



**Why God...?**  
**An Intelligent Cause**

**The Essentials of Apologetics**

# Introduction

Do we recognize intelligence when we see it?

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# Something from the Wind, Rain, and Time?

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# Something from Water and Erosion?





# Just Lines Formed by Natural Means on a Cave Wall?





# We Instinctively Recognize Marks of Intelligence



- No reasonable person would conclude Mt. Rushmore, an arrowhead or a cave painting happened by natural means alone.
- We know how to differentiate an intelligent cause vs. a natural cause.

# How Do We Recognize Intelligence?

- Central principle in forensic science is the **Principle of Uniformity**.
- The principle states that causes and effects in the past are like causes and effects observed today.
- By the Principle of Uniformity, we assume that an intelligent effect is the result of an intelligent cause.





# How Do We Recognize Intelligence?

- Every agent acts for an end, even natural agents.
- Now what acts for an end manifests intelligence.
- But natural agents have no intelligence of their own.
- Therefore, they are directed to their end by some Intelligence.

- **Thomas Aquinas**  
Famed Catholic Theologian





# The Difference Between Natural and Intelligent Agents



- Aquina's first premise is simply the self-evident **principle of finality**.
- The second premise states that all things move to some end.
- The third premise says whatever lacks intelligence must be directed by intelligence, as an arrow is towards a target.
- The conclusion follows that all things are directed by some intelligence.

# Identifying Intelligence at the Right Level



- Is a fully robotic auto assembly line not a work of intelligence simply because no humans are present?
- No, the intelligence is just one step removed.
- The same can be said of the many biological micro-machines present in life.



# The Design Argument

A Look at the Teleological Argument for God

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# The Teleological Argument for God

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The teleological (telos, from the Greek word “design” ) argument for God says that the universe and humankind exhibit marks of intelligence and design.

- Behind every complex design is a designer.
- The universe has a complex design.
- Therefore, the universe has a designer.



# Key Question to be Answered

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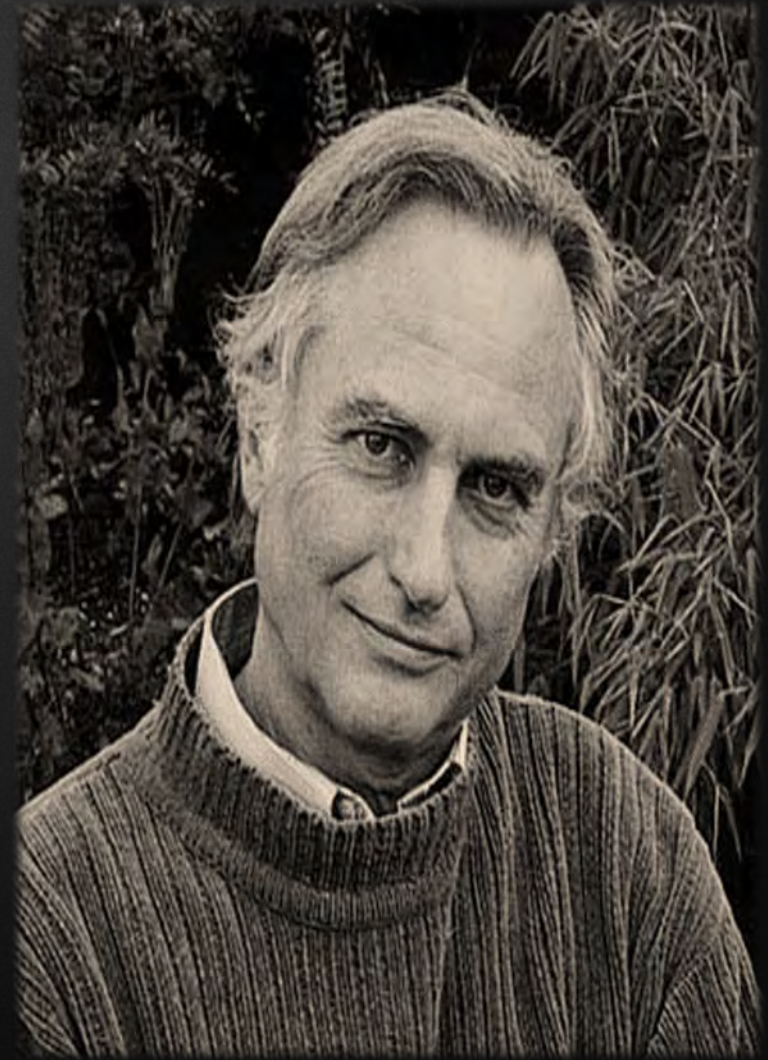


