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*Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my **unbelief!**" Mark 9:24*

*Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him **hear.**" Mark 4:9*

**Have you heard the Good News? There is a 21<sup>st</sup> century cure for your Unbelief**

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**A fresh look at the compelling scientific and historical evidence that proves that God exists and Jesus Christ is his Son**

*"Come now, let us **reason** together," says the Lord. Isaiah 1:18*

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your **mind** and with all your strength. Mark 12:30*

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## INTRODUCTION – WHY I BELIEVE WHAT I BELIEVE

*“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;  
knock and the door will be opened to you.” Matthew 7:7*

***If you have doubts, you are not alone.*** If you are a person who is struggling with basic questions or doubts about your faith (such as the existence of God or the divinity of Jesus), then I have good news for you! A few years ago I was in a similar situation. I had questions and was frustrated with not having answers. My life changed when I sincerely asked God for help. He answered and lead me on an amazing journey that started in the Christian book section of a local book store. It was late November 2003. I was in the book store looking at car magazines when I felt inexplicably compelled to go look in the religion section (I should clarify that while it was inexplicable at the time, in hindsight it was clearly the hand of God guiding me). There I found a book called *20 Compelling Evidences that God Exists*. That book lead to other books that lead to other books and so on, and over the last two years or so I've read between 40 to 50 books on subjects ranging from scientific evidence that overwhelmingly supports the existence of God, to compelling historical and logical evidence that conclusively demonstrates that Jesus was and is the Son of God, to evidence showing why evolution is a flawed theory that cannot now (and will never be able to) explain life as we know it, to books covering all points in between. Until I read that first book, I didn't really know that books like that even existed.

The passage in Mark 9:24 (see the cover page) shows that there is nothing wrong with having doubts or questions about your faith, questions about why you believe (or should believe) what you believe. The problem arises when you don't deal with your doubts. If you sincerely seek answers, God will answer you. However, if you leave your doubts alone, allow them to take up permanent residence in your soul, then they will surely eat away at your faith. We probably all know someone who is struggling with their faith. Some times it might be the obvious person, maybe the next-door neighbor who doesn't go to church anymore. But it could also be the person you don't suspect, the person who sits in front of you every Sunday morning in the fourth-row pew hanging on every word the preacher is saying but still silently wondering to themselves whether everything they are hearing is really true. I know this because I have been both of those persons at various times during the past ten years.

***There are reasons to believe.*** For me personally, my questions were answered through what I read, but now I had a new problem. I had too much information in my head from reading all of those books, and I didn't know what to do with it. It was then that the Holy Spirit suggested that I share what I have learned in the hope that it might lead others to a more personal relationship with Jesus. Hence this outline summary, which is a concise summary of those evidences and favorable arguments in the books I read that were the most meaningful to me and which most resonated with a soul hungry for answers.

This summary consists of four parts. *Part I* summarizes the different types of evidence that shows that we can know that God exists. I think the most exciting of these evidences are recent advances in scientific knowledge that I believe constitute proof of the existence of God (so much for the conflict between science and religion!). Part I also shows why we have excellent reasons to believe that the Bible is the divinely-inspired Word of God. *Part II* deals with the historical and logical evidence that, in my mind, conclusively shows that Jesus was and is the one and only Son of God and worthy of our worship and praise. Many people think there is a conflict between faith and reason, but I disagree. God does not play mind games. He has given us clear reasons to believe what we believe and has commanded us (in Mark 12:30) to use our minds in our worship of him to discern those reasons.

*Part III* deals with evolution. If you want to be able to effectively share your faith in America today, you have to be able to deal with the theory of evolution (especially given the extent to which it has become institutionalized within our public schools). Part III will give some succinct reasons why this theory is doomed to fail. Finally, *Part IV* consists of a book review by me of the top 10 books I have read

over the last few years. Reviewing all of the books I have read would be cumbersome and an information overload, so I have selected what I think are the best ones and have given a brief review of each one. In my opinion, if a person has any doubts or questions about the existence of God or the divinity of Jesus, I do not think it is possible for that person to read the books on the Top 10 list and still have those doubts or questions (and, if they still do, then it would be because they don't want to and will never believe, regardless of how persuasive or compelling the evidence is).

Let me say right now that this summary focuses just on the basics (i.e., the existence of God and the divinity of Jesus) and is not intended to be a footnoted scholarly work that covers all aspects of the faith. This is just one person's brief summary of various evidences that, when considered in their totality, provide such a compelling argument for the existence of God and the divinity of Jesus that no reasonable person considering the evidence can come to any other conclusion (which I think is exactly the way God intended it). Also, I make no claim to original authorship or scholarship. I am merely compiling a primer from what I have read that a person can read in an hour or two (as opposed to two years) and perhaps find something of interest that might lead that person on the next step of their own spiritual journey.

***Out of sight, out of mind?*** Who will this outline help the most? The most obvious people are lukewarm, casual Christians. A lot of people who only think about God for only an hour on Sunday (if even that much) do so because of the nagging but unanswered doubts and questions they have (the spiritual equivalent of "out of sight, out of mind"). Anyone who has reached that stage in his or her life where they are more receptive than ever to believing but actually needs something to believe in can also benefit. I hope that there is something in this outline to help anyone in either situation. For that reason, I would urge anyone who receives a copy of this to forward it on to their friends and families; the more people you send it to, the better the chance that it will end up in the hands of someone who can benefit from it.

At the same time, I think people whose faith is strong can also benefit from this outline. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) commands all of us to go out and make disciples of all the world. Often times, it can be hard evangelizing if you are dealing with people who have a variety of different types of intellectual or experiential hurdles to becoming believers. I think that you need to have at least some working knowledge of the various arguments for the defense of the faith to be able to effectively deal with the objections you might face. Telling someone they just need to have blind faith or that they "just gotta believe" is probably the worst thing you can do. Like I said, God doesn't play mind games. He has orchestrated it so that we all have available to us compelling evidence of his existence and of Jesus' divinity, but it's up to us to use the minds that God gave us to know what that evidence is and to be prepared to use it when we are sharing our faith with others.

Finally, I believe that all of the factual statements and claims made in the outline are dealt with in more detail in at least one (or more) of the books that are referred to in the book review section. If there is some point in the outline that really catches your attention and may help you get over a hurdle in your spiritual journey, then please feel free to contact me (my contact information is on the cover page). I will be more than happy to point you in the right direction.

Yours truly,

Mark, your brother in Christ

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## PART I – THE TOP 10 REASONS TO BELIEVE IN GOD

*“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” Psalm 19:1*

I. **The Top 10 Reasons to Believe in God.** So, does God really exist? Yes he does. Advances in scientific knowledge in recent years provide startling evidence of the handiwork of an all-powerful creator in all aspects of his creation. Evidence in other areas of studies (including Biblical studies) supports this conclusion. What follows in this Part I is an illustration of this evidence that will show why believing in God makes a lot more sense than does the alternative:

- **Summary of the Top 10 Reasons.** Below is a brief summary of the Top 10 reasons to believe in God (these reasons are then flushed out in more detail in this Part I):
  - o *The evidence of cosmology* (the fact that the universe had a beginning, in what scientists call the Big Bang, means that it must have had a beginner who caused the beginning)
  - o *The evidence of physics* (i.e., the design that is obvious from the incredible fine tuning of the physical laws of the universe that is necessary for the universe to even exist at all and for any life to exist anywhere in the universe)
  - o *The evidence of astronomy* (i.e., the design that is obvious from the complex fine tuning of our galaxy, solar system and planet to create a biosphere precisely tuned for life)
  - o *The evidence of biology* (i.e., the intelligent design that is evidenced by the complexity of molecular machines and biological systems, especially irreducibly-complex systems, in all living organisms on our planet, especially humans)
  - o *The evidence of biological information* (the evidence that only an intelligent agent can be responsible for the information content of DNA and, therefore, responsible for life on earth)
  - o *The evidence of origin of life research* (the more we learn about the origin of life, the more of a puzzle it becomes and the more unlikely it is that we will ever be able to explain it through naturalistic causes)
  - o *The evidence of consciousness* (i.e., the inability to explain consciousness through any naturalistic causes)
  - o *The fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.* The precise fulfillment of numerous Old Testament prophecies (which were made before the events being described occurred) can only be explained by a divine, all-knowing creator
  - o *The existence of Absolute Moral Law/Truth.* The existence of absolute moral law and absolute truth (which can be shown to exist) demands the existence of an absolute, unchanging law giver
  - o *The Resurrection of Jesus.* If Jesus was in fact resurrected (and he was), then it validates his claims that he was (and is) the Son of God meaning, of course, that there must be a God
- **A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words.** Often times, the arguments in favor of the existence of God are too abstract and lack the specific, concrete examples necessary for them to have the full, persuasive impact that they could otherwise have. However, recent advances in knowledge (especially knowledge in a variety of scientific disciplines) now provide us with specific, concrete examples that show just how compelling those arguments are. If it is true that a picture is worth a thousand words and that seeing is believing, then I hope that this part of the outline summary will help you see a picture of the extent to which we have now uncovered the unmistakable fingerprints of God all throughout his creation.
- **The God Hypothesis.** Also, as you consider the evidence for the existence of God, keep in mind that nothing can be known or proven with 100% certainty. Take gravity. Physicists admit that they don't know what causes gravity, what its "substance" is, or what specifically causes gravity







This means that the super intelligence that engineered the cosmological constant is, at a minimum, **ten trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion** times more intelligent, knowledgeable, creative and powerful than human beings (and this is without even taking into account all of the other precisely fine-tuned constants and parameters).

- *The original phase-space volume of the universe (the mother of all finely-tuned parameters).* Oxford physicist Roger Penrose (a poor man's Stephen Hawking) has estimated that one parameter of the universe, the original phase-space volume of the universe (which is what accounts for the necessary evenness or smoothness of the universe), required fine tuning to an accuracy of **one part in ten billion multiplied by itself 123 times**. Penrose further commented that it would be impossible to even write that number down in full since it would require more zeroes than the entire number of elementary particles in the entire universe. This showed, he said, the level of precision needed to set the universe on its course.
- This incredible level of fine tuning led Sir Fred Hoyle, one of the most famous astronomers of the last 50 years (and an atheist), to comment that “[a] commonsense interpretation of the facts suggests that a superintellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as chemistry and biology, and that there are not blind forces worth speaking about in nature.” (Quoted in Lee Strobel's, *The Case for a Creator*, pg. 78). Astrophysicist Robert Jastrow, a self-proclaimed agnostic, has perhaps the best description of what the recent discoveries in cosmology, physics and astronomy have meant to the scientists in those disciplines:

For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.” (Quoted in Hugh Ross' *The Creator and the Cosmos*, pg. 160)

- What is the best explanation then? If the laws of physics are fine tuned to an incomprehensibly-precise degree to permit the universe to exist and to permit life to exist within the universe, as contemporary physicists have discovered, then isn't the most rational explanation for this that there is a fine tuner who fine tuned them?

### 3. **The Evidence of Astronomy (Earth, the “privileged planet”).**

- Contrary to the commonly-held view that there must be millions of planets just like Earth in the universe that can support life, scientific advances in the field of astronomy within the last 20-30 years increasingly confirm that the Earth's location, size, composition, structure, atmosphere, temperature, internal dynamics and its many intricate cycles that are essential to life (the carbon cycle, the oxygen cycle, the nitrogen cycle, the phosphorous cycle, the sulfur cycle, the calcium cycle, the sodium cycle, etc.) testify to the degree which our planet is precisely and precariously balanced to sustain life.
- In fact, astronomers have discovered that in order for a planet to sustain life of any kind, there are an amazing number of parameters of the planet, its moon, its sun and its galaxy that must have values falling within narrowly defined ranges. Hugh Ross, in his book *The Creator and the Cosmos*, lists out just 66 examples of such parameters (there are actually many more than that; his website, [www.reasons.org](http://www.reasons.org), lists over 300 such parameters).
- Examples of the parameters listed out by Ross that must fall within narrowly-defined ranges (all of which just “coincidentally” happen to be met by our planet) include:
  - *Galaxy parameters.* The galaxy must be just the right type and size and must have just the right location within the universe.

