

Examining the Cosmos

Session 7

Unlocking the Mystery of Life

Recommended Reading

Michael Denton, *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis* (Adler & Adler, Publishers, 1996)

Hugh Ross, *The Creator and the Cosmos* (NAV PRESS, 2001)

Life began Quickly, Gradual Evolution did not occur.

In the mid 1970's Elso Barghoorn assumed correctly that the first forms of life would be small, microbial in size. Using a scanning electron microscope, a tool able to identify minute shapes imperceptible to microscopes that probe images with visible light, Barghoorn searched the surfaces of polished slabs of stone taken from the oldest rocks able to bear fossils. To the amazement of the scientific community, fossils of fully developed bacteria were found in rocks 3.6 billion years old. Further evidence based on fractionation between the light and heavy isotopes of carbon, a fractionation found in living organisms, indicated the origins of cellular life close to 3.8 billion years ago, the same period in which liquid water first formed on Earth.

Overnight, the fantasy of billions of years of random reactions in warm little ponds brimming with fecund chemicals leading to life, evaporated. Barghoorn had discovered a most perplexing fact: life, the most complexly organized system of atoms known in the universe, popped into being in the blink of a geological eye.

One could say that the ancient and immediate flourishing of life on earth is a miracle. One could also assume the Christian de Duve's conclusion that chance events are involved but the system is rigged for life. Chance, luck, and randomness pose no threat to theology when the "chance" and "randomness" are governed by orderly laws and made of matter endowed with special properties, properties instilled in the universe as the laws of nature at its metaphysical creation.

The immediate appearance of life on earth, an event undreamed of prior to its discovery, presses the view of nature as being driven by random reactions into a very tight corner.

Even Francis Crick, the vowed "agnostic with a tendency toward atheism", his self-description, described the origin of life as nearly miraculous.

Dr. Rana's cumulative case approach to biochemical design truly overwhelms

Behe's "irreducible complexity" argument.

Irreducible complexity is a great starting point, it describes a system comprised of numerous components, all of which must be present and must interact precisely for the system to function. The cell's biochemical systems appear to be irreducibly complex.

The cell is simply jam-packed, a bee hive of activity.

The entrance to a living cell is marked by passage through a membrane functioning to keep the bad stuff out, while letting the good stuff in, and expelling what needs to be expelled, waste products and manufactured goods. But, who decides what comes in and what goes out? The cues come from within the cell and sometimes outside the cell if it's a nerve cell coaxing a neighboring cell into action.

The cell's complexity, its molecular motors, each motor protein reaches out a molecular hand, grabs the selected fiber, pulls itself forward, releases, extends, grabs, and pulls again; millions of microscopic hands hauling thousands of micro sized parcels in every cell, every second of every day.

Experience teaches that intelligible messages come from intelligent sources. The cell's biochemical machinery, proteins, DNA, RNA, and oligosaccharides are information based and therefore must come from an intelligent source.

Man can't do it better. Human attempts to duplicate the cell's complex and elegant chemical processes usually fail. Scientist's best efforts are crude, cumbersome and inefficient.

With all the best minds the scientific community is no closer now, in naturalistic terms to life origins. The research reveals a Creator's touch

This understanding of the complexity of the cell to human life brings a much deeper meaning to life and the Divine Creator God than just the understanding of the irreducible complexity argument presented by Michael Behe

The ID movement also skips over the fact that the scripture shows how God began with an amazing vision nearly 4 billion years ago when He spawned first life, hovering over early life to preserve this life under hellish conditions. God's plan and purpose for humanity can be seen from the scientific evidence. The Bible unfolds this plan and brings purpose into a fuller view.