



# What is Intelligent Design

By Owen Hemsath

# Intelligent Design (ID) is Largely Defined by it's Critics

So in refuting the critics, we also reveal the nature of the ID movement

1. ID is bad logic
2. ID is religious/Christian
3. Design is not intelligent
4. ID not science



# 1. ID Is Bad Logic- refuted

Life is so complex there “must” be a designer

“Proponents of intelligent design believe that the components of life are **so complex that they could not possibly** have been produced by an evolutionary process.”

-Dave Deamer  
[www.science20.com](http://www.science20.com)

The basic argument is that certain biological structures and pathways cannot be explained through naturalistic mechanisms, therefore **they must have been designed by some intelligent agent.**

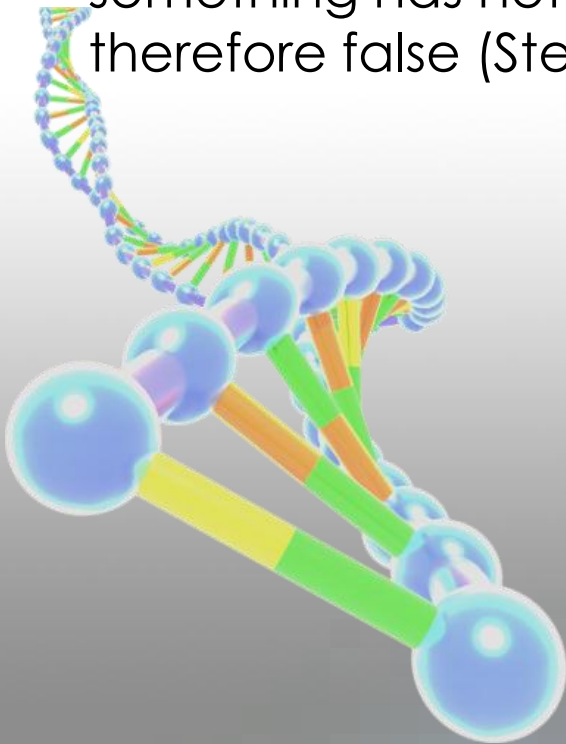
-Steven Novella  
[www.theness.com](http://www.theness.com)

**But This is Not Intelligent Design...**

# 1. ID is Bad Logic- refuted

## Argument from Ignorance

Arguments of this form assume that since something has not been proven false, it is therefore true. Conversely, such an argument may assume that since something has not been proven true, it is therefore false (Steven Downes)



## Straw Man Argument

To "attack a straw man" is to create the illusion of having refuted a proposition by replacing it with a superficially similar yet un-equivalent proposition (the "straw man"), and to refute it, without ever having actually refuted the original position (Wiki)

# **Ironically...**

**Atheists use this same argument to support their atheism:  
“There is no proof that God exists, therefore there is no God**



# 1. ID is Bad Logic- refuted

## Intelligent Design as Defined by it's Proponents

The theory of intelligent design holds that **certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause**, not an undirected process such as natural selection.

