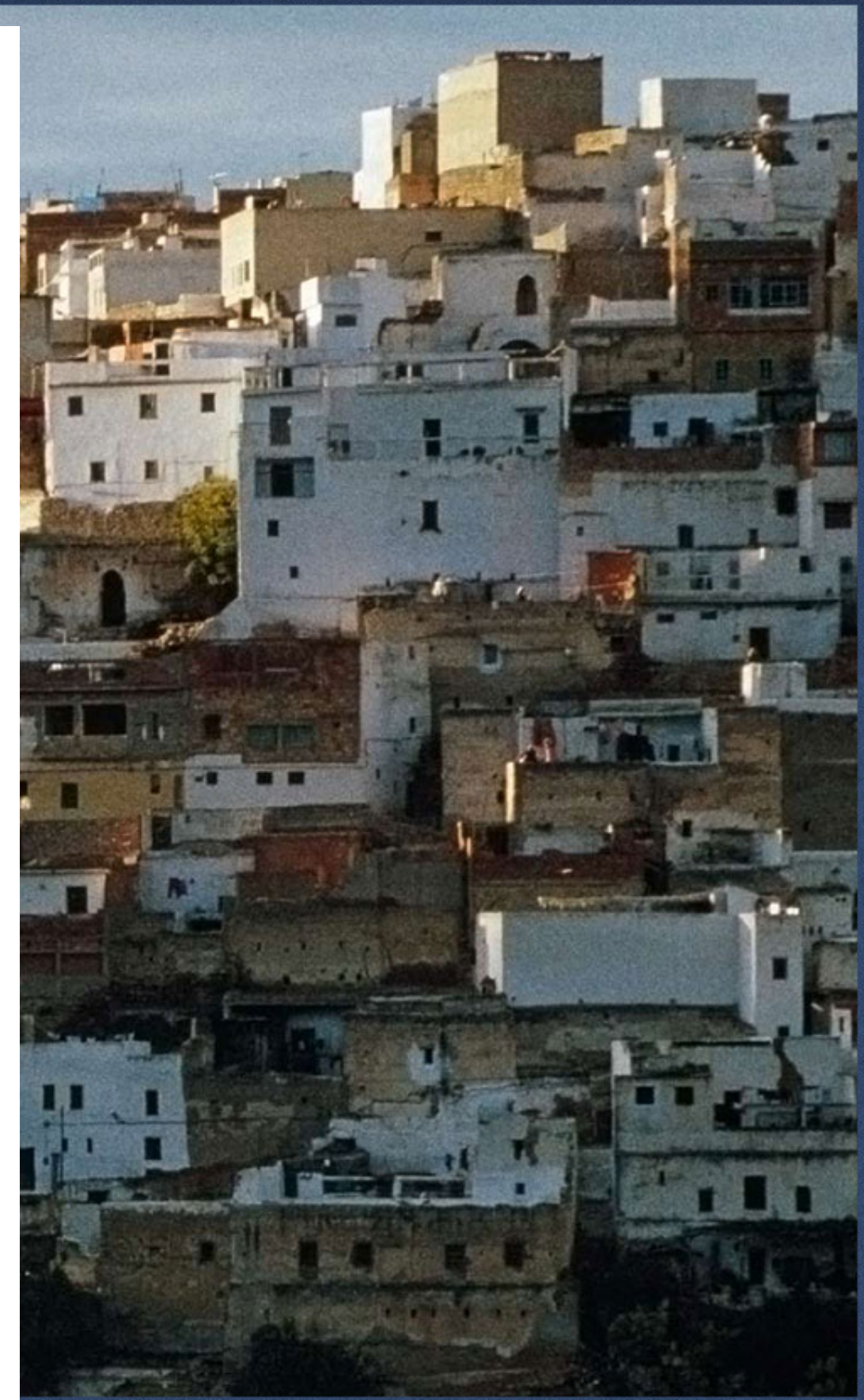
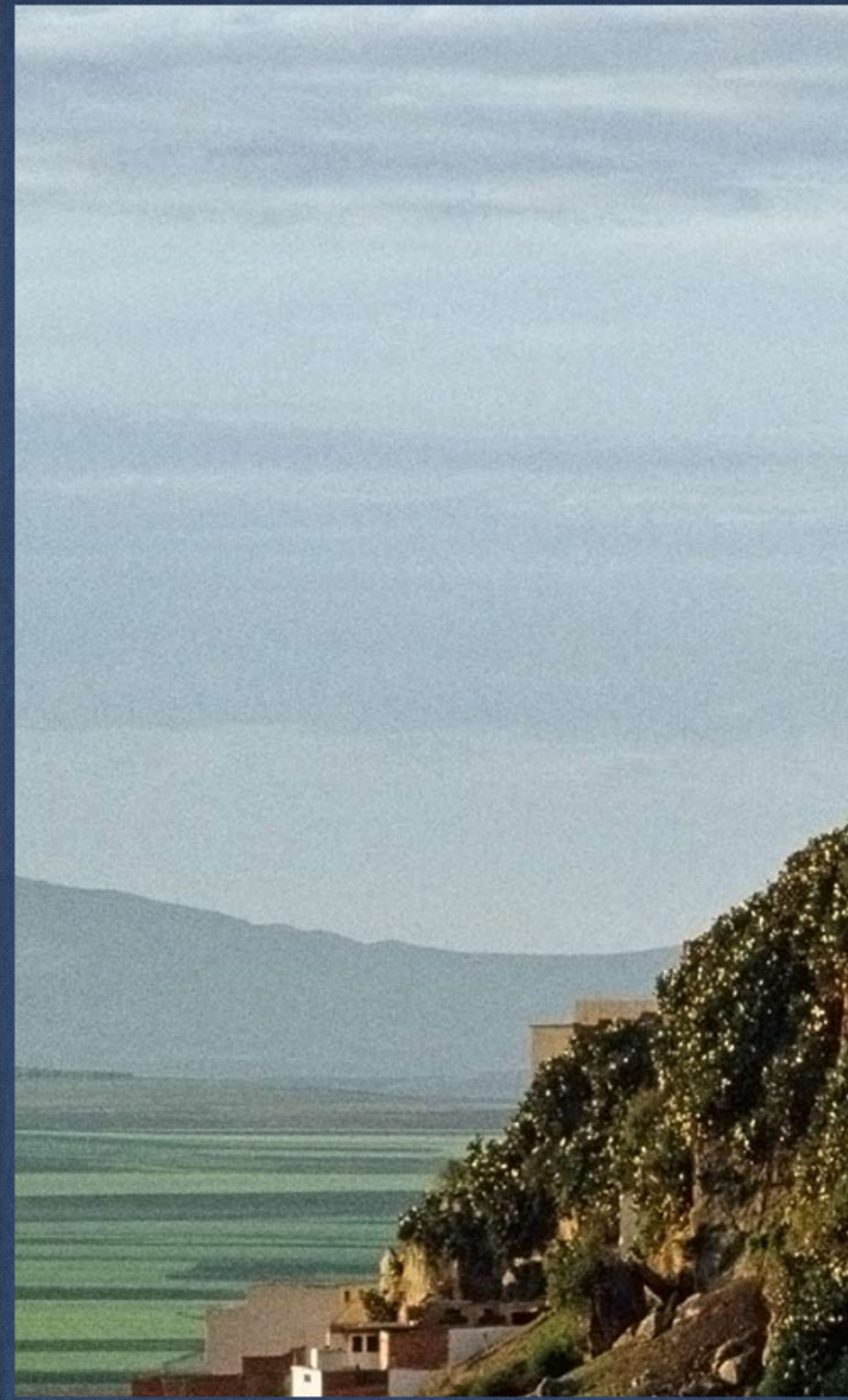
Psalm 19:7-14 - Special Revelation

