

# TRUTH ON TRIAL

A 12-week series on  
the Evidence for  
Christianity



Sermon Notes 2/6/2022

## “The Truth about Life”

**What does the Bible say about the origin of life?**

1. God created all \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Genesis 1:11-12

Genesis 1:20-21

2. God gives life to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Job 12:7-10

3. God designs our \_\_\_\_\_.  
Psalm 139:13-16

**What does science tell us about the origin of life?**

1. There is no natural mechanism that explains the origin of life.

2. Intelligent Design is the best scientific explanation for the origin of life.

**Small Group Discussion Guide**  
**Lesson 5: “The Truth about Life”**

Many scientists are trying to redefine science to exclude any theories that point to supernatural causes. They believe that only natural explanations should be accepted as “scientific.” The science of Intelligent Design is often rejected simply because it points to a supernatural Creator. This is especially true when it comes to the origin of the first life. However, if science is going to be an objective examination of all the evidence, it can’t rule out supernatural causes without first considering the evidence. In this lesson we will discuss the origin of the first life. We will consider what the Bible says as well as the science of Intelligent Design.

1. Do you think it’s important to understand the origin of life? Why or why not?

2. Read the following passages and discuss what Bible teaches about the origin and design of life:

Genesis 1:11-12

Genesis 1:20-25

Job 10:8-12

Job 12:10

Psalms 139:13-16

Acts 17:25-27

## Some Definitions

**INTELLIGENT DESIGN**—The scientific theory that certain features of the universe and life exhibit positive evidence of having been designed with a purpose.

**IRREDUCIBLE COMPLEXITY**—The scientific observation that many of the systems we see in biology consist of multiple interacting parts, all of which are necessary for the survival and reproduction of the organism.

**There are two questions that Intelligent Design seeks to answer:**

- 1. How do we explain the design of the Universe?*
- 2. How do we explain the design of Life?*

Just as modern technology continues to build bigger and better **telescopes** so also our **microscopes** have become more powerful. As a result, we have been able to make some amazing discoveries about the intricate details of life at the molecular level.

**Science is a search for causes! There are two types of causes:**

- 1. Non-intelligent*  
(natural or unguided causes)
- 2. Intelligent*  
(causes that are specifically designed with a purpose)

**When we think about cause and effect, there are 2 big biology questions:**

- 1. What caused the first life-form?*
- 2. What caused the great diversity of life?*

Intelligent design addresses both questions. Intelligent design is necessary for both the origin of life and the diversity of life. We can see Intelligent design in single-cell organisms as well as in the great diversity of life.

## What do the scientists say about the origin of life?

“We should reject as **a matter of principle**, the substitution of intelligent design for the dialogue of chance and necessity; but we must concede that there are presently no detailed Darwinian accounts of the evolution of any biochemical system, **only a variety of wishful speculations.**”—Biochemist, Franklin M. Harold<sup>1</sup>

“The origin of life appears to be almost **a miracle**, so many are the conditions which have had to be satisfied to get it going.”—Nobel Prize-winner, Francis Crick<sup>2</sup>

“Every time I write a paper on the origin of life, I swear I will never write another one, because there is **too much speculation** running after too few facts.”—Francis Crick<sup>3</sup>

## How “simple” is a single-cell organism?

Evolutionists claim that all life, microscopic life, plant life, and animal life evolved from one common ancestor which was a simple single-cell organism. But as we learn more and more about microscopic life, we see that these organisms are not simple. They are complex factories with intricate designs and thousands of moving parts that are absolutely essential for the survival and reproduction of the organism. This is what Michael Behe calls “irreducible complexity.”

“By *irreducibly complex* I mean 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.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator: A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence that Points toward God* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004), 239.

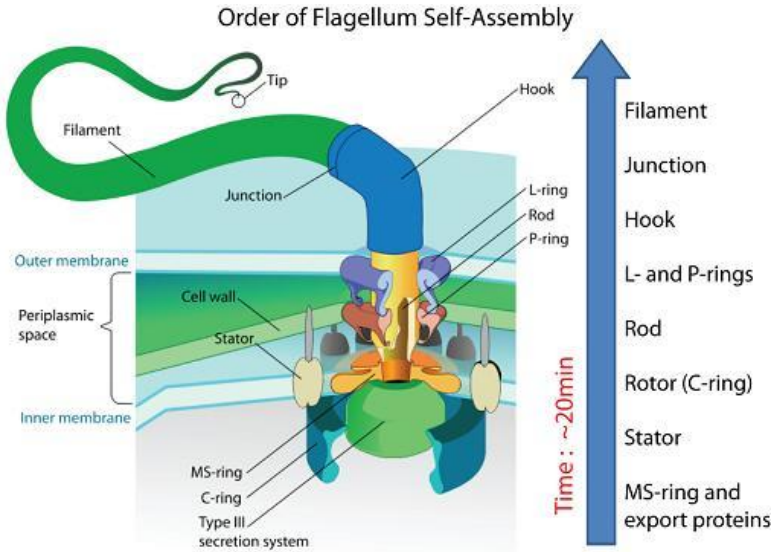
<sup>2</sup> Lee Strobel, *The Case for Faith: A Journalist Investigates the Toughest Objections to Christianity* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000), 140.