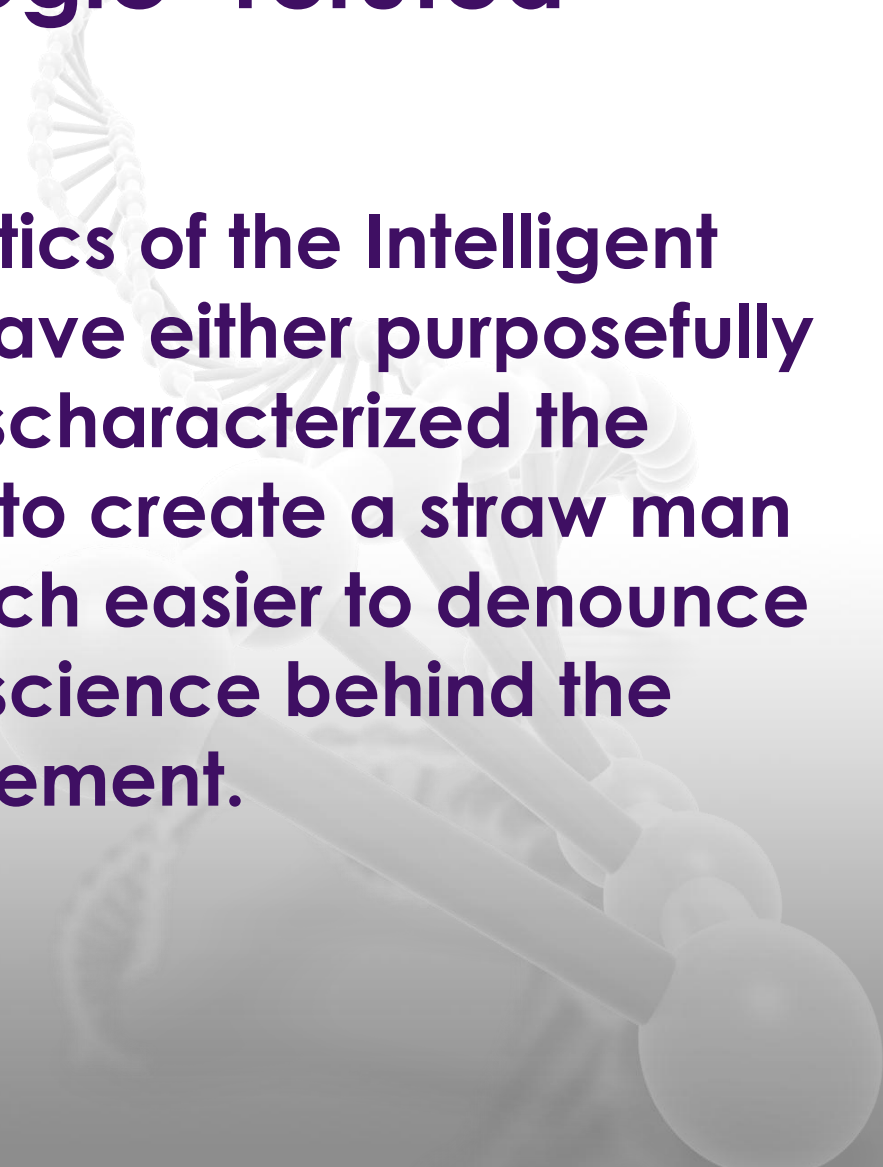
-IntelligentDesign.org

Intelligent design is a scientific theory which holds that certain features of the universe and living things are best explained by an intelligent cause, and are **not the result of an undirected, chance-based process** such as Darwinian evolution.

-Discovery.org

# **1. ID is Bad Logic- refuted**

**So we see that critics of the Intelligent Design movement have either purposefully or otherwise mischaracterized the movement in order to create a straw man argument that is much easier to denounce than the actual science behind the movement.**





## 2. ID is Religious/Christian- refuted

ID is another form of Creationism

Critic	Wikipedia	Intelligent design (ID) is a form of <b>creationism</b> promulgated by the Discovery Institute, a politically conservative think tank.
Critic	NCSE	"Intelligent Design" <b>creationism</b> (IDC) is a successor to the "creation science" movement, which dates back to the 1960s.

\*Only the NCSE and it's supporters use the term "IDC"



## 2. ID is Religious/Christian- refuted

### ID is not Creationism?

Creationist	AIG	However, <b>the central problem with the ID movement is a divorce of the Creator</b> from creation. The Creator and His creation cannot be separated; they reflect on each other. All other problems within the movement stem from this one.
Creationist	ICR	there is <b>little room for Jesus in the Intelligent Design Movement as a whole</b> , and there is certainly no room for His absolutely true and inspired book, the Holy Bible. Yet that same Bible is mankind's <i>only</i> absolutely authoritative source of information about God, about ourselves, <b>about creation, Adam and Eve, the promise of redemption, the Flood, God's laws for living, heaven, and hell.</b>

## 2. ID is Religious/Christian- refuted

- Nature or Identity of the Designer,
- How the Designer did the Designing,
- Why the Designer designed, or
- When the Designer designed.