Not a conflict between science and Christianity. The conflict is between *scientism* and Christianity

Origins



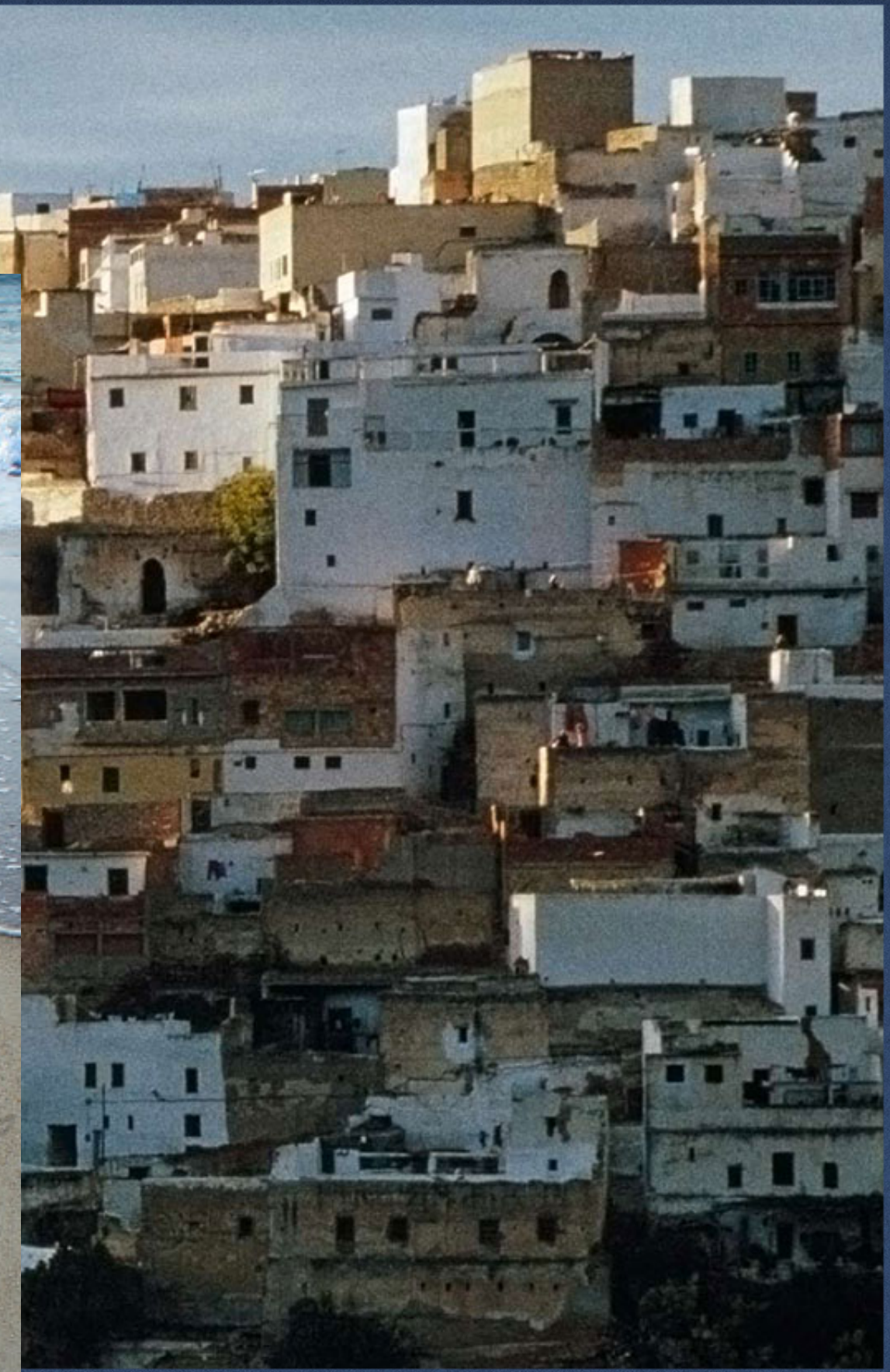