- Solar system parameters. The sun of the planet must be just the right distance from the center of the galaxy; must be just the right age; and must have just the right mass, metallicity, color, and luminosity.
- Planetary parameters. The planet must have just the right surface gravity; distance from the sun; orbit and axial tilt; rotation period, age, magnetic field, and thickness of crust; rate of oxygen to nitrogen in the atmosphere; level of carbon dioxide, water vapor, oxygen and ozone in the atmosphere; and amount of seismic and volcanic activity, to name just a few.
- Hugh Ross (in *The Creator and the Cosmos*) calculated the probability (using conservative estimates) that any one planet could meet all of those parameters and then compared that against the currently-estimated number of planets in the entire universe and determined that the chance of there being even one planet in the universe that would meet all of those parameters is **1 in one trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion** (in case you are curious, that is a one followed by 144 zeroes). In other words, it is clearly not bound to eventually happen. In fact, from the perspective of random chance, it seems impossible that it should have happened even this one time!
- The best analogy I have seen to help understand this is to imagine that astronauts land on Mars and find a biosphere (i.e., an enclosed habitat). Inside the biosphere is a wall of hundreds of dials that control the environment within the habitat. Each dial has a wide range of settings and if each dial is not set at exactly the right setting, life cannot survive in the biosphere. You then find out that every dial is in fact set at the exact setting it needs to be at for life to survive in the biosphere. Do you conclude that the whole thing is an accident, that the volcanoes on Mars spewed out compounds that randomly assembled themselves into a biosphere and that the dials just happened to be set at exactly the right settings, or do you conclude that the habitat was obviously created and that an intelligent being painstakingly set the dials in just the right positions so that life could flourish within the biosphere?

#### 4. The Evidence of Biology.

- Intelligent Design: helping to understand the significance of design in nature. Design is simply the purposeful arrangement of parts (i.e., arranging parts in a specific way to accomplish a specific purpose). This section will explore the incredible level of design in biology. The best way to understand why the detection of design in nature is significant is through the intelligent design theory. Contrary to what the liberal media says, intelligent design is a legitimate scientific theory (and not repackaged creationism) that holds that the same principles used by everyone (including scientists) to infer the presence of intelligent activity in all areas of everyday endeavors (including in fields like archaeology, forensic science, law enforcement, SETI (search for extraterrestrial intelligence) research etc.) can also be used to infer the presence of intelligent activity in the complex design of life on earth. By complexity, intelligent design theory isn't referring to something that is merely elaborate (the way the patterns of a snowflake may be elaborate), but rather something that is complex and also actually performs a specific, useful function. If we found what appeared to be a machine on an alien world that performed a specific function, we would reasonably infer that it was intentionally designed based on our experience with our own machines (no one would claim that it was random assemblage of parts that just happened to do something). The question that intelligent design asks is why, then, when we have biological machines performing functions on our own world do we assume that it was chance and not design (intelligent design theory is not concerned about the nature of the designer, only whether the presence of one can be inferred). The biological complexity that intelligent design theory addresses is present at all levels of life from a single cell, to irreducibly-complex systems (like vision and blood clotting), to even more complex systems like the brain.

- *The complexity of a single cell.* The average human body has approximately 75 to 100 trillion cells. A good working cell in the body is a masterpiece of miniaturized complexity; a highly-complex manufacturing facility that carries out some 6 trillion reactions every second and manufactures over 2,000 proteins (the basic building blocks of life) every second of every day. This means that all of the cells in your body combined are, every second, arranging **150 billion billion** amino acids into carefully constructed chains of proteins. Biologists say that the entire cell can be viewed as a factory with an elaborate network of interlocking assembly lines, each of which is composed of a set of large protein machines that are themselves assemblies of highly coordinated moving parts. Michael Denton, in his ground-breaking book *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis* (pg. 328), does a remarkable job of illustrating the complexity of just one single cell:

To grasp the reality of life as it has been revealed by molecular biology, we must magnify a cell a thousand million times until it is twenty kilometers in diameter and resembles a giant airship large enough to cover a great city like London or New York. What we would then see would be an object of unparalleled complexity and adaptive design. On the surface of the cell we would see millions of openings, like the port holes of a vast space ship, opening and closing to allow a continual stream of materials to flow in and out. If we were to enter one of these openings we would find ourselves in a world of supreme technology and bewildering complexity. We would see endless highly organized corridors and conduits branching in every direction away from the perimeter of the cell, some leading to the central memory bank in the nucleus and others to assembly plants and processing units. The nucleus itself would be a vast spherical chamber more than a kilometer in diameter inside of which we would see, all neatly stacked together in ordered arrays, the miles of coiled chains of the DNA molecules. A huge range of products and raw materials would shuttle along all the manifold conduits in a highly ordered fashion to and from all the various assembly plants in the outer regions of the cell. We would see all around us, in every direction we looked, all sorts of robot-like machines. We would notice that the simplest of the functional components of the cell, the protein molecules, were astonishingly complex pieces of molecular machinery, each one consisting of about three thousand atoms arranged in a highly organized 3-D spatial conformation. We would wonder even more as we watched the strangely purposeful activities of these weird molecular machines, particularly when we realized that, despite all our accumulated knowledge of physics and chemistry, the task of designing one such molecular machine - that is one single functional protein molecule - would be completely beyond our capacity at present. Yet the life of the cell depends on the integrated activities of thousands, certainly tens, and probably hundreds of thousands of different protein molecules.

- *Irreducibly-complex biological systems: a special type of intelligent design.*
  - An irreducibly-complex biological system is a single system composed of several well-matched, interacting parts that contribute to the basic function of the system where the removal of any one of the parts causes the system to effectively cease functioning (i.e., you cannot reduce the system part by part and still have something that is partially functional). Common examples of irreducibly-complex systems are (1) biological motors like the bacterial flagellum (which uses a rotary propeller to function like a microscopic motorboat) and cilia (the whip-like hairs on the surface of cells that act like oars to move cells); (2) the blood clotting system; (3) the human immune system; (4) the transport of materials within the cell; and (5) the synthesis of nucleotide sugars (the building blocks of DNA).
  - Evolution is incapable of explaining how these systems could have gradually evolved. There is no evidence that irreducibly-complex systems did in fact evolve since every time they first show up in the fossil record they show up fully formed, and no one has ever confirmed by experiment that a gradual evolution of such systems is even possible. Moreover, under the theory of evolution, natural selection only preserves things that perform a function (in other words, that help the organism survive to the next generation, which is what is called survival

- of the fittest). However, the first step towards a new function is of no survival benefit unless all of the other parts needed for the function to work appear at the same time.
- In other words, if a system needs 10 parts to work (parts which are not otherwise used for any purpose in the body) and the system will not work until that last part is in place, then natural selection cannot explain why the first nine parts are even there at all (since those first nine parts are not performing any useful function until the 10<sup>th</sup> part comes online, they should not have been preserved by natural selection), much less how those component parts could have been arranged in the exact, precise configuration necessary for the system to work.
  - The bacterial flagellum (which is the tail of the bacteria that allows it to move about) is an insightful example. It is comprised of several parts that form an irreducibly-complex system, including a propeller, a drive-shaft rotor, joints and a motor. If you take away any of the parts, the entire system stops functioning and the bacteria cannot move. Either the entire, intricate system evolved in one fell-swoop, or life first evolved a rotor (but without any apparent use for it), then later on evolved a propeller (but also without any apparent use for it) then later on finally evolved a motor and figured out how to put them all together in the right order and sequence.
  - It is the same thing with cilia, each of which is a molecular machine made up of about 200 protein parts, including three basic component parts: rods, a motor and linkers that link the rods together. Remove any part, or even change the order of the parts, and the cilia can't function and the cell is severely disadvantaged. A good analogy to man-made machines is a car engine. A car engine without pistons or without an engine block is not 90% effective such that you can keep using it until it can get the missing parts. You remove the pistons, and the engine is useless.
  - In all areas other than life where there are irreducibly-complex systems (such as a car engine) and we know how it was designed, invariably an intelligent designer was the cause. Therefore, when we see an irreducibly-complex system in living animals and we know that there is no evidence that the system did or even could have evolved, it is reasonable to infer that the system also was caused by an intelligent designer.
  - *The complexity of the brain.* The average human brain contains approximately **100 billion** neurons and has a **million billion** neural interconnections in the cerebral cortex. That's **1,000,000,000,000,000** points within our heads at which neurotransmitters are sending information from nerve to target nerve. The number of atoms in the universe is **1 followed by 100 zeroes**. The number of different patterns possible in your brain is **1 followed by over 800 zeros**. Also, it is estimated that your unconscious brain database (the information that your unconscious brain stores) outweighs your conscious brain on an order exceeding 10 million to one. A study done in 2005 showed that the human brain functions a lot like the Internet. The study concluded that the human brain can be visualized as a complex interacting network that relies on nodes to efficiently convey information from place to place. The study found that very few jumps are necessary to connect any two nodes and that this so-called "small world" property of the brain allows for the most efficient connectivity. Other studies have shown that the average human brain can process information faster (and can process more information) than the world's fastest supercomputers.
  - *Other obvious examples of intelligent design in nature.* Intelligent design is so prevalent in biology that everywhere you look you find it staring you right in the face. There is a website I periodically go to at [www.livescience.com](http://www.livescience.com) (it's like a CNN.com for science). In just a few months of occasionally surfing this website, check out some of the gems I came across:

- Did you ever wonder what biomimetics is? According to a January 2004 article, in the past 20 years engineers and scientists have turned more and more to nature for design inspiration in a field of study called biomimetics (i.e., mimicking biology). The idea is that nature has evolved designs for maximum achievement with minimum effort. One example given is the leak-proof packaging provided by an apple and its skin. Other examples include the fact that the Wright Brothers drew their aviation plans from the wings of birds and, more recently, the development of Velcro came from a man's observation of the efficiency of burrs in sticking to a dog's fur. The article quotes a University of California professor as saying that "We have turned to nature because millions of years of evolution and natural selection have given rise in many animals to some very sturdy materials with surprising mechanical properties."
- Advanced optics on butterfly wings. In a November 2004 article, it was reported that new research shows that the wings of certain types of butterflies can reflect light with smaller and more complex structures than any manufactured by man. The study indicated that these types of structures represent a sophisticated level of complexity that researchers someday hope to attain through biomimetics. According to one scientist who was quoted in the article, "Nature always seems to have an extra level of complexity, certainly in optical terms, somewhere up her sleeve."
- Abalone Armor. In a January 2004 article, it was reported that new research shows that abalones (sea-weed eating mollusks) create a highly ordered brick-like tile structure for their shells that is the toughest arrangement of tiles theoretically possible. The materials scientists involved in the research believe that this discovery will help them develop lightweight and effective body armor for soldiers and police.
- It's all in the Ears. A December 2004 article reports that while most of our body parts continue their evolutionary quest for improvement, the portion of our inner ear responsible for balance may already have achieved perfection. It turns out that the semicircular canals in the ears of vertebrates (including humans) have achieved an optimal design and if they are changed even a little bit, then they won't work as well. According to a physicist at Caltech who was quoted in the article, "Nature has evolved the canals to be the best at what they were designed to do." The article also notes that this research study specifically thinks of evolution as an engineer and then critiques the process (of evolution) on its success.
- Birds vs. Fighter Jets. A December 2004 article reports on a study that solves a longstanding mystery regarding bird flight. The study shows that some birds can turn on a dime in flight by adjusting the angle of their wings to create tiny tornadoes that draw them up. This bird wing structure is more complicated and far more agile and effective than the wing structure of any of our fighter jets (the bird wings, unlike those of the fighter jets, are built of two distinct parts that create a variable wing surface allowing for greater flight performance). The study notes that this research might inspire a new generation of aerospace engineers to develop vehicles that can fly with the agility, efficiency and short take off and landing capabilities of these birds. The article notes that, "As is often the case, Nature is ahead of the engineers."
- Did it ever occur to anyone that if it looks like design, then maybe it is design? The design in life forms is so obvious that even the most hardcore atheistic scientists can't ignore it, but at the same time they refuse to properly acknowledge it. Richard Dawkins, an Oxford professor considered by many to be the leading Darwinist in the world today, defines biology as "The study of complicated things that give the *appearance* of having been designed for a purpose" (emphasis added). Francis Crick, who co-discovered DNA and was also an ardent Darwinist, agreed that the appearance of design in nature is so strong that "Biologists must constantly keep in mind that what they see was not designed, but rather evolved." Hugh Ross makes a lot more sense to me

when he asks “Does it make sense to conclude that the designs found in nature stem from random, undirected processes when they are far superior to what humans can accomplish?”

