

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

In This Scientific Age?

The Most Reasonable Cause For the Existence
& Order of The Material Universe?



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Psalm 19:1-6 (NKJV)

¹ To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. ² Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. ³ *There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard.* ⁴ Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world.



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Psalm 19:1-6 (NKJV)

. . . In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, ⁵ Which
is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, *And*
rejoices like a strong man to run its race. ⁶ Its rising *is*
from one end of heaven, And its circuit to the other end;
And there is nothing hidden from its heat.



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Acts 14:15-17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ . . .the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, ¹⁶ who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. ¹⁷ Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."



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Romans 1:19-20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

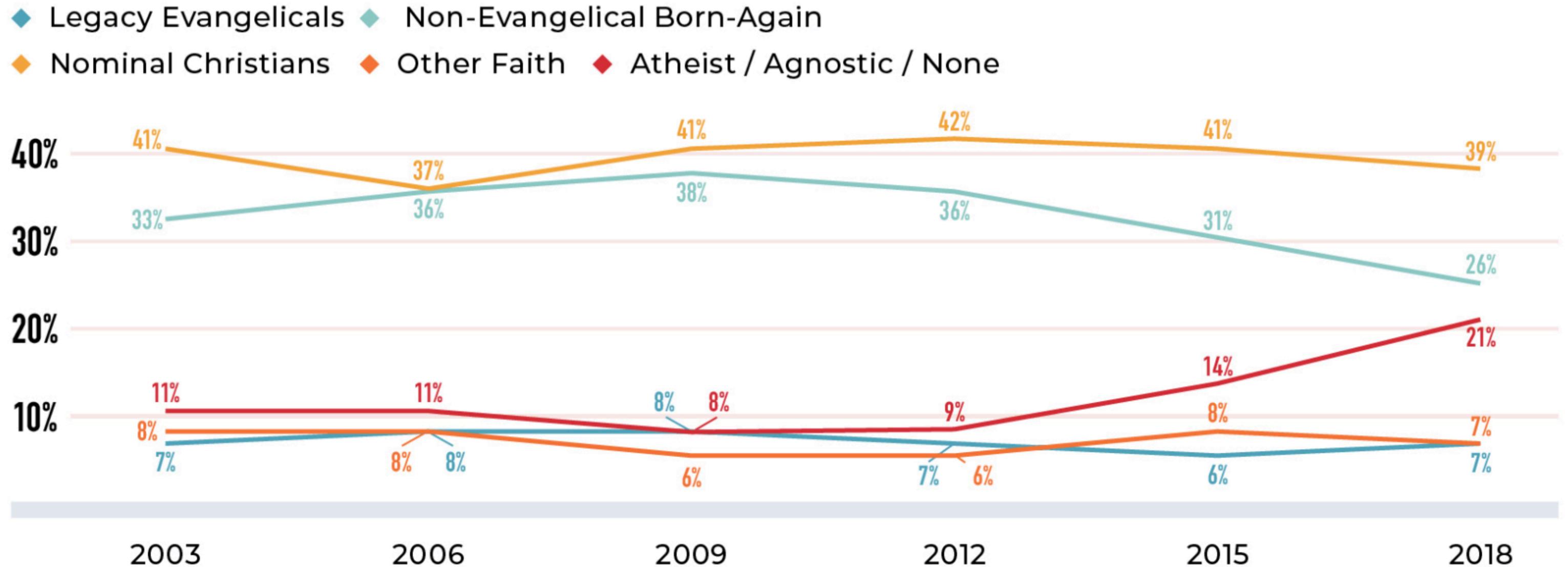


IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

TRACKING FAITH SEGMENTS IN THE U.S. – 2001-2018

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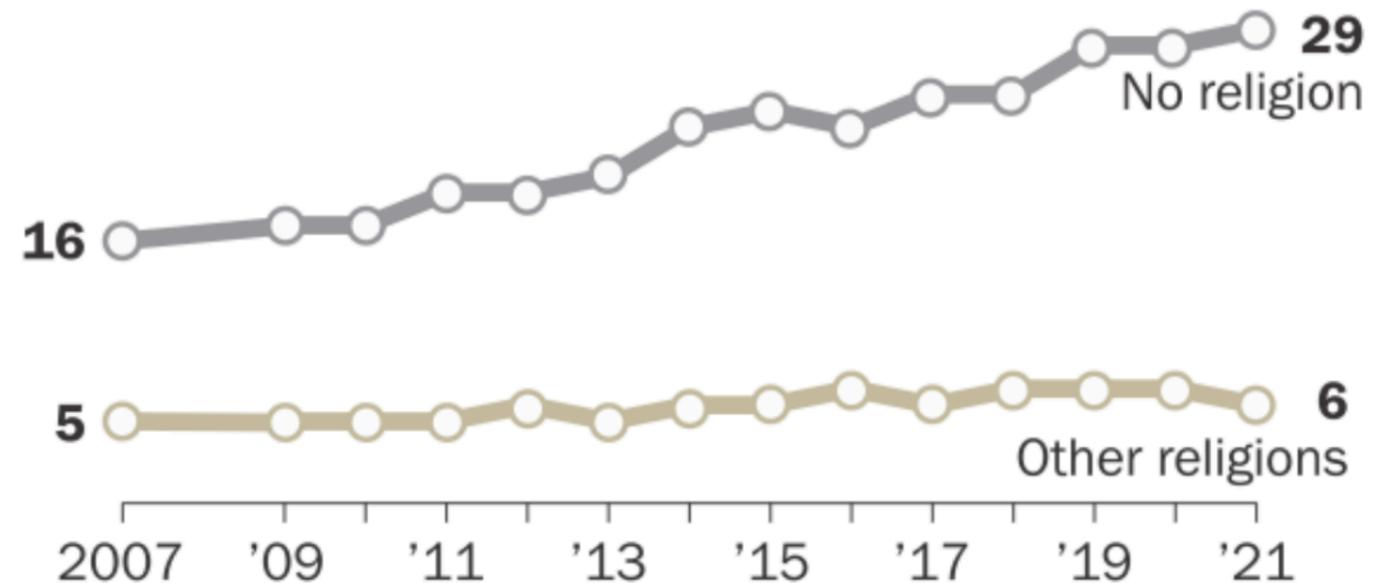


In U.S., roughly three-in-ten adults now religiously unaffiliated

% of U.S. adults who identify with ...



Pew Research Center



The number of Americans who do not identify with any religion continues to grow at a rapid pace.

One-fifth of the U.S. public – and a third of adults under 30 – are religiously unaffiliated today, the highest percentages ever in Pew Research Center polling.

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A 2023 poll by the Pew Research Center found that 4% of Americans in the United States self-identified as atheists. This is an increase from 3.1% of Americans in 2014. However, in 2014, 9% of Americans agreed with the statement "Do not believe in God." Polling by Gallup in 2022 showed that 17% of respondents replied "No" when asked "Do you believe in God?"



IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

BEYOND *a* REASONABLE DOUBT

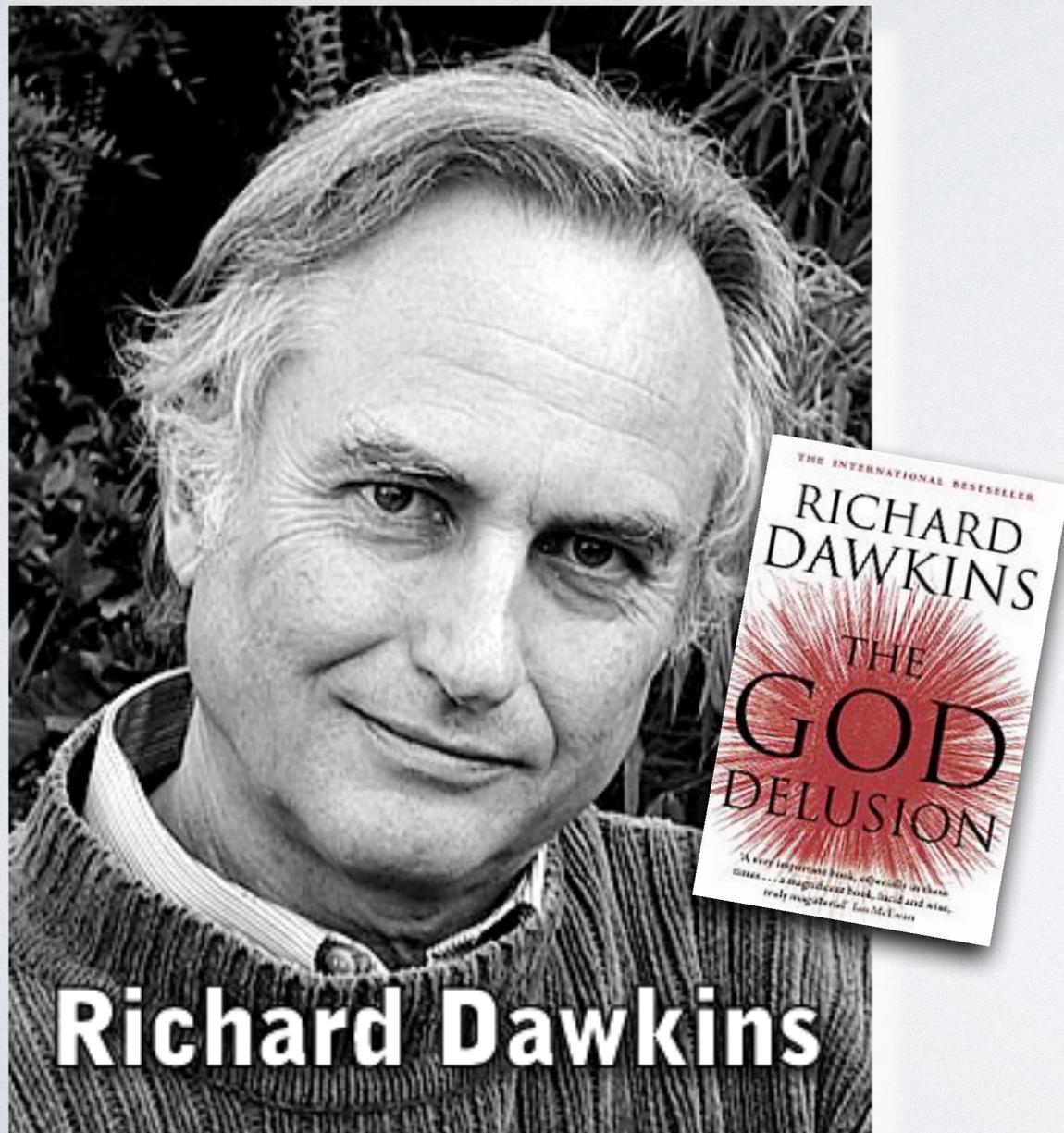
Should a reasonable person believe in God?

