

Christian Apologetics

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Week One Review:

- Defined Apologetics in context of 1 Peter 3:15-16 “always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...”
- We looked at the reasons for defending our faith
 - Scriptural mandate
 - Building up one another in the faith
 - The world needs it
- The results of our efforts are up to God, so even if we are new to defending the faith, God can use our efforts for His glory.

Week Two Review:

- Truth is absolute (all truth is God's truth). We can use our senses and logical reasoning to determine what matches reality and therefore discover truth.
- The consequences for relativism are counter to how people actually live. Everyone lives as if there is an absolute right or wrong, not as if Hitler and Mother Teresa were moral equivalents.
- Truth is not relative. Most statements concerning relativism are self-defeating (they contradict themselves). We can use the road runner tactic to show that they collapse under their own weight.

Week Three Review:

- The Three classic arguments for the existence of God are:
 - Creation
 - Design
 - Morality
- Today's cosmology points towards a beginning to our universe
- Einstein's Theory of Relativity is supported by evidence
- We can use the implications of the Big Bang Theory to show that the universe had a beginning and therefore had a Beginner.
- God is the Beginner!

Objectives for Today:

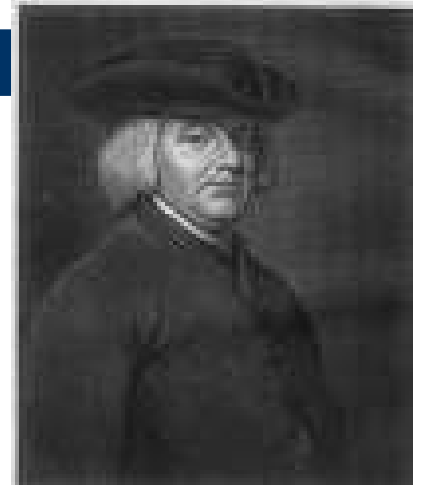
- To look in detail at the “design” and “morality” argument for God’s existence.

Introduction to Design Argument

- Form of the argument:
 - All designs imply a designer
 - There is great design in the universe
 - Therefore, there must be a Great Designer of the universe.

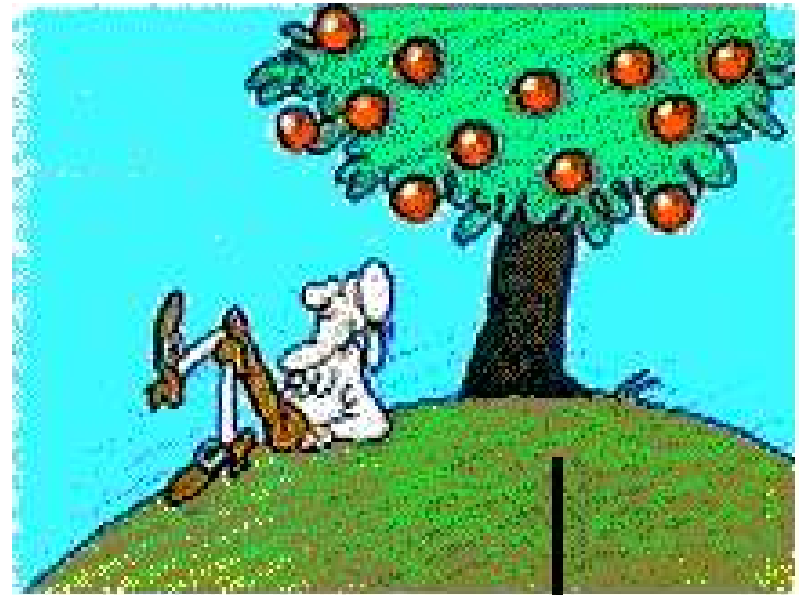
Support for the Design Argument

- Paley's Watchmaker – William Paley (1743-1805), the Archdeacon of Carlisle, insisted that if one found a watch in an empty field, one would rightly conclude that it had a watchmaker because of its obvious design.
- Likewise, when we look at our universe, we see incredible design especially as it relates to supporting human life (anthropic principle) therefore we conclude a designer was involved.