**ID Makes No  
Comment On**

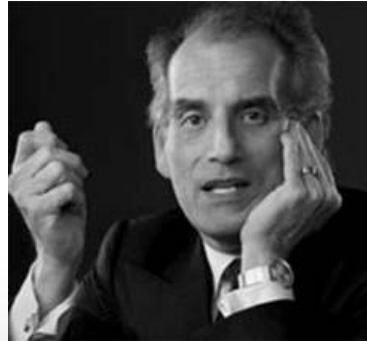
- The Age of the Earth
- Adam and Eve
- The Flood
- Heaven/Hell
- Salvation

## 2. ID is Religious/Christian-refuted

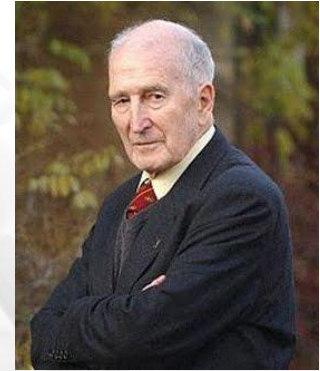
### Intelligent Design Is Not a Christian Movement



Michael Behe  
Biologist  
Darwin's Black Box



David Berlinski  
Mathematician  
The Devils Delusion



Antony Flew  
Logician  
There is a God

**These ID Advocates are *NOT* Christians**

## **2. ID is religious/Christian-refuted**

**Therefore, empirically we can see that the theory of Intelligent Design looks at evidences and tries to decipher causes rather than starting with Holy Texts and looking for supporting evidences .**

**We also see that ID is not concerned with answering questions specific to a belief system and ID adherents span a large range of spiritual beliefs and scientific disciplines**

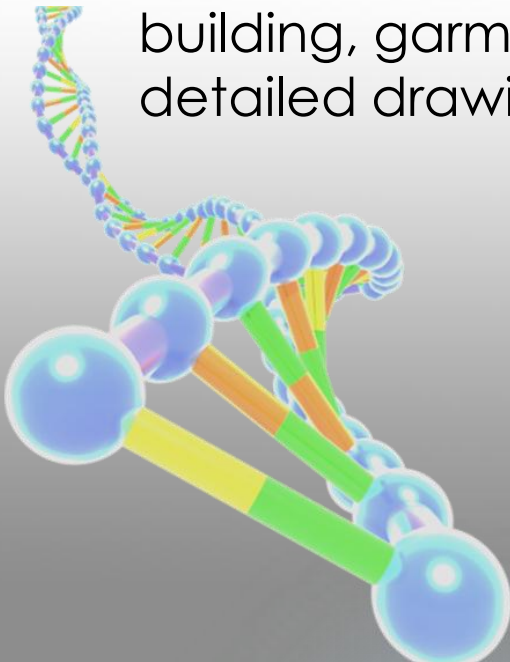
# 3. Design is not Intelligent

## What is Design?

Noun: **A plan** or drawing produced to show the look and function or workings of a building, garment, or other object **before** it is built or made.

Verb: **Decide** upon the look and functioning of (a building, garment, or other object), typically by making a detailed drawing of it.

**Design implies  
forethought  
and purpose**



## 2. Design is not Intelligent

**ID Does Not Assume a Perfect Design. This is the “Optimal Design” Fallacy**

**Optimal  
Design**

**Apparent  
Design**



## 2. Design is not Intelligent

### Apparent Design

#### Design is Not Actual

“Biology is the study of things that have the appearance of being designed for a purpose”

-Richard Dawkins

### Optimal Design

#### Design is Actual & Perfect

Optimal design means that no further improvement on the design can be implemented or imagined.

ID Must Be Distinguished from Both of These Two Extremes



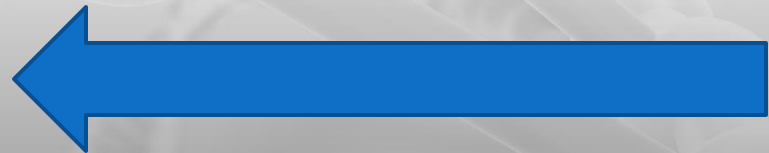
## 2. Design is not Intelligent

**“Just because we can always imagine some improvement in design doesn’t mean that the structure in question wasn’t designed”**

**-Bill Dembski**



**Could This Have Been  
Designed Better?**



## 2. Design is not Intelligent

### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Law of Thermodynamics: The Law of Increasing Entropy (or the Law of continuing decay)

"in all energy exchanges, if no energy enters or leaves the system, the potential energy of the state will always be less than that of the initial state."