- Are there better arguments for God's existence than against it?
- What is the best explanation for the existence, order, and continuance of the universe?



IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

Naturalistic Evolution Is NOT a proven Fact!

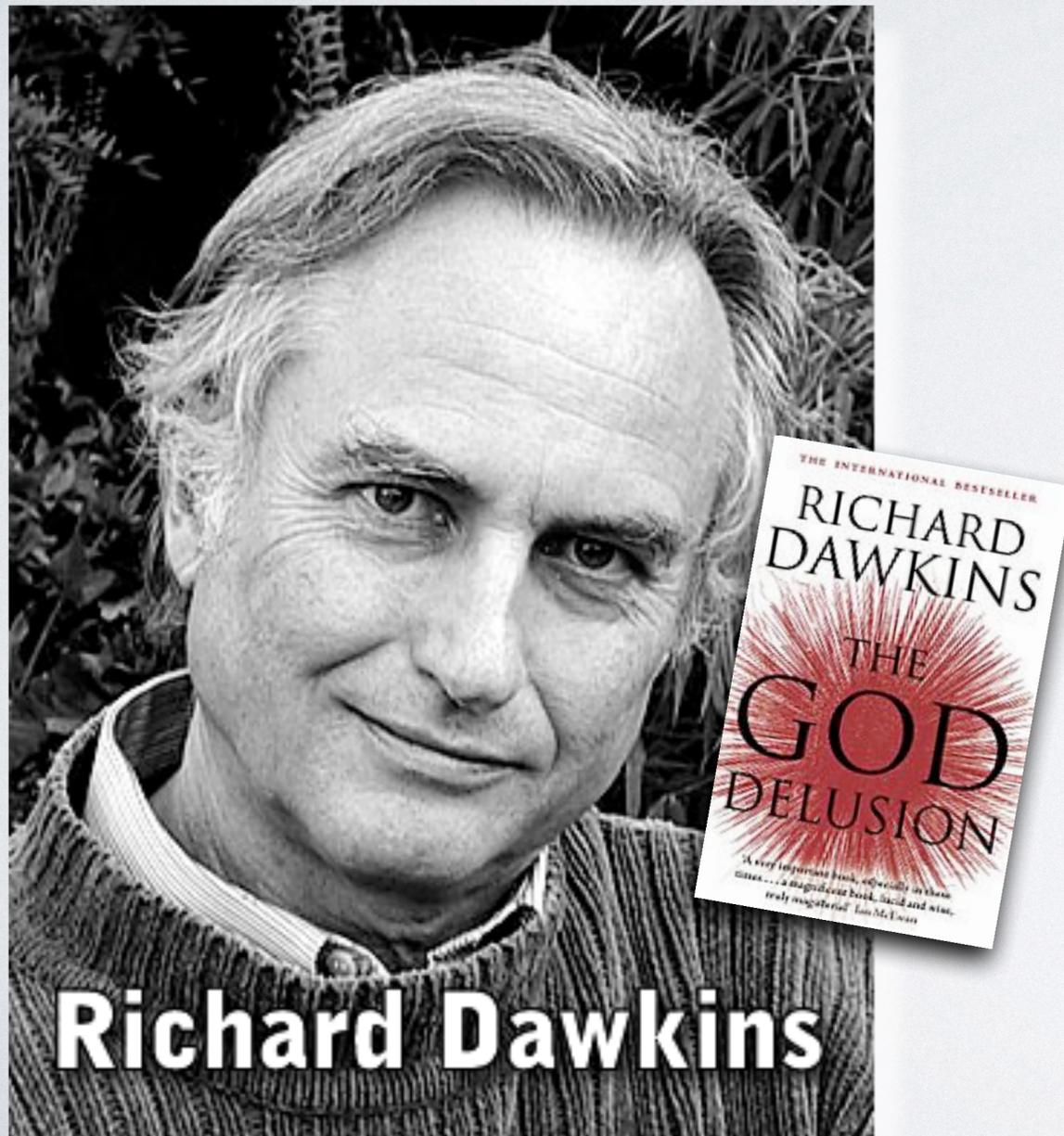


“A delusion is something that people believe in despite a total lack of evidence.”

Richard Dawkins

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

Naturalistic Evolution Is NOT a proven Fact!

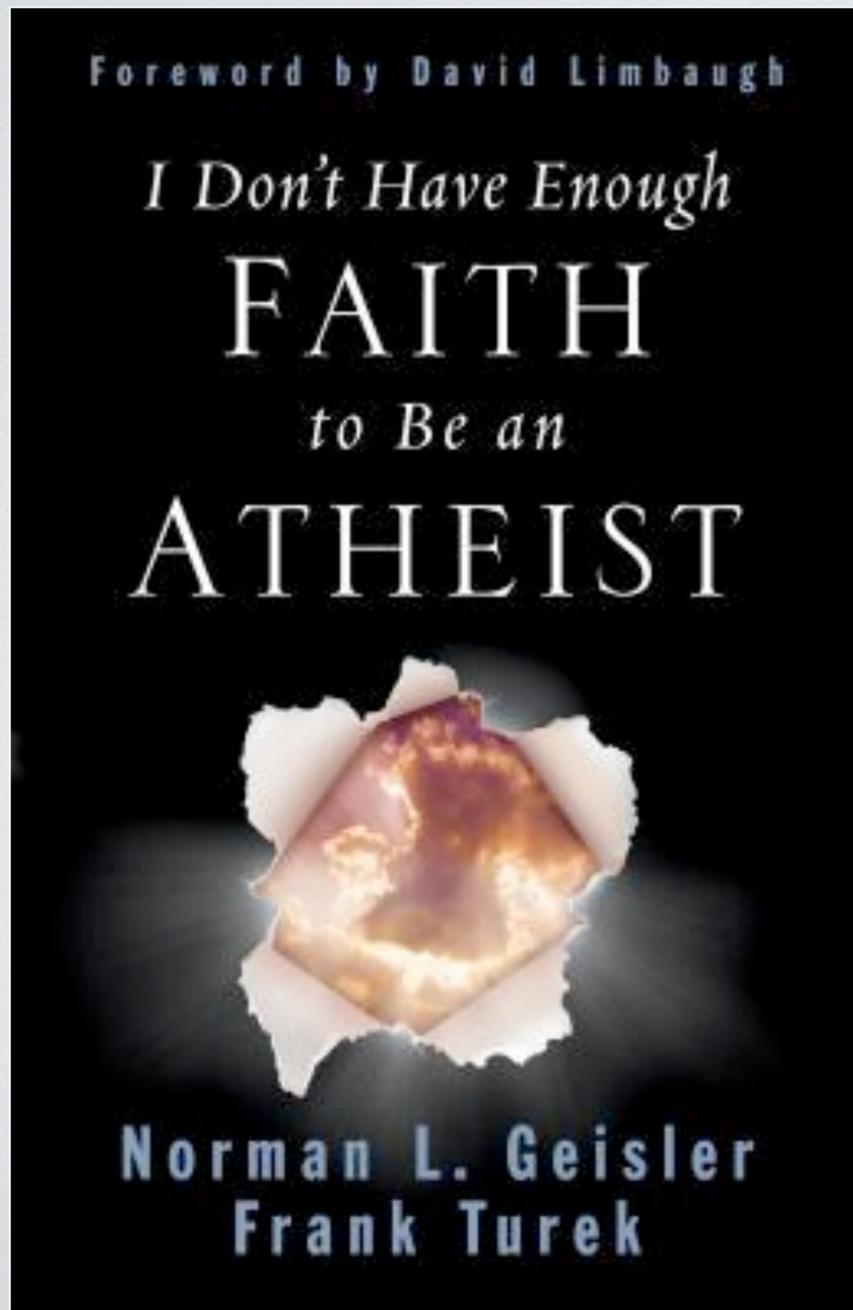


“Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence. Faith is belief in spite of, even perhaps because of, the lack of evidence.”

Richard Dawkins

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

Naturalistic Evolution Is NOT a proven Fact!