Scientific Support for Design

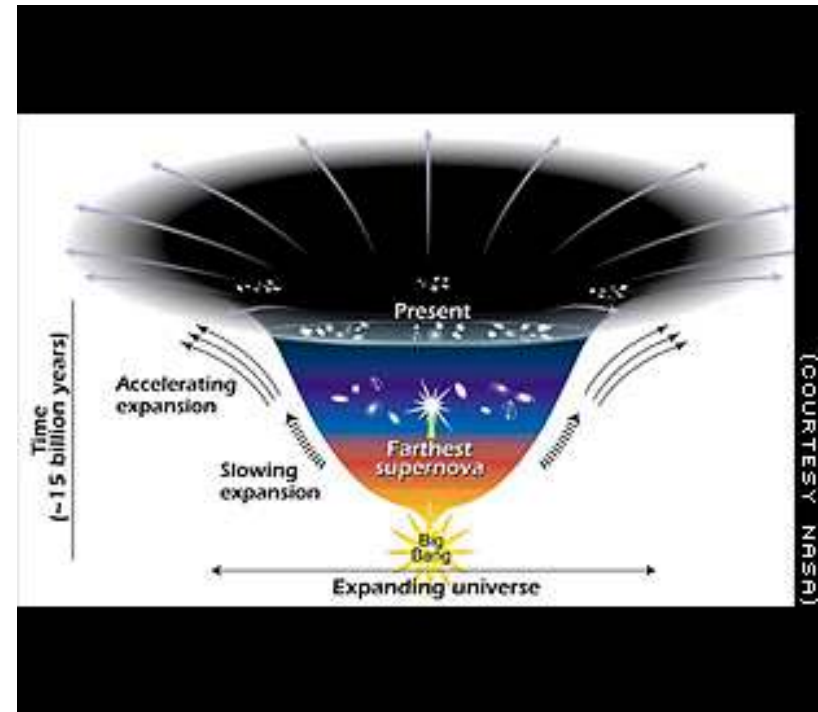
- Oxygen Content of our atmosphere.
- Gravitational Constant.



Gravity

Scientific Support for Design

- Expansion Rate of the Universe.



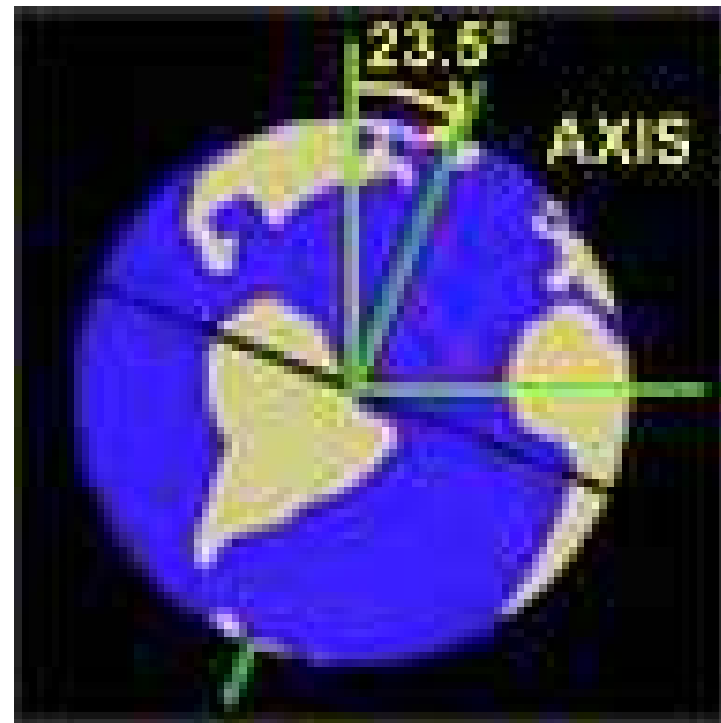
Scientific Support for Design

- Jupiter the Great Cosmic vacuum.