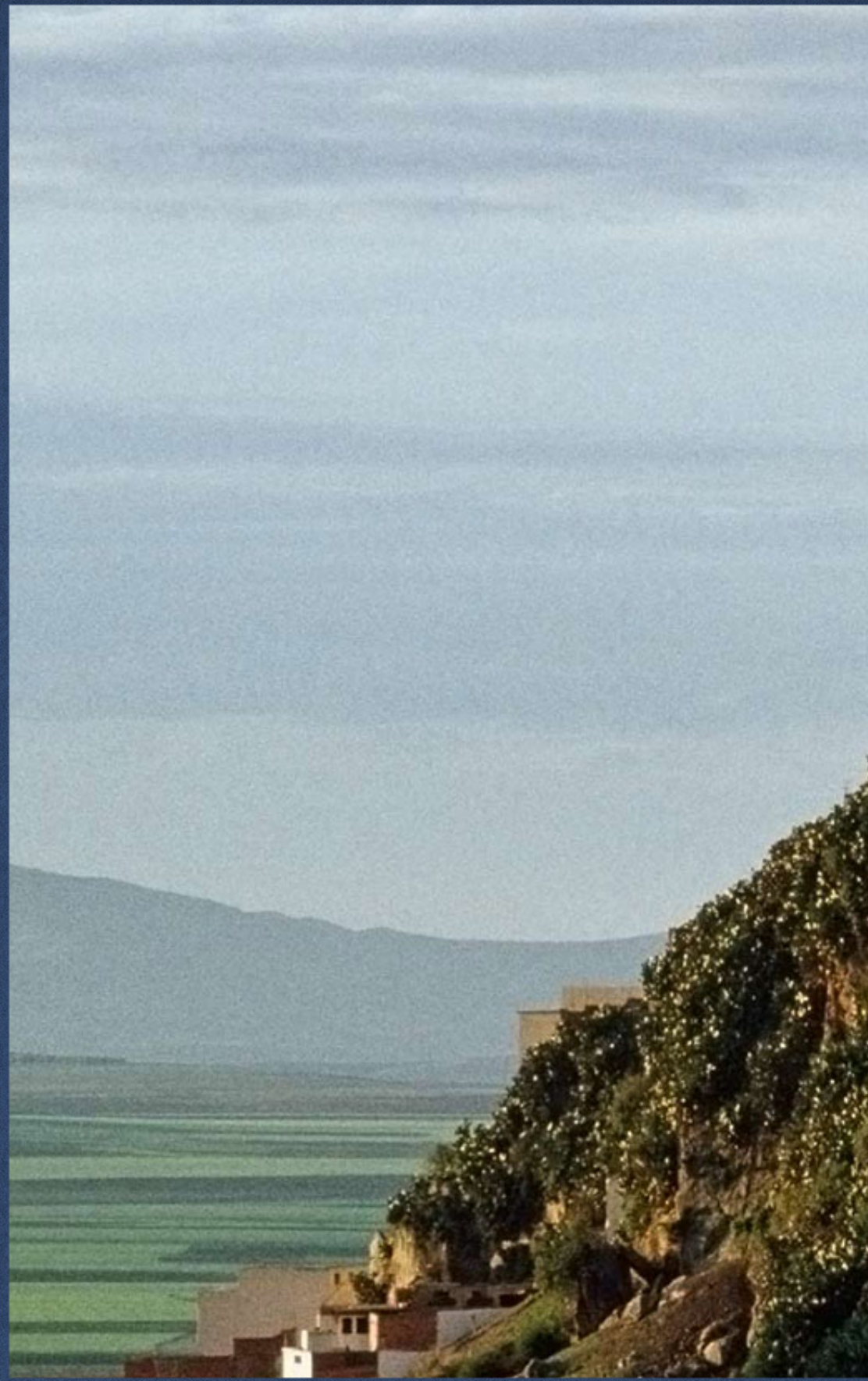
Why is there something rather than nothing?



Is this origami crane designed or has the appearance of being designed?



