

**Review: Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator: A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence That Points Toward God*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2004**

Pages: 428

**Defending the Rational**

Strobel argues each line of evidence well and has certainly done his homework. Covering the additional readings at the end of each chapter make it even more comprehensive.

For those new to the religion of Evolutionism ideas will be novel and the material thoroughgoing. Those who have read more will find this a pleasant resource to reaffirm fundamental concepts around Abiogenesis, Intelligent Design, the Anthropic Principle, and the existence of spiritual mind.

The only negatives are allusions to ‘Deep Time’, contra-Biblical and scientifically unnecessary concessions to implacable Atheist enemies.

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**I) White-Coated Scientists Versus Black-Robed Preachers (pp. 7-18)**

**II) The Images of Evolution (pp. 19-34)**

Nancy Pearcey: “You can have God *or* Natural Selection, but not both.”  
[p26]

**III) Doubts About Darwinism (pp. 35-81)**

Stanley Miller chose a H<sub>2</sub>-rich mixture of CH<sub>4</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O (g) for his experiment, however, due to the thin atmosphere at the time and lower gravity the H<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> would have escaped. There was supposedly only CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, and H<sub>2</sub>O. The “organic” molecules he got included *formaldehyde* and *HCN*!

“The attitude is life *had* to have developed this way because there’s no other materialistic explanation.”

The Cambrian Explosion uprooted Darwin’s Tree of Life.

Berra’s Blunder: merely having a succession of similar forms does not provide its own explanation.

“Common developmental pathways” is derivation from similar cells and processes.

“Paleoanthropology has the form but not substance of a science.”

#### **IV) Where Science Meets Faith (pp. 82-112)**

Common objections to Jesus as the Messiah are: the coincidence argument; altered gospel argument; intentional fulfilment argument; the context argument. “The dead are beyond gratitude, but the living are appreciative.”

“Pantheism can’t explain the origin of the universe ... [it] can’t bring the universe into being from nothing.”

Nietzsche: “why should God rule and I serve?”

#### **V) The Evidence of Cosmology: Beginning With a Bang (pp. 113-151)**

Big Bangers imagine “scalar fields” and “vacuum energy” as possible candidates to introduce instability into the initial nothingness.

John Philoponus of Alexandria argued the universe had a beginning.

“When Islam took over North Africa, Muslim theologians picked up these arguments.”

Al-Ghazali (1058-1111) was one proponent.

The idea things can come into being uncaused out of nothing is worse than magic, since there isn’t even a magician.

Secular science had always assumed an eternal universe.

## **VI) The Evidence of Physics: the Cosmos (pp. 152-187)**

Polkinghorne calls the multiverse hypothesis “pseudoscience”.

An energy supply would be needed to make the bubble universes (a hypothetical infinite inflaton field), and a Many Universes Generator to govern production by choosing different physical constants.

Fred Dretske: “These are inflationary times, and the cost of atheism has just gone up.”

Evolution can’t explain beauty in the underlying world of physical laws and mathematics.

## **VII) The Evidence of Astronomy: the Privileged Planet (pp. 188-238)**

“Somebody had to win the big lottery, and we were it.”

Black holes release dangerous  $\gamma$ -rays, X-rays, and particles from the consumed materials at the horizon edge.

Even small variations in Earth’s orbit could cause ice ages.

Red dwarfs are 80% of stars, and don’t emit blue light required for photosynthesis. These are smaller, so any orbiting planet must be closer and will end up tidally-locked. Their flares are also as large as the Sun’s.

The Moon stabilises Earth’s axial tilt. Lunar laser experiments show it is receding at 3.82cm p.a.

Mountain basement rock has a pressure limit; higher gravity would mean lower mountains.

There is correlation between habitability and measurability.

## **VIII) The Evidence of Biochemistry: the Complexity of Molecular Machines (pp. 239-270)**

The flagellum's motor is 1/100,000<sup>th</sup> of an inch. A functional microbe needs 30-35 different proteins.

Blood clotting is a ten-step process.

ID is easy to falsify; just find one unintelligent process which can produce a complex system.

### **IX) The Evidence of Biological Information: the Challenge of DNA and the Origin of Life (pp. 271-305)**

One protein requires 1,200-2,000 nucleobase letters.

Tertiary proteins require at least 75 AAs.

A minimally-complex cell would have at least 300 proteins.

Any 'self-organisation' would only generate a repeating mantra, not novel information.

Dena Kenyon: "We have not the slightest chance of a chemical evolutionary origin for even the simplest of cells."

Importantly, there are no chemical bonds between nucleobases.

### **X) The Evidence of Consciousness: the Enigma of the Mind (pp. 306-339)**

David Chalmers: "If you can get a computer to take on any structure you like, and if consciousness is generated by structure ... that kind of structure is going to eventually give you consciousness."

The brain may be like a television which conveys a picture signal (i.e., the mind).

Wilder Penfield used electrical impulses to stimulate patient brains, and they could always differentiate volitional and non-volitional actions.

Animals never engage in metaphysics.

Consciousness out of materialism is trying to get something from nothing, or like transmuting lead into gold via alchemy.

**XI) The Cumulative Case for a Creator (pp. 340-366)**

No one has ever seen a quark, and no one ever will.

**Appendix: A Summary of the Case for Christ/Notes (pp. 367-428)**