Scientific Support for Design

- Earth's rotation rate.
- Earth's 23 degree tilt.



Scientific Support for Design

- Moon-Earth interaction.



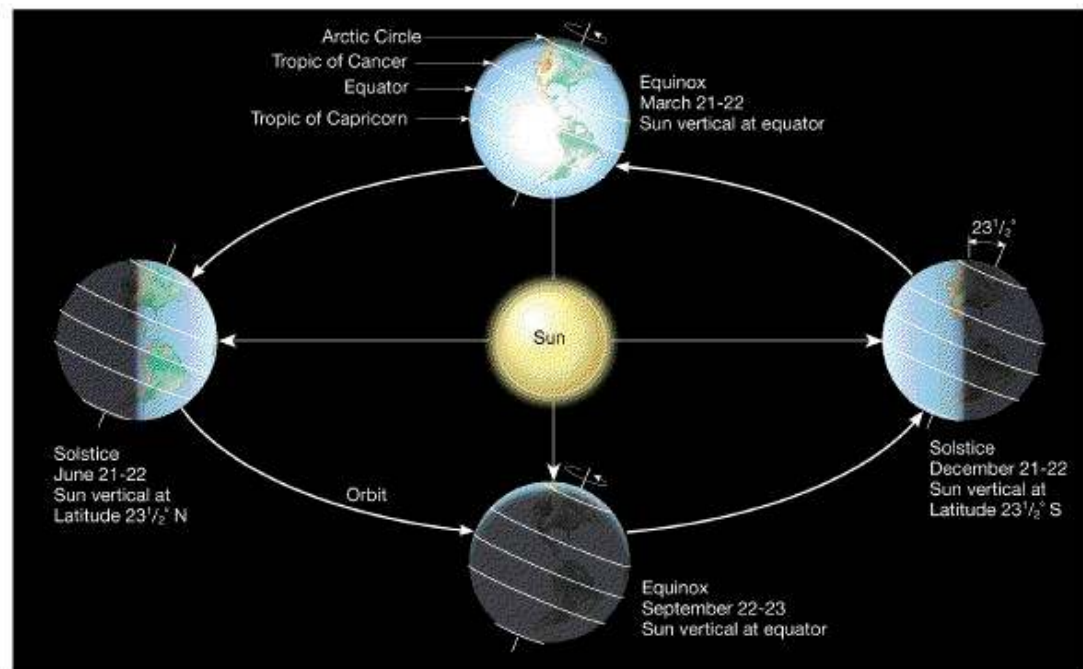
Scientific Support for Design

- Moon Size.
- Earth Size.