Does the universe and life exhibit design?

# Atheists Answer, “Yes, but...”

“Living objects . . . look designed, they look **overwhelmingly** as though they’re designed. Biology is the study of complicated things which give the impression of having been designed for a purpose.”

– **Richard Dawkins**  
Biologist





“It seems to me that Richard Dawkins constantly overlooks the fact that Darwin himself, in the fourteenth chapter of *The Origin of Species*, pointed out that his whole argument began with a being which already possessed reproductive powers. This is the creature the evolution of which a truly comprehensive theory of evolution must give some account. Darwin himself was well aware that he had not produced such an account. It now seems to me that the findings of more than fifty years of DNA research have provided materials for a new and enormously powerful argument to design.”

**-Anthony Flew**  
Former outspoken atheist

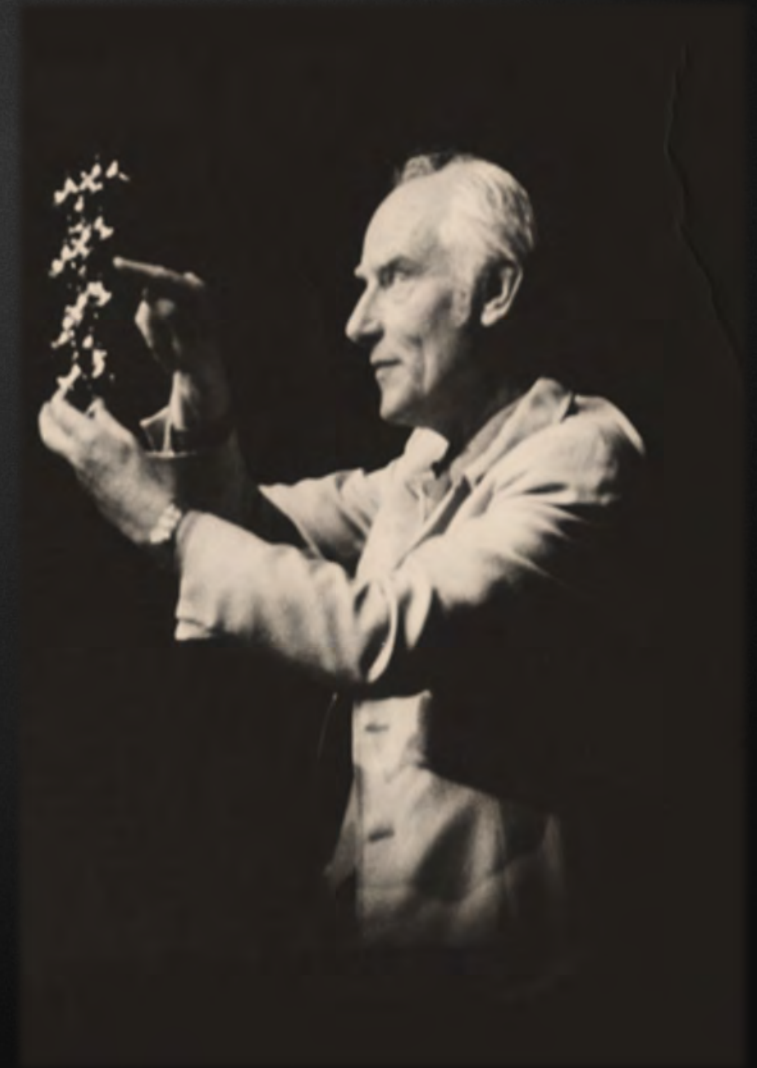


# Atheists Answer, “Yes, but...”

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“Biologists must **constantly** keep in mind that what they see was not designed, but rather evolved.”