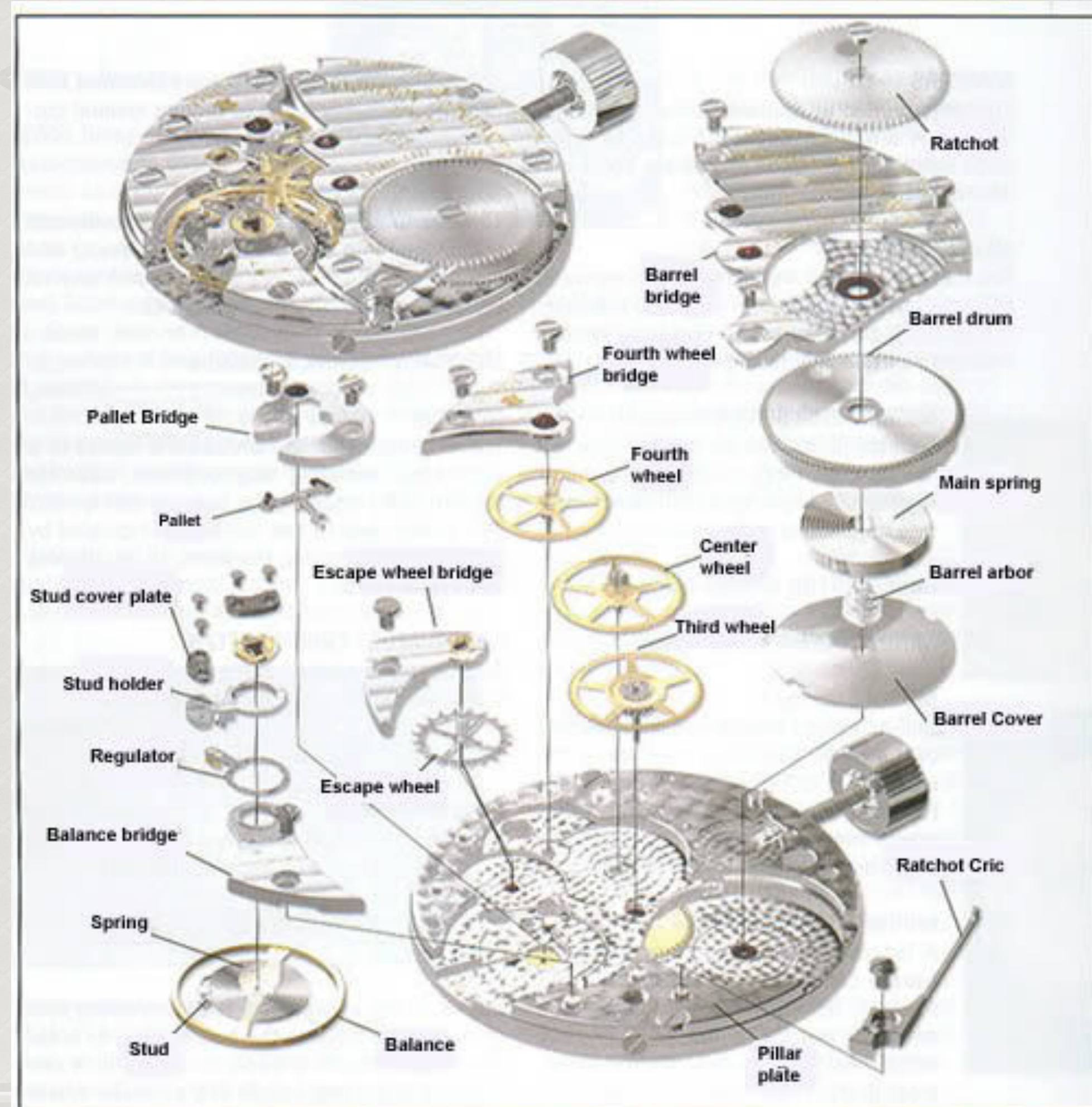
Is Sandhill Crane designed or just had the appearance of design?



Information: accident or intelligence?

Appearance of Design?

- ✦ *Building needs a builder*
- ✦ *Painting needs a Painter*
- ✦ *Book needs an Author*
- ✦ *A Watch needs a Watchmaker*
- ✦ *Laws need a Lawgiver*
- ✦ *The Big Bang needs a "Big Banger "*



