



Lesson 4: Evidence for the Existence of God

Evidence from Design

DESIGN DEMANDS A DESIGNER (THE TELEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT)

The wisdom and intelligence of God is clearly seen in His creation (Psalm 104:24; 136:5; Proverbs 3:19). In fact, the Bible compares God's creative skill to that of a "master craftsman" (Proverbs 8:22-31). Just as the existence of a house requires the existence of a house builder (Hebrews 3:4), and the existence of a watch requires the skill of a watchmaker, the creation of the world declares that God exists and that He is an unparalleled designer and builder. This line of evidence is called the Teleological Argument. In this lesson we will examine three areas which provide abundant evidence of God's existence from the design of created things – the earth, the human body, and plant and animal life.

THE EARTH

- **The distance between sun and earth is 93 million miles.** 10% variation in either direction would make life on earth impossible.
- **The earth rotates on its axis at a speed of 1,000 mph.** Faster rotation would create continual devastating cyclones; slower rotation would result in overheating and overcooling during long periods of day and night. [Venus rotates only once every 243 earth days, resulting in surface temperatures over 500 degrees Celsius.]
- **The earth's distance from the moon creates tides of the proper magnitude** for the health of the oceans and the shorelines, without frequent inshore flooding. If the moon were 1/5 closer to the earth, tides would be 35 to 50 feet high twice a day.
- **The tilt of the earth on its axis at 23 degrees accounts for the seasons** of the northern and southern hemispheres that are vital to life and heat dispersion (cf. Genesis 8:22).
- **The earth's surface is 72% water which moderates temperatures worldwide.** Through photosynthesis, microscopic plants in the seas supply about 90% of the earth's oxygen.

THE HUMAN BODY

In Psalm 139:14, David said, "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well." The complex and amazing design of the human body is a tremendous feat of Divine engineering. In our current study, we will consider only a small fraction of this evidence. Much more could be presented.

- **The function and complexity of cells in the human body.** The body is composed of over 250 different kinds of cells totaling about 100 trillion cells in a typical adult.
 - The amount of information contained in our cells is staggering. "Evolutionist Richard Dawkins acknowledged that the cell's nucleus 'contains a digitally coded database larger, in information content, than all 30 volumes of the Encyclopaedia Britannica put together. And this figure is for each cell, not all the cells of a body put together.'" (Bert Thompson, *The Case for the Existence of God*, p. 80).

- Each cell has in its nucleus the DNA molecule carrying the coded information for cell replication and the defining physical characteristics of the individual human.

- **Each system of the human body has its own amazing design.** The respiratory, cardiovascular, nervous, digestive, lymphatic, endocrine, muscular/skeletal, urinary and reproductive systems of the body could not have developed by chance.
 - Consider the brain, the center of our nervous system. “It is composed of over 10 trillion different cells. These cells work together to send electrical impulses at a rate of 273 miles per hour (393 feet per second). Nerve cells in the body send 2,000 impulses to the brain every second. These impulses come from 130,000 light receptors in the eye, 100,000 hearing receptors in the ears, 3,000 taste buds, and over 500,000 touch spots... The brain (also) serves as the ‘doctor’ for the rest of the body. It produces more than 50 drugs, ranging from painkillers (like endorphin) to antidepressant drugs (like serotonin). In addition, the brain allows you to remember words, smells, pictures, and colors. In fact, the brain is so good at allowing a person to remember information, it has been estimated that it would require 500 sets of encyclopedias to hold the information found in the brain. Let’s be honest; if we were walking through the forest one day and found a laptop computer that weighed less than three pounds and yet could perform more complex tasks than any computer on the market, would we say it ‘just happened by accident?’ If we use our brains, we can see that the design found in the brain demands an intelligent Designer.” (Kyle Butt, Apologeticspress.org)

PLANT AND ANIMAL BIOLOGY

Like humans, all plants and animals show evidence of intelligent design.

- **FORM follows FUNCTION.** The parts of animals and plants are obviously designed to do what they do! Consider the design in different birds: bills, feathers, bones and claws are all engineered for specific functions. Or look at the dental patterns and digestive systems of herbivores versus carnivores and see how each is designed to accommodate the diet of the particular species.
- **Animal instincts such as the migration patterns of birds and butterflies.**
- **Mutual, Symbiotic & Dependent Relationships.** Many living things rely on one another. Some are dependent on other species for their very existence. Examples include the yucca plant and yucca moth, termites and their intestinal flagellates, clownfish and anemones, and corals and zooxanthellae. The mutual dependency of these and thousands of other species can hardly be explained by evolutionary chance.

HOMEWORK :

1. Visit www.apologeticspress.org and click on the “Creation VS. Evolution” tab. In the left hand column, click on the links either to “Design in Plants,” “Design in Animals” “Design in the Universe” or “Design of the Human Body.” Read at least one article and be ready to summarize it in class.
2. From the following passages, identify some of the examples of design in nature that demonstrate the wisdom of God?
 - Psalm 104:1-27
 - Job 36:26 – 37:12
 - Job 39:26-29