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Law is the scientific understanding of "Sin"

### **3. Design is Not Intelligent**

**We see that the quality of design has no bearing on the structure in question having been designed. This objection is irrelevant because ID does not speak to the quality of the design but only forethought and purpose.**



**So then, it must be that  
Intelligent Design is  
Unscientific?**

# What is “Science”



**Classical Definition:** Science is the search for causes

**Colloquial Definition:** Science is the implementation of the scientific method, or the following:

1. Observation
2. Hypotheses
3. Test
4. Repeat
5. Peer Review
6. Publish

**Philosophical Definition:** Science is methodological naturalism (or Atheism). It's a search for natural causes after assuming that there is a natural cause that is findable.

# Acceptable Science

1. Stellar Evolution- It's commonly quoted in science textbooks and in scientific literature that stars (like the Sun) evolved through a process similar to Lyells "Nebular Hypothesis" where gas swirls and becomes more and more dense until it becomes a star with a self sustaining (although decaying) heat source.

## **Problem:**

- 1. No one has ever seen a star form or been able to recreate a stars formation in a controlled experiment**
- 2. This Theory violates the Conservation Law of Angular Momentum**

# Acceptable Science



1. Biogenesis: This is the proven theory that life only comes from life. That non-life cannot breed life.

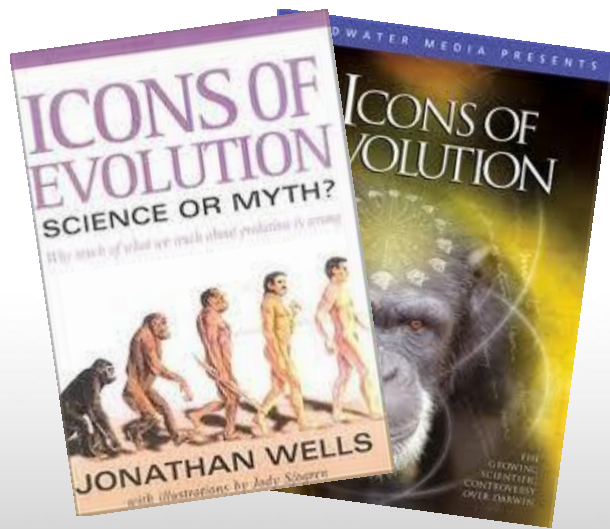
## **Problem:**

1. **Evolution by natural selection assumes that life came from “star dust” which evolved into rock which became you and me.**

**There are many more examples...**



# The Icons of Evolution



Jonathan Wells systematically disassembles the common academic arguments for Darwinism as either wrong or intentionally misleading in this book and DVD series.

## 4. ID is not Science- refuted

The Main thrust behind the ID Movement is Information Theory. This is that structures that are designed bear the hallmarks of design and these hallmarks are not found in structures that were not designed