The God Who Is There

1. The Case for the Creator

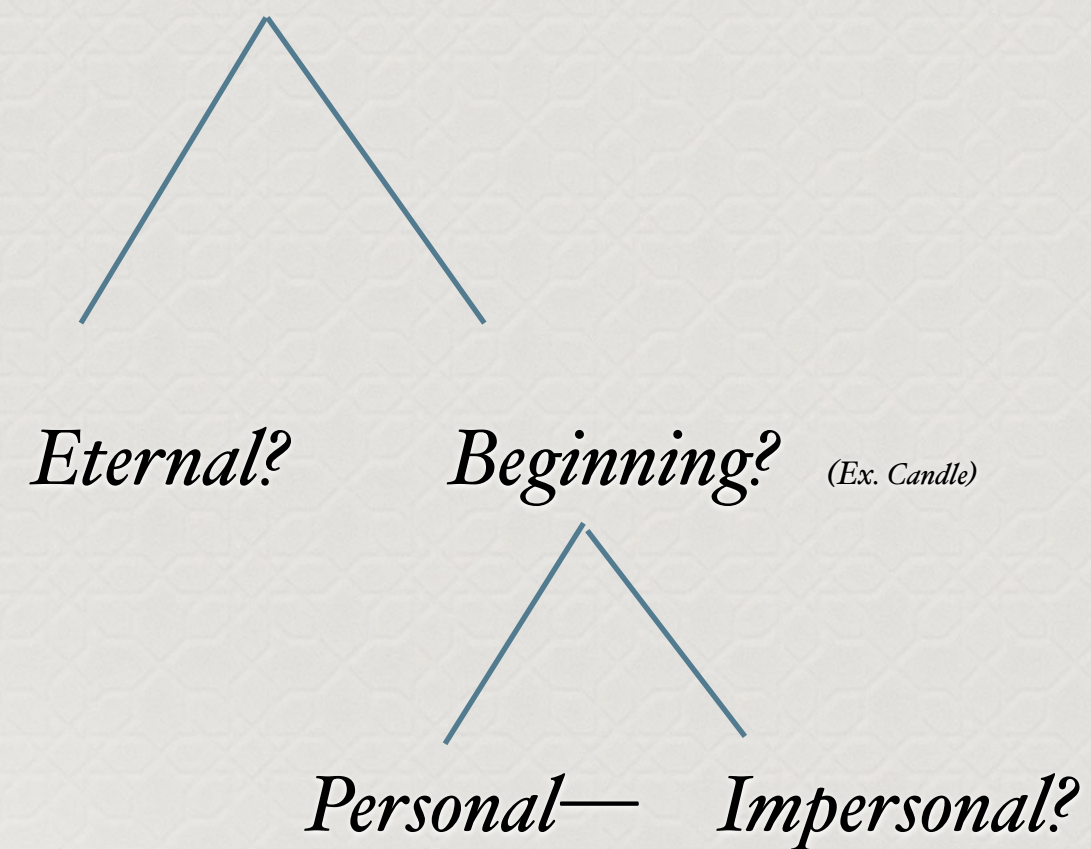
Romans 1:20-21 /1:28

I believe the evidence points to the fact of a Life-giver: invisible attributes have been clearly seen. No person is without excuse. It is not a problem of information. It is a problem of authority and accountability. Romans 1:28

1. existence of the universe:
2. existence of life from non-life
3. existence of consciousness
4. existence of moral right and wrong
5. existence of information
6. existence of freedom of choice
7. existence of fine-tuning of the universe and earth for life
8. existence of design
9. **existence of Evil** (Moral and Natural Evil)
10. existence of **Jesus Christ**: How do you explain this historical person, His life, the Cross, and Resurrection? Either you ignore Him and hope He goes away. Or you have to conclude one of four things — Liar, Lunatic, Legend, or Lord.

The Universe

Universe Exists



O + O = energy/matter, space, time, life,

Or An immaterial, timeless, changeless, powerful, rational, personal being

Genesis 1:1, John 1:1



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1. Existence of the universe: All theories ultimately point to the fact that the universe had a beginning. First Cause –eternal God

2. Existence of life (abiogenesis) from non-living matter to life. Cambrian explosion – new life forms suddenly appear fully formed with no prior transitional forms

3. Existence of consciousness (how does non-conscious, non-thinking matter produce self- consciousness? – self- aware (I think therefore I am – Renee Descartes), we think about our thoughts, self-reflection,

4. Existence of moral right and wrong (how does impersonal matter produce good and evil...right and wrong, justice...

5. Existence of information (from chaos to information). Six feet of DNA, coiled up in every human, contains 100 trillion cells of the four-letter chemical alphabet that spell out precise instructions for assembling proteins from which our bodies are made. Science has no clue where this information comes from or how it got there. (Human DNA = 3 billion letters in sequence. It is the longest “word”.

True of books, computers, codes.... Human DNA is more complex than all of these

6. existence of freedom of choice (impersonal matter – cause and effect – no free will) Naturalism cannot have free will. Free will exists independently of any source. Naturalism = everything is cause and effect. Miracles – C.S. Lewis

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7. Existence of fine-tuning of the universe for life (multiple universes – no evidence— Patrick Glynn, abandoning atheism, and speaking of the anthropic principle – Today, the concrete data point in the direction of the God hypothesis. It is the simplest and most obvious solution to the anthropic puzzle.” Case for Creator, p. 280

It would take a star with the highly unusual properties of our sun — the right mass, the right light, the right age, the right distance, the right orbit, the right galaxy, the right location — to nurture living organisms on a circling planet. Numerous factors make our solar system and our location in the universe just right for a habitable environment. Astronomer Guillermo Gonzalez and Science Philosopher Jay Wesley Richards. Case for Creator p. 281

8. Existence of design (irreducible complexity – process of blood clotting), “My conclusion can be summed up in one word. Design,” Behe – Biochemist

If the universe had not been made with the most exacting precision, we could never have come into existence. It is my view that these circumstances indicate the universe was created for man to live. John A. O’Keefe of NASA ----CFC – p. 281

9. Existence of the person Jesus Christ: How do you explain Him? Is he a liar, a lunatic, legend or the Lord?

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2. Fearfully and Wonderfully Made **Psalm 139: 1-14**

A. The Human Body – The human body contains 10^{28} atoms, while the current estimate of stars in the universe is 10^{20} . The human body is a million more times complex than the universe,-- Dr. Richard Swenson. In the last hour, one trillion-trillion of your atoms have been replaced—never even felt a thing!

The body contains over 100 trillion cells, and each cell contains approximately a trillion atoms. They are continually being torn down, remodeled, and replaced. One subatomic particle called Xi – It has a life span of one-ten-billionth of a second.

House: If your body were a house and the house were the size of Texas, imagine knocking down walls in a million rooms every second and rebuilding them with new materials.

“The body is a self-building machine; a self-stoking, self-regulating, self-repairing machine — the most marvelous and unique automatic mechanism in the universe.”