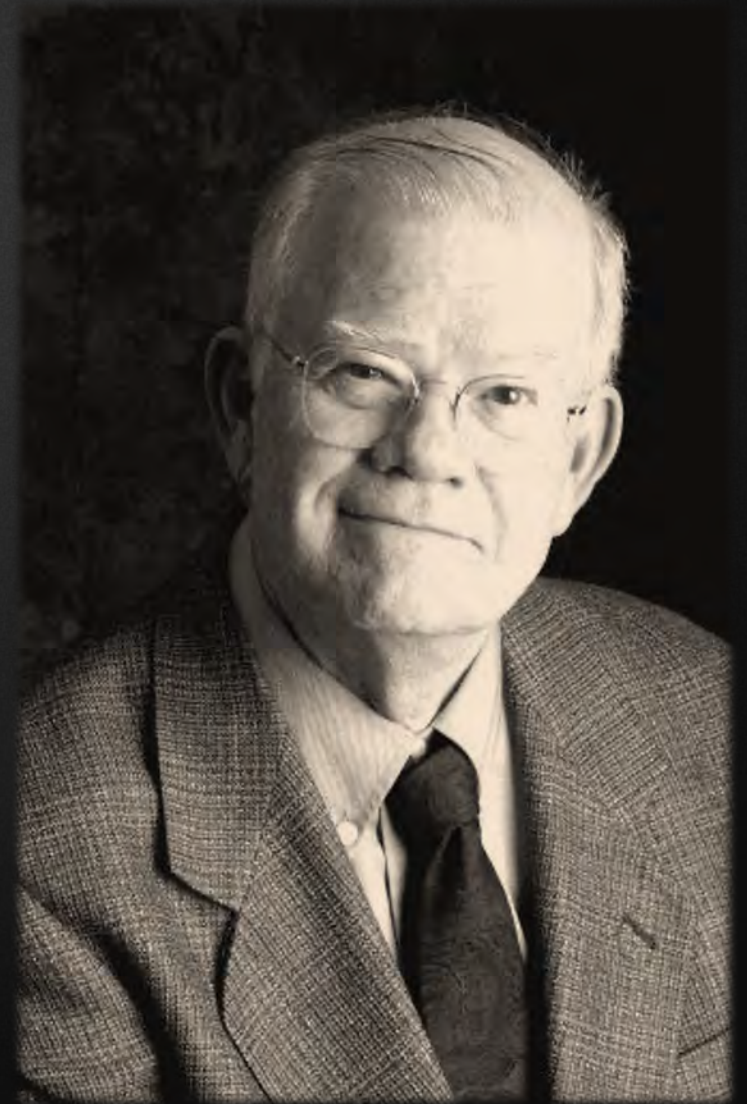
– **Francis Crick**  
Co-Discoverer of DNA





“Darwinian biologists must keep repeating that reminder to themselves because otherwise they might become conscious of the reality that is staring them in the face and trying to get their attention.”

– Phillip Johnson  
Berkeley Law Professor



# Two Key Pieces of Evidence for an Intelligent Designer

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1. The Fine Tuning Argument (or Anthropic Principle).
2. Specified Complexity.



# The Fine Tuning Argument

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- Sometimes called “The Goldilocks Effect” and “Anticipatory Design”.
- Purposes that the fundamental constants and quantities of nature fall into an exquisitely narrow range of values which render our universe life-permitting.
- States that if these constants and quantities were altered by even a hair’s breadth, the delicate balance would be upset and life could not exist.
- Argues that the naturalist proposal of time + matter + change is insufficient to explain the conditions we find that support life.