## 5. The Evidence of Biological Information.

- Life requires information. Life at its root requires information, which is stored within the DNA in cells (DNA is the “software program” of the cell that contains the instructions that coordinate the myriad processes each cell must undertake to function and survive). The same way you need to write new lines of source code to create new functions in a computer software program, so also you need new lines of DNA code to give a living organism a new function or structure (except that DNA is much more complex than any software program ever devised by mankind). This means that the information had to come first, that the very first life on the planet had to contain the information necessary for such life to continue living and reproduce, which raises the obvious question of where did that information come from?
- DNA is information.
  - DNA has exactly the same relevant properties as computer code and human language (i.e., a complex, specific arrangement of characters, parts or letters that conveys a message). DNA is a chemical code that uses myriad arrangements of four basic nucleotide sugars to store information (the DNA in each cell has over **three billion** nucleotide bases). However, the important thing about DNA (and that needs to be explained) is not the chemicals but the information content contained in the particular arrangement of the chemicals, the same way that the important thing about a book is the information (the ideas and the message) conveyed by the words, not the ink and paper used to write the words.
  - Also, we are not talking about just a little information either. DNA is the most compact and complex information storage device known to science. If all of the information in all of the libraries in the world in all languages were transcribed into the language of DNA, it could be recorded in an amount of DNA equal in size to one percent of the head of a pin. The information needed to build the proteins for all species of organisms that have ever lived (estimated to be approximately one billion species) could be held in a teaspoon of DNA and there would still be room left for all the information in every book ever written.
  - If you were to take the DNA in a cell and unwind it like a rope, it would be approximately six feet long. When you consider that each person has on average 75 trillion cells containing DNA, this means that if you were to unwind all of the DNA in your body and line it up end to end, you would get a thread that reaches to the sun and back about 100 times. That is a whole lot of DNA, which means that it is a whole lot of information that needs to be explained.
- Where you have information, you have intelligence. Every experience we have about information, whether it’s a computer code, a hieroglyphic inscription, a book or a cave painting, is that information only comes from intelligent agents. Arguing that biological information must have come from an intelligent agent is not an argument from ignorance. Rather, the existence of an intelligent agent is not being inferred merely because naturalistic explanations fail, but rather because those theories fail AND we know of another causal entity (i.e., intelligence) that is capable of producing information and, based on all of our other experiences with intelligence, this latter entity is a much more likely explanation for the existence of biological information.

## 6. The Evidence of Origin of Life Research.

- What do you need for life to begin?
  - In order to have life, you need three basic components: DNA, RNA and proteins. The problem, however, is that all three need to exist simultaneously for each of them to function,

meaning that all three needed to have come into existence at the same time even for the very first simple cell to have formed. The odds of that happening by chance are beyond staggering.

- Even more, to get just one protein, you need a highly complex and specified arrangement of amino acids (which are the building blocks of proteins). There are approximately 20 amino acids (like an amino acid “alphabet”) that are used in all proteins. The linear sequence of amino acids in a protein is a lot like a sentence. The same way this sentence you are reading right now has to use letters in a specific order to be meaningful, so also the long sequences of the amino acids (which in most proteins are between 300 and 1,000 “letters” long) have to be in a precise configuration to create a protein. In addition, even though amino acids come in two basic kinds of molecules called left-handed and right-handed amino acids, all living things on Earth inexplicably use only left-handed amino acid molecules, which makes it even harder to explain how proteins could have been formed by chance.
- In other words, to get even one cell from non-living matter, you would have to show how not just one, but dozens or more of the right kinds of amino acids spontaneously came into existence and then were able to link up to create just one protein molecule, then you would need to explain where DNA and RNA came from at the same time and then show how dozens of protein molecules linked up, again in just the right sequence, to create just one living cell (see Section 5 above for an idea of just how complex even one single cell is).
- *There is no evidence showing how life could have originated.* Of course, before you get to any of that, you need to actually have an amino acid to start with. To date, no experiment (using the correct atmospheric conditions of early Earth) has ever been able to create in the lab even one amino acid (in other words, scientists have *intelligently designed* experiments and have still been unable to do what we are told mindless natural laws have done). In fact, many origin of life researchers now believe that the so-called “pre-biotic soup” never existed and, even if it did, that it would have been a harmful and not a friendly environment for amino acids, meaning that the thought of life originating out of some primordial ooze is, based on the early Earth’s atmospheric and planetary conditions, probably not chemically possible.
- *There is not even any commonly accepted theory as to how life could have begun.* Even if you start with all of the component parts of a cell, there is still no known way (or even a commonly accepted theory) as to how those parts could then be assembled into a fully functioning living cell. Consider the following illustration from one biochemist: put a sterile, balanced salt solution in a test tube and then put a single living cell in the tube and poke a hole in the cell so that its contents leak into the solution. You would now have in the test tube all of the molecules and component parts that you would need to create a living cell. However, no biologist in their right mind would even try to create an actual living cell from the component parts in the test tube. It would be like trying to put Humpty Dumpty back together again. Some experts in the origin of life field feel that not only is there no current theory for the origin of life, there may never be one given the imponderable gap between non-life and life.
- *What is the probability of life originating by mere chance?*
  - One scientist has estimated that the probability of even one short functional protein (i.e., a protein with a minimum number of amino acids) being formed by random chance is **one in one hundred thousand trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion** (that’s a 1 with 125 zeroes after it).

- This staggering improbability gets even more incomprehensible with an entire cell. There is a wide gulf separating a watery solution containing a few amino acids (i.e., the so-called primordial ooze) from the simplest living cell. Hugh Ross, in his book *The Creator and the Cosmos*, recounts how several years ago molecular biologist Harold Morowitz calculated the size of this gulf. Morowitz determined that if one were to take the simplest living cell and break down every bond within it, the odds that the cell would reassemble itself under the best possible chemical and environmental conditions would be **one chance in 10 to the 100,000,000,000<sup>th</sup> power (that is a 1 with 100,000,000,000 zeroes after it!)**.
- Francis Crick, an atheist who shared the Nobel Prize for discovering the molecular structure of DNA, may have said it best when he said: “An honest man, armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that in some sense, the origin of life appears at the moment to be almost a miracle, so many are the conditions which would have had to have been satisfied to get it going.” (Quoted in Lee Strobel’s, *The Case for a Creator*, pg. 42).

## 7. The Evidence of Consciousness.

- Humans have conscious minds that give them the capacity for self-reflection, representational art, language and creativity, among other things. Medical and scientific studies have provided verified experimental evidence showing that the brain and the mind are two separate things that interact with each other. Many brain scientists believe in the existence of an immaterial mind, with some researchers calling the mind a non-physical reality that interacts with the brain. There is also medical evidence that consciousness has a causal power independent of the brain’s activities and that the brain does not produce consciousness, with some fascinating studies showing that a person’s thoughts originate in their consciousness and then show up in brain wave scans (meaning the conscious thought produced a reaction in the brain, not vice versa). One researcher has speculated that the brain might serve as a mechanism to manifest the mind, much in the same way a TV set manifests pictures and sounds from waves in the air.
- There is no current theory (or even a prospect for a theory) that explains how consciousness could have evolved from the interaction of physical matter in the brain (some have commented that it would be easier to get blood from a stone). No matter how many atoms (or brain cells) you line up or how complicated their lineup, you are still dealing with physical processes and physical matter. If you apply physical processes to physical matter long enough, you may eventually end up with increasingly complex arrangements of physical matter, but you still cannot get something non-physical from it.
- Knowledge (or awareness) of a thing is not one of the thing’s parts; the knowledge (or awareness) of the thing transcends the thing and can only be something that is added from outside that thing. Here, the “thing” is the material universe (i.e., the matter, such as our brains, within the universe), meaning that consciousness must have been added from outside the material universe by some being existing outside the universe.

## 8. The Fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecies.

- What Old Testament prophecies?
  - The Old Testament contains numerous prophecies regarding what would happen in the future to various peoples, lands, cities, towns and nations.
  - These were not generic, vague Nostradamus-type prophecies but rather were very detailed and very specific prophecies about what would happen, including (in the case of many prophecies regarding cities, towns, lands and nations) details as to: (i) who would conquer or destroy them (in some instances giving the names of the conquerors); (ii) particulars about



- how they would be conquered or destroyed; (iii) what would happen to the conquered peoples; (iv) whether the conquered or destroyed cities or lands would ever be inhabited again and, if so, by whom; (v) particulars about what would be the condition of the cities or lands after being conquered or destroyed; and (vi) whether the conquered or destroyed cities or lands would ever be used again for any purpose and, if so, giving details about what the purpose would be.
- o Josh McDowell's book, *Evidence that Demands a Verdict: Historical Evidences for the Christian Faith, Volume I*, has a section that does an excellent job of analyzing in detail 12 very specific prophecies in the Old Testament, including giving evidence for the dating of the prophecies and showing how each one was remarkably fulfilled in exact detail subsequent to the date of the prophecy.
- What was the date of the prophecies? Commonly accepted historical evidence (supported by the Dead Sea scrolls, which were discovered in 1947 and many of which have been carbon dated to before Jesus) shows that these prophecies were written before the events occurred, not after.
  - What is the likelihood of the prophecies being fulfilled by chance?
    - o To understand the likelihood of these prophecies being fulfilled by mere chance, consider the following illustration by mathematician Peter Stoner. Stoner took 11 detailed Old Testament prophecies and, applying conservative values, estimated that the probability of those 11 prophecies coming true in every respect by chance was **1 in  $5.76 \times 10^{59}$** . To understand how big that number is, he notes that if you had that number of silver dollars, that you could fill up a space equal to the volume of all of the stars in all of the galaxies in the entire universe.
    - o Stoner then goes on to note if you marked one of those silver dollars, stirred it into the whole pile of silver dollars before filling up all of the stars in the universe, and then told a blindfolded man to go find it (and gave him a near infinite period of time to search), the likelihood that he would find it by chance is the same as those 11 prophecies coming true by chance (see pages 319-320 of *Evidence that Demands a Verdict: Historical Evidences for the Christian Faith, Volume I*, by Josh McDowell).
    - o The staggering improbability of these prophecies being fulfilled by chance provides compelling evidence for the existence of God since only an all-knowing being (i.e., God) could know the future with that level of certainty. Even if some of the estimates used by Stoner were reduced, any revised estimates would still be so large as to be conclusive.
    - o When you factor in the improbability of numerous other Old Testament prophecies regarding the Messiah that were all fulfilled by Jesus (which is discussed in detail in Part II), it becomes even more difficult to dismiss the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies as mere chance.
  - What does all this prove? The fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies not only provides evidence for the existence of God, but it also validates the Bible as being the divinely-inspired word of God.

## 9. The Existence of Absolute Truth and Absolute Morality.

- Hitler vs. Mother Teresa. If there is no such thing as absolute moral law, then there is no true difference between Hitler and Mother Teresa; any perceived difference would just be a matter of opinion. You might think that Hitler was the most evil person who ever lived, but in a world of relative morality that would just be your opinion. Furthermore, in a world of relative morality, Hitler's opinion that he was doing the right thing would be entitled to the same weight and consideration in the market place of opinions as would be your opinion. No sane, rational person really believes that this is the case.

- *Self-defeating statements.* Another way the existence of absolute truth/morality is revealed to us is through a simple logical analysis of what we call self-defeating statements. Check this out:
  - The next time a person says to you, “there is no such thing as truth,” ask them if what they just said is a true statement.
  - The next time a person says to you, “there is no absolute truth,” ask them if they are absolutely sure about that.
  - The next time a person says to you that “all truth is relative,” ask them if what they just said is itself only a relative truth.
  - The next time a person says that “it’s true for you but not for me,” ask them if that statement is just true for them or whether it is true for everyone.
  
- *Just wait until you are a victim.* For someone who still doubts the existence of absolute moral law (and absolute right and wrong), just wait until you are the victim of a violent crime. How many people have you ever known who, after being carjacked, mugged, assaulted or victimized by some other violent crime sat there and said “Well, in my opinion of morality, I’ve been wronged; but I understand that the perp who did this to me thinks that he was in the right (probably because society did him wrong and he had a right to take back from someone like me) and I also respect that in this world of relative morality the perp’s opinion is entitled to equal weight and consideration as is my opinion, so I’ll just go on about my business.” You’ll never hear that because anyone who’s on the wrong end of violence instinctively knows that there is absolute right and wrong and that a wrong has just been committed against them. In other words, we know absolute morality exists not because it is the standard by which we always act, but it is always the standard by which we expect others to treat us.
  
- *If there is absolute moral law, then there must be an absolute law giver.* If absolute truth/moral law exists, then there must be an absolute, unchanging law giver (i.e., God) who is the unchanging source for such absolutes. If there is no unchanging source, then there can not be any absolutes. If man is the source of truth, then truth can never be absolute for the source of it would be only mankind’s competing opinions and values that are constantly shifting like sands in the hourglass (which, anecdotally, is what you see in America today as the secular world tries to remove God from every aspect of the public square).
  
- *Don’t confuse the issue.* Finally, don’t get confused between the existence of absolute truth and the seeming inability of men and women to agree on what those absolutes are. They are two separate issues. The first issue is whether absolute truth/morality exists. The answer is yes. The second question is if it exists, what is it and how can we know it. The answer to that is, in my opinion, the Bible. The reason that so many people disagree on what is right and what is wrong is that they have gotten away from the book that God gave us so that we could know the answer. Then, to make matters worse, those same people look to the fact that they can’t agree on what absolute truth is as somehow being evidence that absolute truth must not exist in the first place.

