

6. HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS

Human beings have a very special quality in that we are conscious and, thus, know that we exist and are alive. We are aware of what is happening around us. We can also think about very deep topics like the meaning of life and why we exist. However, one of the big challenges that science faces is, where did our consciousness originally come from? It has been called the “hard problem of consciousness”. And, let me assure you, it is a very hard problem for science!

Atoms and molecules are not aware that they exist—they are just there. And, if you add MORE atoms and MORE molecules, nothing changes. Complex arrangements of atoms are still not conscious. For example, complex things like computers and robots do not know that they exist.

This also means that evolution cannot explain where our consciousness came from, since evolution is really saying that we are just complex biological machines that have slowly become more complex over time. Only intelligent beings with minds are conscious. Our own consciousness points to God as the Intelligent Creator of our minds. “*Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves*” (Psalm 100:3).

7. DID GOD USE EVOLUTION?

Some well-meaning Christians have proposed that the best approach is to integrate evolution and faith. They suggest that we accept that God used evolution to create us.

However, there are big problems with this proposal, which is called ‘theistic evolution’. If God used evolution to create us, then death must have existed before sin (see **Romans 6:23**), and animals would have been suffering and dying for billions of years before humans arrived. This world would have been a terribly painful and frightening place in which to live during this long time period. And, this view holds God responsible for all that suffering and death.

The Bible tells us the true account of how this world was created. “*For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day*” (Exodus 20:11). At the end of the six days, the Bible tells us that God completed His work of Creation. “*Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished*” (Genesis 2:1). The Bible clearly shows that theistic evolution cannot be true.

We can trust the Bible because only God was there when He created everything and God always tells the truth. “*By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible*” (Hebrews 11:3).

Intelligent Design remains the only rational explanation for the existence of our world. Let us take God at His word!

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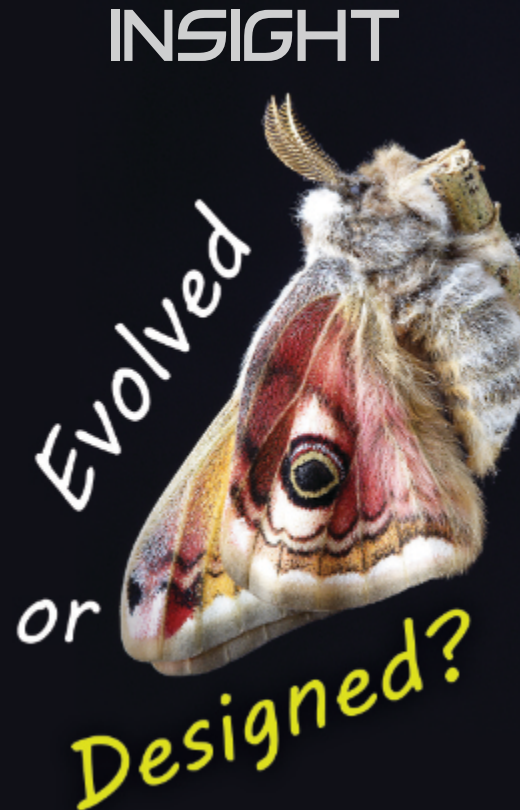


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1. THE ORIGIN OF LIFE

Nature often takes our breath away. When we see the dazzling arc of a rainbow above a waterfall, or a pod of dolphins surfing the waves, we stand in awe. When we see things in nature like this we can't help asking, "Where did these things come from?"

Today many scientists and the media tell us that everything evolved long ago from an ocean of chemicals, which produced a long line of animals. But, does this make sense? The Bible says, *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"* (**Genesis 1:1**). *"Without Him nothing was made that was made"* (**John 1:3**).

2. WHY DOES ANYTHING EXIST AT ALL?

Although the universe is magnificent and massive, both logic and science tell us that the universe has not always been here. Science has discovered that things in the universe, like our sun and the stars, are slowly using up their energy. The universe is slowly winding down.

This means that the universe must have originally been wound up like a clock and started at some point in time. It has not always been here. But, could the universe have come from literally nothing? That's really illogical and impossible—**nothing comes from nothing!**

Something must have created the universe in the first place. Whatever did create it must have been immensely powerful and had a mind to choose to create it. In other words, a Person must have

created the universe. The amazing reality is that God has the power to create things out of nothing. He miraculously created everything complete in every detail. The universe itself points us back to God. *"By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth"* (**Psalms 33:6**).

3. THE PROBLEM IN LIFE GETTING STARTED

Charles Darwin suggested that life originally started in a warm little pond in which lots of chemicals were floating around. The problem with his scientific theory is that the likelihood of this actually happening is so small that it is mathematically impossible.

a. Proteins: The basic building blocks of life are protein molecules, but to make even the simplest protein molecule, you need all of the right chemical parts in the right environment, at the same time. Then all those chemical parts need to connect together in the right order to form long protein chains, all in the right shape. The probability of this happening by chance is virtually zero, which means it could never happen without supernatural input.

b. Living cells: We face much bigger challenges when we consider how a living cell could happen by chance. Charles Darwin did not know much about cells—he thought that they were just like simple little blobs of jelly. However, science has discovered that cells are incredibly complex. They are like tiny cities! Inside living cells there are energy plants, protein factories, transportation

networks, and even information storage systems; all protected by a very sophisticated wall. The likelihood that all these tiny things (which are needed to make even the simplest living cell) could possibly come together randomly, is so incredibly small that it is mathematically impossible.

The possibility that life could have started by chance is like a hurricane blowing through a messy shed, leaving behind a shiny, high-tech passenger plane. It just cannot happen. Life itself points to an intelligent Designer—to God. *"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being"* (**Genesis 2:7**).

4. THE INFORMATION FOR LIFE

Scientists have been stunned to discover that all of life is written in a language, and the information is stored in DNA molecules. This information looks just like a computer program. Your DNA stores all the instructions needed to make your physical body!

Where did all this information come from? If you were walking along the beach and you found a message like "I love you!" written in the sand, you would know that the message couldn't have been written by the wind and the waves. If a message came from outer space saying, "We want to make contact with you!", we would know that intelligent beings were trying to communicate with us.

All of the information we find in the world comes from intelligent minds. So, the information that we

find in our DNA points us to the intelligent mind of God. *"For 'who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?'"* (**1 Corinthians 2:16**).

5. THE IRREDUCIBLY COMPLEX BLOOD CLOTTING SYSTEM

There are many complex systems inside our bodies. One of them is our blood clotting system. Blood carries important things that our cells need, like oxygen and nutrients. That is why we would quickly die if we cut ourselves and lost all of our blood. We need something to staunch the blood flow!

Our amazing blood clotting system does this. If we cut ourselves, this system quickly forms a clot which prevents us from losing more blood. This may seem like a very simple solution, but it is not. It involves many different processes, all of which need to work together at the very moment you cut yourself, otherwise you will bleed to death. It is also important that your blood does not clot inside your body. Otherwise, your blood will stop flowing and, once again, you will die.

Systems in our body, like our blood clotting system, are called irreducibly complex systems. Everything needs to be in place from the start and working perfectly for the whole system to survive. They cannot evolve step by step, because the organism would die. These irreducibly complex systems point to the fact that we were intelligently created by God. *"I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well"* (**Psalms 139:14**).