# A Few Examples of Fine Tuning

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- If the thickness of the earth's crust was greater, too much oxygen would be transferred to the crust to support life, and if it were thinner, volcanic and tectonic activity would make life impossible.
- The axis of the earth is set so carefully that, if it were altered ever so slightly, surface temperatures of the earth would be far too great.
- If water vapor levels in the atmosphere were greater than they are now, a runaway greenhouse effect would cause temperatures to rise far too high on the planet – life would die out. And if they were less, an insufficient greenhouse effect would make the earth too cold to support life.

# What are the Odds?



- Astrophysicist Hugh Ross has calculated that the odds of all anthropic constants and quantities (122 at last count) to be in place for any planet in the universe by luck alone to be **one chance in ten with 138 zeros** after it.
- This number becomes even more incredible when one realizes there are only  $10^{70}$  atoms in the entire universe.
- Mathematicians point out that anything which exceeds  $10^{50}$  power is the exact same thing as zero chance.



# Possible Explanations for Fine Tuning

- **Physical Necessity** – not possible as the cosmological constants exist outside of the environment. The constants and quantities could be different; they don't have to be what they are.
- **Chance** – exceeds any mathematical possibility. As for the multi-verse, no empirical data exists to confirm its existence.
- **Intelligent Designer** – best answer for an appeal to best explanation. Only ruled out by atheists because of anti-supernatural worldview.



EXPLANATION

I demand one

“The initial configuration of the universe” appears to have been “very carefully chosen.”

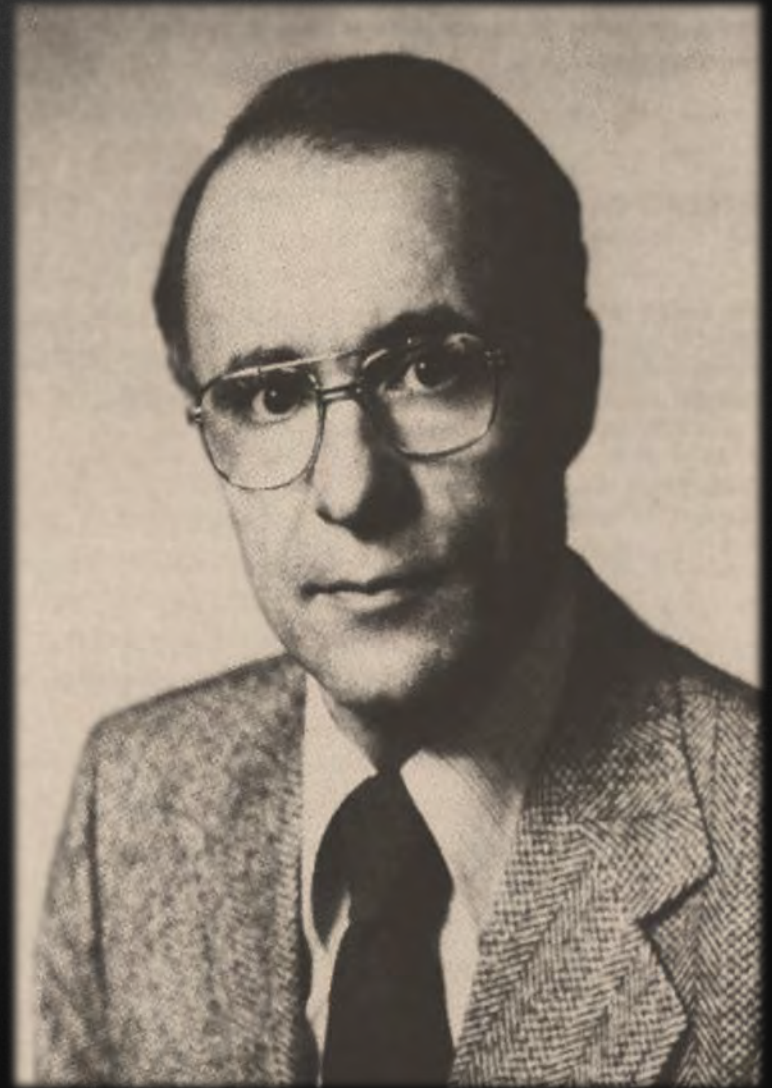
– Stephen Hawking  
Famed Physicist





“In the absence of an absurdly-  
improbable accident, the  
observations of modern science  
seem to suggest an underlying,  
one might say, **supernatural**  
plan.”