#### 10. **The Resurrection of Jesus.**

- Jesus claimed to be the Son of God.
- There is compelling evidence that Jesus was resurrected (see Part II of this outline).
- The resurrection of Jesus validates his claims, which provides evidence that he was who he said he was (i.e., the Son of God) meaning, of course, that God must therefore exist.

## PART II – THE TOP 10 REASONS TO BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16*

II. **The Top 10 Reasons to Believe that Jesus is the Son of God.** So, is Jesus Christ really the one and only Son of God, who lived, died and was resurrected? Yes, he was and is the Son of God, and here are the Top 10 reasons to believe that:

- We know that Jesus existed from the Bible
- We know that Jesus existed from sources (both Christian and secular) other than the Bible
- Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecy with incredible accuracy
- There is evidence that Jesus performed miracles
- There is compelling evidence for the empty tomb
- There is compelling evidence for the resurrection (including the disciples dying for their risen Lord and the otherwise inexplicable conversion experience of St. Paul)
- Alternate theories attempting to explain the resurrection all fail
- Jesus claimed to be God, which means he was either a liar, lunatic or Lord
- There is no other way to explain the radical change in the lives of the early believers
- Mary never denied the virgin birth, even during the crucifixion

1. **We know that Jesus existed from the Bible.** We know that Jesus existed from the Bible. Also, we have excellent reasons to treat the Bible as a historically reliable source of information, including:

- Manuscript copies. While we don't have the originals of any books of the New Testament (or of any other significant ancient writings or works, for that matter), the New Testament has better manuscript evidence than any other ancient book.
  - o There are over 5,000 ancient copies of the New Testament and portions of copies. The runner-up is Homer's *Iliad* (considered the “bible” of the ancient Greeks), for which historians have less than 650 ancient copies. In addition, the majority of classical works have less than 20 early copies.
  - o The dates of the New Testament copies are extremely close to the original writings. One fragment of the Gospel of John dates from about 25 years after the Gospel of John, and there are copies containing most of the New Testament that are dated as little as 100 to 150 years after the originals.
  - o By contrast, most copies of classical works date from 700 to more than 1,400 years after the originals (for example, there is a more than 900 year gap between the originals of Homer's *Iliad*, which have been lost to history, and the earliest known copies).
  - o We have complete early copies of all of the books of the New Testament. By contrast, most copies of other ancient works have significant portions missing.
  - o The early copies (including those from different geographic regions) are remarkably consistent with each other (some scholars who have studied this in detail claim that the copies are over 99.5% the same).
- The Gospels (i.e., the Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) were written or influenced by eyewitnesses to the resurrection. Most contemporary scholars agree that there are very good historical reasons to believe that the disciples either wrote or were the major sources of all of the gospels (Matthew and John were disciples; Mark was a close companion of both Peter and Paul; and Luke was a close companion of Paul).

- *The Gospels are trustworthy under historical standards.* The Gospels are found to be extremely trustworthy when analyzed under the normal historical standards used to evaluate ancient writings. For example:
  - o They were written or heavily influenced by eyewitnesses to Jesus' resurrection.
  - o The Gospels were written very close to the events that they record, with three out of the four being dated within 30 to 40 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus (and all four being dated within 60 years), which is during the lives of the eyewitnesses. By contrast, almost all other ancient writings record events that occurred hundreds of years earlier (for example, historical evidence shows that the very first time that anything was written down that purported to ascribe miracles to Mohammed was in the Islamic tradition recorded in the Hadith, which was first written 150 to 200 years after his death; the Koran itself does not record any miracles being performed by him).
  - o We can be confident that the material about the life and teachings of Jesus was well preserved orally for 30 plus years before it was written down in the Gospels. There were no computers and very few books in first century Jerusalem, meaning that education, learning and worship were all done by word of mouth and memory. Therefore, it would have been well within the capability of a first-century Jew to commit to memory more material than is contained in the Gospels (in fact, many Rabbis during those times became famous for having the entire Old Testament committed to memory).
  - o The Gospel writers were accurate. Luke, who wrote the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts, is viewed by both conservative and liberal modern historians as one of the finest historians of antiquity, even down to the smallest details.
  - o The Gospel authors were honest reporters. For example, all of the Gospels report that Jesus, after the resurrection, was first seen by women. At that time under Jewish law, women were not allowed to be witnesses in Jewish legal proceedings. As such, the last thing a first century Jew would do, if he were making up a story and hoping that others would find the story believable, would be to start the story with eyewitness testimony from women.
  - o The picture of Jesus presented in the four Gospels is virtually the same.
  
- *The Gospels do not have the characteristics of being a legend or a myth.*
  - o The Gospels (and also the Book of Acts) exhibit a clear interest in reporting historical facts and are not written in a style usually associated with myth writing.
  - o Also, the testimony of the disciples in the Gospels appears to be authentic and uninvented. For example, there are many instances included in the Gospels that portray the disciples in an embarrassing light (Peter was called "Satan" by Jesus one time when he was rebuked, denied Jesus three times, hid during the crucifixion, and was later corrected on a theological issue by Paul). The Gospels depict the disciples (other than John) as somewhat uncaring, bumbling cowards during the crucifixion and portrays women (whose testimony was not even admissible in Jewish courts at that time) as the brave ones who stood by Jesus and later discovered the empty tomb. Myth writers do not usually give examples of embarrassing, self condemning stories that record their sins and faults.
  - o The Gospels, the Book of Acts, and the epistles (i.e., letters) of Paul were recognized by early believers as being inspired books almost immediately after being written (in other words, the early believers did not think that they were myth).
  - o Liberal scholars (and books like the *Da Vinci Code*) claim that Jesus' divinity was a myth that developed over time as legends corrupted the earliest accounts of Jesus' life.
  - o However, all of the Gospels were written within 60 years after the death of Jesus, which historians almost universally accept as too soon for a legend to develop (for the obvious reason that you will not get very far spreading rumors about someone if there are thousands of people or more still alive who know you are lying). Contrast this with other ancient biographies. For example, the earliest biographies of Alexander the Great were first written

more than 400 years after his death, yet are considered by historians to be historical and not legendary material.

- *The Gospels provide details of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.*
  - o The Gospels give a detailed account of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.
  - o As discussed above, the Gospels are trustworthy and reliable and, accordingly, the account they give of Jesus can be relied upon as trustworthy.
- *Archaeological finds support the Bible.*
  - o There are thousands of specific, documented archaeological finds (especially in the last 50-100 years) that confirm the historical accuracy of hundreds of persons, names, places, dates and events recorded in the Bible. There are over 30 people referred to in the New Testament whose existence has been cited by non-Christian writers and/or confirmed through archaeology. There has never been an archaeological find that has contradicted the Bible.
  - o One prominent archaeologist carefully examined Luke's detailed references to 32 countries, 54 cities and nine islands, and did not find a single mistake.
  - o This means that in those instances where we can test the accuracy of the Bible, it holds up extremely well. In other words, the Bible is firmly rooted in history and is not just some "once upon a time" fairy tale.

## 2. **We know Jesus existed from sources (both Christian and secular) other than the Bible.**

- *Christian evidence outside the Bible.*
  - o All of the major Christian claims (about the life of Jesus, his deity, the crucifixion and resurrection, and early church worship) are supported by the letters and writings of the early Church fathers (as early as 90 to 125 A.D., less than 100 years after his death).
  - o The early Church fathers in the second and third centuries quoted the New Testament so much (36,289 times according to one respected theologian) in their commentaries, sermons, letters and other writings that all but 11 verses of the entire New Testament can be reconstructed just from their quotes.
  - o These sources also include historical evidence of the very earliest oral creeds used in the earliest church preaching (as early as the mid-30's A.D., even before the books of the New Testament were written), which show that even at that time the early believers preached the life, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus and worshipped Jesus as God.
- *Secular, non-Christian evidence.* Perhaps the most impressive of all historical sources are the numerous ancient secular sources that refer to the life and person of Jesus, including the writings of Tacitus (considered the most famous Roman historian of antiquity) and Josephus (a famous Jewish historian of antiquity, who was not a Christian), both of whom were born within 25 years after the death of Jesus. Within 150 years after the death of Jesus, there are more secular sources who mention Jesus than who mention Tiberius (the Roman emperor at the time of Jesus). In fact, all of the following are known from the ancient secular (i.e., non-Christian) historical sources dated within 100-200 years after the time of Jesus:
  - o that Jesus lived, died, and was crucified,
  - o that Jesus was considered a wise teacher,
  - o that his disciples claimed to have seen him alive after his death (i.e., the resurrection),
  - o that the empty tomb was commonly accepted and not disputed even by the enemies of Jesus (i.e., the Jewish and Roman rulers of that day),
  - o that the number of believers spread rapidly and widely after the claimed resurrection appearances, and
  - o that believers from the very beginning worshipped Jesus as God.

- *The most documented life of antiquity.* This combination of biblical and non-biblical (both Christian and non-Christian sources) has led the vast majority of historians to conclude that the life of Jesus is one of the most, if not the most, mentioned and substantiated lives of ancient times. We can safely say that if Jesus did not exist, then no else in antiquity did either.

### 3. Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecy.

- *What are these prophecies?* There are over 100 prophecies in the Old Testament regarding the coming Messiah that were fulfilled in and by Jesus (some biblical scholars put the number of prophecies as high as 300). Some of the more notable prophecies are:
  - o His family lineage: descended from the line of Abraham (Genesis 12:3), Jacob (Numbers 24:17), Judah (Genesis 49:10), Jesse (Isaiah 11:1), and David (2 Samuel 7:12)
  - o The precise date of his death (Daniel 9:25)
  - o He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
  - o He would be preceded by a messenger (i.e., John the Baptist) (Isaiah 40:3)
  - o He would eventually be rejected by his own people (Isaiah 53:3)
  - o He would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12)
  - o The thirty pieces of silver would be used to buy a potter's field for a burial ground (Zechariah 11:13)
  - o He would be scourged (Isaiah 53:5)
  - o At his death his hands and feet would be pierced (Psalm 22:16; Isaiah 53:5)
  - o He would be crucified with thieves (Isaiah 53:12)
  - o None of his bones would be broken during the crucifixion (Psalm 34:20)
  - o The soldiers would gamble for his clothes (Psalm 22:18)
  - o He would suffer thirst during the crucifixion (Psalm 69:21)
  - o He would be buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9)
- *What is the date of these prophecies?*
  - o Historians generally accept circa 450 B.C. as the date of completion of the Old Testament, meaning that all of these predictive prophecies were made before the time of Jesus.
  - o This is substantiated by the Dead Sea Scrolls, which were discovered in 1947. The Dead Sea Scrolls contain copies of every book of the Old Testament (except the Book of Ester), including many copies that have been carbon dated to before the time of Jesus.
  - o Almost all of the prophecies (including all of the ones listed above) were outside the control of Jesus, so these are not merely self-fulfilling prophecies but rather prophecies made centuries before hand that came to pass in exact detail.
- *What is the likelihood of these prophecies being fulfilled by mere chance?*
  - o Mathematician Peter Stoner took just eight of the Old Testament prophecies about Jesus and calculated that the odds of them being fulfilled by any one person in history to be **1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000**. To understand how incredibly unlikely that is, Stoner says you should take 100,000,000,000,000,000 silver dollars "and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time..." (see page 167 of *Evidence that Demands a Verdict: Historical Evidences for the Christian Faith, Volume I*, by Josh McDowell).
  - o Stoner then considers 48 prophecies and says that the likelihood of those being fulfilled by mere chance increases to a chance of **1 in 10 to the 157<sup>th</sup> power (that is a one followed by 157 zeroes)**.

- *What does this prove?* The fulfillment of these prophecies provides clear and compelling evidence that God inspired the prophets who made the prophecies and that Jesus, by fulfilling the prophecies, was who he said he was.

#### 4. **There is evidence that Jesus performed miracles.**

- The Gospels record 35 miracles that Jesus performed (of these, 23 were healing miracles; nine were miracles showing power over nature; and three were miracles of raising the dead).
- As discussed above, there are excellent reasons why the Gospels can be viewed as reliable and trustworthy testimony about what Jesus did.
- Skeptics say miracles can't possibly be true, but anyone who says that is actually claiming to be able to know everything that can and can't happen in the universe (i.e., they are themselves claiming to be omniscient).
- This is begging the question since the issue to be decided is whether a miracle has occurred. It is not proper research to make that determination before investigating the evidence for the miracle.
- In fact, the greatest miracle in history (which is the creation of the universe out of nothing, as recorded in the first verse of the Bible) is supported by scientific evidence (see Part I). While there is no consensus among modern scientists as to how it happened, they are nearly unanimous in agreeing that the Big Bang did in fact occur and that in all likelihood the universe did in fact come into being out of nothing.