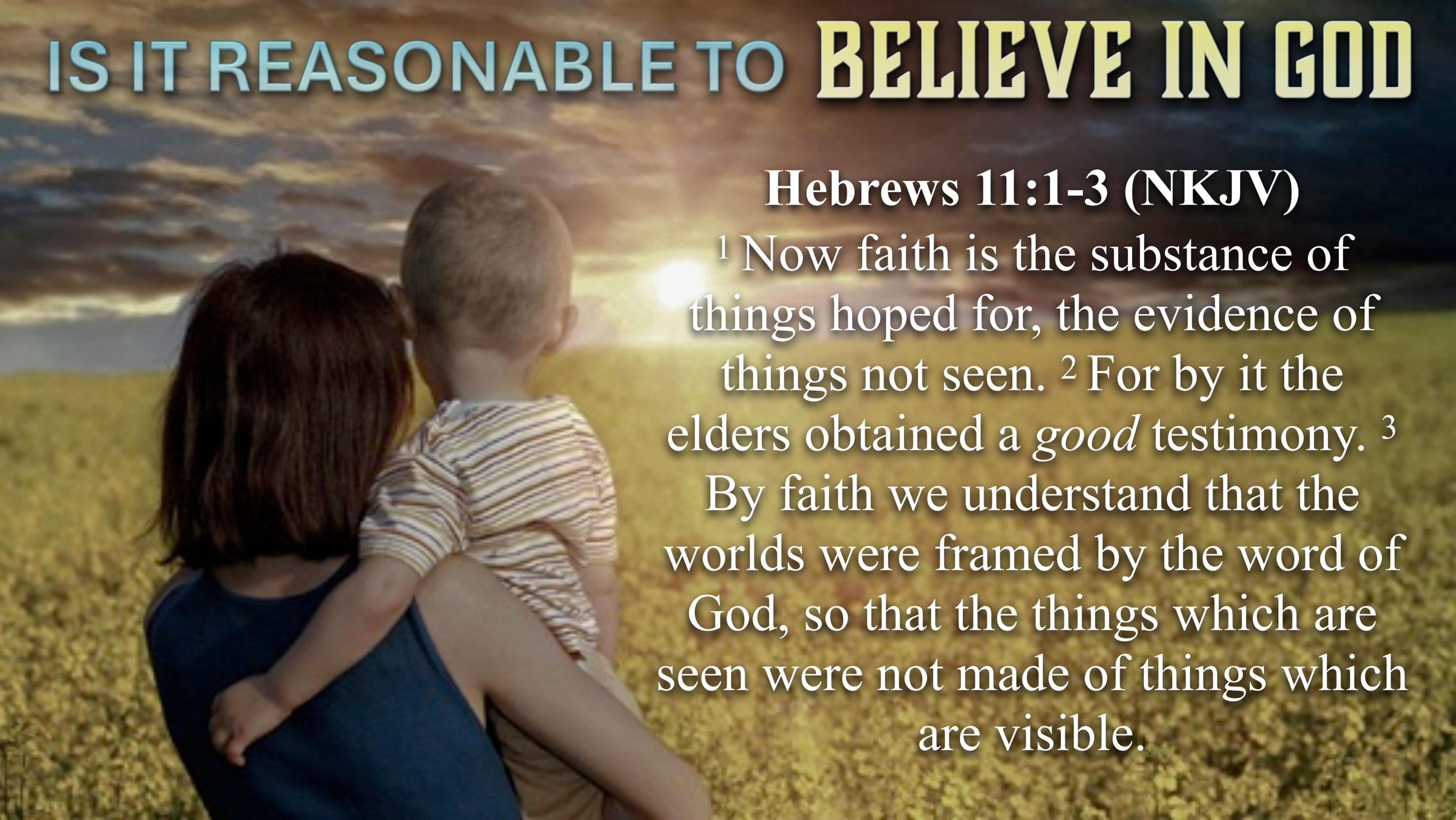


- Faith is not some mystical, unexplainable conviction arrived at without evidence (Isaiah 1:18).
- Faith is a conviction arrived at by examining the evidence and accepting the most reasonable conclusion (Heb 11:1; Rom 1:20; 10:17).

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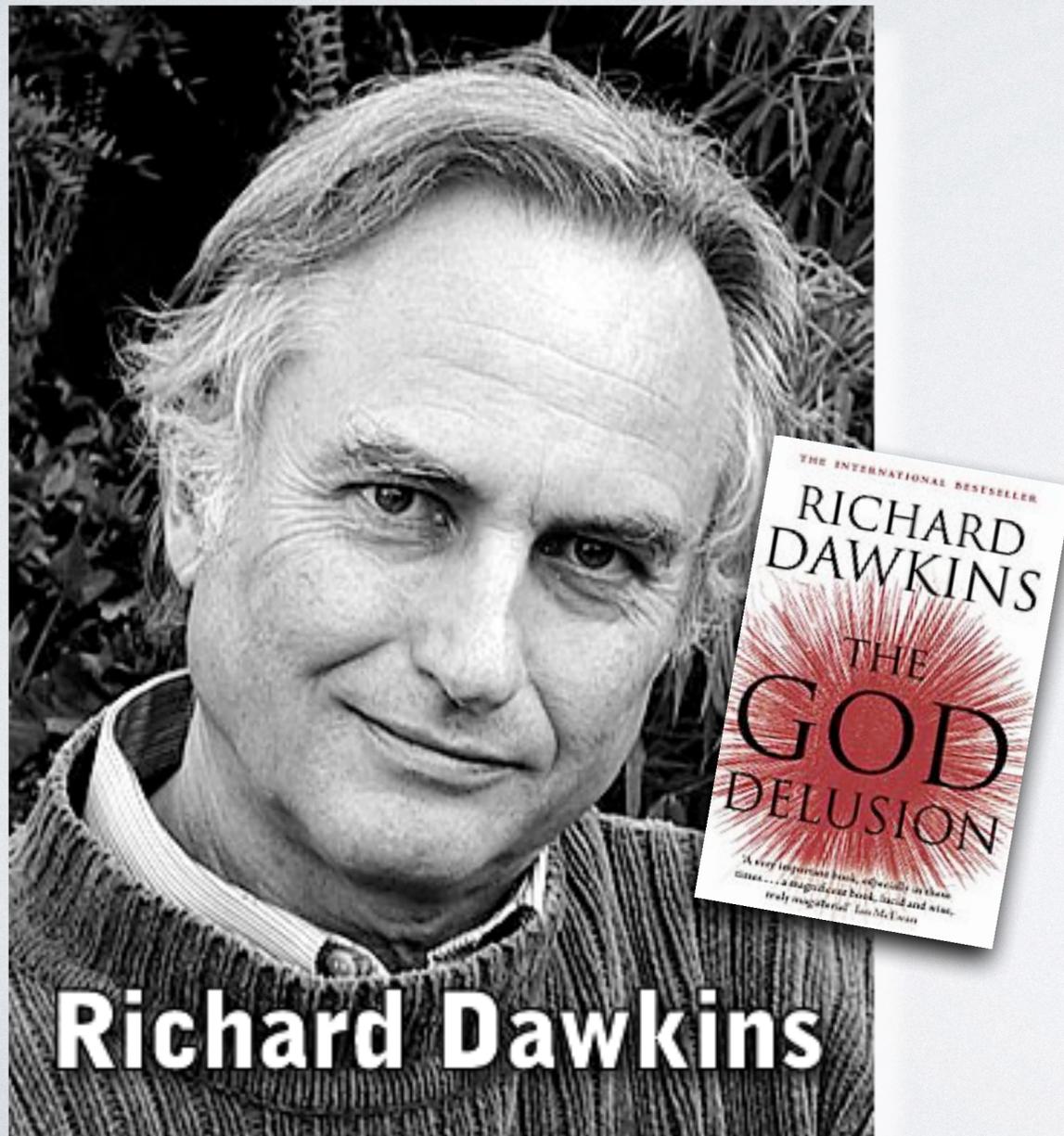
Hebrews 11:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ² For by it the elders obtained a *good* testimony. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.



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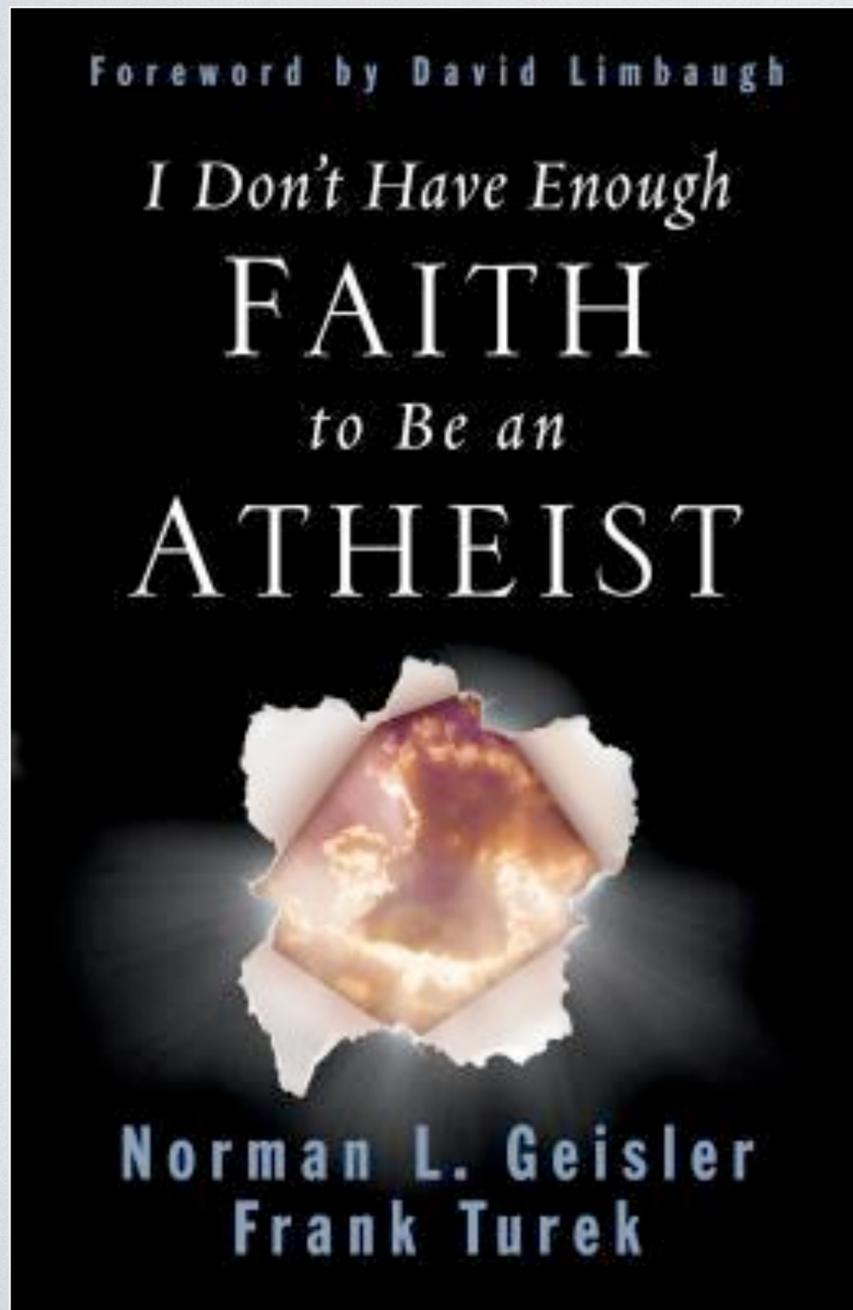


“Today the theory of evolution is about as much open to doubt as the theory that the earth goes round the sun.”

Richard Dawkins

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

Naturalistic Evolution Is NOT a proven Fact!



- Atheist 'CLAIM' **science** has 'proven' their position of naturalistic evolution.
- Yet the question of HOW and WHEN the Universe began CANNOT be **scientifically** PROVEN!
- An adequate explanation for the obvious design in our world CANNOT be answered by **science**!

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

The Fact of ‘Design’ Demands A ‘Designer?’

- **Cause And Effect** — *The Cosmological Argument* — The Most Reasonable Cause For The Material Universe?
- **Order of The Universe** — *The Teleological Argument* - The Most Reasonable Cause For Organization?
- **The Irreducible Complexity of Living Things** - The Most Reasonable Cause of Life & its complexities?
- **Mind, Ethics, & Reason** – *Anthropological Argument* - The Most Reasonable Explanation For Consciousness & Morality?
- **Religion** – *The Spiritual Argument* - The Most Reasonable Explanation For Man’s desire to Worship, Seek God, & The Bible?