Scottish biologist Sir J Arthur Thomson

Give God thanks, for you are fearfully and wonderfully made

The God Who Is There

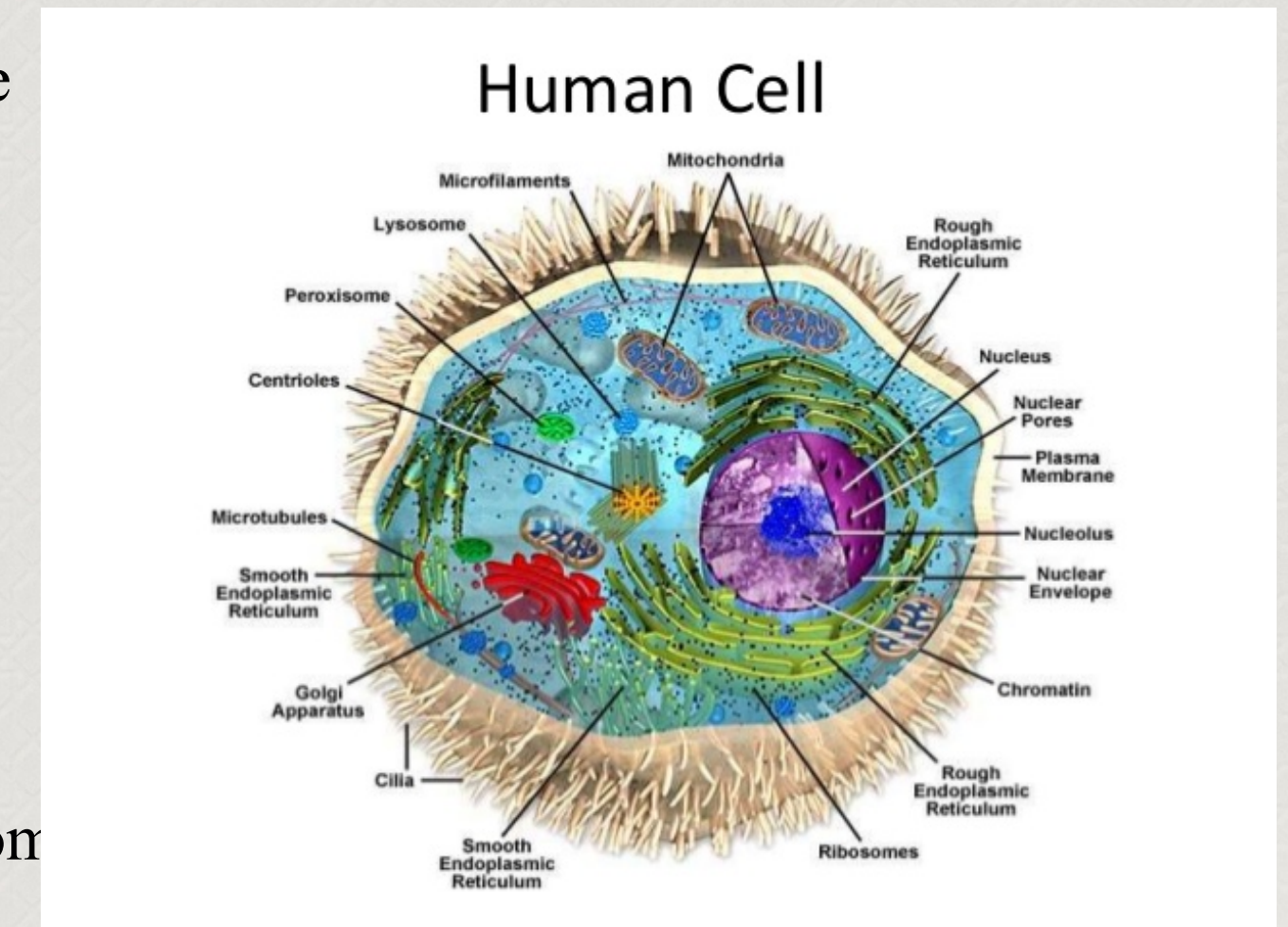
B. The Cell – simple or specified complexity?

So-called simple Cell –now is called “the little universe”— think of New York City / Shanghai — manufacturing plants, infrastructure, highways for transportation....

1. Each cell is surrounded by a membrane thinner than a spider’s web that must function precisely, or the cell will die.
2. Each cell generates its own electric field, which at times is larger than the electric field near a high-voltage power line.
3. Each cell must live in a community, doing its own specialized part in the whole
4. Each cell has its own internal clock, switching on and off from two to twenty-six hours, never varying.

There is much more ... Dr. Swenson says, if “you do not suspect a God standing behind it all, then my best diagnostic guess is that you are in a metaphysical coma. ---page 21

What is too wonderful for me is that God not only designed all of this, but He also knows where every subatom they



The nucleus of a cell contains more information than all the 30 volumes of the Encyclopedia Britannica. Richard Dawkins admits that he nor his peers have a clue where all this information came from (The Triumph of Design – VHS)

Give God thanks, for you are fearfully and wonderfully made

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C. DNA — Information (DEOXY-RIBO –NUCLEIC ACID)