### 2 Kinds of Information:

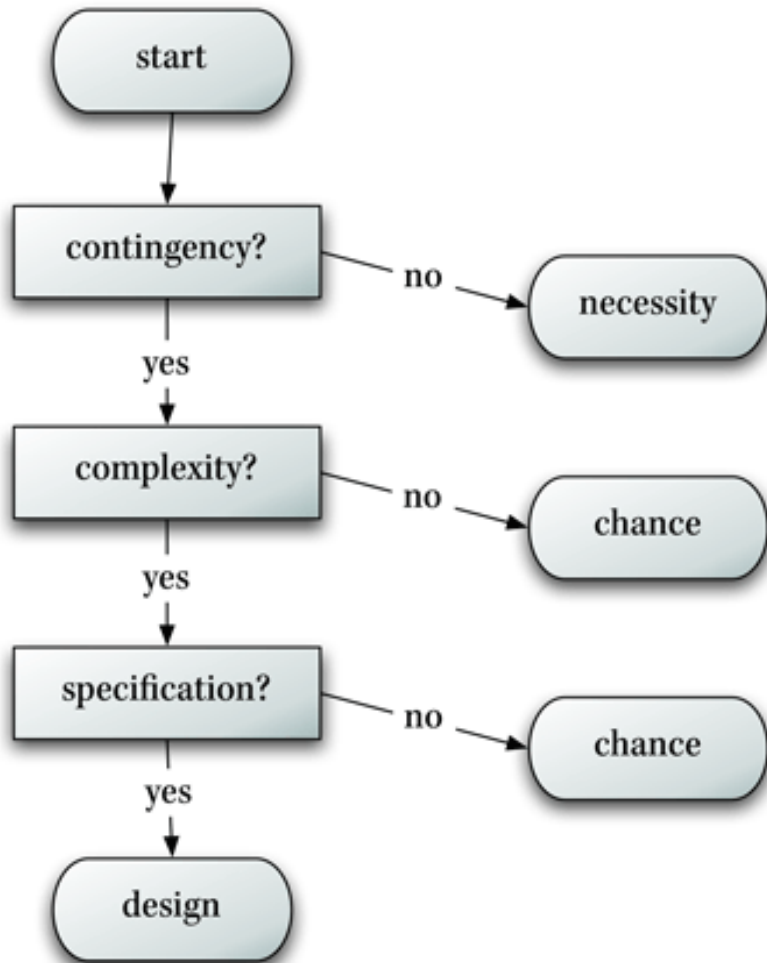
1. **Shannon Information-** Information that carries no discernable meaning. IE: toss a handful of Leggo's on the floor. What is it?
2. **Specified Information-** Information that has meaning and can be deciphered. IE: assemble the Legg's into a pirate ship. What is it?

## 4. ID is not Science- refuted

### ID Searches for...

1. **Specified Complexity**- anything with