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

Most Reasonable Cause For The Material Universe?



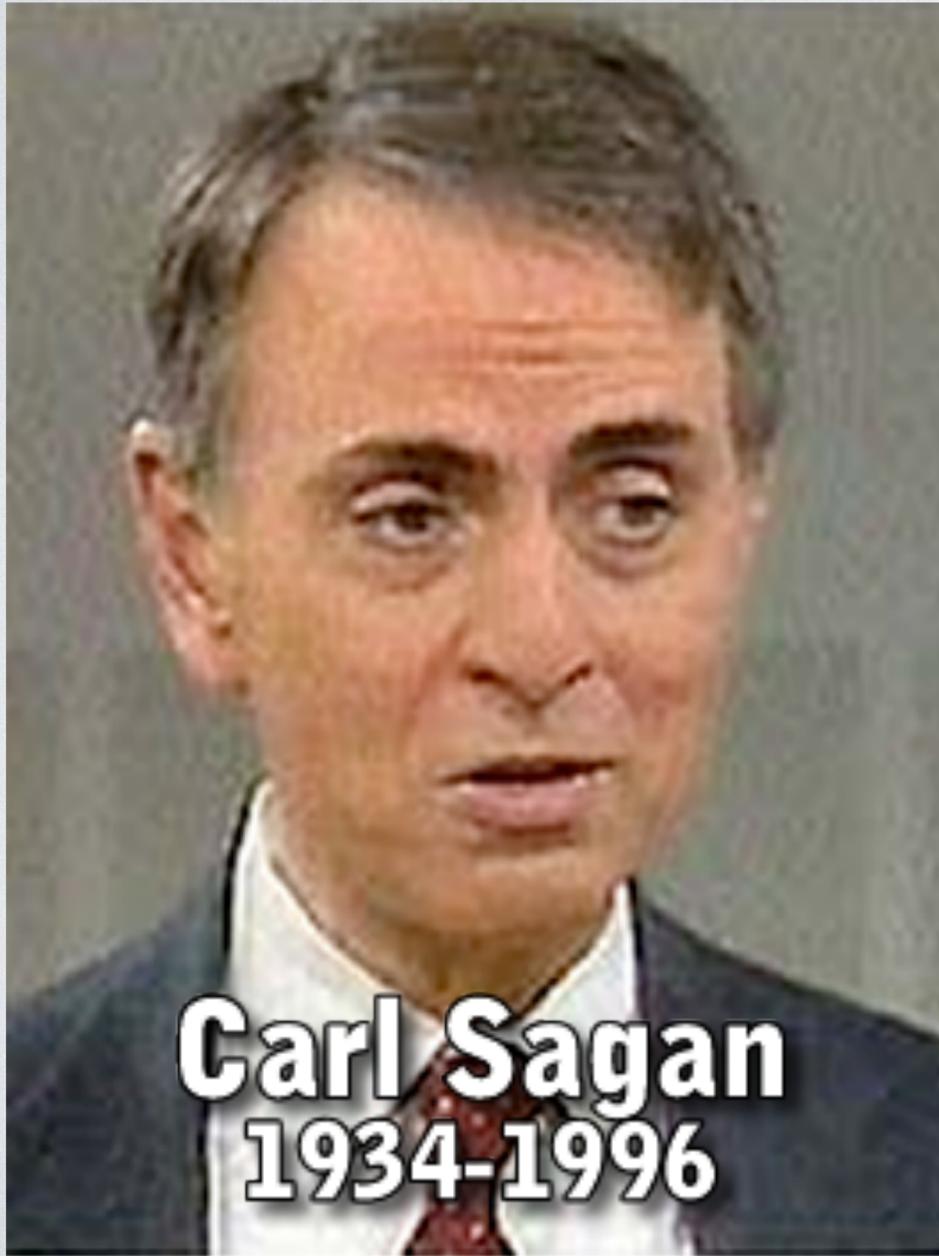
Carl Sagan
1934-1996

“The Cosmos is all that is or ever was or ever will be”
(Carl Sagan 1980, Cosmos, p. 4).

- Did the universe always exist?
- If the universe had a beginning, then it needs a first cause.

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Most Reasonable Cause For The Material Universe?



Did the universe self-cause itself?

- In order to self-cause itself it would have to not exist (to cause existence) and exist (in order to be caused) at the same time.
- Therefore, this option is ruled out because it violates the “Law of non-contradiction.”

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The 1st Law of Thermodynamics

1. Energy can be neither created nor destroyed (conservation of energy).
2. Thus power generation processes and energy sources actually involve conversion of energy from one form to another, rather than creation of energy from nothing. (Einstein's famous equation - $E = MC^2$ - energy (**E**) is equal to **matter** (**M**) times the square of a constant (**C**).

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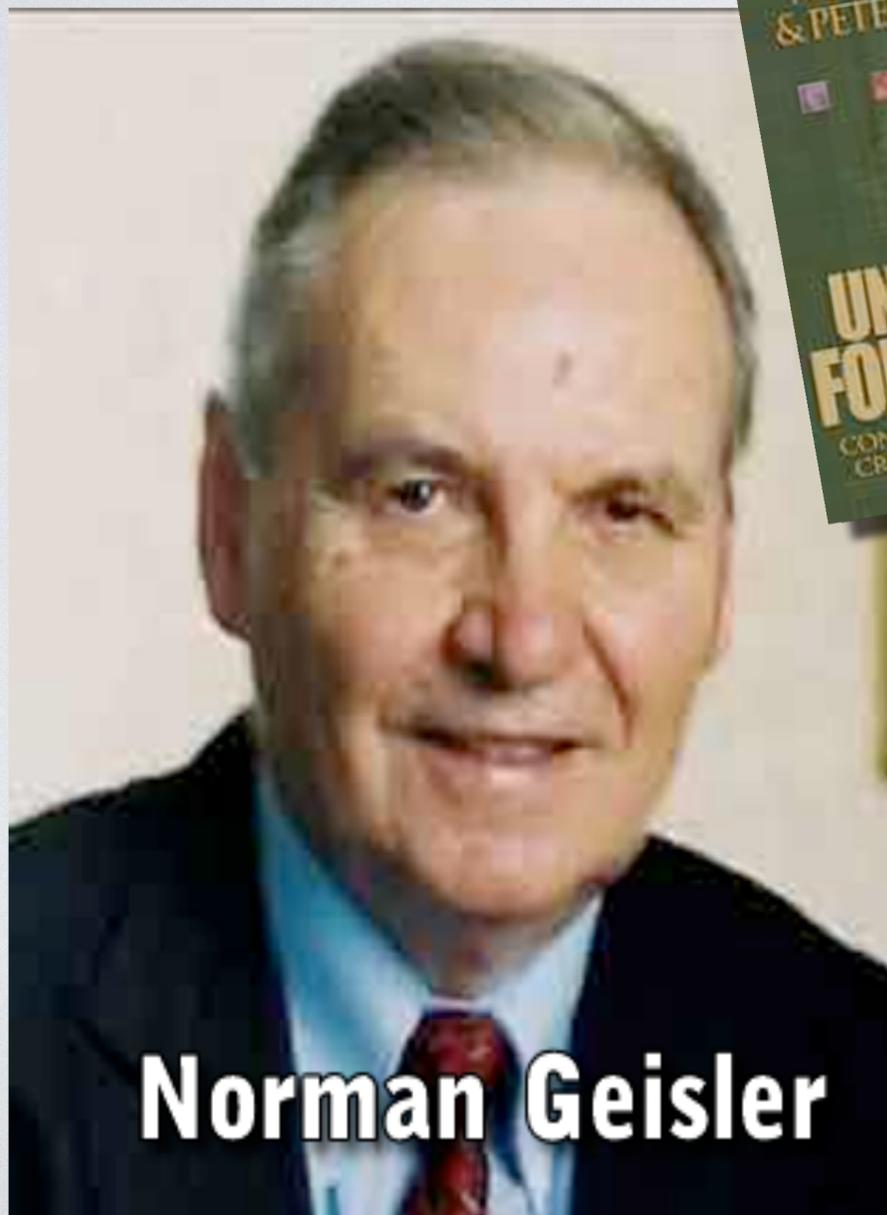
Most Reasonable Cause For The Material Universe?

The 2nd Law of Thermodynamics

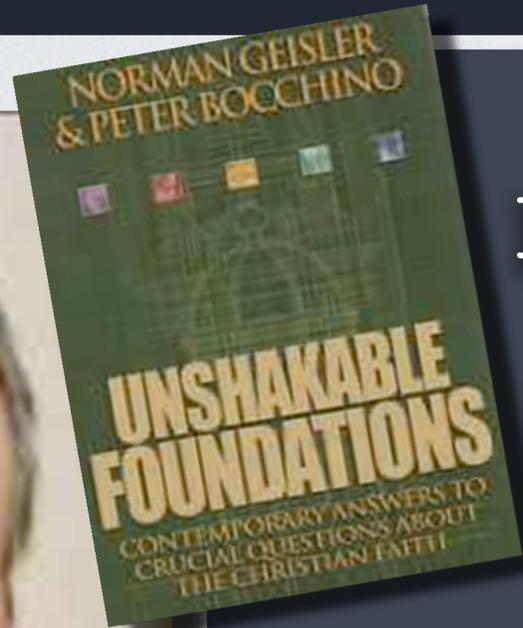
1. Heat can never pass spontaneously from a colder to a hotter body.
2. As a result of this fact, natural processes that involve energy transfer must have one direction, and all natural processes are irreversible.
3. Thus the entropy of an isolated system always increases with time. (*Entropy is the measure of the disorder or randomness of energy and matter in a system. - Both energy and matter in the Universe are becoming less useful as time goes on.*)