DVD — CONTACT: CH 11:00:35:26 ---- CH 11:00:36:41

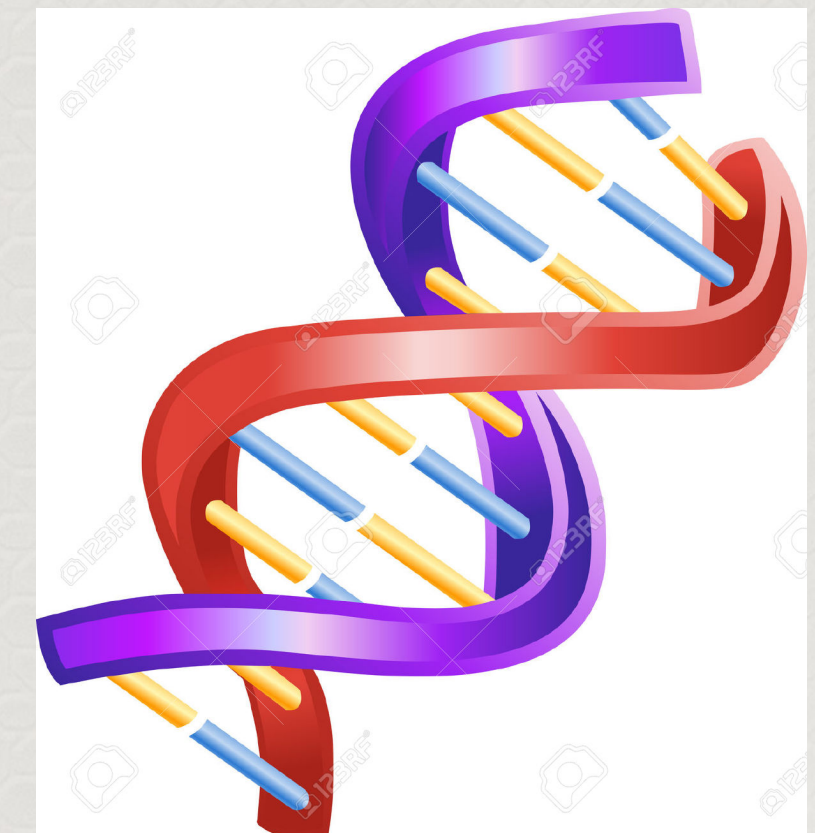
S.E.T. I. – Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence – listening for radio signals from outer space – Waiting for ET to call – series of audio pulses that are not random.

Every cell in her body carries a detailed blueprint much more complex than that of the spaceship. Yet modern science says show me the empirical evidence of a creator. Evidence of an intelligent Creator is literally right under our noses.

Human DNA 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. George Sim Johnson, “Did Darwin Get it Right?”, Wall Street Journal, 1999

If you reduced all the information in the Bible to a 35 mm slide, a single DNA Molecule would have 7.7 million times as much information as the slide. Or – if you had all the DNA information that could fit on a pin-head, how many books would you have to have in order to write out the amount of information contained in the DNA on a pin-head? Stack of books from the earth to the sun – 5 times.

Dr. Werner Gitt - DVD



Give God thanks, for you are fearfully and wonderfully made

BLANK JOURNAL COMPUTER + SOFTWARE = **EMAIL** MESSAGE.. we do not question that it came from an intelligent

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D. Blood – What does your blood do all day?

Dr Paul Brand, In His Image describes 5 phenomenal functions of blood that take place in our life until the day we die.

Powerful Pipeline: of supplies and disposal

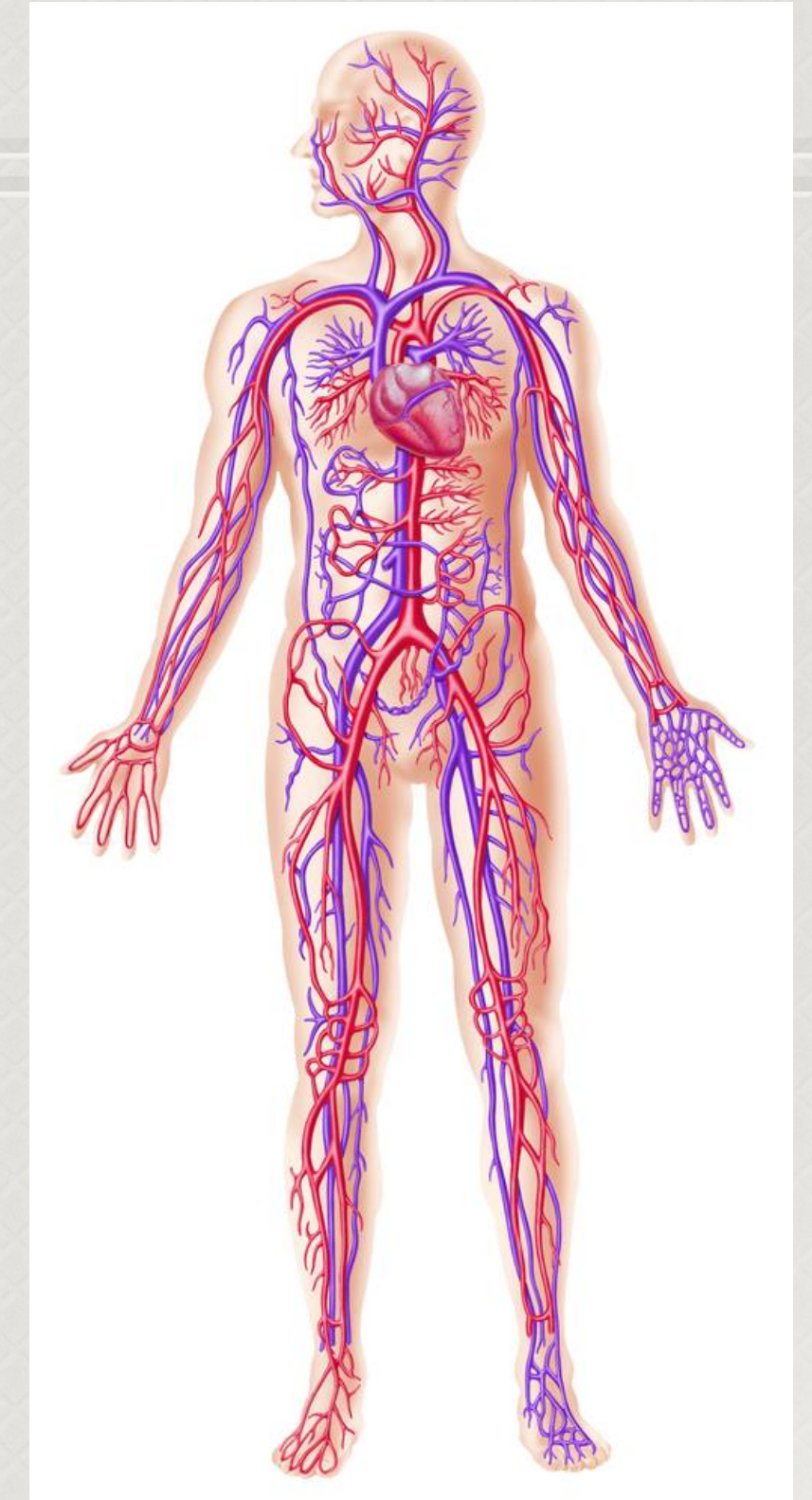
Blood clotting: little mobile first-aid trucks. Platelets form a web – red blood cells block the flow: very precise so as not to block the flow of blood through the vein or capillary, and also enough to block the leak so as not to bleed to death.

