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**LIFE ON A RAZOR'S EDGE-OUR PRIVILEGED PLANET**

Good Morning and Thank You-wonderful song to introduce today's message.

Introduction: Bob Michael-40 plus year member RBC

Opening Prayer: Creator God of the stars and the rolling thunder and the power of the Universe displayed we just sang about, thank you that we wake up every day in a world you have so wonderfully made. This morning we pray that you awaken our hearts and open our eyes to the things we can learn from your creation about the breadth and length of your love for us. May we join with all creation today in praising you. And may the words of our mouth and the meditations of our spirits be totally acceptable in your sight. AMEN

I. INTRODUCTION

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**Genesis 1:1 “ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”**

Let me begin with a reference to one of the most- if not **the** most-outrageous verse in the Bible, the most amazing verse in the Bible, the most incredible verse in the Bible, which also happens to be the very first verse in the Bible in Genesis 1:1 which says this: ***In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*** Wow. He did everything. In the beginning, God created the heavens. We live in the 21st century. We live in a scientific age. We live in a technological age. Is it still credible for us to believe that a supernatural creator created the universe? Well, many present day scholars don't think so. For example, Doctor Coyne is a professor of ecology and evolution at the University of Chicago, and he wrote an article for USA today. And in that article, listen to what he said. He said, quote, "science and faith are fundamentally incompatible." And he said: "Science helps religion only by disproving its claims." But is that true? My observation through the work of places like the Discovery Institute is that more and more scientist as they continue to make scientific discoveries are in some cases, some reluctantly, coming to the conclusion that our Universe and World is the product of Intelligent Design, some even

to the point of recognizing a Creator. So today I want to talk about some of the scientific evidence that points powerfully and persuasively for a creator who just happens to match the description of the God of the Bible.

Let's talk about some scientific discoveries that have been made just within the last 50 or 60 years that point powerfully and persuasively toward the existence of a supernatural creator, the God we worship here at Redland Baptist Church. The very same God who is described in the book of Genesis. I want to look at three areas of science. And then I will end with a common and very overlooked example of some very compelling evidence that each of us sees every single day.

## II. Cosmology

Let's begin with Cosmology. That's a fancy term. All that means is the study of the origin of the universe. Where did the universe come from? You know, for centuries, scientists believed that the universe was eternal. It always existed. It's infinitely old, but we know from mathematics and from philosophy that an actually infinite number of past events is not possible because it would lead to absurdities, contradictions and unorganized chaos incompatible with life. In fact, probably the greatest mathematical mind of the last century. David Hilbert said Infinity's role is solely as an

idea. And that, quote, the infinite is nowhere to be found in reality.

Philosopher William Lane Craig, is a professor at Biola University, as well as Houston Baptist University. He cites Hilbert and says, therefore, the series of past events can't go back forever-they can't be viewed as infinite and without a start point. Rather, the universe must have begun to exist at some point in the past. It can't be by definition, infinite. And then over the last 50 or 60 years, we've had some scientific discoveries showing that the galaxies are moving away from each other, which indicates a universe that is expanding from a single point. And they took measurements of the Cosmic background radiation. These all confirm that the universe at some point in the past exploded into existence. And this has convinced virtually every scientist that the universe had a sudden beginning in a cataclysmic event in the past which we now know as the "Big Bang" theory. In a speech at Cambridge University, doctor Alexander Vilenkin, who's the director of the Institute of Cosmology at Tufts University, said he looked at all the alternative models of the universe that you see mentioned in the newspaper from time to time, different ways that cosmologists try to explain the universe: the eternal inflation model, the cyclic model, and even the cosmic egg theory. And he said none of them can actually explain the

origin of the Universe. In fact, he and two other cosmologists developed a theorem that tells us that any universe that is expanding on average through its history, like ours, must have had a beginning event, even if our universe is just a tiny part of a bigger multiverse where there are many Universes that could lead to the development of others such as our, this multiverse itself had to have a beginning. Blinken concluded with this quote: “all the evidence we have says that the universe had a beginning.”

And that leads us to what has become popularly known as the Kalam argument made popular by Doctor William Lane Craig who argues that it proves the existence of God. It has three parts, is very simple, and goes like this:

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**Kalam Argument**

***(i) Whatever begins to exist has to have a cause of its existence,  
(ii) The universe began to exist, and (iii) Therefore, the universe  
has a cause of its existence.***

So to examine this argument, can you think of anything that began to exist that didn't have a cause behind it? Even David Hume, the most famous skeptic of all time, said, quote, *I never asserted so absurd a proposition as that anything might arise without a cause. So whatever begins to exist has a cause.* In short, nothing can come from nothing.