#### 5. **There is compelling evidence for the empty tomb.**

- *Evidence for the empty tomb.*
  - As discussed above, that there was an empty tomb is an accepted fact of history supported by strong historical evidence from both biblical and non-biblical sources.
  - Despite the fact that the spread of Christianity started in Jerusalem and that there were numerous confrontations between the Jewish leaders and early believers, the Jewish authorities never denied that the tomb was empty. All they had to do was produce the body, which they were also unable to do.
- *Alternative theories for the empty tomb.* As such, the empty tomb is a mystery that demands an explanation, and all of the alternate theories attempting to account for the empty tomb fail and are without merit. These alternative theories are:

A. The Swoon theory. This theory holds that Jesus didn't die but rather only passed out on the cross and was then revived in the tomb. The problems with this theory are:

- Jesus could not possibly have survived crucifixion. The Romans perfected crucifixion. If a Roman executioner failed to kill his prisoner, then the executioner himself would be put to death.
- The American Medical Association did a study in the 1970's that showed how painful and thorough this method of execution was and their opinion was that a person could not possibly survive it.
- It was Roman practice to scourge crucifixion victims first (i.e., flog them with a whip of braided leather thongs with metal balls and sometime fragments of bone woven into them), which was often so severe that many died from that before being crucified, so it is inconceivable that a person could survive both.
- The fact that the Roman guards did not break Jesus' legs (as recited in the Gospels), as they did the legs of the other two prisoners who were crucified with Jesus, was most likely because the guards were already certain that Jesus was dead (guards often broke a prisoner's legs to hasten the death of the prisoner).

- The Roman guards pierced Jesus' heart with a spear, which would have certainly killed him (and John, an eyewitness, saw blood and water come out of the wound, which is what medical experts say should have happened).
- Even if Jesus was able to survive all that, burial clothes, which covered the entire body, would have suffocated him.
- Even if Jesus survived and got out of the burial clothes, then how did he remove the rock in front of the tomb (which was rolled down into a depression and likely weighed hundreds of pounds or more), fight off the guards stationed there, walk away and then appear so healthy to the disciples (as opposed to being badly beaten to within an inch of death) that they would then call him a risen Lord and die for him.
- The death of Jesus is the most recorded single event in all of ancient, non-Christian history.

B. The Theft theory. This theory holds that the disciples stole the body (this "theory" was started by the Jewish authorities, who bribed the guards). The problems with this theory are:

- First, the disciples showed they were cowards. When Jesus was crucified, all of them but John were off hiding in caves and elsewhere.
- Even if they had courage to do so, how would they overpower the guards?
- If the guards were asleep, which is extremely unlikely since that would be punishable by death, how would the disciples remove a rock weighing hundreds of pounds or more without waking the guards?
- Even if the disciples were for some bizarre reason motivated to steal a dead body, why would they then suffer, be tortured and die for what they knew to be a lie (not something they were sincerely mistaken about, but something they knew to be a lie)? No one dies for something they know to be a lie. Paul, James and all of the disciples (but John, who died a natural death) died for their belief.

C. The Wrong Tomb theory. This theory holds that the disciples went to the wrong tomb. The problems with this theory are:

- The location of the tomb was known by the women (the two Mary's) since they were present at the crucifixion and saw where the body was buried.
- The location was also known by the ruling Jewish leaders and the Romans -- they would have just produced the body when the disciples started claiming that Jesus was resurrected.

6. **There is compelling evidence for the resurrection**. The historical and logical evidence supporting that Jesus was in fact resurrected from the dead is compelling. This evidence includes:

- The martyrdom of the disciples. 10 of the 11 remaining disciples (except John, who died a natural death), Paul and James died for Jesus. At the time of the crucifixion, the disciples were cowards who feared for their lives (only John was present at the crucifixion). After the resurrection, they became fearless believers who died proclaiming that Jesus was the Son of God. If the resurrection was not true, then 10 of the 11 disciples plus James and Paul died for what they knew to be a lie (as opposed to being sincerely mistaken). In other words, this was not a case where they had a sincere but mistaken belief (like a radical terrorist), but rather this would have been a case where they would have proclaimed that Jesus was risen knowing it to be false and then would have died for it. No one dies for something they know to be false.



- The conversion of Paul. The apostle Paul was one of the leading (if not the leading) persecutors of early believers until his encounter with the resurrected Jesus and his subsequent conversion experience on the road to Damascus.
- The conversion of James. The apostle James, who was Jesus' half-brother, was a skeptic while Jesus was alive. According to Paul, James had an encounter with the resurrected Jesus and became a believer (he later became the leader of the church at Jerusalem).
- The resurrection appearances. The New Testament records twelve times where Jesus appeared after the resurrection to one or more people, including one appearance to over 500 people. In one of Paul's early letters, he writes that most of the 500 people mentioned in that resurrection account were still alive and could dispute the claim of the resurrection if it were not true. This letter was written by Paul early on and before legendary development could occur. Also, if Paul's claim was false, then it could have been easily refuted at that time and there is no written evidence anywhere that it was.

7. **Alternate theories attempting to explain the resurrection all fail**. There is no other reasonable explanation for the resurrection appearances, and alternate theories to account for the resurrection appearances fail and are without merit. The alternate theories are:

A. The Disciples Lied. This theory holds that the disciples either intentionally lied about the resurrection appearances to start a new religion or for whatever reason created a legend or myth not intending it to be taken literally. The problems with this theory are:

- In either case, this theory would mean that the disciples died for what they knew to be a lie. People who are sincerely mistaken may die for their mistaken beliefs (i.e., radical terrorists), but no one dies for a lie that they know (not just sincerely believe but actually know with certainty) to be a lie.
- Also, this theory holds that mere fishermen had a Machiavellian level of creative and clever deceit, which strains credulity.
- The fact that the disciples were able to proclaim the resurrection in Jerusalem in the face of their enemies a mere few weeks after the resurrection is evidence it is true since they could never have proclaimed it and been believed by others in those circumstances if it were not true.

B. Group Hallucination. This theory holds that the disciples suffered group hallucinations when they thought that they saw the risen Jesus. The problems with this theory are:

- There were too many eyewitnesses on too many different occasions (over 500 at one appearance), and they were qualified witnesses (i.e., simple, honest and moral people with firsthand knowledge of the facts and no motive or reason to lie).
- Hallucinations are individual in nature, like dreams. There is no such thing as group hallucinations.
- There were 11 appearances that occurred during a 40 day period after Jesus' resurrection (the appearance to Paul occurred several years later). Hallucinations usually last a few seconds or minutes, not 40 days.
- Hallucinations usually happen only once and usually only to mentally unstable people; there were numerous normal people who saw the resurrected Jesus more than one time.
- The disciples touched and talked with Jesus, which you can't do in a hallucination, and hallucinations don't eat (as Jesus did).
- In any event, if it was a hallucination, then someone could have produced the body and ended the myth.

8. **Jesus claimed to be God, which means he was either a liar, lunatic or Lord.**

- *Jesus Claimed to be God.* Jesus clearly and unequivocally claimed to be God (this is supported by the Gospels, the Book of Acts and Paul's letters). He not only clearly claimed to be God (by claiming numerous times to be the great "I Am," the name of God), but he also told numerous parables and made numerous statements that implied that he was God.
- *Jesus Acted as if He Were God.* Jesus not only clearly and unequivocally claimed to be God, but he also acted as if he were God (he acted as if he were God by giving commandments, forgiving sins and accepting worship from others).
- *As such, He is either a liar, lunatic or Lord.* If he lied, then how do you reconcile that with his great moral teachings. Great moral teachers don't attempt to deceive people, so it is unlikely that he lied. Also, there is no evidence that he was a lunatic; in fact all of the evidence (including his incredibly profound statements) indicates that he was the most lucid person who ever lived. So, he must be Lord.

9. **There is no other way to explain the radical change in the lives of the early believers.**

- One of the reasons that Jews have been able to preserve their national and religious identity despite 4,000 years of persecution has been their incredible devotion to five key social/religious structures, which are:
  - o The need to obey the law of God as given through Moses,
  - o The need to offer animal sacrifices on a yearly basis to atone for sin,
  - o Not doing any work whatsoever on the Sabbath (i.e., on Saturdays),
  - o The belief in one God (not the belief in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, but just the belief in one God), and
  - o The belief that the Messiah would be a political leader who would destroy the Roman armies, not a suffering servant who would be sacrificed.
- The Jews believed (and still believe) that to abandon these social/religious beliefs and institutions would be to risk eternal damnation of the soul.
- Despite the incredible importance of these beliefs, within five weeks after the resurrection not just one but over 10,000 Jews in Jerusalem (including many Pharisees, the ruling priests of the day) were willing to give up the social and religious beliefs that they had rigidly observed since childhood to follow Jesus.
- What can possibly account for this radical change in the lives of the disciples and the thousands of other early believers, who were happy with their religion, to cause them to reinterpret Mosaic law, stop animal sacrifices, worship on Sunday instead of Saturday, believe in Jesus as God (the ultimate blasphemy, unless true), and engage in baptisms for the forgiveness of sins?
- Many people believe the best answer to that question is the resurrection of Jesus.

10. **Mary never denied the virgin birth, even during the crucifixion.**

- Mary was present when Jesus was being crucified.
- All she had to do to try to stop the torture was admit that the virgin birth was a sham and, therefore, Jesus could not possibly be the Son of God (if Jesus had been born as a result of natural relations between a man and a woman, then he would have inherited original sin and could not possibly be sinless, meaning he could not be the Savior).
- However, despite seeing her son being crucified and experiencing the worst anguish any parent can experience, she never denied the virgin birth and never denied Jesus' deity.

## PART III – THE TOP 10 PROBLEMS WITH EVOLUTION

*“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” Genesis 1:27*

III. **The Top 10 Problems with Evolution.** The secular world (especially the scientific establishment) cites Darwin’s theory of evolution as proof that all life can be accounted for by natural causes and, therefore, there is no need to believe in God. This theory is the claim that all living creatures that live today or that have ever lived are and were modified descendants of a common ancestor that lived long ago and that such modifications are the result of natural selection acting upon successive random genetic mutations over long periods of time (in other words, that random variations in the genetic code produce successive beneficial mutations over long periods of time that are selected by natural selection for the survival advantage they confer). However, the theory of evolution has a whole host of problems and fundamental flaws that are fatal to the theory, including the following top 10 problems with evolution:

- The “Biological Big Bang” of species reflected in the fossil record is contrary to evolutionary theory
- There is a complete lack of intermediate transitions between species in the fossil record (while there should be millions, there is in fact at best maybe one)
- Most of the “evidence” for evolution that is commonly taught in public schools today is wrong
- There is no evidence that random variation can produce meaningful changes in the first place
- A theory that explains everything explains nothing
- Evolutionary theory is unable to explain the origin of life (see Part I)
- Evolutionary theory is unable to explain life’s intelligent design (see Part I)
- Evolutionary theory is unable to explain the irreducible complexity of biological systems (see Part I)
- Evolutionary theory is unable to explain the information content of DNA (see Part I)
- Evolutionary theory is unable to explain consciousness (see Part I)

**Please note** that the last five problems listed above are addressed in Part I and will not be repeated here.

### 1. **Evolution can’t explain the Cambrian explosion (i.e., the “Biological Big Bang” revealed by the fossil record).**

- What does Darwin’s theory predict?
  - A key aspect of Darwin’s theory was that natural selection would act slowly by accumulating slight, successive, favorable variations and that no great or sudden modifications were possible.
  - In Darwin’s own words, his theory predicts a long history of gradual divergence from a common ancestor, with the differences slowly becoming bigger and bigger until you end up with the major differences we have now (i.e., such as the differences between humans and cockroaches).
  - Darwin said in *The Origin of Species* that if it could be shown that there were in fact sudden or great modifications, then his theory would be wrong.
- What does the fossil record actually show?
  - The problem for Darwinian evolution is that the fossil record shows exactly the opposite of what Darwin’s theory predicts.
  - There are 40 major groups of animals in the animal kingdom (these major groups are called “phyla”). Phyla are most easily distinguished by having fundamentally different body plans.

- Examples of different phyla are arthropods (insects, crabs, etc.), echinoderms (which include things like starfish and sea urchins), and chordates (which include modern vertebrates).
- About 530 million years ago (during the Cambrian period), there was a biological explosion in a five million year span in which up to 35 of the 40 phyla show up for the first time in the fossil record, fully developed. To put that time period in perspective, if Earth's entire history were one day, then five million years would be just one minute.
  - Before the Cambrian explosion, the fossil record shows that there were only some jellyfish, sponges and worms. After the explosion, almost all of the major groups of animals, which are fundamentally different in their body plans, appear all of the sudden fully developed.
  - One evolutionary scientist has said that the major animal groups “appear in the fossil record as Athena did from the head of Zeus – full blown and raring to go.” (Quoted in Lee Strobel's, *The Case for a Creator*, pg. 44).
  - Also, arguments that the fossil record is deficient since pre-Cambrian life was too tiny or soft to be preserved are not persuasive. Paleontologists actually have microfossils of bacteria in rocks dating back more than three billion years.

