

Why I Still Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist Does God Exist? The Origin of Life

REVIEW OF THE CONCLUSIONS FROM THE EVIDENCE SO FAR:

Does Truth Exist? Yes. It is self-defeating to deny it.

1. Does Truth Exist? Yes. It is self-defeating to deny it.
2. Does God Exist? So Far, we have seen evidence that He does from:
 - a. The beginning of the universe (Cosmological Argument)
 - b. The design of the universe (Teleological Argument/Anthropic Principle)

1. What are the two types of causes?

Intelligent or Natural (Non-Intelligent)

2. What philosophical presupposition do naturalistic scientists hold that causes them to rule out intelligent causes?

Miracles are not possible and/or they never occur.

3. Name two things that must exist before new life forms can come into existence (both of these things display evidence of design and thus require a designer).

The universe and the first life

4. How does DNA demonstrate that life is not "simple"?

The message found in a one celled amoeba is about equivalent to 1,000 volumes of Encyclopedia Britannica.

5. What is the significance of the examples used in the video such as "Take out the garbage, Mom, "John loves Mary," and "Drink Coke" to the study of biological life?

If those short messages require a mind to produce (and they do), then far longer, more complex messages found in DNA require a mind as well. If short messages require a mind, then long messages require a mind.

6. Describe the Principle of Uniformity and how it is used to discover the cause of first life.

The Principle of Uniformity is the central principle in forensic science. It tells us that causes in the past are like those in the present. In other words, it assumes that the universe worked in the past just like it works today, especially when it comes to causes. If life does not arise spontaneously from non-living chemicals today, then we use the Principle of Uniformity to conclude that it could not

spontaneously generate from non-living chemicals in the past. To say otherwise would simply be a matter of faith.

7. How might a person's view of the origin of life affect their view of moral questions in life?

If we see life as something that just "happened by chance"-if we just evolved from slimy ooze-then we have no reason to conclude that there is any ultimate purpose or value to life. However, if we think we were created by God for a purpose, then we have an unchangeable and authoritative basis for human rights and ultimate value for life. As the Declaration of Independence says, "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

8. State two reasons why naturalistic spontaneous generation is implausible.

- It's never been observed
- Life contains a message and several irreducibly complex systems that, in all our experience, are not caused by repetitive natural forces, but by intelligence.

9. Why is suggesting the intelligent design of the first life NOT "God or the Gaps" reasoning?

When we conclude that intelligence created the first cell, it's not simply because we lack evidence of a natural explanation; it's also because we have positive, empirically detectable evidence for an intelligent cause. A message (specified complexity) is empirically detectable. When we detect a message-like "Take out the garbage- Mom" or 1,000 encyclopedias-we know that it must come from an intelligent being because all of our observational experience tells us that messages come only from intelligent beings. So it's not an argument from ignorance, nor is it based on any "gap" in our knowledge. It's based on what we do know, not on what we don't know.

10. Given the fact that nature tends to disorder things over time, why does more time not help the prospects for the spontaneous generation of life?

Because life requires order, not disorder. More time just results in more disorder.

11. What are some aspects of reality that science cannot explain?

- The laws of logic
- The laws of mathematics
- The law of causality
- The reliability of our senses to acquire knowledge about the real world
- Our ability to reason

Lesson 4

- The principle of uniformity
- Information
- Beauty
- Morality (you can't put ethics into a test tube)

12. What are some of the philosophical assumptions scientists must make in order to conduct empirical experiments or to embark on a forensic science investigation?

- The laws of logic
- The laws of mathematics
- The law of causality
- The reliability of our senses to acquire knowledge about the real world
- Our ability to reason
- The principle of uniformity

13. Why is materialism not reasonable?

Because there are many aspects of reality that are not material including: the laws of logic, the laws of mathematics, our ability to reason, morality, etc. Reliable reason is itself impossible if materialism is true.

14. Due to the evidence from the beginning and design of the universe, we can see that this is a theistic universe. Why is a theistic context important when interpreting the biological evidence, such as the incredible design and information content found in even the "simplest" life?

If this is a theistic universe, then we cannot rule out supernatural or intelligent causes in advance. Moreover, the same supernatural and intelligent cause that created the universe is a strong candidate for the cause of life.