As to the second of the Kalam argument, it is undisputable that the universe began to exist. We can see it and we live in it. Virtually every scientist now concedes that the universe and time itself had a beginning.

Which leads to the third part of the argument; Since whatever begins to exist has a cause; and we know the universe began to exist, therefore the universe has a cause behind it. Now, what kind of a cause can bring a Universe into existence?. The cause needed to bring the Universe into existence must be immaterial or spirit because it existed before the material world existed. It must be eternal because it existed before time was created. It must be smart and powerful because of the precision and power of the creation event. It must have a personal will because it had to make the decision to create. And the principle of Occam's razor, you know: the simpler the explanation the better, tells us there would be just one creator. So what does all this point to: a very special eternal, smart,

powerful, personal, one of a kind entity. The good beginning point to describe the God of the Bible. The Bible put it this way in Psalm 102, verse 25, *In the beginning you, God, laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.*

So I think cosmology goes a long way toward establishing the existence of an Intelligent Design Creator. But there are two challenges that are often raised by skeptics. The first challenge is this: we say whatever begins to exist has a cause, the universe began to exist. Therefore, the universe had to have a cause. And they will say to you, oh, well, if God created the universe, then who or what created God? Well, the answer to that is nobody created God. God, by definition, is eternal. He never began to exist. He has always existed. You see, before he created the universe, time didn't even exist. There was simply timelessness.

The second objection to the cause argument is set forth by Stephen Hawking, the famous astrophysicist, in his book called *The Grand Design*. And he puts it this way. He said, because there is a law such as gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing. Let me say that again. Because there is a law such as gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing. In other words, God didn't create the universe.

The universe created itself out of nothing. Now, the problem with that is it simply postpones creation by one stage. In other words, if gravity caused the world to pop into existence by itself from nothing, where did gravity come from? Who made gravity? How did gravity come into existence? We still need a creator. And so Hawking's theory fails to do away with God. On the contrary, the beginning of the universe points toward the existence of a creator. Related to this is a book that's gained a lot of popularity by an atheist, very adamant atheist by the name of Lawrence Krauss, a professor at the University of Arizona. He wrote a book called *The Universe from nothing*. And in that book, he claims the universe was created by nothing and from nothing. But then he uses a little sleight of hand. He redefines something and he doesn't account for where that something came from. This thinking came under great criticism in the scientific community since Krauss is presenting untested speculative theories and philosophical speculation, and he doesn't explain why the laws of physics exist in the first place, or why they have formed something. He gives no experimental or observational process whereby we could test these vivid speculations. *Scientific American* magazine said the book, quote, "recycles a bunch of stale ideas from physics and cosmology."



I think William Lane Craig was right when he said, in a sense, the history of 20th century cosmology can be seen as a series of one failed attempt after another to avoid the absolute beginning predicted by the standard Big Bang model. He said this parade of failed theories only serves to confirm the predictions of the model that the universe began to exist. So I think the evidence of cosmology is powerful and effective in pointing toward a creator.

## II. Physics

The second area I want to look at is the area of physics. One of the striking discoveries of the last 50 or 60 years in physics has been that the laws and the constants of physics, in other words, the numbers that govern the operation of the universe, unexpectedly conspire in an absolutely extraordinary way to make the universe habitable for life giving us Life on A Razor's edge.

In other words, the universe is finely tuned on a razor's edge in a way that defies mere chance and is better explained as the work of a creator. Imagine if you will, going out one real dark night to look at stars and instead you see a sky full of dials, 100 dials all over the sky. And each dial has millions, some of them billions, some of them trillions of possible

settings on each of these 100 dials in the sky. And every one of these hundred dials is absolutely calibrated to the exact precision needed so that life can exist on Earth. That is the picture of the world that we get from contemporary physics.

Let me give you some examples. Each of those dials represents a parameter of physics that's finely tuned. One of them is the force of gravity. We all know what gravity is-In 1915, Albert Einstein figured out the answer when he published his theory of general relativity. The reason gravity pulls you toward the ground is that all objects with mass, like our Earth, actually bend and curve the fabric of the universe, called spacetime. That curvature is what you feel as gravity. The force of gravity is finely tuned to an incomprehensible degree so that life can exist. How finely tuned is it?