## 2. There is a complete lack of intermediate transitions in the fossil record.

- What does Darwin's theory predict?
  - Given that there are millions of species alive today (and millions more that have lived in the past), there shouldn't be just be one or two intermediate transitions in the fossil record, rather there should be millions and millions of them.
  - Consider an example. Evolutionary theory holds that fish evolved into amphibians which evolved into reptiles which evolved into mammals. We have thousands and tens of thousands of fossils of fishes and amphibians and reptiles and mammals, but we don't have any fossils of what happened in between.
  - In other words, the differences between reptiles and mammals are so great (these are fundamental differences in the basic body plans, including differences in heart size, brain size, lungs, reproductive systems, bone structure, distribution of weight and muscles, warm blooded versus cold blooded, etc.) that it is not as if there was just one genetic modification and then, presto, one day you had a reptile and the next day you had a mammal. Rather, there needed to be not just one, but hundreds or even thousands of animals that were intermediate transitions between the two, with each animal being an intermediate transition containing one more genetic modification that would eventually lead from reptiles to mammals.
  - In fact, Darwin himself recognized in *The Origin of Species* that there should be “innumerable transitional forms.” He reasoned that the lack of intermediate transitions in the fossil record at the time he was writing was merely because the fossil record was incomplete and that as scientists continued to search for and discover fossils that they would find increasingly greater numbers of fossils of intermediate transitions. He was very clear in saying in his writings that if these intermediate transitions (not just one or two, but many of them) were not found, that his theory would be in serious jeopardy.
- What does the fossil record actually show?
  - The fossil record shows that exactly the opposite has happened from what Darwin predicted. In the 150 years since Darwin's time, the fossil record has become extremely developed, with millions of fossils being uncovered.
  - Yet in that entire time, at best only one intermediate transition has been uncovered (a fossil of the *archaeopteryx*) and, as discussed below, it is hotly disputed and may not even be an intermediate transition.
  - In other words, the general picture of animal history as revealed by the fossil record is a burst of general body plans, followed by variation within those basic body plans but no evidence of transitions between body plans (for example no evidence of how a fish species supposedly

developed the ability to climb out of water and move on land, while evolving the peculiar reproductive system of amphibians and other amphibian features more or less concurrently).

- Molecular biology doesn't provide evidence of intermediate transitions either.
  - Finally, the most convincing and damaging evidence comes from the realm of molecular biology. The comparative analysis done between animal proteins shows that some species are not more intermediate than others. In other words amphibians are just as far removed from reptiles as they are from mammals. Yet, the evolutionary paradigm argues that amphibians evolved into reptiles which evolved into mammals, so amphibians should show more similarity in terms of their molecular structure to reptiles than to mammals, but they don't.
  - The fossil record and molecular biology both show that species are better characterized by brother-sister relationships than by the ancestor-descendant relationships made popular by Darwin's illustration of the tree of life.
  - Moreover, work done with selective breeding in domestic animals has illustrated there is a limit that is reached in achieving new characteristics over time. So while natural selection and mutation can arguably produce a new species that is slightly different from the previous one (like in dog breeding), it cannot explain how an amphibian could become a reptile.
  - For example, no one has been able to genetically modify dogs into elephants (or into any other animal for that matter) or even genetically engineer a dog to be the size of an elephant. This is not just because people haven't been breeding dogs long enough. Rather, it is because dogs do not have the genetic capacity for that type of change, and they stop getting bigger when the genetic limit is reached.

### 3. Most of the "evidence" for evolution that is commonly taught in public schools today is wrong.

- Jonathan Wells (who has Ph.D's from Yale University and the University of California at Berkeley, including a Ph.D in biology) in his book *Icons of Evolution: Science or Myth? Why Much of What We Teach About Evolution is Wrong*, after doing a thorough review of the current scientific literature in biology, paleontology and related fields, discovered that many of the so-called "facts" that are often cited by scientists and are included in public school textbooks as proving evolution are in fact either severely misleading or flat out wrong, including:
  - The Miller-Urey Experiment.
    - This was an experiment conducted by Stanley Miller in 1953 in which he claimed that he was able to reproduce the atmosphere of early Earth and then, by shooting electric sparks through it to simulate lightning, managed to produce a red goo containing amino acids.
    - This experiment was widely heralded as being proof for explaining the origin of life through solely natural causes (in fact, you can still occasionally catch the grainy black and white footage of Miller, in his white lab coat, conducting the experiment when you surf the late night sci-fi channels).
    - However, the problem with this experiment is that it is the overwhelming consensus of origin of life researchers within the scientific community, based on current knowledge, that the atmosphere of the early Earth is not at all like the atmosphere used by Miller in his experiment.
    - Moreover, to date no scientist has been able to create any experiments using the correct early Earth atmosphere that can generate anything even remotely resembling an amino acid or any other possible precursor to life.
  - Archaeopteryx: The Missing Link.
    - This has been called the holy grail of relics and is arguably the most famous fossil in the world. It a fossil of *archaeopteryx*, a creature dating back some 150 million years that has the wings, feathers and wishbone of a bird, but a lizard-like tail and claws on its wings. It has

- long been held up as the missing link (i.e., an intermediate transition) between reptiles and modern birds.
- This fossil was discovered in Germany shortly after Darwin's *The Origin of the Species* was published and immediately helped to establish the credibility of Darwinism and to discredit skeptics of evolution.
  - However, while the *archaeopteryx* has characteristics of a reptile (i.e., the claws on the wings), there are other strange animals still alive today (such as the duck-billed platypus) that also have characteristics of more than one class of animals but which no one considers to be intermediate transitions.
  - Also, given the ways that birds are different from reptiles (in terms of breeding systems, bone structures, lungs, and distribution of weight and muscles), paleontologists now generally agree that *archaeopteryx* is not a missing link that is part bird and part reptile, but rather is a member of a totally extinct group of birds.
- *Peppered Moths.*
    - Most moths in early 19<sup>th</sup> century England were light colored. As the industrial revolution got underway, most moth populations near heavily polluted cities became darker. Biologist Bernard Kettlewell performed experiments in the early 1950's that claimed to show that predatory birds ate light-colored moths when they became more conspicuous on pollution-darkened tree trunks, leaving the dark-colored variety to survive and reproduce (which supposedly showed how camouflage and predatory birds resulted in natural selection).
    - Since then, this has been used as the classic textbook example of natural selection in action and as evidence of a case where evolution occurring in the wild has actually been observed.
    - Most biology textbooks now illustrate this classical story of natural selection with photographs of the light and dark colored moths resting on light and dark colored tree trunks.
    - However, biologists have known since the 1980's that there are serious flaws with the experiments including: (1) peppered moths don't even rest on tree trunks; (2) in his experiments, Kettlewell released the moths during the day to see which survived, yet moths are night-flyers not day-fliers; (3) numerous studies/experiments have been done by biologists since Kettlewell's experiments showing that factors other than industrial pollution were likely responsible for the change in the moth populations (including the fact that once the pollution decreased, the ratio of light and dark-colored moths did not change again as expected); and (4) *most importantly*, since moths don't fly during the day and don't normally rest on tree trunks at all, all of the photographs illustrating this experiment in textbooks and documentaries have been staged (many times by pinning or gluing dead moths to tree trunks).
  - *Four-Winged Fruit Flies.*
    - Geneticists have been able to genetically engineer fruit flies to have four wings and this has become increasingly popular in textbooks and public presentations as evidence that DNA mutations can supply the raw materials for natural selection to act upon.
    - However, the extra wings do not have muscles and are non-functional, meaning that the four-winged flies are actually at a severe survival disadvantage compared to normal fruit flies. Their flying ability is severely impaired, they have trouble mating and unless the line of flies is carefully maintained in the lab, they quickly die out.
    - Moreover, four winged fruit flies do not occur spontaneously. They must be carefully bred in the lab from three artificially maintained mutant strains. The geneticists had to create three separate mutations in separate flies and then combine them in a fourth fly just in order to produce one mutation that, as it turns out, is disadvantageous and is not a beneficial mutation.
  - *From Ape to Human: The Ultimate Icon.*
    - This is the most famous icon, or so-called "fact" of evolution. It is the drawing you see in all textbooks (and often parodied in cartoons) that shows the march of ape-like creatures as they

slowly evolve into human beings, which suggests that we are only animals that evolved from the apes. However, the problem with this “fact” is that there are no fossils to support the picture. In other words, there are no fossils today of any primates or proto-humans that are intermediate transitions between apes and humans and that would support the claim that humans evolved from apes.

- In fact, there are actually very few fossils at all of the earliest proto-humans and they are separated by big intervals of time (one scientist has said that all of the fossil evidence of “human evolution” between ten and five million years ago, which is several thousand generations of living creatures, is so flimsy that it can fit into a small box).
- This led the chief science writer for *Nature* magazine (one of the world’s leading science magazines and a staunch supporter of evolutionary theory) to conclude that the conventional picture of human evolution is “a completely human invention created after the fact, shaped to accord with human prejudices. To take a line of fossils and claim that they represent a lineage is not a scientific hypothesis that can be tested, but an assertion that carries the same validity as a bedtime story – amusing, perhaps even instructive, but not scientific.” (Quoted in Lee Strobel’s, *The Case for a Creator*, pg. 63).
- In addition, while many researchers have made much noise recently over studies that show that chimp DNA is as much as 96% to 99% similar to human DNA, when you get around to reading the details you find out that the DNA of the average human has over three billion nucleotide sugar building blocks, meaning that this 1% difference involves approximately 30 to 40 million building block differences, an enormous number.

4. **Random variation is unable to produce meaningful changes in the first place.** The biggest problem with Darwinian theory is not necessarily the claimed selective power of natural selection, but rather the assumption that there is something to select from in the first place. The theory of evolution states that we start with simple organisms that experience change through random variations in the genetic code that produce beneficial mutations, and that natural selection then picks the changes that give survival advantages. The problem is that there is almost no evidence that random changes in the genetic code will ever produce beneficial mutations of any sort. Consider the following:

- *Try randomly mixing up the source code of your Word software.* DNA is a code, the same way the source code for a computer software program is a code. Try sometime taking the symbols and characters used in source code and randomly arranging them in various sequences to see if the result will produce a useful software program. It will never happen. Then take the existing source code of a complex software program, like the source code for a word processing program, and make random changes to the source code to see if it improves the functionality of the existing functions (such as allowing them to process faster) or if it even results in the word processing program having new functions (such as being able to do something that it couldn’t do before, such as cut and paste). It will never happen. These studies have been done before and the result is the same every time (the software program either lost a function or, if enough changes were made, stopped functioning completely). Also, having more time (which evolutionists claim is their friend) is actually an enemy since the longer you randomly hit the keyboard while writing source code, the more errors that will accrue and the worse the situation will become.
- *Won’t the same thing happen to DNA?*
  - There is no reason to think the result should be any different when you make random genetic changes to the DNA of organisms. The flaw with Darwin’s theory is the assumption that you can randomly change DNA and get improved functions in the first place for selection to act upon. More often than not, what you get is a dead organism. This has proven to be the case in the lab. No one has ever been able to create a truly new species in the lab. What has been done in the lab is not the creation of a wholly new species (like creating a cat from a dog) but rather has been slight changes to existing species (like a four winged fruit fly). In addition,

- most instances of mutations engineered in the lab to try to create a new animal species (such as the four winged fruit fly) have been harmful and not beneficial to the organism.
- Finally, if it takes highly-educated, intelligent scientists with millions of dollars of lab equipment to bring about even a slight mutation in a species, what makes a person think that this would happen by random chance in the jungle?
  - What about mutations that have actually been observed in nature?
    - Most of the claimed examples of mutations (such as bacteria developing resistance to antibiotics or insects developing pesticide resistance) could merely be an organism deploying a defense mechanism already programmed into its DNA.
    - Moreover, in those limited cases where a defense mechanism can be shown to result from a spontaneous genetic mutation, the change that occurs is trivial and hardly provides evidence of the ability of genetic mutations to contribute to fundamental changes in an organism's shape and structure (such as from fishes to amphibians to reptiles to mammals), which is what large-scale evolutionary theory claims has happened.