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Norman Geisler

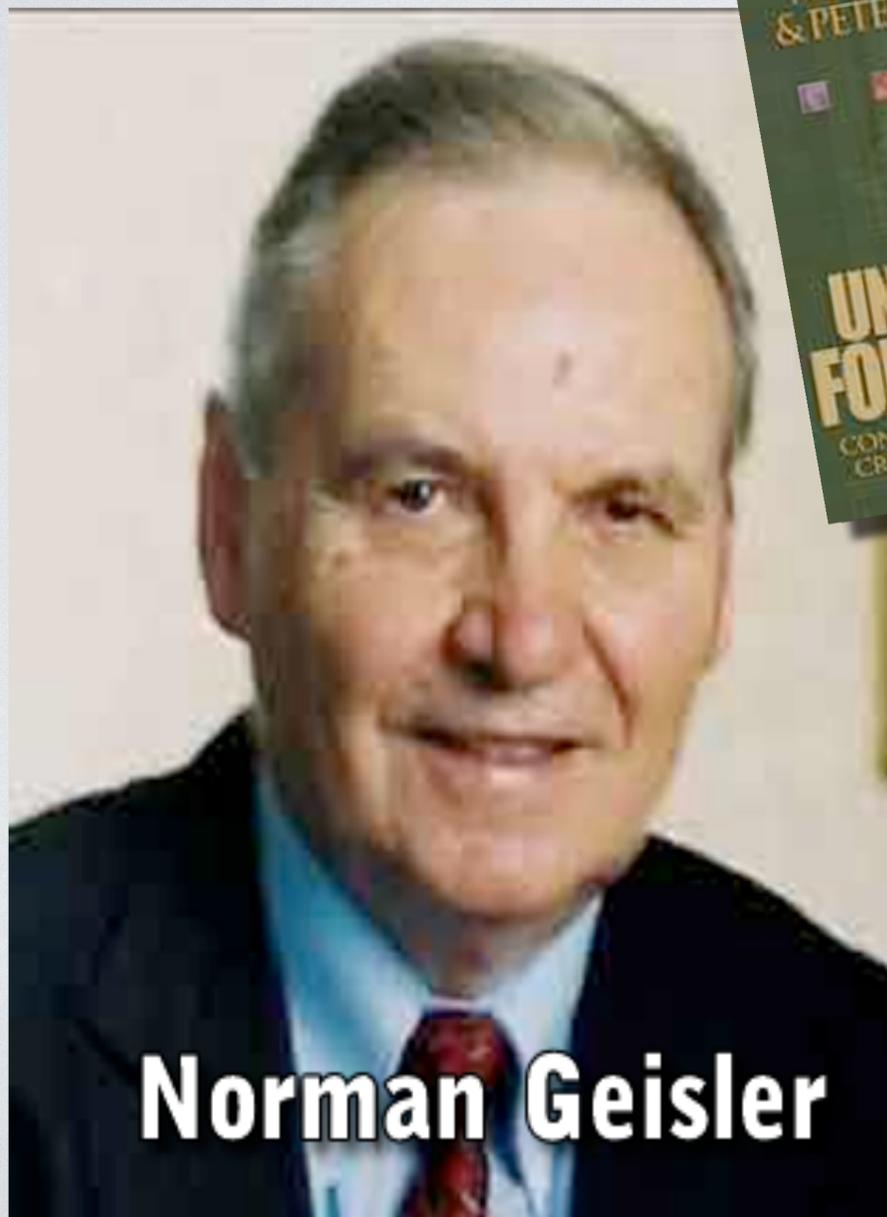


“The Second Law of thermodynamics is probably the most powerful piece of legislation in the physical world. It ultimately describes every process we have ever discovered: it is the final Court of Appeal in any dispute relating to action and procedures, whether they are naturally generated or man inspired. **It draws the conclusion that in our universe there is an overall reduction in order, a loss of available energy that is measured as an increase in entropy. . .**”

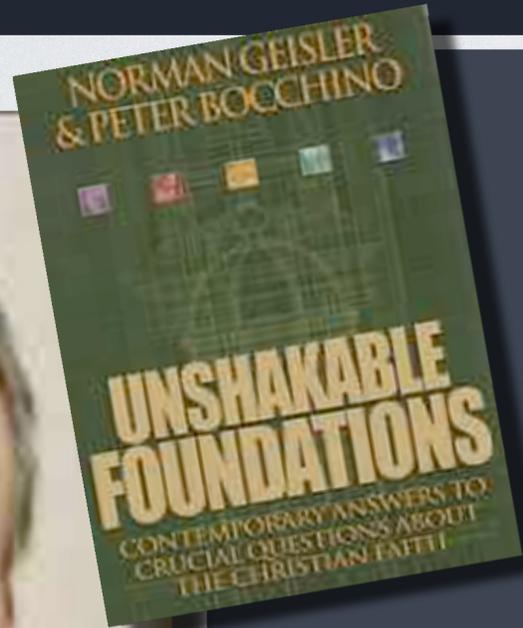
[Geisler, Unshakable Foundations, Bethany House, 2001, pg. 74]

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Norman Geisler



“... So the available stock of order is being exhausted. Akin to the dying battery of a flashlight, useful energy is being dissipated into entropy after which none remains for use... **For us to live in a universe in which the Second Law of thermodynamics holds, then, it must be a universe that has a starting point, a creation.**”

[Geisler, Unshakable Foundations, Bethany House, 2001, pg. 74]

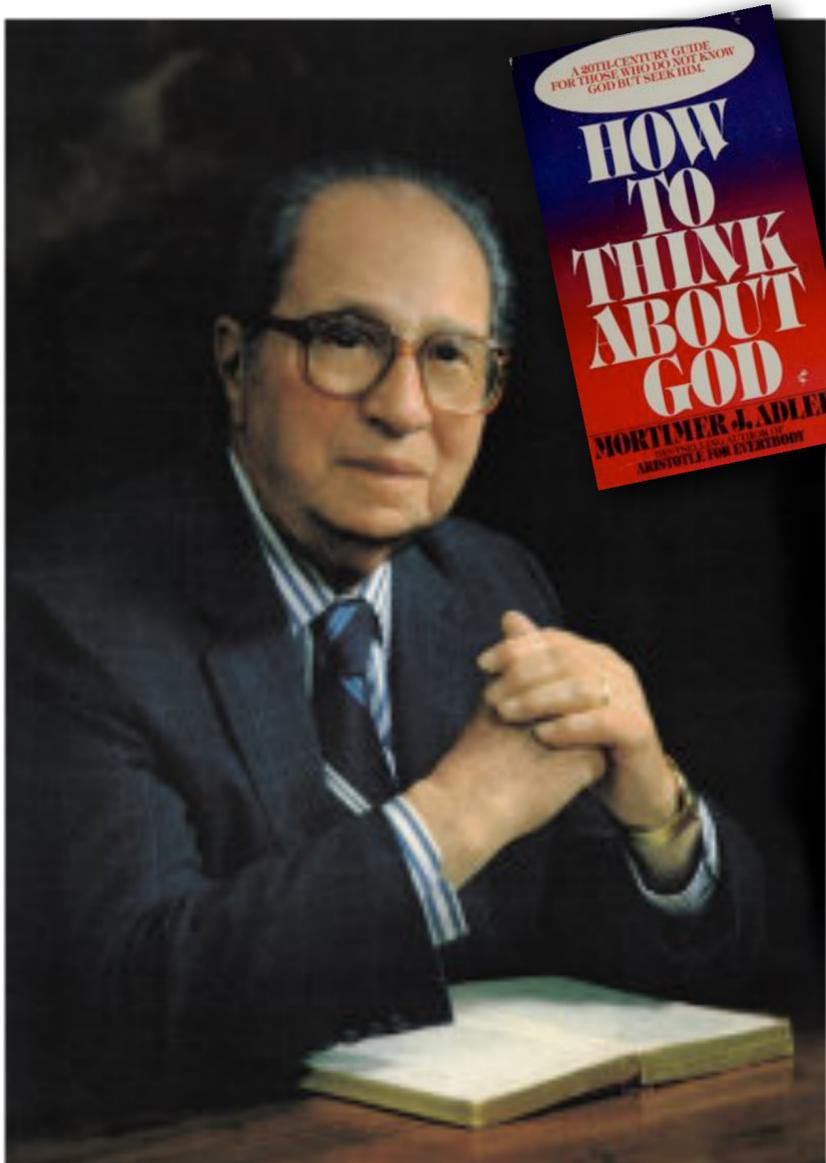
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Most Reasonable Cause For The Material Universe?

The law of cause and effect states that every material effect must have an adequate cause that existed before the effect.

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Most Reasonable Cause For The Material Universe?



Dr. Mortimer J. Adler

“If the existence of the cosmos as a whole needs to be explained, and if it cannot be explained by natural causes, Then we must look to the existence and action of a supernatural cause for its explanation”

[Mortimer J. Adler, How to Think about God New York: Macmillan, 1980) pg. 131]

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Most Reasonable Cause For The Material Universe?

THE LAW OF CAUSE AND EFFECT



- ▶ A healthy, rooted tree does not fall over because a fly flies into it.
- ▶ An encyclopedia is not produced by spilling ink onto a stack of paper.
- ▶ These are not adequate causes. For whatever effects we see, we must present adequate causes.

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

Most Reasonable Cause For The **ORDER** of The Universe?



“At first, the absence of a beginning appears to be an advantage to the scientific approach. There are no awkward starting conditions to deduce or explain. But this is an illusion. We still have to explain why the Universe took on particular properties—its rate expansion, density, and so forth— at an infinite time in the past”

((2000), *The Book of Nothing: Vacuums, Voids, and the Latest Ideas about the Origins of the Universe* p. 296, (New York: Pantheon).

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Most Reasonable Cause For The **ORDER** of The Universe?

