

THE CASE FOR A CREATOR

Study Notes

SCIENCE AND GOD

Lee Strobel says that the purpose of this DVD is to lay out the evidence as he uncovered and discovered it to let each of us decide. Does the evidence point in the direction of a Creator or **away** from a Creator?

A few facts about the author, Lee Strobel:

- Lee graduated from **Yale** University.
- His doubts about God and faith began in **high** school.
- Lee decided that **God** was “out of a job” due to the success of Stanley Miller’s experiment in 1953 demonstrating that amino acids (the basic building blocks of living organisms) could be produced in an atmosphere of hydrogen, methane, ammonia, and water vapor with electrical discharge simulating lightning.
- From there, the steps to accepting Darwinian Evolution and full blown **atheism** were easy.
- Even as a young atheist, Lee could not understand how **Christians** could believe in both God and Darwinian Evolution.
- Twenty years later, Lee Strobel decided to renew his examination of the scientific evidence, now richer and deeper than it was during his high school years. The question was, “Does the evidence tend to contradict or **confirm** the existence of a Creator?”

DOUBTS ABOUT DARWINISM

In this section, Lee presents evidence from scientists who **doubt** that life could originate through the production and combination of certain chemicals.

Biologist Jonathan Wells explains that Stanley Miller’s experiment has been thoroughly **discredited**. About ten years after the experiment, scientists concluded that Miller’s mix of chemicals could not represent the atmosphere of the early earth. Miller and many others repeated the experiment with the correct gasses, and amino acids never formed.

- Mr. Wells demonstrates that even if the Miller experiment had proved true, just having the right chemicals, even in perfect conditions, this is still **light years** from having life.
- Other experiments and explanations also failed to produce any meaningful explanation of the origin of life.

Next Lee leads us through the evidence available from geology and the **fossil** record that indicate that species did not develop from a common ancestor, driven by random mutations and natural selection.

- Jonathan Wells summarizes, “The branching **tree** pattern of Darwin’s theory is not seen anywhere in the fossil record.”
- The Cambrian explosion is the most dramatic refutation of Darwin’s so called Tree of Life. The fossils of almost every phyla appear in Cambrian rocks, not gradually, but **suddenly**, with no precursors.
- More than **600** Ph.D. scientists have signed a document entitled, “A Scientific Dissent From Darwinism.” This is easily found by searching the title on the internet.
- The negative evidence of Darwinism forced Lee to conclude that believing evolution required a **blind** leap of faith he was no longer willing to make.

THE EVIDENCE OF COSMOLOGY

Scientists who explore the **origin** of the universe are called cosmologists, and one of their primary tools of examination is the telescope. In this session, we explore what cosmology can tell us about the existence of a Creator.

- The prevailing view of the universe by unbelievers up to the time of Albert Einstein was that the universe was static (unchanging) and **eternal**.
- Einstein’s Theory of General Relativity showed that the universe was either expanding or contracting. Empirical data first gathered by Edwin Hubble indicated it was **expanding**.
- This led scientists to conclude that the universe had a finite **beginning**, when all matter, energy, space, and time were condensed together in what they named the singularity.
- William Lane Craig explains the Kalam Cosmological Argument.
 - Whatever begins to **exist** has a cause.
 - The universe began to exist. (Confirmed by Hubble and others)
 - Therefore, the universe has a cause.
 - This points to something or **Someone** outside the universe which brought the universe into existence.
- Edmund Whittaker, **physicist**, “There is no ground for supposing that matter and energy existed before and were suddenly galvanized into action. It is simpler to postulate creation ex nihilo ... Divine will constituting nature from nothingness.”
- Today, the vast majority of even the most skeptical astronomers and cosmologists believe that the universe had a **beginning**.
- Lee determined that this evidence pointed clearly, powerfully, and persuasively in the direction of a **Creator**.