Life-giving: blood represents life. It contains life. The shedding of blood as offerings in OT represented the offering of the life of the animal to God. And the payment of the giving of that life as a substitute for another.

Cleansing – washed in the blood – Leviticus 14, 1 John 1:7, blood pressure test – pump sufficient pressure to stop the flow of blood – flex your fingers and make a fist – muscles cramp- you make you cry—cannot continue—release the wrap on your arm – blood rushes and soothes your aching arm – cleansing power of the blood – Pain comes from converting oxygen to energy – produces metabolites – waste products – they accumulated because they were not cleansed by the flowing blood...

Overcoming diseases, bacteria, and viruses that invade our bodies.

This is why we sing of Jesus' blood – It is life-giving, cleansing, overcoming sinful habits- there is power in His blood. Christ did not come just to give us an example of how to live but to give us life itself.



Intellectual Issue?

- ✿ *"I want atheism to be true and am made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-meaning people I know are religious believers. It isn't just that I don't believe in God and, naturally, hope that I am right in my belief. It's that I hope there is no God! I don't want there to be a God; I don't want the universe to be like that..."*
- ✿ *Thomas Nagle, Professor of Philosophy at New York University, Mind and Cosmos: Why New-Darwinian Conception of Nature is Almost Certainly False.*

Intellectual Issue?

- ✦ *"I had motives for not wanting the world to have meaning: consequently assumed it had none, and was able, without difficulty, to find satisfying reasons for this assumption . . . The philosopher who finds no meaning in the world is not concerned exclusively with a problem of pure metaphysics; he is also concerned to prove there is no valid reason why he personally should not do as he wants to do. For myself, as no doubt for most of my contemporaries, the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation. The liberation we desired was simultaneously liberation from a certain political and economic system and liberation from a certain system of morality. We objected to the morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom." Aldous Huxley, Confessions of an Atheist*

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^{3.} **Significant living versus living in despair**

You are no accident: from goo to you by way of the zoo. (mutation and random processes). There *is* a watchmaker and He is not blind.

Either you will end up living a **life of declaring God's praise** like David in Psalm 139 or a **life of despair** like Edgar Allen Poe writes about in his famous poem entitled the, "The Raven" by Edgar Allen Poe

Edgar Allen Poe – with out God there is no hope – “nevermore...” What is keeping you from Him? It is not information. According to **Romans 1:20-21** there are two primary barriers – which is the root of all sin.

1. Do not want to give Him glory,
2. Do not want to give Him thanks – gratitude --- rooted in pride. – Do not want God, Don't need God...

You can choose a life independent from Him but we end up (if Honest) in Edgar Allen Poe's poem – the Raven as a person who is in utter despair

But if you want to come alive – then I ask you to pray a dangerous prayer with me right now. **Psalm 139:23-24** --- reveal to me the truth of Jesus Christ.

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The Raven

Edgar Allen Poe

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,
Over man a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore,
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,
As of someone gently rapping, “tapping at my chamber door;
 Only this, and nothing more.”

Ah, distinctly I remember, it was in the bleak December,
And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor.
Eagerly I wished the morrow; vainly I had sought to borrow
From my books, surcease of sorrow. sorrow for the lost Lenore,
For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore,
 Nameless here forevermore.

“Prophet,” said I, thing of evil! — prophet still, if bird or devil!
Whether tempest sent, or whether tempest tossed thee here ashore,
Desolate, yet all undaunted on this desert land enchanted—
On this home by horror haunted — tell me truly, I implore:
Is there — is there balm in Gilead! — tell me — tell me, I implore!
 Quoth the raven, “Nevermore.”

And the raven, never flitting, still is sitting, still is sitting
On the pallid bust of Pallas just above my chamber door;
And his eyes have all the seeming of a demon’s that is
dreaming;

And the lamplight o’er him streaming throws the shadow on the
 floor;

And my soul from out that shadow that lies floating on the floor
 Shall be lifted — nevermore!

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✿ *I came that you may have life and have it abundantly. Jesus, John 10:10*

Table Talk Questions

1. *If God is so obvious, then why are there atheists?*
2. *Isn't the idea of God just wishful thinking or your imagination? Why not?*
3. *If God created everything, did He create Evil?*
4. *If God is Good and powerful, then how could God allow suffering and Evil in the world?
God, therefore, must either not be Good or Powerful or both.*
5. *How can miracles be reconciled to a scientific mind?*