– **Arno Penzias**  
Nobel Laureate scientist





# The Argument of Specified Complexity



- Argues that nature and life (e.g. human beings) contain the imprint of an intelligent cause, with evidence such as DNA bearing the marks of a Designer.
- Purposes that life is encoded with information that demonstrates an intelligent cause.



# The Presence of Information in Life



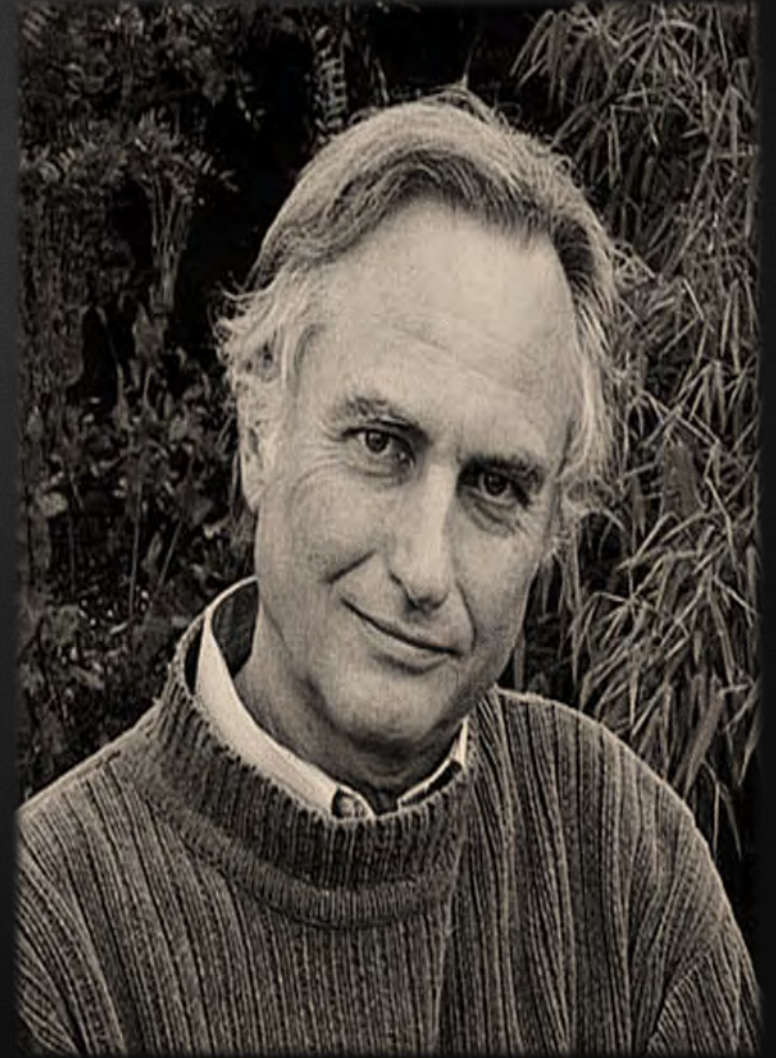
- Atheists like Darwinist Richard Dawkins admit that the message found in just the cell nucleus of an amoeba is more than all thirty volumes of the Encyclopedia Britannica.
- The entire amoeba itself has as much information in its DNA as 1,000 complete sets of the Encyclopedia Britannica.
- The important thing to understand is that the makeup of these entities is not random, but instead the information is highly organized.