Let's try to visualize this. Imagine a ruler that stretches across the entire universe 15 billion light years. And it's broken down in one inch increments. According to the Astrophysicists, that represents plausibly the range along which the force of gravity could be calibrated anywhere along there, but it is calibrated along that dial at the exact right place so that life can exist.

Let's re-create this same principle here with the help of my two

assistants. We here will scale down the ruler stretching across the Universe of 15 billion light years into just 20 feet. Over here we have the strongest level of gravity and at the other end, the weakest form of gravity. on Earth we moved just a fraction of the inch toward a stronger gravity, animals anyone near the size of humans would be crushed. Even insects would need thick muscular legs to support them and animals would not grow. If only a small change to more strong gravity is made, then a gravitational pull of just a 1000 times which is just a small move on our rule but which would cause Earth to be reduced to a diameter of only 40 feet incapable of sustaining an ecosystem.

On the other hand, moving to less strong gravity again only a fraction of an inch on our Universe long scale would create problems with breathing because air pressure would drop. We would all be suffering nausea, fatigue, shortness of breath, circulatory problems.

How precise is it? If you were to change the force of gravity not just a fraction but a full one inch compared to the 15 billion light year width of the universe scale, just a one inch change makes intelligent life impossible anywhere in the universe. That is just mind boggling how finely tuned that just that one parameter which wouldn't be enough to sustain an

ecosystem.

Another example is what's called the cosmological constant. It sounds like a fancy term. It just means the energy density of space. This sounds technical, but it is another force that needs to be balanced on a razor's edge in order for the universe to exist. If the number of the cosmological constant were large and positive, galaxies and stars and planets would not exist. If it were large and negative, the entire universe would just collapse upon itself. It has to be exactly calibrated to the perfect place so that life can exist. How perfectly does it need to be calibrated? It has to be finely tuned to one part in a hundred million, billion, billion, billion, billion, billion. How finely tuned is that? That is exquisitely finely tuned. Let me put it in perspective. It would be like going on the moon and taking a dart and throwing it at planet Earth and hitting a predetermined bullseye that is one trillionth of a trillionth of an inch in diameter, the size of one atom. That is how finely tuned the cosmological constant is. Now, these were just two of the 100 dials we had in the night sky.

If we take just the force of gravity and the cosmological constant and put those two together the needed fine tuning on our dials is so precise that it requires a level of accuracy of one part in 100 million, trillion, trillion,

trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion or the size equal to one atom in the entire known universe.

The point is that the universe is not an accident. This doesn't happen by chance. You look at those numbers and any intellectually honest scientist will agree what these numbers tells you. It is impossible for that to happen by chance. It ain't ever going to happen by chance. The numbers are true. And that's just two of the parameters. We can go to others. For instance, one of our dials is the odds against the initial conditions being suitable for the formation of stars which is a one, followed by a thousand billion billion zeros. Incredible.

Then on another dial, there's the strong nuclear force. The strong nuclear force binds the nucleus of atoms together. If you were to decrease the strong nuclear force by just one part in 10,000, billion, billion, billion, all you would have in the universe would be hydrogen and life would be impossible. It is just absolutely staggering how everything is perfectly calibrated.

On one other dial is the ratio of the electromagnetic force to the gravitational force- in simple terms the power of a magnet versus the power of gravity . It's an expression of physics in which scientists measure

the ratio of the electromagnetic force to the gravitational force.

It is fine tuned to one part in 10,000 trillion, trillion, trillion. Now how do we understand that number? Well, an astrophysicist computed it. So just this one dial that we're talking about which is the ratio of electromagnetic force to the gravitational force: this dial is so finely tuned that it would be like taking a continent the size of North America and stacking it all over with dimes that run all the way up to the moon 238,000 miles high. So can you picture this North America? All it is is dimes piled up to the moon. Got that picture in your mind? Now multiply that to a billion North Americas. All with dimes that go all the way up to the moon. Now take one dime and spray paint it red. And mix it with all the dimes on the billion North Americas with 238,000 miles of dimes going up. Take one dime, spray paint it red, put it in there. Now blindfold a friend and tell him he can move his hand in among these billion North American continents to all of these dimes, going all the way up to the moon. And he can only pick out at random one dime. What are the odds? Do you think he could randomly pick that red dime? The same odds of your friend finding that dime is the same ratio that has to exist between electromagnetic force and the gravitational force. That's how finely tuned it is.

