

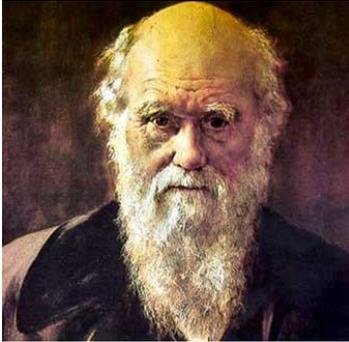
Designed by God

Phil Sanders

Is this world designed by God, or have we come into being by accident or chance? Is there evidence of an intelligent designer or did we evolve from non-living matter?

A person's view of the beginning affects his whole outlook on life. We must all deal with questions such as: Who am I? Where did I come from? Does my life have a purpose? Am I of any value? What you or I believe about our origin will determine what we believe about ourselves and our place in life. If we consider ourselves merely as a complex animal which evolved from a one-celled creature, we'll have a pretty empty view of life. But if we consider ourselves unique individuals made in the image of God with an eternal destiny, then there is great reason and meaning to our existence.

Charles Darwin taught that man evolved over time from other species through the process of natural selection or what is better known as "survival of the fittest." A biologist who followed Darwin's thinking said, "man is the result of a purposeless and natural process that did not have him in mind."¹ The Bible, however, teaches in Genesis 1 that God created the world and all of the creatures within it. Male and female, they were to reproduce after their own kind. About man, God specifically says in verses 26 and 27 that He made man in His own image and gave man dominion over all the earth. These views are very far apart and cannot both be true. But what we believe about our origin makes a great difference in how we see ourselves.



Genesis 1:1 says: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The word "created" means "to call into being something that never previously existed." God simply spoke, and something came into existence. God created the world and everything that is in it, every plant and every animal. Last He created man in His own image. The Bible says in Hebrews 11:3, "By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."

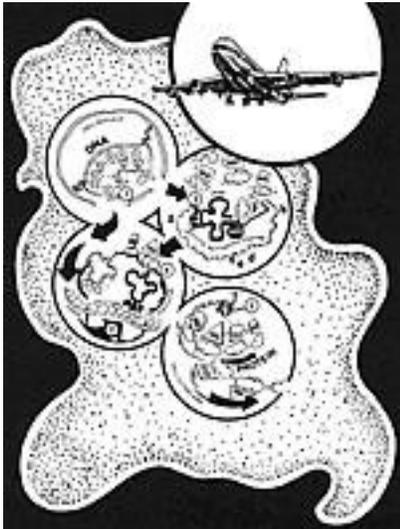
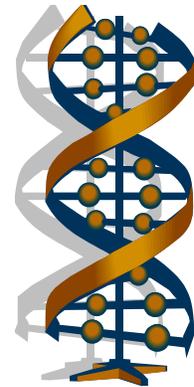
Believing God intelligently created the world and everything in it is not a blind leap of faith. It is built on observing all the order and purpose evident in the world. Proverbs 3:19 says: "The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens." God purposefully designed the world and all His creatures with wisdom and understanding. The more we study this world and the human body, the more we realize the order and the purpose God put into everything He made.

But those reject faith in God suggest a different way to explain the existence of life. Some claim life evolved from non-living matter; but if we rule out God, then the origin of life is a mystery. It is a great leap of faith to assume life could come from non-living matter. They think there was a gradual development of complex molecules from the basic elements until they finally become molecules could reproduce themselves and are assumed to be living.

Evolutionists once spoke of the primordial soup that spawned life, but many now question that since they learned of how complex life is. The basic building blocks of life are

proteins that make up our DNA. The DNA provides the information or intelligence needed to reproduce the proteins which give us life.

Each protein is quite complex. It doesn't just happen. Protein molecules are made up of a complicated series of amino acids that are ordered by the various genes in our DNA. Sir Fred Hoyle, one of England's prominent scientists argued that the chance of higher life-forms emerging accidentally from non-living matter is comparable to a tornado making a Boeing 747 jet out of a junkyard.²



Living cells use over 75 special kinds of protein and RNA molecules to make one protein following DNA's instructions. What we know about airplanes convinces us that their flight is the result of creative design. What scientists know about the way living cells make protein suggests, just as clearly, that life also is the result of creative design.³

In 2004 prominent British philosopher and proponent of atheism Professor Antony Flew renounced his atheism. Why? He said because "the argument to intelligent design is enormously stronger than it was when I first met it. It now seems to me that the findings of more than fifty years of DNA research have provided materials for a new and enormously powerful argument to design." Flew had to admit he "had to go where the evidence leads."⁴

Evolutionists once believed man had vestigial organs, body parts that lost all or most of their original function through evolution. There were supposed to be 180 such vestigial organs in humans. This list included such things as the tailbone, the appendix, even parts of the ear and eye. That list is now itself obsolete. Medical science discovered these organs played very essential roles and were not "useless."