# An Atheist Talks Life and Information

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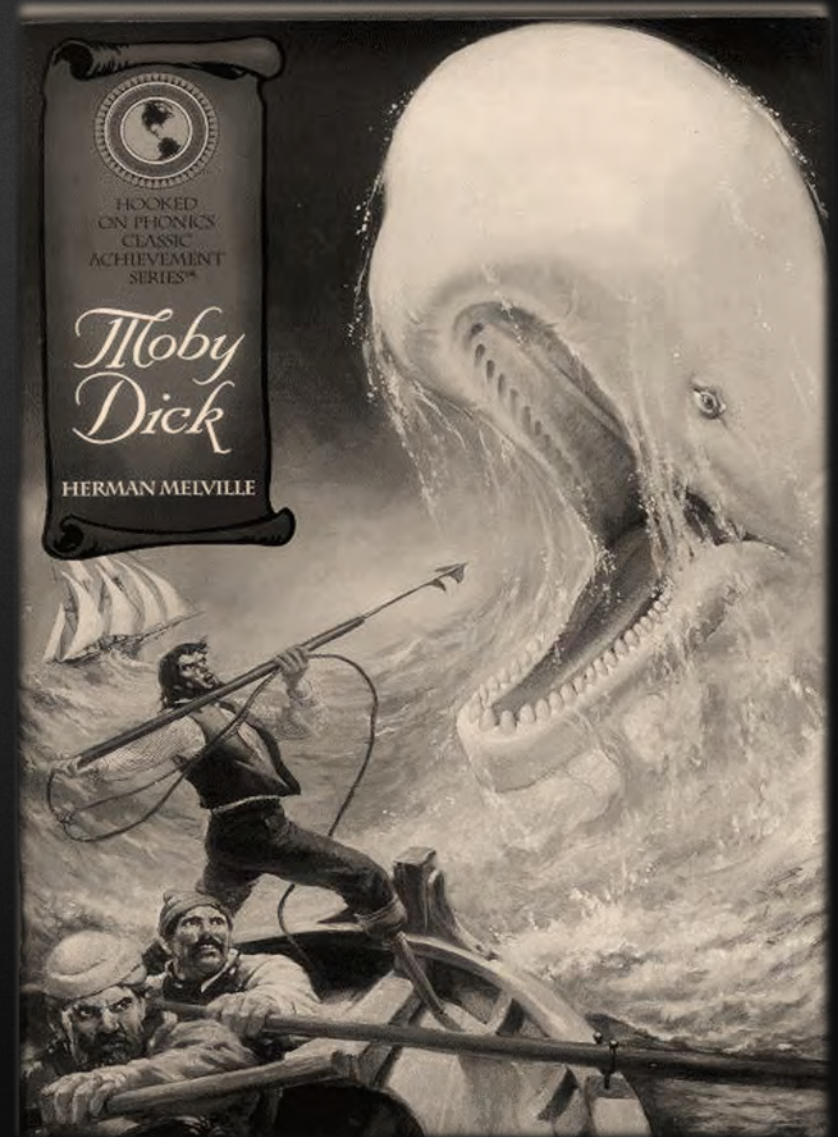
“What lies at the heart of every living thing is not a fire, warm breath, nor a ‘spark of life’. It is information, words, instructions.... Think of a billion discrete digital characters.... If you want to understand life think about information technology.”

– Richard Dawkins





# The Difference Between Data and Information



"Ask anybody what the physical world is made of, and you are likely to be told "matter and energy." Yet if we have learned anything from engineering, biology and physics, information is just as crucial an ingredient."

– **Scientific American**  
July 2003





“If you’re trying to explain an event in the remote past you should rely on our knowledge of the cause/effect structure of the world and you should be looking for a cause that has the capability or power to produce the known effect in question. . . .

Darwin’s mentor Charles Lyell . . . put it this way: ‘In investigating the past we should be looking for causes now in operation’. Now as to Information and intelligence: What is the cause now in operation of digital information? That is intelligence. By using Darwin’s own principle of reasoning, we can use an inference to the best explanation: intelligence produces information.”