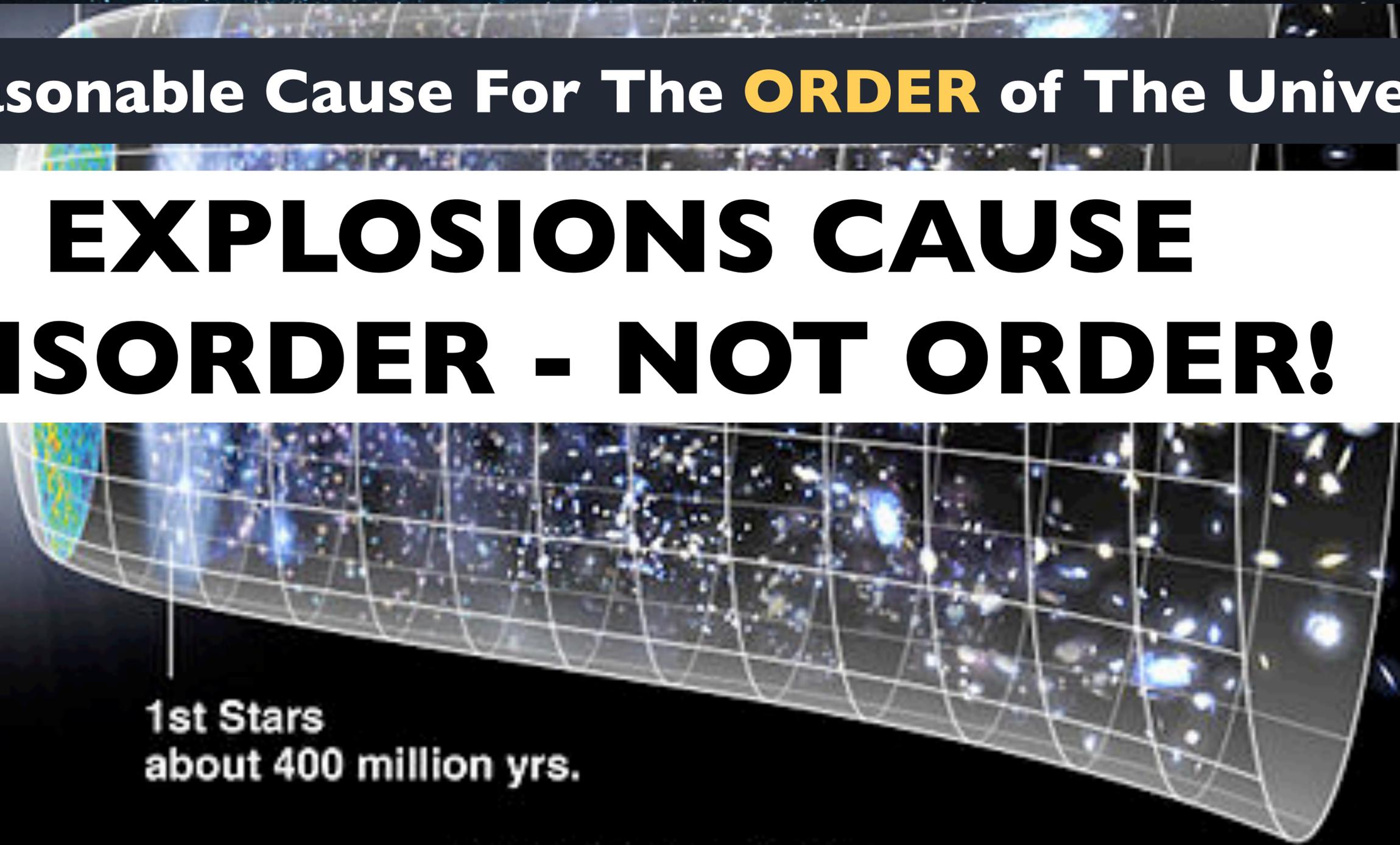
**EXPLOSIONS CAUSE
DISORDER - NOT ORDER!**

Quantum
Fluctuations

1st Stars
about 400 million yrs.

Big Bang Expansion

13.7 billion years



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100,000 Light Years

58,656,960,000,000 = # miles light travels in 1 year

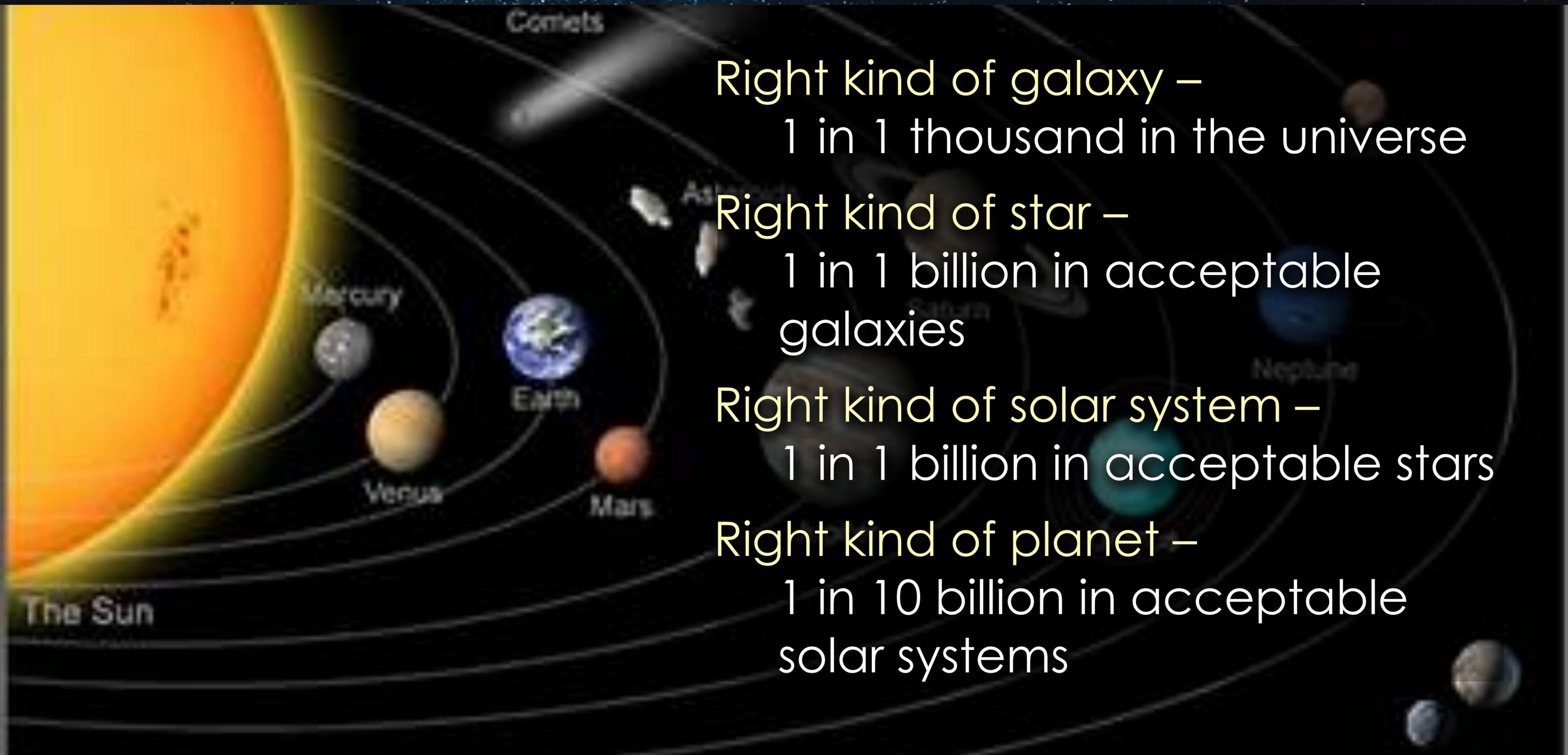
Sun
(Approx.
position)

The Milky Way Galaxy: Vital Statistics	
Diameter	100,000 light years
Thickness (Nucleus)	20,000 light years
Thickness (Disc)	2,000 light years
Number of Stars	100,000,000,000

Central Bulge

Nucleus

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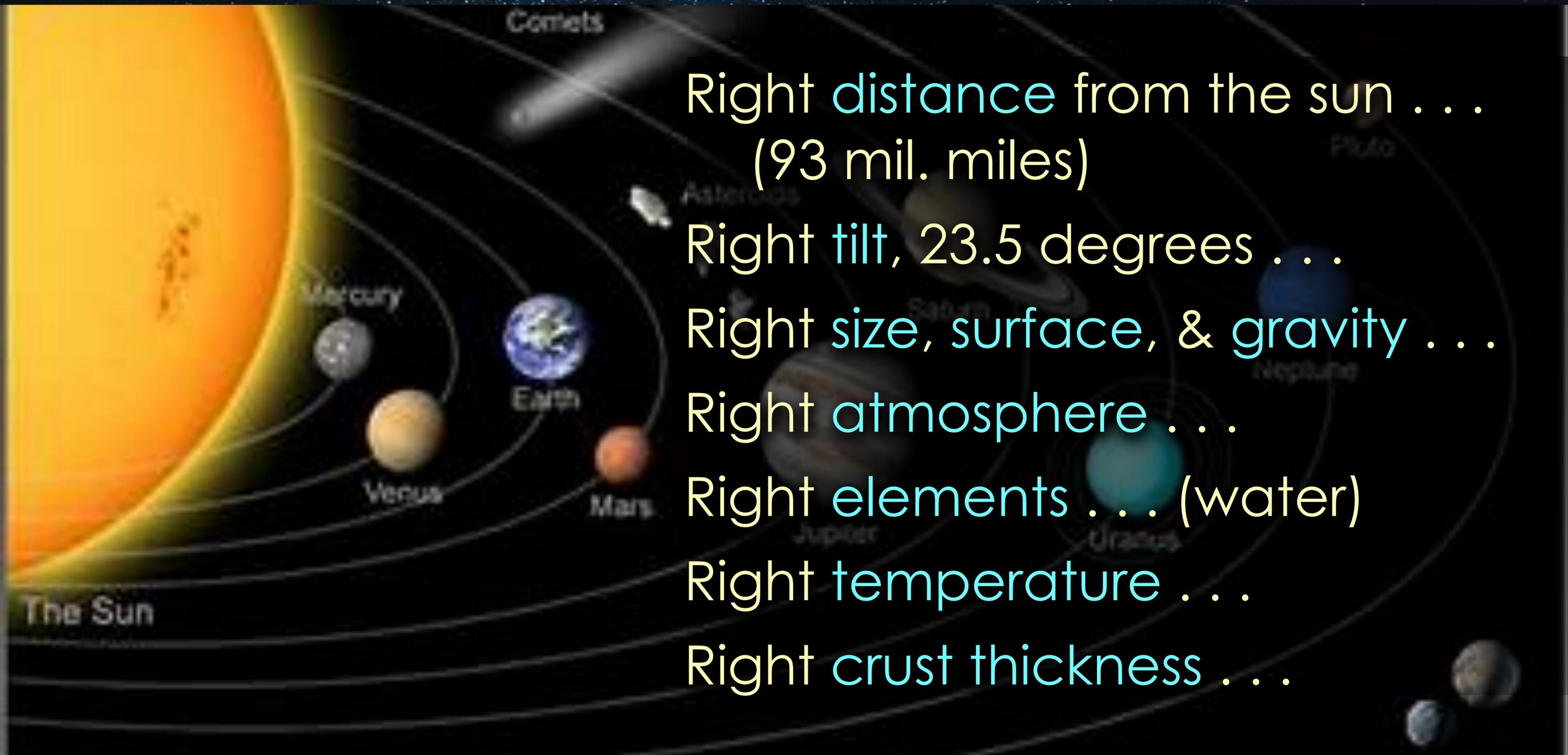
Right kind of galaxy –
1 in 1 thousand in the universe

Right kind of star –
1 in 1 billion in acceptable
galaxies

Right kind of solar system –
1 in 1 billion in acceptable stars

Right kind of planet –
1 in 10 billion in acceptable
solar systems

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Right distance from the sun . . .
(93 mil. miles)

Right tilt, 23.5 degrees . . .