These absolutely staggering odds of random forces being in place by accident is a compelling proof of a Creator God. The scientific finds over the past handful of decades, one after another, have had a big impact on the scientific community. Vera Kistiakowsky, who was a former professor of physics at MIT and former president of the Association of Women in Science, said this the exquisite order displayed by our scientific understanding of our physical world calls for the divine. In other words, she says, there must be a God behind this. Another scientist, one of the most famous British cosmologist, Edward Harrison, a professor at Amherst whose books are published by Oxford University Press and by , Harvard University Press, said the fine tuning of the universe provides prima facie evidence of deistic design.

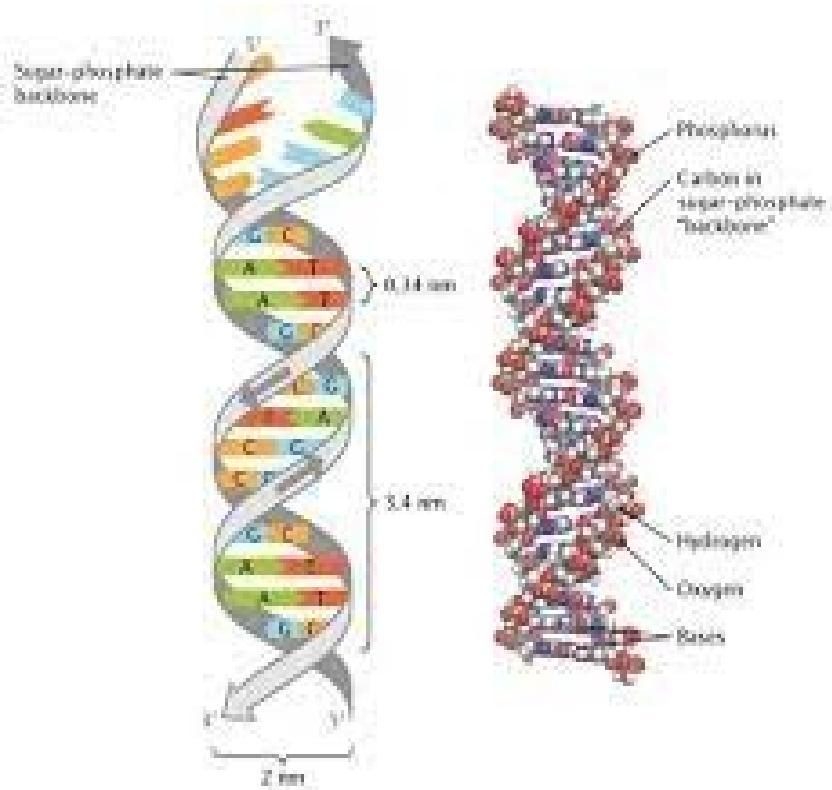
So how have the Atheists responded to these new found scientific finds? Ah, they have a way. They say, well, what if this isn't the only universe? What if there's actually an infinite number of universes and all of them have hundreds of dials? But if you have an infinite number and you spin the dials in an infinite number of universes, sooner or later one of them is going to come up and we hit the cosmic jackpot. Now here's the problem with that. There is absolutely zero, nada, no evidence that there is

an infinite number of other universes that exist. There is no evidence for that. In fact, a new book on this by an atheist cosmologist admits it's just an untested hypothesis. Besides, if one universe requires an explanation, then an infinite number of universes requires an even bigger explanation, and that points even more powerfully toward God. So honestly, this evidence we just looked at is irrefutable. I don't know how anyone with an open rational mind could not see at a minimum that our world required the intelligent design of a supernatural creator.

I can't resist one other area because it is based on the work of Dr. Stephen Meyer of the Discovery Institute of which I am a big fan. This is the mind blowing area of DNA or biological information.