a less than 1 in  $10^{150}$  chance of occurring by (natural) chance
2. **Irreducible Complexity**- a system of parts “wherein the removal of any one of the parts causes the system to effectively cease functioning”

# 4. ID is not Science- refuted



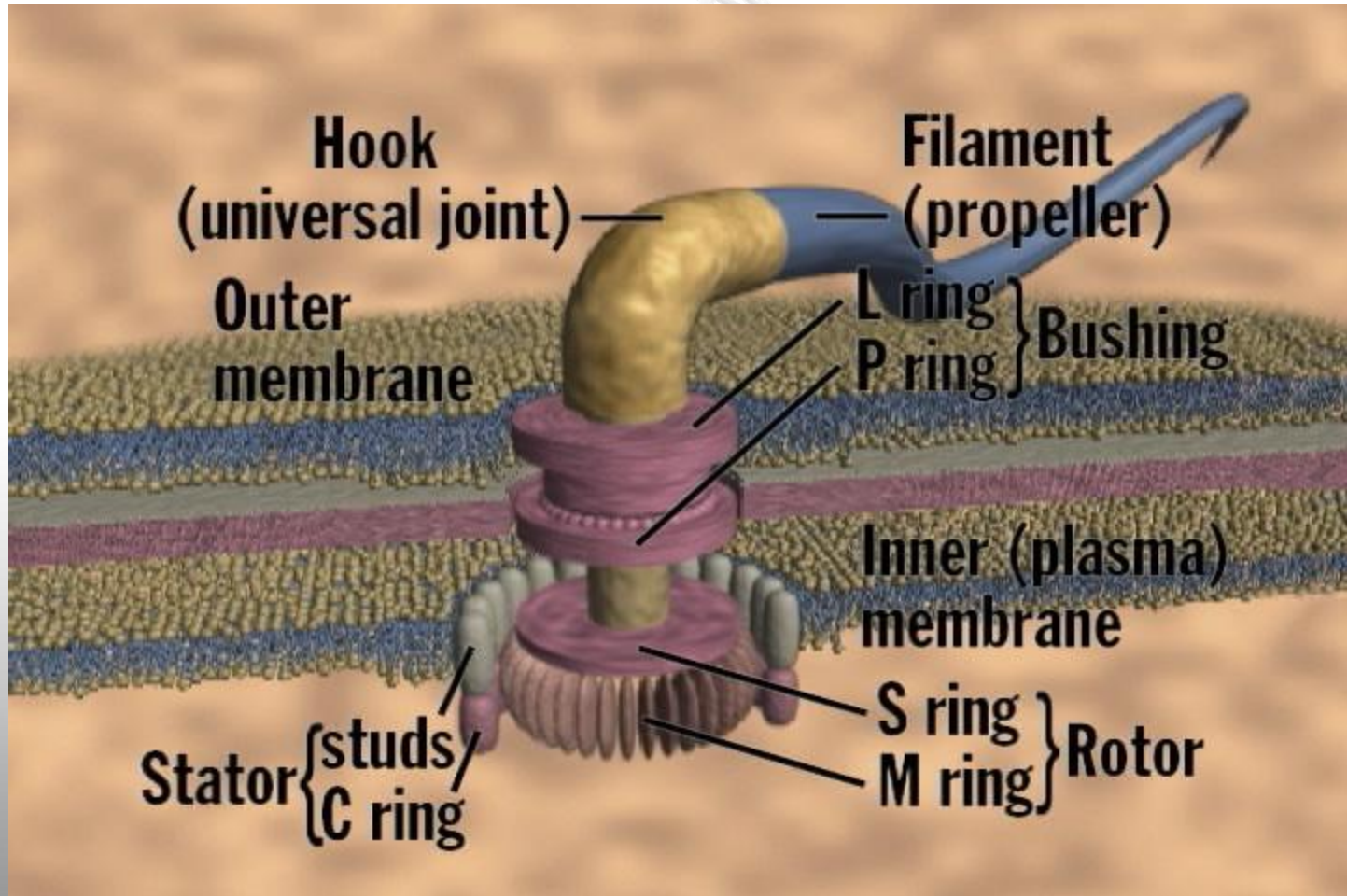
1. Are the structures sequences a necessity of nature?
2. Are they highly probable and likely?
3. Is there more than 1 way to arrange the structures?

