"Science and Faith"

Law of Causality: Everything that had a beginning had a cause.

**S** - Second Law of Thermodynamics

**U** - Universe is expanding

**R** - Radiation from the Big Bang

**G** - Great Galaxy Seeds

**E** - Einstein’s Theory of General Relativity

It would have to have been created by a Being who is:

1. Self-existent, timeless (eternal), spaceless and immaterial
2. Unimaginably powerful to create a vast and precise universe out of nothing
3. Supremely intelligent to design the universe with such precision
4. Personal (makes decisions)

Intelligent Design:

Imagine finding a diamond studded Rolex in the middle of a forest. Would you assume that it was the result of some unguided combination of natural forces or would you assume that someone designed and crafted it?

Anthropic Constants:

1. Oxygen level
2. Atmospheric transparency
3. Moon-Earth gravitational interaction
4. Expansion of the universe
5. Gravity

David Hume - Scottish philosopher and historian, proponent of empiricism (all knowledge is derived from sense-experience)

Immanuel Kant - German philosopher, proponent of the idea that truth can’t be known

Microevolution - Change over time within a particular species or population (observed)

Macroevolution - Change over time above the species level (not observed)

Question: Is this evidence for common ancestry or for a common Creator?

Fossil Record

**truth or Truth Week #3 (Science and Faith)**

Book Recommendations:

7 Days That Divide the World - John Lennox

Hidden Treasures in the book of Job - Hugh Ross

Intelligent Design: The Bridge Between Science & Theology - William Dembski

Darwin’s Doubt - Stephen Meyer

**SURGE**

**S** - Second Law of Thermodynamics

* Among other things, the universe is running out of usable energy
* Scientists believe that one day the Universe will run out of energy, like a car running out of gas, and will die.
* If there’s a finite amount of energy in the Universe, if the universe was eternal, it would have run out of energy by now.

“*All the evidence seems to indicate, that the universe has not existed forever, but that it had a beginning…..This is probably the most remarkable discovery of modern cosmology… In fact, the theory that the universe has existed forever is in serious difficulty with the Second Law of Thermodynamics…..it indicates that there must have been a beginning. Otherwise, the universe would be in a state of complete disorder by now*” - Stephen Hawking, from his blog

“*With the proof now in place, cosmologists can no longer hide behind the possibility of a past-eternal universe. There is no escape: they have to face the problem of a cosmic beginning.*" - Alexander Vilenkin, Russian physicist

**U** - Universe is expanding

* Big bang - the universe exploded into existence out of nothing
* If we watched a video of the beginning of the universe in reverse, all matter would collapse back to a point that is actually nothing (no space, no time, no matter).  In other words, there was nothing and then “bang” there was something.

*“I believe in the Big Bang… I just know Who banged it*.” - Frank Turek

“*The best data we have [concerning the Big Bang] are exactly what I would have predicted, had I nothing to go on but the five books of Moses, the Psalms, the bible as a whole*.” - Dr. Arno Penzias, Nobel Prize Winning Physicist, New York Times on March 12, 1978

**R** - Radiation from the Big Bang

* In 1965, Penzias and Robert Wilson detected strange radiation on their antennae in their lab. What this radiation turned out to be was one of the most significant discoveries of the last century.
* Light and heat left over from the original Big Bang explosion.

**G** - Great Galaxy Seeds

* After the background radiation was discovered, scientists predicted that if the Big Bang was true, we should see slight variations or “ripples” in the temperature of the background radiation Penzias and Wilson discovered.
* In 1989, NASA launched a 200 million dollar satellite to see whether or not these ripples existed. After 3 years of collecting data, they announced that the “ripples” had been found.
* Project leader, astronomer George Smoot said, “If you’re religious, it’s like looking at God.”
* Stephen Hawking called the discovery the “*most important discovery of the century if not of all time.*”
* the ripples they found were so precise...so exact that Smoot called them “t*he machining marks from the creation of the Universe*” and “*the fingerprints of the Maker*”

**E** - Einstein’s Theory of General Relativity

* Demands an absolute beginning for time, space and matter.
* Edwin Hubble confirmed Einstein’s calculations by observing the red shift in light from every observable galaxy, which meant the galaxies are moving away from us.
* The universe is expanding from a single point in the distant past.

"*Astronomers now find they have painted themselves into a corner because they have proven, by their own methods, that the world began abruptly in an act of creation to which you can trace the seeds of every star, every planet, every living thing in this cosmos and on the earth. And they have found that all this happened as a product of forces they cannot hope to discover. That there are what I or anyone would call supernatural forces at work is now, I think, a scientifically proven fact*." - Robert Jastrow, Leading NASA scientist, Agnostic

The universe would have to have been created by a Being who is:

1. Self existent, timeless (eternal), spaceless and immaterial
2. Unimaginably powerful to create a vast and precise universe out of nothing
3. Supremely intelligent to design the universe with such precision
4. Personal (makes decisions)

Intelligent Design:

Imagine finding a diamond studded Rolex in the middle of a forest. Would you assume that it was the result of some blind unguided natural process or would you assume that someone designed and crafted it?