Right size, surface, & gravity . . .

Right atmosphere . . .

Right elements . . . (water)

Right temperature . . .

Right crust thickness . . .

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Most Reasonable Cause For The **ORDER** of The Universe?



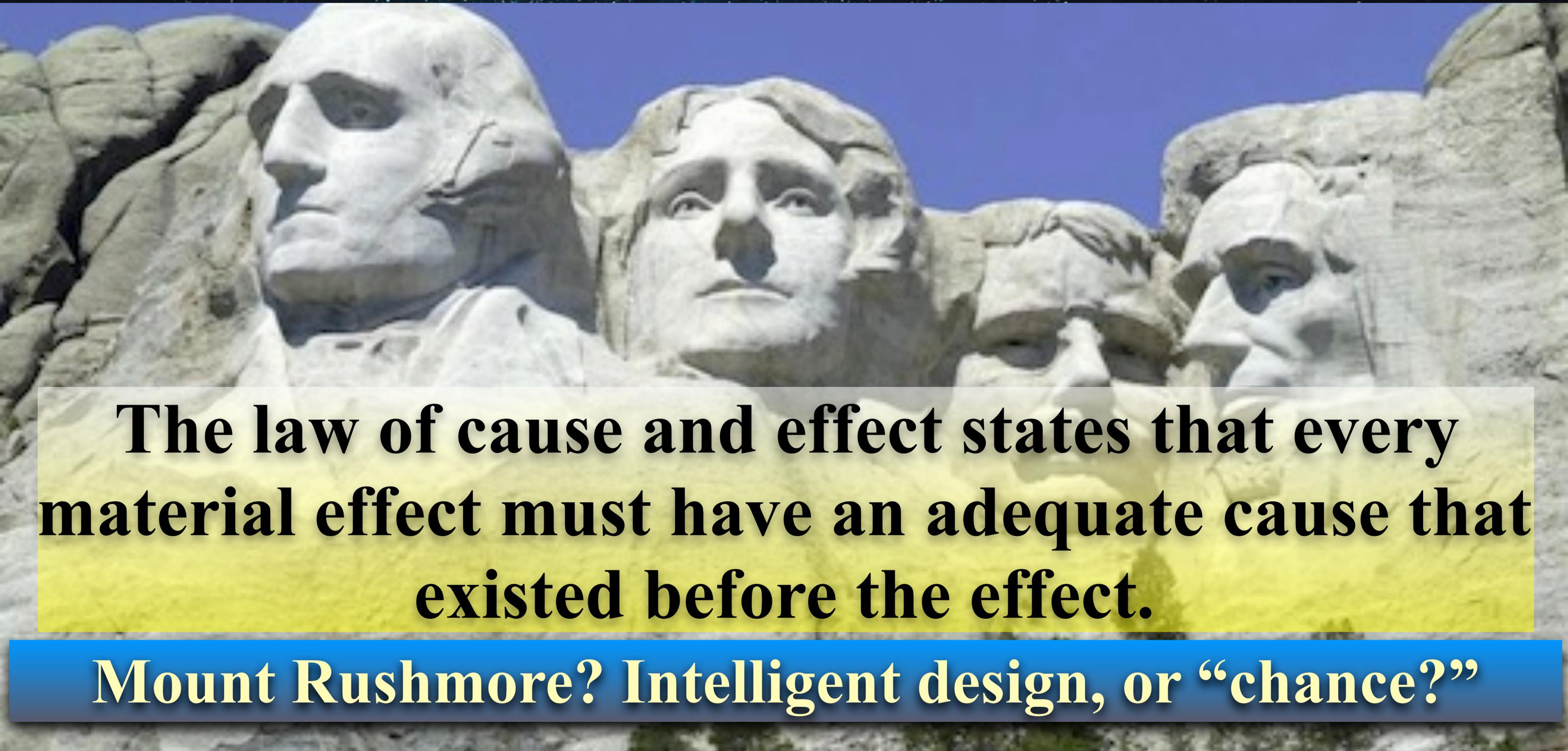
Donald Brownlee

Scientist, University of Washington

“With the best intentions, but limited by natural laws and materials, it is unlikely that earth could ever truly be replicated. Too many processes in its formation involved sheer luck.”

(Rare Earth, Why Complex Life is Uncommon In he Universe, 2000, pg 37)

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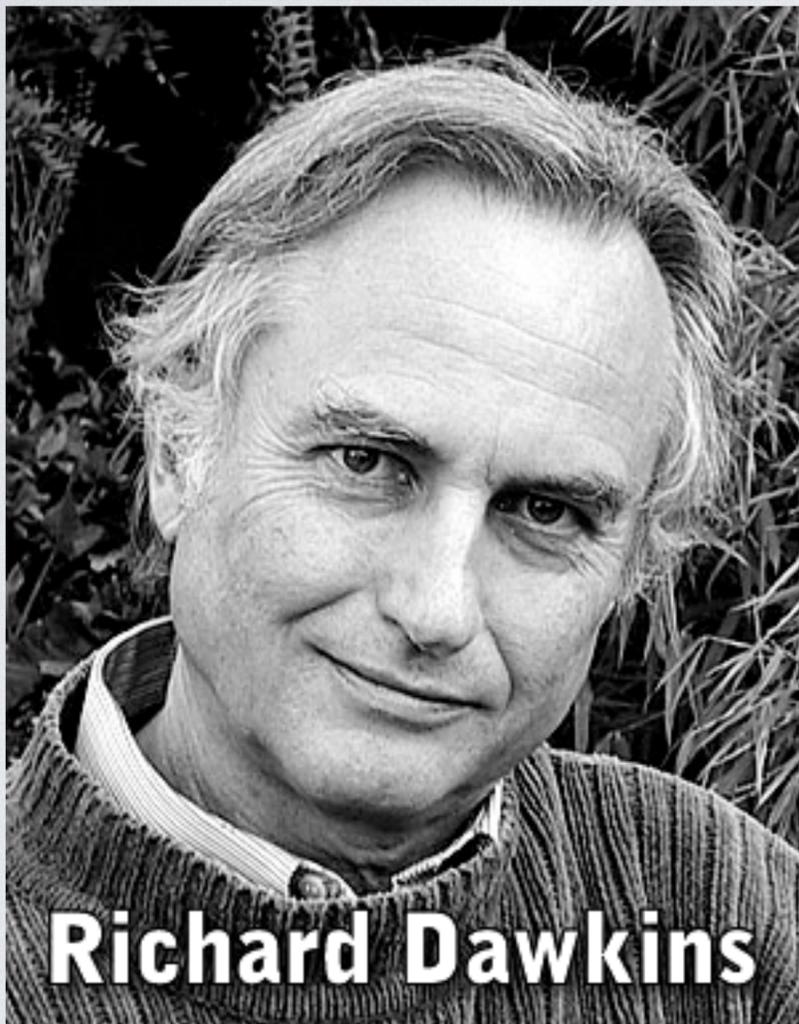
A photograph of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in the United States, showing the four large granite faces of George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln. The sky is clear and blue.

The law of cause and effect states that every material effect must have an adequate cause that existed before the effect.

Mount Rushmore? Intelligent design, or “chance?”

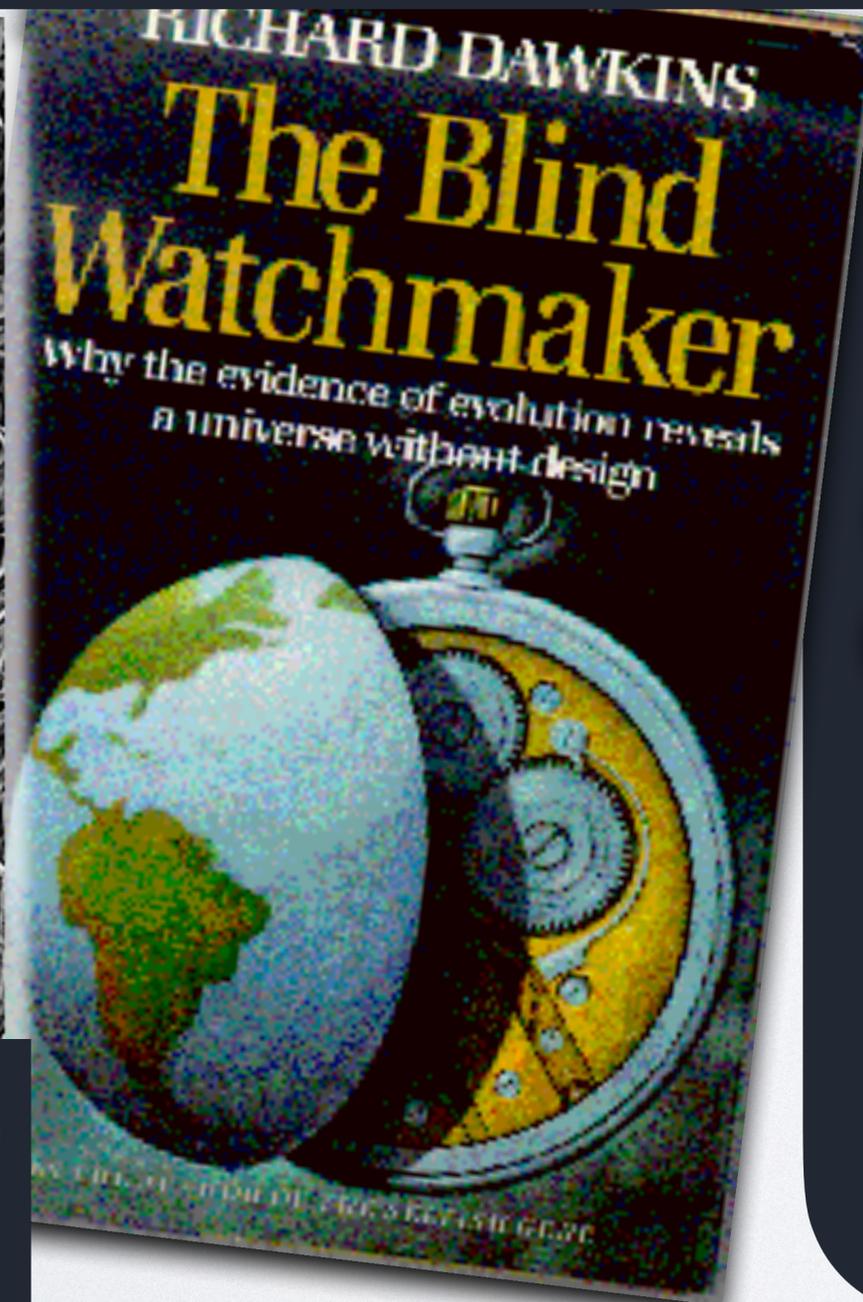
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Most Reasonable Cause For The **ORDER** of The Universe?