## 4. ID is not Science- refuted



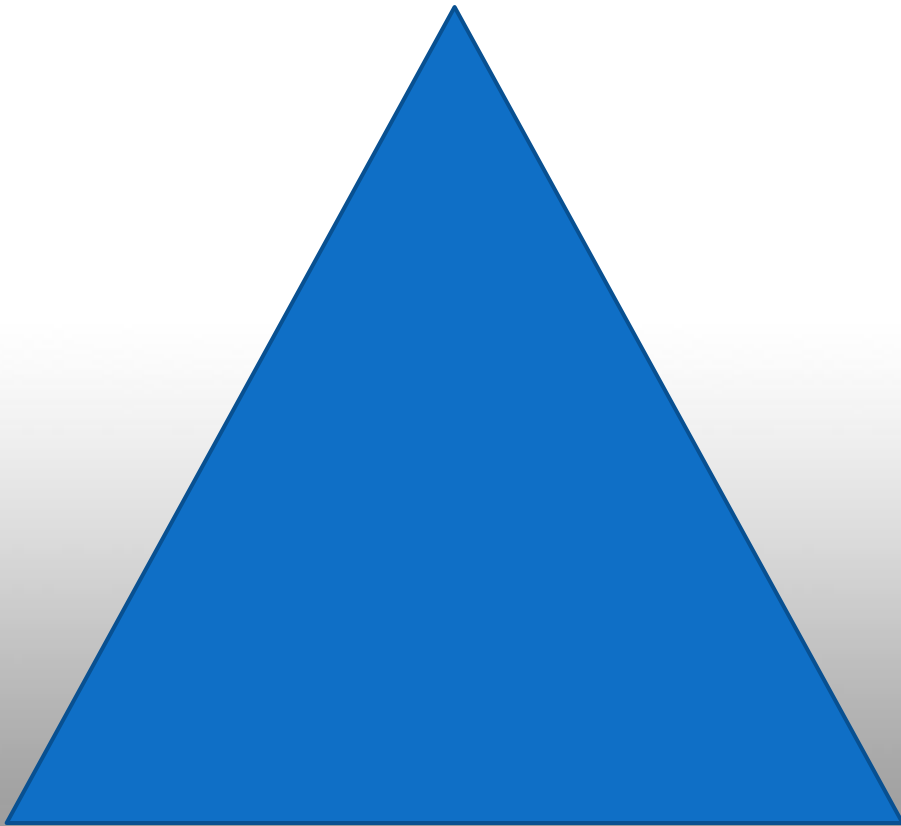
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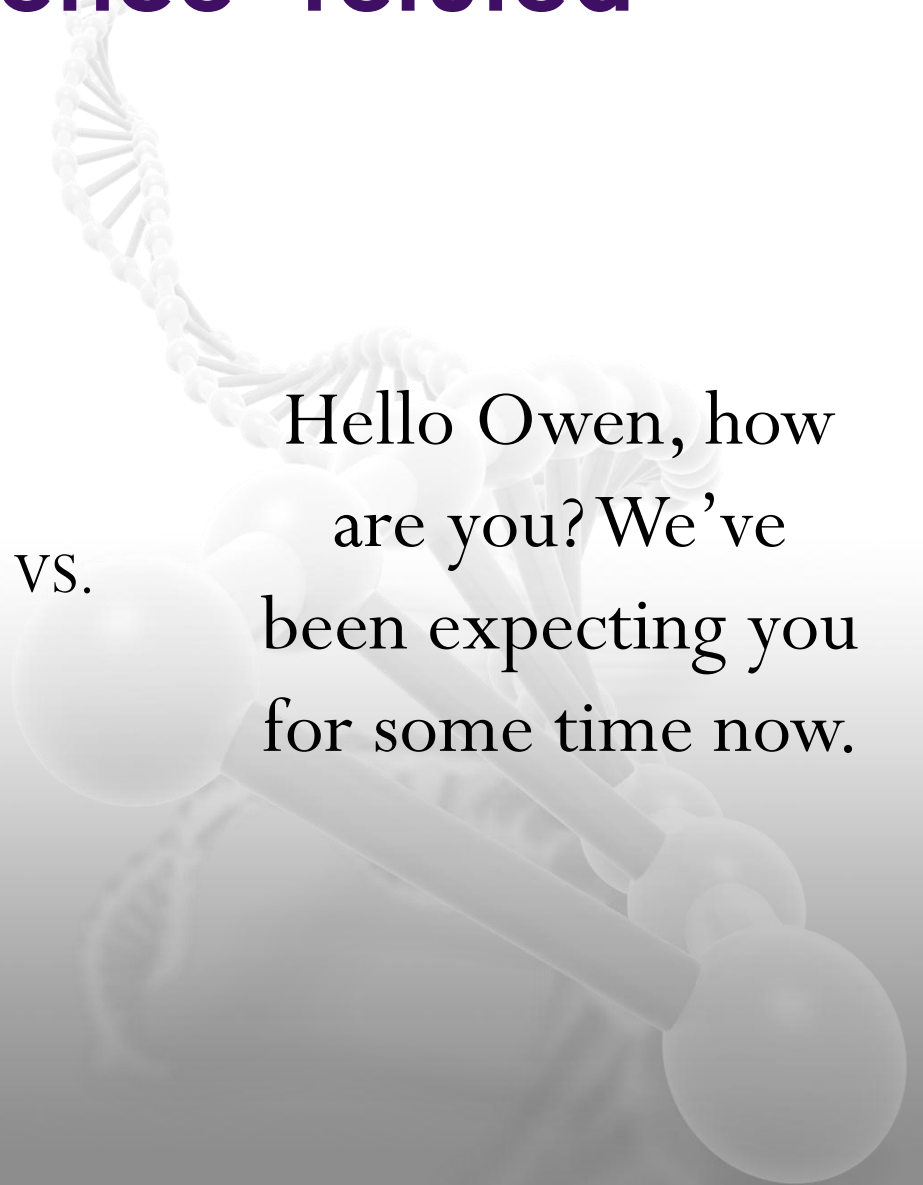


## 4. ID is not Science- refuted



vs.

Hello Owen, how  
are you? We've  
been expecting you  
for some time now.





# Why Do They Hate Intelligent Design?

Because philosophical naturalists, atheists, and humanists, will not accept a theory of the Universe that allows for any power outside of themselves to which they must submit.