What these organs teach us is that God had a special purpose behind everything He has made. Psalm 139:13-15 says, "For You [God] formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth."

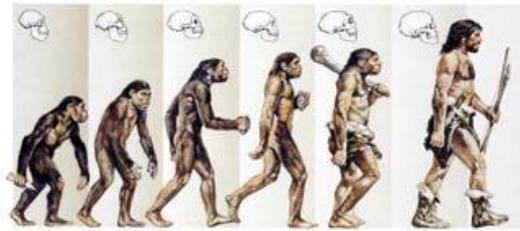
Evolution, according to Darwin, is in a continual state of motion, with gradual change happening over long periods of time. He believed the fossil record should be filled with examples of transitional forms from one species into another; these forms go from the less complex to the more complex. But paleontologists did not find these transitional forms. They found gaps in the fossil record. There was no evidence of transformational intermediates between documented fossil species.⁵

Many people forget the number of hoaxes evolutionists have posed to support their theory. They put forth "missing links" between apes and men. They believed the fossil records would show how one kind of animal evolved into another, but none of the fossils ever showed a transitional link between one creature and another.

Instead of gradual change as evolutionists expected, they found sudden appearances of new species and the overlapping in time of species. One evolution scientist, S. M. Stanley, admits, "Species that were once thought to have turned into others have been found to overlap in

time with these alleged descendants. In fact, the fossil record does not convincingly document a single transition from one species to another.”⁶

The first fossil hoax was Java Man found in 1891. They said they found a missing link, and what was the evidence? They found a skullcap, three teeth, and femur or thigh-bone. They found the thigh-bone 50 feet from the skull a year later, and it didn't come from the same individual. The skull came from an ape, while the leg bone came from a human.



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Second, Neanderthal man was first found in France in 1908. Neanderthal man was thought to be ignorant, ape-like, stooped and knuckle-dragging. But the evidence proved Neanderthal man was just as human as we are, and his stooped appearance was because of arthritis and rickets. Neanderthals are now recognized as skilled hunters, believers in an after-life, and even skilled surgeons. They found one Neanderthal skeleton whose withered right arm had been amputated above the elbow.⁷



Third, Piltdown Man was found in 1912 in a village named Piltdown in England. It was no missing link; it was merely an early human. The evidence came from a human skull and the jawbone of an orangutan. This deception lasted more than forty years before it was proven to be a hoax.

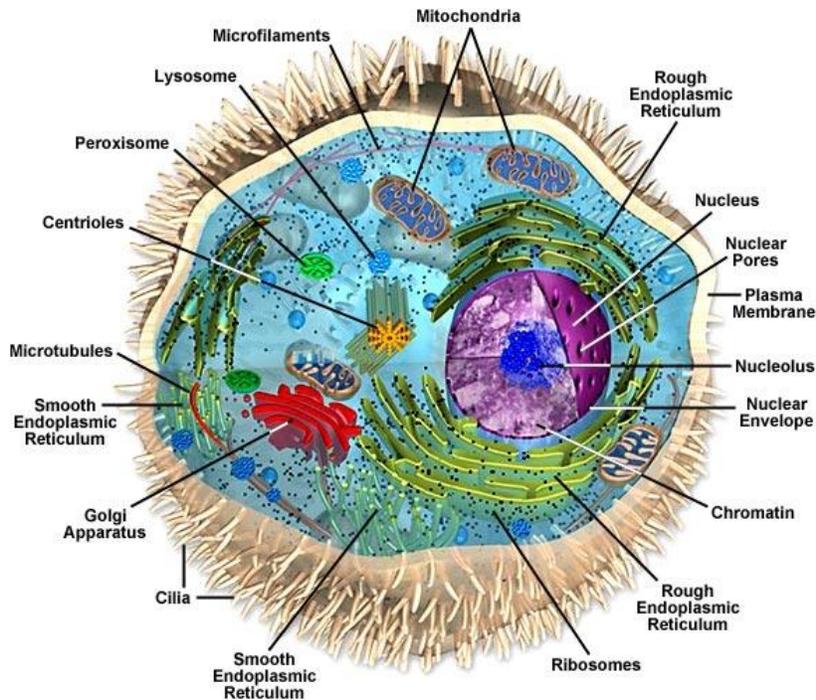
Fourth, Nebraska Man was found in 1992 in western Nebraska near Snake Brook. Some scientists said this was the missing link until they discovered the fossil was only the single tooth of an extinct wild pig.