## 5. A theory that explains everything explains nothing.

- Science has to predict things. Philosophers of science say that to be science a theory has to have predictive power (i.e., it has to explain something; if it predicts that “A” should occur, then you do not expect to get a result of “non-A”) and it has to be falsifiable (it needs to be capable of being tested). To have explanatory power, a theory has to make specific predictions that exclude most possible outcomes.
- Evolution doesn't predict things. Evolution explains everything and it can't be tested. For example, in recent years evolutionists have claimed that evolution can account for both mothers who kill their newborns (one evolutionist claimed this instinct has been hardwired into the maternal genes by evolutionary history since mothers in primitive conditions often had to make hard choices between nurturing existing infants versus caring for newborns), and it can also explain the exact opposite behavior of mothers who care for all of their children since that behavior will produce more children and increase the chance for survival of the species. Evolution claims to explain both why a man can betray his best friend (since there is now less competition) and why soldiers will die for their country, parents will die to save children, and a man will die to save a stranger in a burning car (since this is a noble behavior that benefits society). As critics of evolution have noted, a theory that explains everything explains nothing.
- Evolution as a philosophical worldview. What accounts for these obviously stretched claims of evolutionary theory? The answer is that evolution is not a scientific theory so much as it is part of a philosophical worldview known as materialism or scientific naturalism. This philosophy insists that nature is all there is (or the only thing you can have knowledge about) and that, therefore, nature had to do its own creating, meaning that the means of creation must not have included any role for God. What ever happens has to, by definition, be the result of evolution and the only issue is to try to figure out why natural selection chose the outcome that it did.
- Evolutionary dogma. By starting with the dogmatic position that there is no God and that, therefore, everything in nature must be capable of being explained by natural causes (regardless of evidence that calls out for a totally different conclusion), evolutionary theory not only produces ridiculous contradictory explanations, but ultimately reveals itself to be more a religious view than science.



## PART IV – THE TOP 10 BOOKS TO READ

*“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” 1 Peter 3:15*

IV. **The Top 10 Books to Read.** The Top 10 books that I have read over the last few years, and which I strongly encourage anyone seeking answers to read, are (in no particular order):

- *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist*, by Norman L. Geisler and Frank Turek (2004)
- *20 Compelling Evidences that God Exists*, by Kenneth D. Boa and Robert M Bowman Jr. (2002)
- *The Case for a Creator: A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence that Points Toward God*, by Lee Strobel (2004)
- *The Creator and the Cosmos: How the Latest Scientific Discoveries Reveal God*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, by Hugh Ross, Ph.D (2001)
- *The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus*, by Lee Strobel (1998)
- *The Historical Jesus: Ancient Evidence for the Life of Christ*, by Gary R. Habermas (1996)
- *Evidence that Demands a Verdict: Historical Evidences for the Christian Faith, Volume I*, by Josh McDowell (1979)
- *Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution*, by Michael J. Behe (1996)
- *Evolution: a Theory in Crisis*, by Michael Denton (1986)
- *Icons of Evolution: Science or Myth? Why Much of What We Teach About Evolution is Wrong*, by Jonathan Wells (2000)
- **Bonus Book:** *Handbook of Christian Apologetics: Hundreds of Answers to Crucial Questions*, by Peter Kreeft and Ronald K. Tacelli (1994)

1. **I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist.** If you decide that you have only enough time or inclination to read one book and everything you decide from that point forward will be based on that one book, then this is the book you need to read. All worldviews, including atheism, require faith. In *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*, Norman Geisler and Frank Turek show how Christianity requires the least faith of all because it is the most reasonable. They pack an incredible amount of evidence for the Christian faith into this highly accessible book, crafting a persuasive and powerful case, first, for the existence of God, and, second, for the deity of Jesus Christ. Along the way, they deal with absolute truth, logic, miracles, morality, Intelligent Design, biblical interpretation, and even the age-old question, “If God, then why evil?” Best of all, they convincingly build up their case in logical easy-to-follow layers, laying out the evidence first for absolute truth, then God, then the Bible and finally the divinity of Jesus in a readable, non-technical, engaging style. They are very thorough in their responses to the most daunting challenges raised by atheists and agnostics and find the time to debunk, in an often entertaining way, moral relativism, agnosticism, atheism, Darwinism and New Testament liberalism. They also include amusing anecdotal stories of run-ins they've had with professors and debate opponents, making for an interesting read.

This book is so powerful that the book reviews posted to Amazon.com include one by an agnostic who says “I have had this book for 2 1/2 days and I am on page 130. I cannot put this book down. My agnosticism is tumbling down like a row of dominoes” and one by an atheist who says “No honest atheist can read this book without being impressed by the quality of the theistic arguments as presented by the authors. The objections of skeptics are confronted with confidence. Did it change my mind? It may have planted a seed.” The book covers all of the important issues that this topic entails, from cosmology, life's origins, evolution, morality, and a defense of the Bible. Of all the books that I have read, this one is by far the best in scope, logic and wit (although I must say that *The Case for a Creator* by Lee Strobel is a close second). These guys really know their stuff. Norman Geisler is the author or coauthor of some sixty books, including *The Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*, has taught at the university and

graduate level for nearly forty years and has spoken or debated in all fifty states and in twenty-five countries. Frank Turek is pursuing a doctorate in apologetics, and he has appeared on numerous television and radio programs including “The O’Reilly Factor” and “Hannity and Colmes.” The book itself is laid out in the following format:

- Can We Handle the Truth?
- Why Should Anyone Believe Anything at All?
- In the Beginning There was a Great SURGE
- Divine Design
- The First Life: Natural Law or Divine Awe?
- New Life Forms: From the Goo to You via the Zoo?
- Mother Teresa vs. Hitler
- Miracles: Signs of God or Gullibility?
- Do We Have Early Testimony About Jesus?
- Do We Have Eyewitness Testimony About Jesus?
- The Top Ten Reasons We Know the New Testament Writers told the Truth
- Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead?
- Who is Jesus: God? Or Just a Great Moral Teacher
- What Did Jesus Teach About the Bible?
- If God, Why Evil?

2. **20 Compelling Evidences that God Exists.** This book is a lite, low calorie version of *I Don’t Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist*. It is very easy to read, with Boa’s and Bowman’s fluid writing style making for the easiest reading book of all the books on the Top 10 list (while the book is 317 pages long, the pages are double spaced and fly by very quickly). This book would be perfect for someone who has a fear of thinking that every book will be like a college textbook or someone who gets easily bored with lengthier books. While this book covers all of the major evidences for the existence of God and the divinity of Jesus, the arguments sometimes lack the detailed substance that other books have. As such, this book really serves mostly to whet one’s appetite. It is more of a well-rounded primer; a good starter book so to speak. It does a great job of providing good quotes, bibliographies and endnotes that will lead the reader on to other books with more meaty details (which is exactly what it did for me when I read it). This book does a valuable service in introducing the average reader to the true arguments and debates that surround the evidence presented in the book. The writing is geared to people who are just getting acquainted with the arguments. People with some study behind them will probably be disappointed and probably should choose one of the other books reviewed in the Top 10 list. However, if you have an uninitiated friend who has no idea whatsoever that these types of evidences are out there, and who you don’t think will initially be willing to read a more thorough work, then this book is the perfect book for your friend.

3. **The Case for a Creator: A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence that Points Toward God.** *The Case for a Creator* is a mesmerizing book by Lee Strobel (an award-winning former legal editor of the Chicago Tribune who was educated at Yale Law School) that uses the dramatic scenario of an investigative journalist hot on the heels of a high-profile news story to record his attempt to determine if there is scientific evidence for the existence of God. Of all of the books that I’ve read in the last few years, I think I was the most captivated by this one. An introductory high school biology class first propelled Lee toward a life of atheism. When he converted to Christianity, he decided to investigate the science he had once accepted as truth. Did science point toward or away from God? As he interviews a variety of recognized scientists on everything from debunking evolutionary icons to the implications of the Big Bang to the existence of consciousness, he builds his case: scientific evidence clearly points toward God. Although the discussion deals with scientific topics and explanations, Lee does an excellent job of simplifying things so that a lay person without scientific training can fully appreciate what the

scientific evidence is and how it shows the fingerprints of God all throughout his creation. Lee visits with scholars and researchers and works each interview into a topical outline. While he acknowledges up front that he does not have any expertise in science or metaphysics, he makes this an asset, prodding the scientists he is interviewing to translate scientific jargon and provide illustrations for their arguments. Throughout the book, he mixes in interesting personal stories of his own spiritual and scientific quest for knowledge. Written in the style of a blockbuster investigative report that will keep you glued to your seat, these interviews collectively compose a case brief that presents compelling evidence for the existence of God. In the book, Lee discusses scientific evidence in a broad number of areas, including:

- Doubts about Darwinism
- Where science meets faith
- The evidence of cosmology (Beginning with a Bang)
- The evidence of physics (the Cosmos on a Razor's Edge)
- The evidence of astronomy (the Privileged Planet)
- The evidence of biochemistry (the Complexity of Molecular Machines)
- The evidence of biological information (the Challenge of DNA and the Origin of Life), and
- The evidence of consciousness (the Enigma of the Mind)

If you like this book, you will also like *The Hidden Face of God* (2001) by Gerald L. Schroeder.

4. **The Creator and the Cosmos: How the Latest Scientific Discoveries Reveal God.** In this book, Dr. Hugh Ross, a respected physicist and astronomer (with a degree in physics and a Ph.D in astronomy), talks with authority on the matter of how our universe came to be, its structure and amazing complexity and how all of the recent cosmological theories point toward God. He analyzes all of the recent scientific studies and various theories about the Big Bang, the number of dimensions (scientists now think that there are 10 dimensions, one space dimension and nine space dimensions), when time began and what there was before time, the numerous examples of fine-tuned physics constants and parameters in the universe, galaxies and planets, the probabilities of that fine tuning occurring by chance, and the probability of life originating on Earth by chance. Ross is an especially gifted writer and, in plain language, he seamlessly integrates science and the Scriptures to show how science and the Bible support each other and how, contrary to what skeptics say, science and faith can go hand in hand. Also, even though he relates many of the recent scientific findings to the Bible, he doesn't get bogged down by theological, philosophical or existential discussions. Rather, the focus is clearly on the science of physics, cosmology and astronomy, but it is done so in a way that a non-scientist (like me) can easily understand him and see how science is very much on God's side.

The best parts of this book are the evidence he presents for the Big Bang and the numerous specific examples he gives of fine-tuning in physics, cosmology and astronomy that are easy to understand and truly convey the absolute improbability of the universe and our planet occurring by chance. This is a very enjoyable book and while it will be especially good for anyone with a background in science, everyone (including those without a background in science) will benefit from it. I also highly recommend everyone check out Hugh's Reasons to Believe website at [www.reasons.org](http://www.reasons.org). It has perhaps the most comprehensive and accessible information and materials on the creation-evolution debate and on the scientific evidence for God that I have seen anywhere.

For those who enjoy this book, other stimulating books by Hugh Ross include *The Fingerprint of God* (1989), *Beyond the Cosmos* (1999) and *The Genesis Question* (2001). *The Science of God* (1997) by Gerald L. Schroeder is also very good.

5. **The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus.** *The Case for Christ* is another amazing book by Lee Strobel that uses the dramatic scenario of an investigative journalist hot on the heels of a high-profile news story to record his attempt to "determine if there's

credible evidence that Jesus of Nazareth really is the Son of God.” What makes this book so powerful is that it was as a reporter for the Chicago Tribune and an avowed atheist that Lee first investigated the claims of Jesus, hoping to prove to his wife (who had recently come to the faith) that her belief was misplaced. However, he found evidence so compelling that he became a believer himself. In this book (against the backdrop of his retracing his own spiritual journey from atheism to faith), Lee interviews more than a dozen scholars with doctorates from Cambridge, Princeton, Brandeis, and other top-flight institutions who are recognized authorities on Jesus. Each interview is based on a simple question, concerning historical evidence (for example, “Can the Biographies of Jesus Be Trusted?”), scientific evidence (“Does Archaeology Confirm or Contradict Jesus’ Biographies?”), and psychiatric evidence (“Was Jesus Crazy When He Claimed to Be the Son of God?”). Lee challenges these experts during the interviews, effectively cross-examining them with tough, point-blank questions (the types of questions a tough-minded skeptic would ask) to ensure that the experts justified their positions and addressed and responded to opposing viewpoints. Written in the style of a blockbuster investigative report that will keep you spellbound, these interviews collectively compose a case brief that presents compelling evidence and expert testimony for the claims of Christianity and Jesus’ divinity. In this book, Lee covers a dazzling array of different types of so-called legal evidence, including:

- the eyewitness evidence (can the four Gospels, which are the biographies of Jesus, be trusted?)
- the documentary evidence (were Jesus’ biographies reliably preserved for us?)
- the corroborating evidence (is there credible evidence for Jesus outside his biographies?)
- the scientific evidence (does archeology confirm or contradict Jesus’ biographies?)
- the identity evidence (was Jesus really convinced that he was the Son of God?)
- the psychological evidence (was Jesus crazy when he claimed to be the Son of God?)
- the profile evidence (did Jesus fulfill the attributes of God?)
- the fingerprint evidence (did Jesus – and Jesus alone – match the identity of the Messiah?)
- the medical evidence (was Jesus’ death a sham and the resurrection a hoax?)
- the evidence of the missing body (was Jesus’ body really absent from his tomb?)
- the evidences of appearances (was Jesus seen alive after his death on the cross?), and
- the circumstantial evidence (are there any supporting facts that point to the resurrection?)