**No Matter What The Evidence Suggests!**



“We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its 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...we cannot let a divine foot in the door.**”

**-Richard C Lewontin**



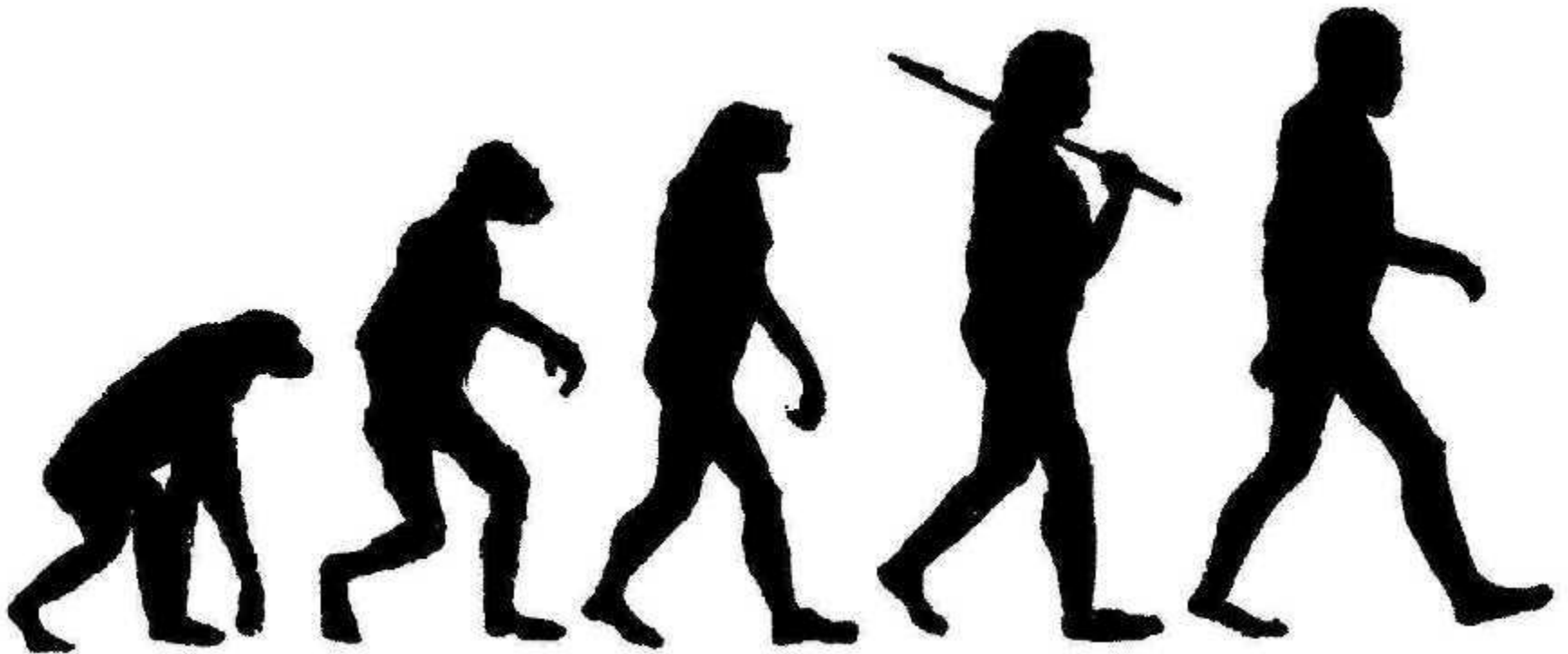
“Our **philosophical commitment to naturalism** and reductionism is true...”

The universe ...(has) at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference.”

**-Richard Dawkins**

# ID Strongly Opposes Darwin's Theory

"ID is three things: a scientific research program that investigates the effects of intelligent causes; an intellectual movement that challenges Darwinism and its naturalistic legacy; and a way of understanding divine action.



# Why Do They Hate Intelligent Design?



Intelligent Design is not the Gospel  
but Intelligent Design makes room  
for the Gospel.

***-William Dembski***



We demolish arguments and every  
pretension that sets itself up against  
the knowledge of God, and we  
take captive every thought to  
make it obedient to Christ

***-The Apostle Paul***



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