**Slide Four-Structure and Component of DNA**





You know, not too many years ago, scientists, led by the way, by an evangelical Christian, mapped the entire human genome. That is, the chemical instructions inside every cell that contain the blueprint for life. And when that was announced by President Clinton at the time, listen to what he said. Quote, “Today we are learning the language in which God created life.” And he is exactly right. DNA is quite literally language. Your body has 100 trillion cells in it. Choose one cell at random, one cell, and open it up. And if you were to uncoil the DNA in that one cell, it would be six feet tall. That stretch of DNA is encoded with a four character chemical alphabet

that spells out the precise assembly instructions for all of the proteins out of which your body is made. You see, DNA is the most efficient information storage system in the universe. Pretend you have a teaspoon of pure DNA. If you had that, it would have the capacity to store all of the information needed to build all of the proteins for all of the 1000 million species of organisms that have ever lived and still have room left over. That's how efficient just a teaspoons of DNA is. Now, how does DNA point toward a creator?

So DNA uses a four letter chemical alphabet inside. It is inside every cell of your body-all 100 trillion of them. Inside each of these 100 trillion cells are as many words as in nearly 200 years of the Sunday New York Times spelled out by this four letter chemical alphabet in DNA. If you were to read out loud the code in the DNA in every cell of your body at the rate of 3 letters a second, every night and every day, it would take you 31 years to read the information in just one cell in your body. And what you have read were detailed instructions for how to build all of the proteins out of which your body is made.

One last and more simple example of what we have been talking about. I call this section:

## The Testimony of the Leaves.

Consider then, the very common and abundant lowly leaf:

Fragile and tears apart like paper in your hand

When dry it readily burns and floats away in ashes

When closely examined in the light, its veins look like a

skeleton

### Slide Five - Leaves and Trees on Earth

Trees on Earth today: 3,000,000,000,000+ (more than 3 Trillion)

Leaves on Earth today: 1,280,000,000,000,000,000 + (one quintillion two hundred eighty quadrillion)



Now multiply these numbers from the time of Creation in the Garden of Eden.

A single leaf is an absolute marvel design of engineering. Each single leaf when joined to a tree drinks poison from the air in the form of carbon dioxide and turns it into life giving oxygen for us and the other animals on Earth to breathe. We are literally surrounded by leaves. We have had plenty of opportunity to recognize God's abundant handiwork.

It's like God signed every cell in your body on the inside in the DNA and surrounded you on the outside with a visual panorama of His existence in leaves. You see, nature by itself can produce patterns, but it can't produce information. In other words, if you go over to Ocean City and you're walking down the beach and you see ripples in the sand, you can logically conclude that the pattern of those ripples was made by the waves coming on shore, because nature can create patterns like that. But if you're walking down the beach and you see "Kevin loves Karen" with a heart around it and an arrow through it, you would never say, oh, the waves made that. Because nature can produce patterns, but it can't produce information. And we see this information all around us, whether it's in a book, whether it's a computer code, whether it's a newspaper or whether it's a leaf. Wherever we see information, always, always, always, there is an intelligence behind it. King David put it this way in Psalm 139,

*“For you God created my innermost being. You knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*

And there is plenty of evidence, friends, from 21st century science, to know that full well. And it’s not just Christians with a predisposition to believe this. Even staunch atheists can see this.

The most famous atheist of the last century, arguably, was Anthony Flew. Anthony Flew taught on atheism. He wrote a book, a landmark book called *The Presumption of Atheism*. And he taught on atheism at major universities all over Europe and the United States and wrote about 17 books during his life. He was one of the top, probably **the** top philosophical atheists of his generation. So one day I’m reading The New York Times a few years ago, and there in the front page it says, Anthony Flew, the greatest atheist in the universe, just said: *“Oops, I was wrong. Sorry God does exist.”*

When asked why he changed his mind, he said it was the evidence of the integrated complexity of the biological world. He later wrote a book on this topic and in it’s conclusion he said: *“I now believe that the universe was brought into existence by an infinite intelligence. I believe that this universe has intricate laws manifest. I believe that this universe is intricate*

*and the natural Laws manifest what scientists have called the mind of God. He said, I believe that life and reproduction originate in a divine source. He said, why do I believe this, given that I expounded and defended atheism for more than half a century? He said the short answer is this: The Earth itself is finely tuned.”*

Romans 1:20 said all this over 2000 years ago:

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*“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”*

It turns out that Romans 1:20 is right when it says, for ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and the sky, These things that God has made show His eternal power and his divine nature. They show his great love for us and the care He has taken to protect us. So no one has an excuse for not knowing God. I'm thankful that modern science, when done right, when done an impartial way, when you let the evidence take you in a direction regardless of where you want it to go, and you follow it to its logical conclusions leads us firmly and without doubt to the God of the Bible.

Our Senior Acting Pastor will come now with a word of invitation