<sup>3</sup> Francis Crick, *Life Itself* (New York, NY: Simon and Schuster, 1981).

<sup>4</sup> Michael Behe, *Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution* (New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 1996), 39.

In his book *Darwin's Black Box*, Michael Behe examines the “irreducible complexity” of just one feature found in a “simple” single-cell organism. The bacterial flagellum is the propulsion mechanism for the E. Coli bacteria. Propulsion is necessary for this organism to survive. This is a complex biological motor that spins at over ten thousand RPM. Behe points out that this one part of the cell is made up of several essential parts.<sup>5</sup> The irreducible complexity of this design means that every part had to be present in the first generation. Contrary to Darwin's theory, it could not be the result of gradual evolution or random chance mutations. In an interview with Lee Strobel, Behe said,

Genetic studies have shown that between thirty and thirty-five proteins are needed to create a functional flagellum... Eliminate one of those parts and you don't get a flagellum that only spins at five thousand rpms; you get a flagellum that simply doesn't work at all. So it's irreducibly complex—and a huge stumbling block to Darwinian theory.<sup>6</sup>



<sup>5</sup> Behe, *Darwin's Black Box*, 71.

<sup>6</sup> Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator*, 255.

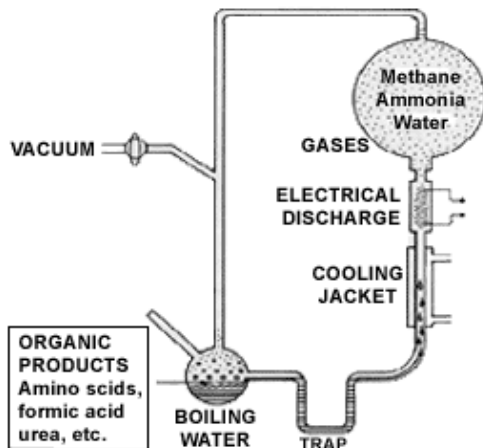
The bacterial flagellum is just one example of intelligent design in a “simple” single-cell organism, and it completely destroys the theory of evolution. **Charles Darwin said it himself!**

“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.**”—Charles Darwin<sup>7</sup>

Not only do we see irreducible complexity in the number of parts present at the same time, but we also see irreducible complexity in the assembly instructions. How does the cell build and put all these parts together in the right order in only 20 minutes?

### **“But didn’t Stanley Miller’s experiment prove spontaneous generation?”**

In 1953 Stanley Miller conducted an experiment in which he was able to manipulate chemicals and get them to form into amino acids. All cells are made up of protein molecules and all proteins are made up of amino acids. So this was thought to be a major breakthrough.



However, there are some problems with Miller’s experiment.

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<sup>7</sup> Charles Darwin, *Origin of the Species*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. 1872 (New York, NY: New York University Press, 1988), 154.

**First**, the apparatus he built for the experiment is an example of an intelligent design.

**Second**, the gasses he chose for his experiment are not the gasses of the earth's atmosphere.

**Third**, he could not get any of the amino acids to bond together and form into a protein molecule let alone a living cell.

### **What are the odds of a protein molecule coming into existence by chance?**

Let's consider the probability of amino acids just accidentally coming together to form the first functional protein molecule by chance. Remember, this is just to get one protein molecule, not a complete cell. Every cell contains thousands of different kinds of protein molecules. And each kind of protein molecule must be built in a specific way with specific amino acids.

In most proteins there is a string of at least 150 amino acids. There are about 20 possible amino acids to choose from. This string of 150 amino acids is not random. It is sequence specific. That means there are  $10^{195}$  possible combinations to choose from. And only one of those is the right one.

### **What does DNA tell us about the origin of life?**

DNA is one of the most powerful pieces of evidence for Intelligent Design. The complex information in DNA performs a necessary function; it tells the cell how to arrange the amino acids to build each protein molecule. This indicates not only complexity and order but a precise and accurate communication of instructions in some kind of a code or language.

“DNA is a like a software program, only much more complex than anything we've ever devised.”—Bill Gates<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator*, 279.

According to the atheist, Richard Dawkins there is more information in the DNA of an amoeba than there is in 1000 volumes of an encyclopedia.<sup>9</sup>

This is indisputable evidence for intelligent design not just in the information of the message, but also in the existence of a digital code and the mechanisms for transmitting, receiving, storing, and translating that code.

Messages come from minds and DNA requires an Intelligent Designer.

In his book, *Signature in the Cell*, Stephen Meyer writes,

“The best, most causally adequate explanation for the origin of the specified, digitally encoded information in DNA is that it too had an intelligent source. Intelligent design best explains the DNA enigma.”<sup>10</sup>

3. What example of intelligent design in biology seems most convincing to you?
4. What would you say to someone who thinks life just came into existence from non-living chemicals by chance?
5. Why is DNA such a strong piece of evidence for the existence of God?
6. What part of this lesson can you use to help someone grow in their faith?
7. What are some specific things in God’s creation that you want to thank and praise God for this week?

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<sup>9</sup> Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker* (New York, NY: Norton, 1987), 17-18, 116.

<sup>10</sup> Stephen Meyer, *Signature in the Cell: DNA and the Evidence for Intelligent Design* (New York, NY: Harper Collins, 2009), 347.