THE FINE-TUNING OF THE UNIVERSE

Lee begins by taking us to Biosphere 2, an attempt by scientists to establish a controlled, life sustaining, biosphere such as exists on **earth**. The experiment failed. So the questions are,

- ✓ “If scientists cannot tune and sustain a limited biosphere that supports life, how is the biosphere of the entire planet earth sustained?”
- ✓ “And how is it that the physics of the universe are calibrated on a razor’s edge to sustain life on earth?”
- ✓ “Is this a mere accident, or is it evidence that points to an Intelligent Designer?”

Robin Collins, philosopher, points out that

- If we had no **gravity**, we would have no planets, stars, or any complex organisms.
- If we had no strong nuclear force, we would have no atoms and therefore no chemistry.
- If we had no electro-magnetic force, we would have no bonding between chemicals and therefore no **life**.
- If these laws of physics are not precisely fine-tuned, there would be no life.
 - If the strength of **gravity** were changed by one **inch** out of 14 billion light years, the impact on life would be catastrophic.
 - There are **30** separate parameters that must be precisely fine-tuned for life as we know it to exist.
 - If the Cosmological Constant, the rate of expansion of the universe, is as fine-tuned as throwing a dart from hundreds of miles in space and hitting the target smaller than the size of a single **atom**.
 - If the strong nuclear force that binds atoms together were reduced even microscopically, the only element that would exist would be **hydrogen**. Life would be impossible.
- The evidence for Someone to be setting these parameters to permit life to exist is so overwhelming that those committed to a naturalistic explanation of the universe resort to proposing that our universe is only one of many, that it is a part of a multi-verse.
- There is absolutely **no** evidence of the existence of alternate universes.
- Lee’s conclusion is “The universe is finely tuned by an Intelligence to **sustain** complex life, and Intelligence that must be beyond the constraints of time and space.”
- Vera Kistiakowski, Professor emeritus at M.I.T., “The exquisite **order** displayed by our scientific understanding of the physical world calls for the divine.”

THE EVIDENCE OF BIOCHEMISTRY

Biochemist Dr. Michael Behe, Professor of Biological Sciences at Lehigh University in PA., points out that the single cell has very complex **machines** functioning within it that are highly resistant to Darwinian explanation.

- One example of these cellular machines is the bacterial flagellum which moves certain bacteria like a **motor** on a boat.
- Over **40** parts made of proteins are required for such a motor.
- Charles Darwin wrote in *The Origin of Species*, “If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive slight modifications, my theory would absolutely **break** down.”
- Dr. Behe, now joined by many others, have in fact demonstrated that the complex machines within cells are organs such as Darwin said would **falsify** his theory.

DNA AND THE ORIGIN OF LIFE

Dr. Stephen Meyer, Ph.D. in Philosophy of Science, Cambridge University, believes that the **information** encoded in the DNA molecule is some of the strongest evidence there is for an Intelligent Designer.

- DNA functions like a **software** program, more complex than any ever devised by man.
- Stored within the nucleus of every living cell, DNA stores the instructions for making every living machine of an organism: **eyes**, legs, wings, and hearts.
- It is the most densely packed and elaborately **detailed** assemblage of information in the known universe.
- The key **question** is, “Where did the information in DNA come from?”
- Meyer, “There is only one known **cause** for the origin of information, and that cause is Intelligence.”
- Whether you find the information in hieroglyphics, a book, or computer code, when you trace the origin of the information to its source, you always find **someone**, an intelligent someone.
- Lee Strobel asks, “If we are finding information stored inside every single living cell, could that not be the **signature** of a Creator?”

Psalm 19:1–2 (NIV)

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

Lee Strobel, “Today, **science is pointing more directly and more powerfully to a Creator than any other time in the existence of the world.”**

“It was the most **logical and rational step I have ever taken, to put my faith in the Creator that science tells me exists.”**

Patrick Glen, Ph.D. from Harvard University, former atheist, author of *God, The Evidence*, “Today the concrete data point strongly in the direction of the **God hypothesis. Today, there is no good reason for an intelligent person to embrace the illusion of **atheism** or agnosticism.”**

Next week, notes will be available with answers.