

# An Introduction to Christian Apologetics

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Existence of God, part 5

## Teleological Argument for the Existence of God, part 2 Miracles

### I. Design argument

What is designed had a designer  
The universe gives evidence of design  
Therefore, the universe had a Designer

#### A. What is designed had a designer

True by definition

#### B. The universe gives evidence of design

- i. fine-tuning of the universe
  - Cosmic constants
    - (1) oxygen level
    - (2) atmospheric transparency
    - (3) gravitational interaction
    - (4) carbon dioxide
    - (5) gravity
    - (6) formation of life

“A commonsense interpretation of the facts suggests that a super intellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature.”

Fred Hoyle

- Multiple Universe Theory

ii. origin of life

(1) specified complexity

(a) illustrated

Specificity	Complexity
Crystals	Polymers
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA	KEHJKEMWLEHSIOWPAOIME
<i>Life</i>	<i>Life</i>

(b) example from SETI

110	2
1110	3
111110	5
11111110	7
111111111110	11
11111111111110	13
111111111111111110	17
11111111111111111110	19
1111111111111111111110	23
11111111111111111111111110	29
1111111111111111111111111110	31
11111111111111111111111111111110	37
1111111111111111111111111111111110	41
111111111111111111111111111111111110	43
11111111111111111111111111111111111110	47

**complexity** ←————→ **probability**

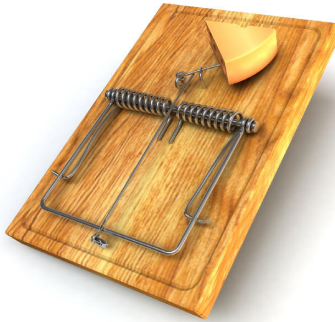
One-celled Amoeba	DNA info in Nucleus alone	> 30 volumes of Encyclo Brit
One-celled Amoeba	DNA info in all	1,000 complete sets of EB
Humans	DNA info in one cell	25,000 two-hundred page books
Humans	DNA info in the brain	20 million books (315 miles at 1" each) (Library of Congress has 32 million books)

(2) irreducible complexity

(a) defined

“a single system composed of several well-matched, interacting parts that contribute to the basic function, wherein the removal of any one of the parts causes the system to effectively cease functioning. An irreducibly complex system cannot be produced directly (that is, by continuously improving the initial function, which continues to work by the same mechanism) by slight, successive modifications of a precursor system, because any precursor to an irreducibly complex system that is missing a part is by definition nonfunctional.” (Behe 39)

(b) illustrated: mousetrap



1. platform
2. catch
3. holding bar
4. hammer
5. spring

(c) physical precursor vs. conceptual precursor

(d) irreducible complexity in nature:

1. aspects of DNA replication
2. electron transport
3. telomere synthesis
4. photosynthesis
5. transcription regulation
6. bacterial flagellum . . .

- Naturalism as an ideology (“just-so”)

“We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of the 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 mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is an absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.”

Richard Lewontin, The New York Review, January, 1997, page 31,  
<http://www.christiananswers.net/q-aiia/aiia-scientists.html>, 10/19/07

### C. Therefore, the universe had a designer

- i. Does the design argument tell us anything about God?
- ii. Is the design argument just another “god-of-the-gaps” fallacy?
- iii. What about the apparent defects in the universe (dysteleology)?
- iv. The argument is “religious” in nature

## II. Miracles

A. Existence of God and . . .

B. definition

C. description

	Sign	Wonder	Power
God’s perspective	Word of God	Attract attention	Act of God
Man’s perspective	Unusual message	Unusual event	Unusual power

D. purpose

- a. To glorify God (John 2:11, 11:40)
- b. To accredit spokesmen (John 3:1-2; Acts 2:22; Heb 2:3-4)
- c. To provide evidence (John 6:2, 6:14, 20:30-31)
- d. To differentiate the people of God (Ex. 11:7)