



The Case for a Creator

A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence That Points Toward God

By Lee Strobel

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Evolution or Creation?

This book sets out to answer a fundamental question that I, as an engineer, have been pondering for a long time: Is the creation of the universe and the life that came into being by chance or the working of an intelligent force or agent?

Countless books have been written by atheistic, agnostic, or Christian Nobel Prize-winning scientists and philosophers since time immemorial, but despite the exponentially increasing knowledge, which is becoming immense, none of them could unequivocally produce a consensus on one of the two approaches, evolution or creation?

Lee Strobel, who holds a Master of Studies in Law degree from Yale Law School, as well as a journalism degree from the University of Missouri, is the former legal affairs editor of the *Chicago Tribune*, believing in Darwin's "The Origin of Species" started in 2004 to connect all the available information ("connecting the dots") to come to an unbiased conclusion on the question of whether everything could be explained by Darwin's evolutionary theory as published in many today's textbooks.

He shouldered the immense task of conducting critical interviews with the respective experts in six relevant scientific disciplines to question their opinions, compare them, and work out existing supporting similarities in the other disciplines.

In the first chapter, the author deals with the "four images of evolution": The Stanley Miller Experiment, Darwin's "Tree of Life", Ernst Haeckel's Drawings of Embryo, and the "Missing Link" i.e. the *archaeopteryx*, or "ancient wing", all arguments supporting strongly Darwin's evolutionary theory, to dismantle them in the following chapters.

Chapter 5 *The Evidence of Cosmology: Beginning with a Bang*, an interview with William Lane Craig.

Chapter 6 *The Evidence of Physics: The Cosmos on a Razor's Edge*, an interview with Robin Collins.

Chapter 7 *The Evidence of Astronomy: The Privileged Plane*, an interview with Guillermo Gonzalez and Jay Wesley Richards.

Chapter 8 *The Evidence of Biochemistry*, an interview with Michael J. Behe.

Chapter 9 *The Evidence of Biological Information: The Challenge of DNA and the Origin of Life*, an interview with Stephen C. Meyer.

Chapter 10 *The Evidence of Consciousness: The Enigma of the Mind*, an interview with J. P. Moreland.

Some of the most impressive scientific arguments for a creative agent for me are briefly mentioned here:

> Lee Strobel starts with the Kalam cosmological argument: “As formulated by al-Ghazali, the argument has three simple steps: ‘Whatever begins to exist has a cause. The universe began to exist. Therefore, the universe has a cause’, i.e. something must have caused the big-bang.

> Darwin’s evolution theory can’t explain the “Cambrian explosion” , the astonishing appearance of a multitude of very different life forms in such a short period.

> Behe’s definition of cells being intelligent "irreducible complex machines": "Irreducibly complex biological systems defy a Darwinian explanation because evolution can't produce an irreducibly complex biological machine suddenly, all at once, because it's much too complicated. The odds against that would be prohibitive, and because it can't be produced step-by-step by numerous, successive, slight modifications of a precursor system, any precursor system would be missing a part and consequently couldn't function".

> "Fine-tuning": Cosmologist Edward Harrison has come to this conclusion: "The fine-tuning of the universe provides *prima facie* evidence of deistic design, and Paul Davies, the former professor of theoretical physics at the University of Adelaide, is now convinced that there must be a purpose behind the universe. “Through my scientific work I have come to believe more and more strongly that the physical universe is put together with an ingenuity so astonishing that I cannot accept it merely as a brute fact," he said in his book *The Mind of God*. “I cannot believe that our existence in this universe is a mere quirk of fate, an accident of history, an incidental blip in the great cosmic drama.”

> Dualism of body and soul: Is the Bible’s insistence that people consist of both body and spirit—a belief called “dualism”—a defensible assertion? Or is the human brain simply, in the famous words of MIT’s Marvin Minsky, “a computer made of meat,” with conscious thought as its wholly mechanical output?

Sam Parnia and Peter Fenwick, a neuropsychiatrist at the Institute of Psychiatry in London, describe their study of sixty-three heart attack victims. While large-scale studies are still needed, the once-skeptical Parnia said the scientific findings so far “would support the view that mind, ‘consciousness,’ or the ‘soul’ is a separate entity from the brain.

> The “binding problem”: There’s one other aspect of this, called the ‘binding problem.’

When you look around the room, you see many things at the same time," Moreland said, gesturing around at various objects in our field of vision. “You see a table, a couch, a wall, a painting in a frame. Every individual thing has light waves bouncing off of it and they’re striking a different location in your eyeball and sparking electrical activity in a different region of the brain. That means there is no single part of the brain that is activated by all of these experiences. Consequently, if I were simply my physical brain, I would be a crowd of different parts, each having its own awareness of a different piece of my visual field.

But that’s not what happens. I’m a unified ‘I’ that has all of these experiences at the same time. There is something that binds all of these experiences and unifies them into the experience of oneself - me - even though there is no region of the brain that has all these activation sites. That’s because my consciousness and my ‘self’ are separate entities from the brain.”

My personal summary is that after having read the book “The Case for a Creator” the answer to the question of evolution or creation is an unambiguous “yes” for a creating force.

Concerning the Bible and God as Creator, faith is required in the truest sense of the word. Since the Bible is a product of human intelligence, the “interface” with God can only be interpreted

metaphysically.

I would rather agree with Robert Bigelow, founder of Aerospace Company, who once said in an interview: "I believe there are presences out there we don't know of".

I do not believe that the Creator theory allows for a definitive conclusion because despite Strobel's brilliant arguments it ends in the two metaphysical terms "singularity" and "infinity": How could an intelligent, creative and almighty God arise according to the cause-principle and if so, is he there, from eternity to eternity?

Or as Peter Ostermann, Munich-based, independent research physicist who developed the "Steady Universe Model" (SUM) articulates in his book „On My Way with Einstein and the Donkey“:

“Einstein once said that science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind”, quoted by Peter Ostermann in the “metaphysics” chapter of his book and continues:

"If our evolutionary cosmos originated in a kind of local bang from something like universal chaos, and if it all makes sense, then this sense was laid out before such a gravitational creation event, in the form of laws that seem to be called divine. (...) I am convinced that life is foreseen in the universe ever since, in whatever form - as independent quality or most likely as contained in the matter self. In this sense I conceive God – whether he exists or not -within the world, not outside, immanent rather than transcendent (...)." [1]

Lee Strobel's book "The Case for a Creator" is a treasure of scientific insights, brilliantly written and highly recommended because it not only summarizes the state of the art in scientific research as of the year 2004, but it also will change your philosophy of life, regardless what you believed before and will raise new questions you never thought of before.

Reference

[1] Peter Ostermann: On My Way with Einstein and the Donkey <https://www.digit-verlag.de/> and [http://en.sum-cosmology.org/wiki/Stationary_Universe_Model_\(SUM\)](http://en.sum-cosmology.org/wiki/Stationary_Universe_Model_(SUM))