Anthropic Constants (Evidence of the fine tuning of the Universe):

1. Oxygen level - The oxygen level on earth comprises 21% of the atmosphere. If it were 25% things would spontaneously catch on fire. If it were 15% we would suffocate.
2. Atmospheric transparency - If the transparency of the earth’s atmosphere were more dense than it is, it would deflect too many of the sun’s rays and our planet wouldn’t receive enough light and heat to sustain life. If the atmosphere were any less dense, we wouldn’t be protected from the sun’s radiation.
3. Moon-Earth gravitational interaction - (Tides and weather) If the moon’s gravity were any stronger, it would cause massive damage. If it were any weaker, our weather cycle would cease to function and life on earth would be impossible.
4. Expansion of the universe -  If the universe had expanded at even one millionth more slowly than it did, the expansion would have stopped and collapsed back on itself before any stars would have formed. If it expanded faster than it did, no galaxies would have formed.
5. Gravity -  If the gravitational force were stronger by even the slightest percentage, all living things on earth would be crushed. If gravity were even slightly weaker in the universe, planets and stars could not have formed, and life could have never developed.

David Hume - Scottish philosopher and historian, proponent of empiricism (all knowledge is derived from sense-experience)

Immanuel Kant - German philosopher, proponent of the idea that our senses can’t be trusted and truth can’t be known.

Hume and Kant’s ideas have become widely accepted in Western thought since the 1700’s and heavily influenced Charles Darwin. Most secular scientists interpret their evidence through the filter of “scientific materialism” or “scientific naturalism” - only allowing conclusions that have a natural or material explanation.

“*Gravity explains the motions of the planets, but it cannot explain who sets the planets in motion*.”  - Isaac Newton

“*This most beautiful system of the sun, planets and comets, could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being*.” - Isaac Newton

Philosopher Ed Feser - “*the so-called war between science and religion is really a war between two rival philosophical worldviews, and not at the bottom a scientific or theological dispute at all*.”

Secularist and self proclaimed Marxist, Richard Lewontin, one of the world’s leaders in evolutionary biology:

“*We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment… a commitment to materialism. It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counterintuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute for we cannot allow a Divine foot in the door*.”

John Searle, Professor of Philosophy at Berkeley “*Materialism is the religion of our time. That like more traditional religions, it is accepted without question…. and provides the framework within which other questions can be posed, addressed and answered. and that materialists are convinced, with a quasi religious faith, that their views must be right.*”

Definition of evolution - change over time.

Microevolution vs. macroevolution

Micro - Change over time (Observed)

* Sheep farmers discovered that if they bred their wooliest sheep, they came up with a new breed of extra wooly sheep
* Survival of the fittest through a mechanism called natural selection - cold winters would have killed off the less wooly sheep, leaving the wooliest sheep to breed, thus making a new, strong breed of sheep - through an unguided natural process

Macro - All life forms descended from a common ancestor - the first one celled creature - by a blind, unguided natural process. This theory is based on the observations of microevolution, but has never been observed.

* For over 100 years, scientists have been experimenting quite extensively with fruit flies. They have used various means to achieve mutations such as chemicals and radiation, to accelerate mutations that might shed some light on evolution and speciation.
* Over 3,000 mutations have been observed…. different color flies, different color eyes, some had legs growing out of their heads etc….
* Fruit flies are still fruit flies. In all this time there has been no progress toward the fruit flies changing into a different species.

Darwin had no theory for the origin of life. Even if macroevolution turned out to be true, it still doesn’t explain how the whole thing got started.

Does similarity prove common descent? Humans have some similar characteristics as apes. In fact, we have 85-95% similar DNA. Does this mean we have an ancestral relationship?

* 92% similar DNA as mice
* 60% similar DNA as fruit flies
* 50-60% similar DNA as a banana

Question: Is this evidence for common ancestry or for a common Creator?

Fossil Record

If macro evolution were true, scientists would have found possibly millions of fossils that were in some kind of a transitional phase. The opposite has happened..they haven’t found the transitional fossils, but instead have found fossils that appear suddenly and fully formed.

Late Harvard Paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould (evolutionist) affirmed this: “*The history of most fossil species included two features particularly inconsistent with gradualism. 1. Most species exhibit no directional change during their tenure on earth. 2. Sudden appearance. In any local area, the species does not arise gradually by the steady transformation of its ancestors; it appears all at once and fully formed*.”

The fossil record doesn’t show evidence of gradual evolution, but instantaneous creation.

Job 38 - God Himself refutes naturalism, evolution and deism, and revealed to Job His omnipotence, omniscience and love. Job is highly scientific, and is believed to be the oldest book in the Bible.

Job 9:8 describes the expansion of the universe - Many other Old Testament verses comment on cosmic expansion - Isaiah, Psalms, Jeremiah and Zechariah

Job 25:2 - Job’s friend Bildad commented on the order of the universe and the God that rules over it. This idea stood in stark contrast to the religious ideas of surrounding Near-Eastern culture which worshipped the sun moon and stars, rather than the God who created them.

Job recognizes the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics by observing decay and entropy and God’s sovereignty over creation.

Both Job and Isaiah refer to the earth as a sphere or circle.

Job 38 - God speaks of darkness as a substance. As recently as the late 20th century, dictionaries and science books defined darkness as the absence of light. Only very recently have scientists discovered that dark matter exists.

Job 26 says that God “Hangs the earth on nothing” Surrounding cultures at the time believed that the earth rested on the back of a turtle or an elephant.

God asks over 60 scientific questions in the book of Job. Many of these questions, we still don’t know the answer to.