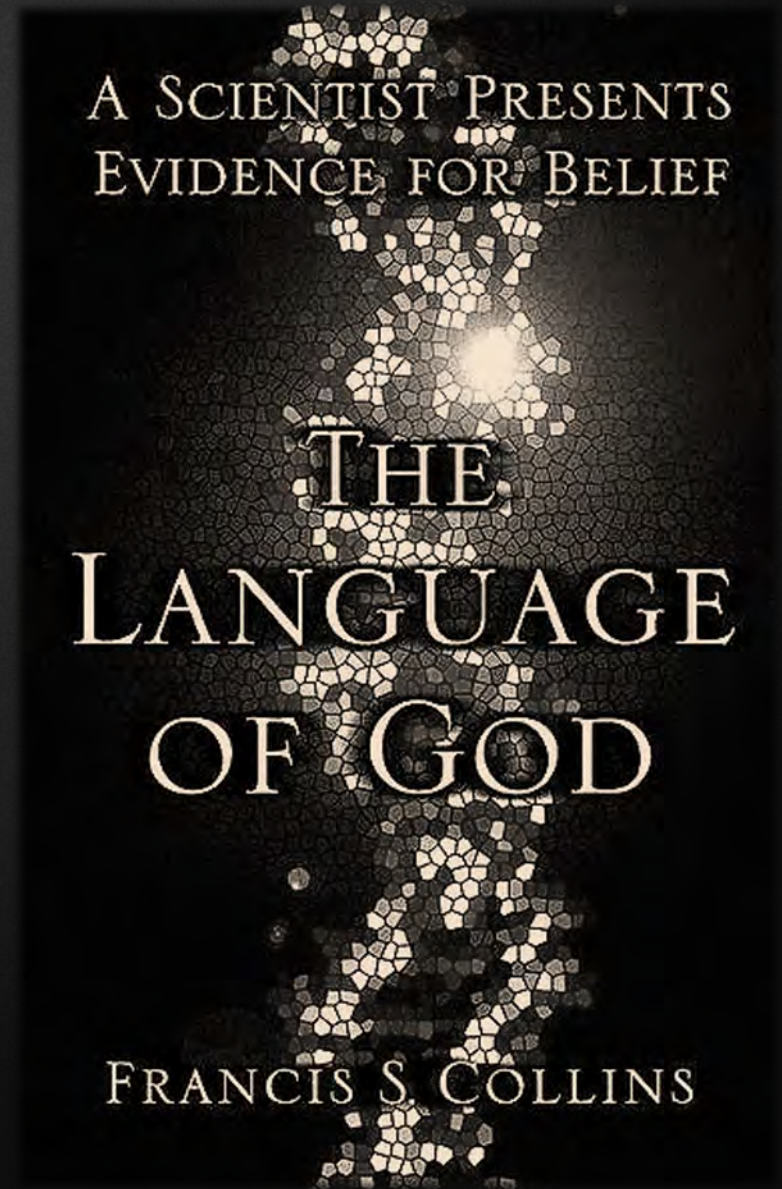
- Stephen Meyer



# DNA Resembles Software Design

“At first approximation, one can therefore think of DNA as an instructional script, a software program, sitting in the nucleus of the cell. Its coding language has only four letters (or two bits, in computer terms). A particular instruction known as a gene, is made up of hundreds or thousands of letters of code.”

- Francis Collins





“It is important to understand that we are not reasoning by analogy [with DNA]. The sequence hypothesis applies directly to the protein and the genetic text as well as to written language and therefore the treatment is mathematically identical.”

– **Herbert Yockey**  
Non-Theist Biologist



# DNA Bears the Mark of an Intelligent Cause

- DNA is mathematically identical to a language.
- What language has ever risen without an intelligent cause?
- “Investigations of many organisms, from bacteria to humans, revealed that this ‘genetic code’, by which information in DNA and RNA is translated into protein, is universal in all known organisms. No tower of Babel was to be allowed in the language of life. . . . How deeply satisfying is the digital elegance of DNA!” – **Francis Collins**





“If science is based on experience, then science tells us that the message encoded in DNA must have originated from an intelligent cause. What kind of intelligent agent was it? On its own, science cannot answer this question; it must leave it to religion and philosophy.