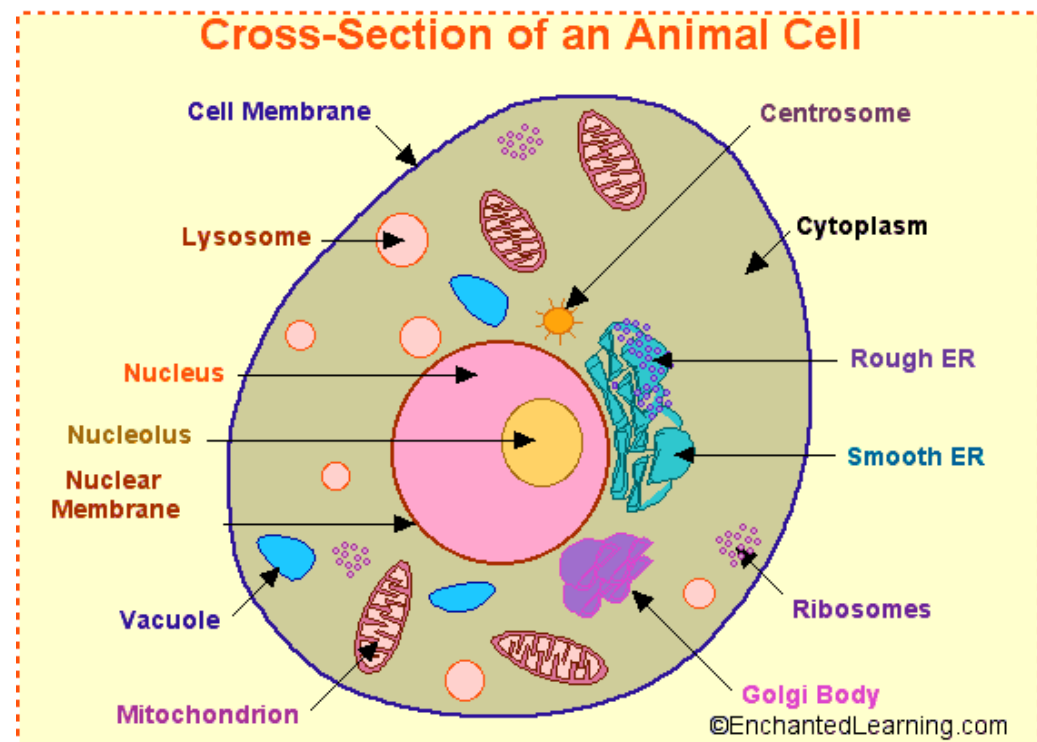
Scientific Support for Design

- Earth's orbit around sun.



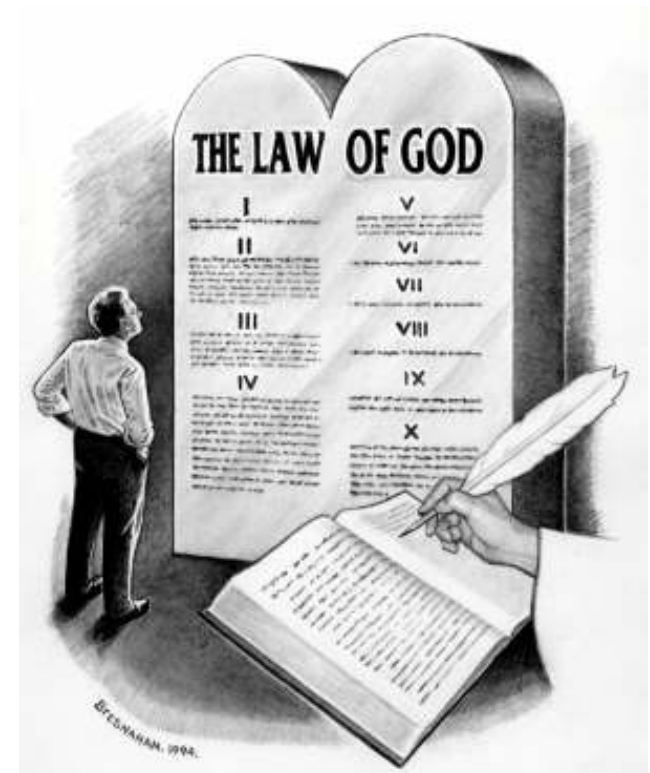
Scientific Support for Design

- Cell Complexity.



Introduction to Morality Argument

- Form of the argument:
 - Moral laws imply a Moral Law Giver.
 - There is an objective moral law.
 - Therefore, there is a Moral Law Giver.



General Discussion about Morality

- Self evident truth about morals
 - Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence. He appealed to a higher authority for our rights.
 - All humans know certain rights and wrongs (our conscience)
- Biblical support – Romans 2:12-15, man has no excuse because there is a law written on his heart.
- Because there is Moral Law, there is a Moral Law Giver, God.

Conclusions

- All three classic arguments for the existence of God stem from the idea of causality. If something is made to begin, or is designed, or if there are things such as morality, then we can conclude they are were caused and therefore there is a Causer or Creator.
- In Acts, we see Paul introduce the Athenians to the “known” God. We too can introduce the non-believer to the real Creator through our arguments for the existence of God.

For next week...

The Bible:



**Where did it come
from?**