Fifth, 'Lucy' is the popular name given to a famous fossil skeleton found in 1974 in Ethiopia by American anthropologist Donald Johanson. To many, Lucy is regarded as a certain link between ape-like creatures and man and supposedly proves evolution.

But "Lucy" was not human at all; she was a chimp-like animal, very different from humans.

Rather than look to fossils for imaginary missing links, perhaps we should look to the amazing design right in front of us. This purposeful design all around us argues for an intelligent designer. That designer is God. He is the only one with the unlimited power and wisdom to create us. Revelation 4:11 says, "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."



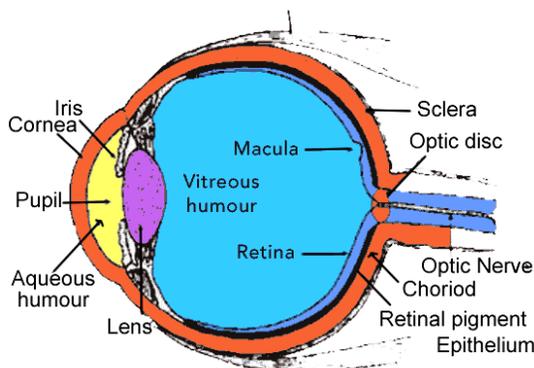
Microbiologists tell us of the utter complexity of single, living cell. Benjamin Miller and Ruth Goode said, “The cell has been likened to a power plant, a furnace, a chemical laboratory. In its reproductive functions it has been described as a factory complete with manager’s office, files of blueprints and plans, intercommunication system, assembly line with foremen and workers.

“None of these fanciful analogies does justice to the living cell. All of these man-made systems put together, however ingenious and

efficient, could not reproduce the functioning of this single unit of life, too small to be seen with the unaided eye.”⁸ My friend, Wayne Jackson, in his book, *The Human Body—Accident or Design?*, asks, “If the living cell is more ‘ingenious’ than any ‘man-made system, who made it? Are we to conclude it just happened? That is wholly illogical.”⁹

The human body is an engineering miracle. It is indeed fearfully and wonderfully made. We have trillions of cells in our bodies, and they are marvelously designed and show their function. For instance, the human red-blood cells are saucer-shaped and fairly flat, permitting the transfer of oxygen and carbon dioxide throughout the body. Nerve cells, on the other hand, “have long, thin extensions to transmit messages.”¹⁰ Hebrews 3:4 says, “For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.” These exceptionally complex cells didn’t just happen! God designed and built them for their functions. Only a wise God could make them!

Charles Darwin in the *Origin of Species* said, “If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down.”¹¹ Then he added, “But I can find no such case.” However on page 167 of the *Origin of Species*, Darwin spoke of the eye. He said, “To suppose that the eye... could have formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree possible.” Even then, Darwin doubted himself. He did not know in 1859 what we know today about the eye.



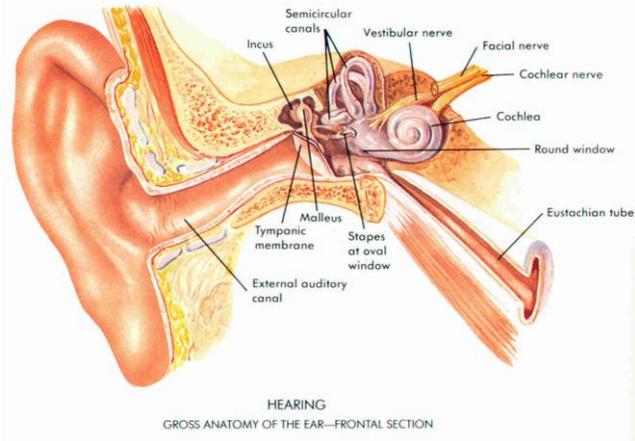
You are watching me because God gave you eyes and listening because God gave you ears. Bioengineer John Lenihan said, “The eye is an exceptionally sensitive optical instrument displaying many striking features of design and performance; even the windscreen washers and wipers have not been forgotten.”¹²

Just think! Your eye can see moving images by the thousands as they change. Your eye makes adjustments to the amount of light, to distance, and to angle automatically. Every camera we own was patterned after the eye. Wayne Jackson argues, “If the function of the camera demands that it was ‘made,’ does it not stand to reason that the more complex human camera, the eye, must also have had a Maker?”