But that should not prevent science from acknowledging evidences for an intelligent cause origin wherever they may exist.”

- **Dean Kenyon**  
**Biophysicist**



# Conclusions

Final Thoughts

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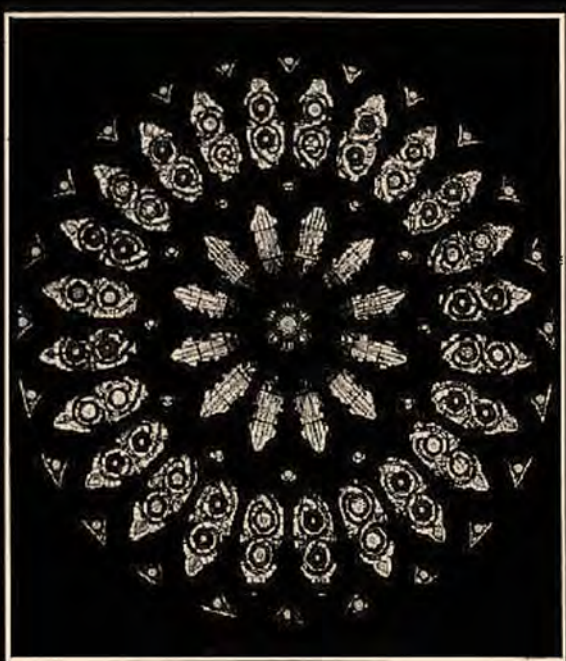


“Is it not to be wondered at that our archaeologist immediately infers intelligent origin when faced with a few simple scratches whereas some scientists, when faced with the 3.5 billion letter sequence of the human genome, inform us that it is to be explained solely in terms of chance and necessity?”

- John Lennox

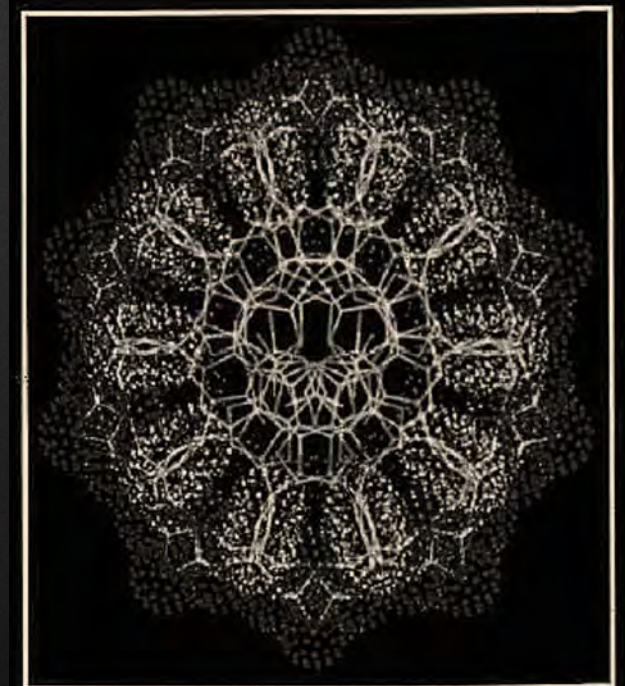


# Design or Chance?



**Rose Window, York Minster**  
(Photograph by C.J. Bassham)

←  
One Design  
One by Chance?  
→



**View Along the Axis  
of the  $\beta$  DNA Double Helix**  
(Courtesy of Dr. R. Langridge)



“I think the origins of the laws of nature and of life and the Universe point clearly to an intelligent source. The burden of proof is on those who argue to the contrary.”

**-Anthony Flew**  
Former outspoken atheist



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