If you like this book, you should also consider *Mere Christianity* (1952) by C. S. Lewis.

6. **The Historical Jesus: Ancient Evidence for the Life of Christ**. Gary Habermas is considered one of the foremost scholars in America on the life and times of Jesus. In this book, he does an excellent job of showing how much ancient evidence (i.e., evidence from the time of Jesus) there is outside the Bible that supports the biblical accounts of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. This evidence includes (1) ancient non-Christian sources (what one today would call secular historical sources); (2) ancient Christian sources outside the New Testament (such as the historical writings of the early Church fathers); (3) archaeological evidence; and (4) evidence of the earliest oral creeds used by early believers in worship.

What is impressive about this book is that Habermas does not resort to dogmatic statements, but rather uses the commonly accepted canons of objective historical research and investigation to show that the claims of recent liberal scholars that Jesus is barely mentioned outside the New Testament are unsupported and that, contrary to such claims, Jesus is in fact the most documented historical figure of ancient times. He also provides heavily footnoted sources to back up his argument that Jesus is not a myth “created” by man, but a real man whose “historical” life is “reported” with so much evidence that it’s hard to ignore. Moreover, he’s not afraid to take on skeptics. He thoroughly details opposing viewpoints regarding who Jesus was and then provides a thorough refutation of those viewpoints, no matter how bizarre some of them are (which is important because every theory must be answered eventually). This book is more scholarly than *The Case for Christ* but is still very easy to read.

7. **Evidence that Demands a Verdict: Historical Evidences for the Christian Faith, Volume I.** Josh McDowell's *Evidence that Demands a Verdict: Historical Evidences for the Christian Faith, Volume I* is probably the heaviest reading of any of the books on the Top 10 list, but it is a very well researched and thorough reference source and well worth the effort. Like Lee Strobel, Josh was an atheist for a long time who set out to disprove the Bible and Christianity and, after considering the evidence, became a believer. After that, he became heavily involved with Campus Crusade for Christ and since then has spoken in over 60 countries to more than seven million young people and adults in over 8,000 universities and high schools. The book is a straightforward compilation of notes prepared by Josh for his well-known lecture series, "Christianity: Hoax or History?" While it is a bit more academic than most books, it is laid out in outline form with clear and precise arguments, which makes it easier for readers (including laypersons and students) to access. As such, it is very useful as a tool for locating supporting evidence whenever the need arises. The book covers the following topics

- The uniqueness of the Bible
- How the Bible was prepared
- The reliability of the Bible
- Confirmation of the Bible by specific, documented archaeological finds
- Evidence for the person of Jesus outside the Bible
- Evidence of Jesus' divinity
- Evidence for the resurrection
- Evidence of messianic prophecies in the Old Testament that were fulfilled by Jesus
- Evidence of numerous other prophecies in the Old Testament that history shows were subsequently fulfilled (this section, which is excellent, lists in detail 12 very specific prophecies in the Old Testament, gives evidence for the dating of the prophecies, and shows how each one was remarkably fulfilled in exact detail subsequent to the date of the prophecy)

One final note: if you decide to get this book, you might instead consider *The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict Fully Updated To Answer The Questions Challenging Christians Today*, which came out a few years ago. I have not read it, but I understand that it updates *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* and is broader in scope and includes additional material.

8. **Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution.** Michael J. Behe, a professor of biochemistry at Lehigh University, convincingly shows how Darwin's theory of evolution through natural selection and random mutation fails to account for the origin of astonishingly complex biomolecular systems. He focuses on five phenomena: (1) blood clotting; (2) the bacterial flagellum and the cilia, which are oar-like bundles of fibers; (3) the human immune system; (4) the transport of materials within the cell; and (5) the synthesis of nucleotide sugars, which are the building blocks of DNA. In each case, he finds systems that are irreducibly complex. There is an illustration of the bacterial flagellum (which is the biological motor that bacteria use to move around) that is itself worth the price of admission. When I first saw it, I did not just think that it somewhat looked like a motor, I thought that it actually was a man-made motor, it is that machine-like. Behe uses these examples to show how there is no gradual, step-by-step Darwinian route that led (or even could have conceivably led) to their existence. Behe doesn't just make outlandish unsupported claims. He clearly has an ironclad grasp of biochemistry and uses it to clearly explain (in a very accessible easy to understand way) how these irreducibly-complex systems work, how many steps are needed for them to function, and why those steps could not possibly have occurred gradually. He also shows that he has done a thorough search of scientific literature and that no scientist anywhere has any idea of how these irreducibly-complex systems came to be. As an alternative explanation, Behe infers that complex biochemical systems (i.e., life) were designed by an intelligent agent. He also honestly responds to and answers all objections to his analysis.

I found this to be an incredible, eye-opening book when I first read it. If you accept that either evolution or creation is true (that it has to be one or the other), and then you read just this one book, you

will know beyond a shadow of a doubt that evolution cannot fully account for life as we know it. I highly recommend this book. Other excellent books are *The Design Revolution* (2004) and *Intelligent Design* (1999) by William A. Dembski (who has a mind like a steel trap).

9. **Evolution: a Theory in Crisis.** First published in 1986, *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis* was a groundbreaking book that offered a detailed, first-rate scientific critique of the standard evolutionary paradigm with original and compelling arguments. In this book, molecular biologist Michael Denton effectively laid the foundation for today's Intelligent Design movement (even though Denton is not a member of that movement and is a self-professed agnostic). What was so revolutionary about the book was that Denton was really the first well-established member of the Darwinian fraternity who dared to question the essential tenets of conventional evolutionary theory on scientific grounds (thus showing that at least some secular scientists can see the validity of many of today's arguments against evolution). In the book, Denton gives a penetrating account of features of the natural world that mutation and natural selection are simply inadequate to explain. From biochemistry to the fossil record, Denton systematically demolishes the "fact" of evolution as not being a sufficient explanation for the world as it is. Denton doesn't merely ask, "How could this have evolved?" Rather, he argues positively that certain features cannot have evolved, that intermediate forms are not just difficult to imagine, they are impossible. Denton, using hard science (most notably the fossil record and molecular biology), has demonstrated how evolutionists are forced to fill in the blanks in their theory with outlandish and fanciful conjecture. He marshals a vast array of evidence against the theory of Darwinian evolution and is very convincing in the process. He explores many evidences that are problematic to evolutionary theory even today, including the inconceivable complexity of the cell, the continued lack of intermediate transitions in the fossil record, limits of selective breeding, anomalous results from molecular biology, the gap between evident microevolution and more controversial macroevolution, and so on. The bottom line is simple -- there is far more damaging evidence against the entire theory than there is supportive evidence for it. Over time, Darwin's theory has taken on a "hallowed" status of its own that some blindly accept and others are afraid to challenge (in other words, it has become a religion of sorts itself). For those who enjoy this book, other books to consider include *Darwin on Trial* (1993) and *The Wedge of Truth* (2000) by Phillip E. Johnson (he is considered by many to be the father of the Intelligent Design movement).

10. **Icons of Evolution: Science or Myth? Why Much of What We Teach About Evolution is Wrong.** In *Icons of Evolution: Science or Myth?*, Jonathan Wells (who has Ph.D's from Yale University and the University of California at Berkeley, including a Ph.D in biology) exposes with amazing clarity how the textbook examples that Darwinists themselves chose as the pillars of their theory are false or misleading. He exposes the exaggerated claims of evolutionary theory and demonstrates why much of what is taught about evolution in public schools is in fact either severely misleading or flat out wrong, in spite of contrary evidence, and how the devotion to the ideology of Darwinism has led to textbooks that are full of misinformation. Wells conducted a thorough investigation of the current scientific literature in biology, paleontology and related fields and discovered that many of the so-called "facts" that are often cited by scientists and included in public school textbooks as proving evolution are more myth than science. Wells has a strong science background and has a clear mastery of the subject matter, yet he makes its very easy for everyone (including those without a science background) to understand what the so-called "facts" are and why they are wrong. The icons he covers in the book include:

- The Miller-Urey origin of life experiment
- Darwin's tree of life
- Homology (or similarity) in vertebrate limbs
- Haeckel's embryos
- *Archaeopteryx*: the missing link
- Peppered moths
- Darwin's finches
- Four-winged fruit flies

- Fossil horses and directed evolution
- From ape to human: the ultimate icon

Perhaps the most alarming thing discovered by Wells is that all of these “icons” are still being taught in the large majority of public high school textbooks today. According to Wells, if you ask the majority of scientists today to describe the evidence for Darwinism, time after time they give these same examples. For many scientists, these so-called “icons” of evolution are the evidence for evolution. Worse than that, many of the people within academia who know about the problems with these “icons” don’t care. This book won’t just educate you, it will make you mad. Reading this book will make you realize the lengths (including sometimes blatant intellectual dishonesty) to which the scientific establishment and liberal academia will go to protect the teaching (brainwashing?) of evolution in our schools.

11. **Bonus Book: Handbook of Christian Apologetics: Hundreds of Answers to Crucial Questions.**

The *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*, by Peter Kreeft and Ronald K. Tacelli, is an excellent source for those whose questions about Christianity are not limited to the existence of God or the divinity of Jesus, but extend to other aspects of the faith (such as the problem of evil; is there really a hell; can non-believers ever be saved?). This book does a great job of providing a firm basis for defending Christianity by offering a wide range of reasons for belief. Its goal is to help believers defend their faith and to help non-believers see the reasonableness of believing in Christianity. Kreeft and Tacelli write in a lively and intelligent manner. Their train of thought is fairly easy to follow. The book is laid out in a question and answer format: it lists objections against the Christian faith and then provides the most thorough list of responses to those objections that I have seen in any book that I have read so far. The authors do a great job of being very logical in their responses and avoiding personal attacks against the opposing viewpoint or letting passion overcome the larger effort. Also, they confine themselves to the core beliefs common to all Christians (as a result, this is a book that can be read and used by all denominations and traditions). The authors cover the following key topics in the book:

- Faith and reason (the authors note how both are vital, and that faith and reason can never contradict each other)
- Arguments for the existence of God and what we can know about the nature of God
- The problem of evil
- The divinity of Jesus and the evidence for the resurrection (this is the single best treatment of the evidence for the resurrection that I have found anywhere)
- The evidence for the Bible as history and not myth
- Heaven, hell and life after death
- Salvation (this section does the best job of addressing the “Can good people who have never heard of Jesus be saved?” question that I have ever seen)
- Christianity versus other religions, and
- Objective truth

You might also consider *The Case for Faith* by Lee Strobel, which also addresses common objections to Christianity (it has a much narrower scope, but it’s written in Lee’s unique, enjoyable journalistic style).

## CONCLUSION

*“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6*

### V. Conclusion.

- Ultimately, every choice requires some faith. I believe that the evidences summarized in this outline provide compelling reasons to believe that God exists, that Jesus is his one and only Son, and that the theory of evolution is at best merely a theory and not a fact (and it is not even a very good theory at that). Ultimately, every choice requires some faith. However, given the compelling evidence in favor of the existence of God and the divinity of Jesus, and the lack of evidence against those beliefs (i.e., the weaknesses of the theory of evolution), I think that believing in God and accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior requires a lot less faith than does the alternative.
- The clock is ticking; what is your next step? No one is guaranteed even one more day on God’s green earth. Every day you let pass by without sincerely asking Jesus into your life is one more day you put your soul at eternal risk. If you are still uncertain about your beliefs, I’m hoping that you will get one or more of the books I’ve reviewed in this outline and work through whatever issues may be sticking points for you. Often times, the doubts that are left alone can mean the difference between living as if Jesus is a dead man in a tomb versus living with the joy of knowing that Jesus is the risen Lord, that he is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. So if you still have doubts, don’t let them just sit there and fester. I urge you to take the next step and continue investigating the evidences presented in this outline.
- Are you ready to ask Jesus to be your Lord and Savior? If you have worked through any intellectual issues or objections you have and realize deep down that you know that God exists and that Jesus is his Son, then I hope that you will this very moment stop what you are doing and ask Jesus into your heart. Put all of your faith in him, ask him to be your Lord and Savior and, knowing that eternal salvation is yours, get ready to begin the next step of your spiritual journey as you discover the plans and purposes that God has for your life. How can you make this decision? There is no one single prayer that you must pray to become a Christian, but the one below is a good start (this is the prayer that the Senior Pastor at my church prayed back in 1973 when he committed his life to Jesus):

*“Dear God,*

*Thank you for loving me. Thank you that Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for my sins and failures. I admit to you that I am a sinner, that I need you to save me. I ask you to forgive me for my sins. I turn from them now. I invite Jesus into my life as my Savior and Lord. I turn my life over to him. I will live for him as long as I live. Thank you for giving me eternal life and making me the child of God. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*