Likewise, the ear is a marvel. Using membranes like the eardrum, small bones, muscles that amplify the sound inside your ear, and 25,000 auditory receptors, the brain is able to receive these vibrations and interpret whether they come from thunder, a voice, or from thousands of other tones we hear.

One authority says, “Amazingly, the inner ear, although no bigger than a hazelnut, contains as many circuits as the telephone system of a good-sized city.”¹³ Can you believe that a city’s telephone system could design itself or just happen by accident? Your ear is far more sophisticated than this microphone I’m wearing. Did this microphone just happen or did someone make it?

The Bible says in Romans 1:20, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.” Let’s be grateful for all God has done in giving us this marvelously designed world and life. Every bone, muscle, organ, and tissue shouts that God made us in His image.



Let’s see, the fossil record doesn’t give us any “missing links” or intermediate forms showing the transition from one species to another. And, the body itself shows us an incredible amount of design. These facts make it reasonable to believe we have been created not products of natural selection. It takes far more faith to believe that non-living matter produced life than it does to believe in God. It takes far more faith to believe a reptile could gradually become a bird than it does to believe in creation. It takes far more faith to believe an eye or an ear were accidents of nature than to believe God designed them.

This world contains everywhere the marks of all-powerful and all-wise Designer, and that Designer is the one and only God. He is your God. He made you, gave you life, loves you, hears your prayers, and wants you to live with Him in heaven for an eternity. You can learn all about Him in the Bible. He gave us this precious book to answer our most important questions of life. It is the only book that will tell you where you came from, why you are here, and what will happen to you after you die.

To enter into a spiritual relationship with the Lord, believe in Him with all your heart, turn away from sin and follow His Word, confess the name of Jesus as the Son of God, and out of love be baptized into Christ. When you are immersed into Christ, you are baptized into His



death. At that time the Lord will wash away your sins by His blood (Acts 22:16) and add you to His church. Nothing you can do is more important than getting into a right relationship with the One who created you. We hope you will today, and let us know about it.

Please attend worship at one of the churches of Christ in your area. They support us, and they're the reason we never ask for money on this broadcast. They love guests, and you'll be glad you worshiped with them. Mack and I will be back next week, Lord willing. Keep searching God's Word with us and tell a friend. God bless you and we love you from all of us at In Search of the Lord's Way.

¹ George Gaylord Simpson, *The Meaning of Evolution* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1967), 345.

² Fred Hoyle, *Nature*, November 12, 1981, 105.

³ Gary Parker, "The Origin of Life: DNA and Protein," *Creation: Facts of Life*, (<http://www.answersingenesis.org/home/area/cfol/ch1-origin.asp>.)

⁴ Quoted by Rich Deem, "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest?" (www.godandscience.org/apologetics/flew.html).

⁵ Jeffrey H. Schwartz, *Sudden Origins: Fossils, Genes, and the Emergence of Species* (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1999), 89.

⁶ S. M. Stanley, *The New Evolutionary Timetable: Fossils, Genes, and the Origin of Species* (New York: Basic Books, 1981), 95.

⁷ "Upgrading Neanderthal Man", *Time Magazine*, May 17, 1971, Vol. 97, No. 20

⁸ Benjamin Miller and Ruth Goode, *Man and His Body* (New York: Simon and Shuster, 1960), 162.

⁹ Wayne Jackson, *The Human Body—Accident or Design?* (Stockton, Calif.: Courier Publications, 1993, expanded ed. 2000), 13.

¹⁰ John Pfeiffer, *The Cell* (New York: Time Inc., 1964), 9.

¹¹ Charles Darwin, *The Origin of Species* (London: J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd., 1971), 167.

¹² John Lenihan, *Human Engineering* (New York: John Braziller, Inc., 1974), 75.

¹³ Alma E. Guinness, ed., *ABC's of the Human Body* (Pleasantville, N.Y.: Reader's Digest Association, 1987), 208.