Richard Dawkins

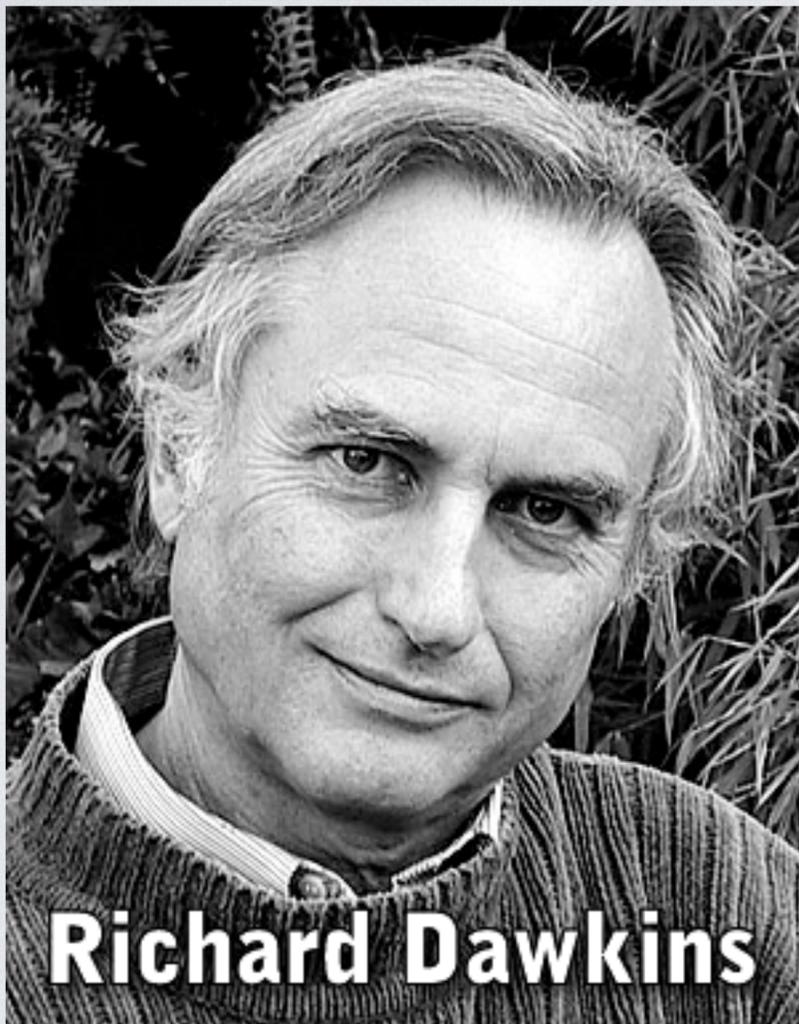
The Blind Watchmaker: Why the Evidence of Evolution Reveals a Universe Without Design (1996) by Richard Dawkins (Norton Publishing).



“Even the most ardent atheist concedes that design is all around us. To a Christian, the design we see all around us is totally consistent with the Bible’s explanation that God created all.

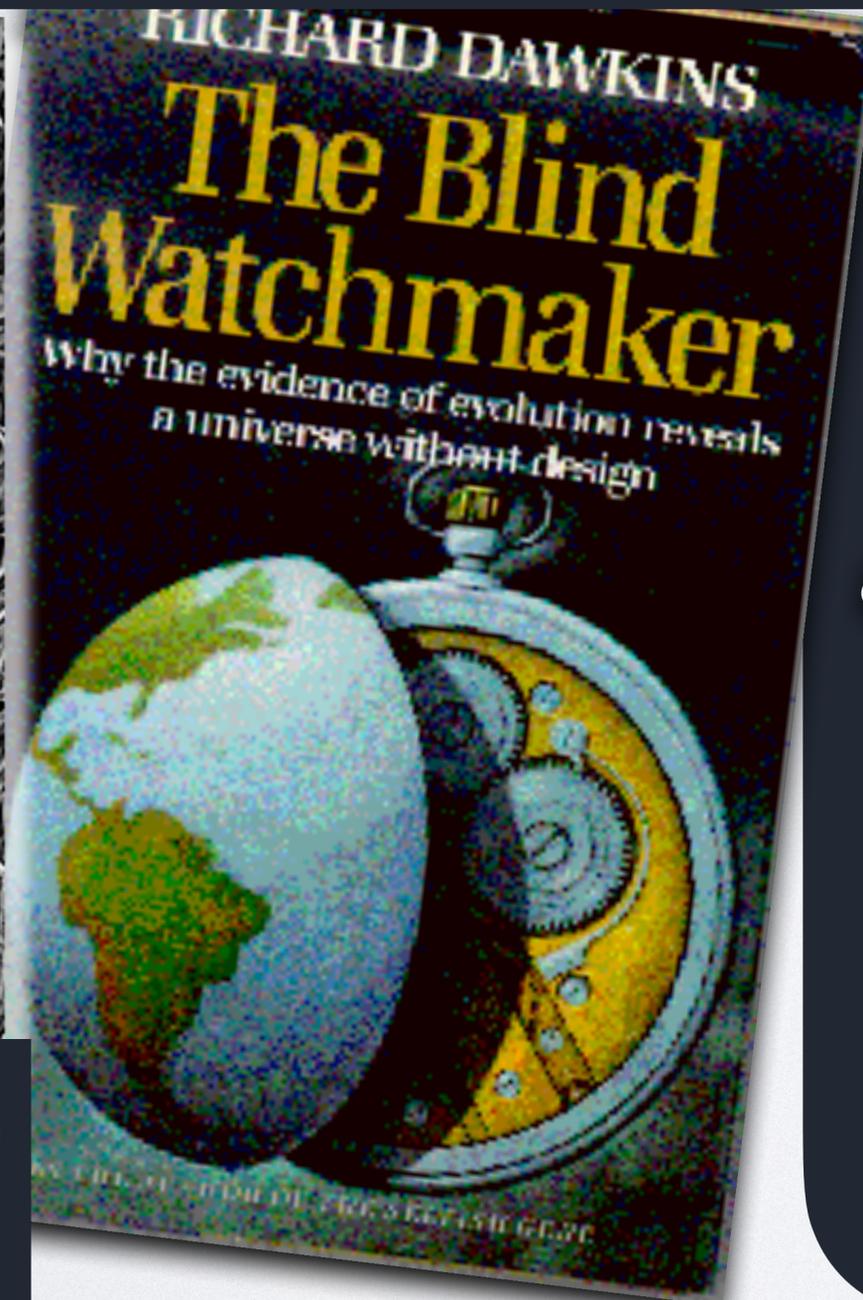
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Richard Dawkins

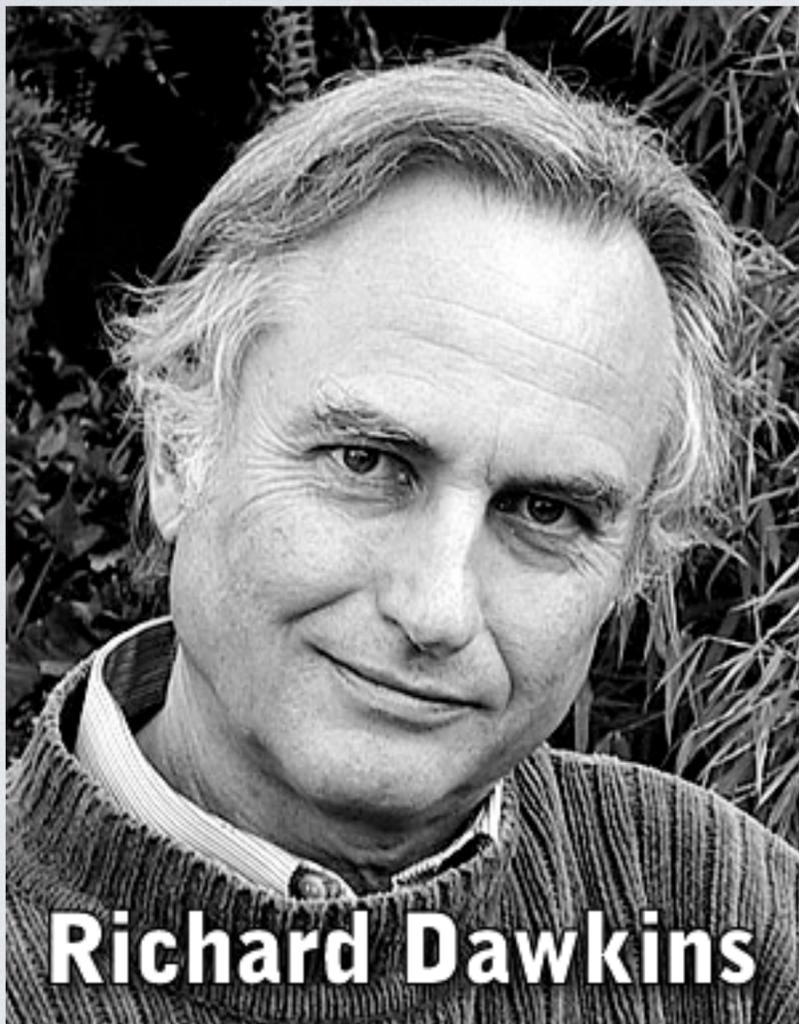
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‘All appearance to the contrary, the only watchmaker in nature is the blind forces of physics, albeit deployed in a very special way. A true watchmaker has foresight: he designs his cogs and springs, and plans their interconnections, with future purpose in his mind’s eye.

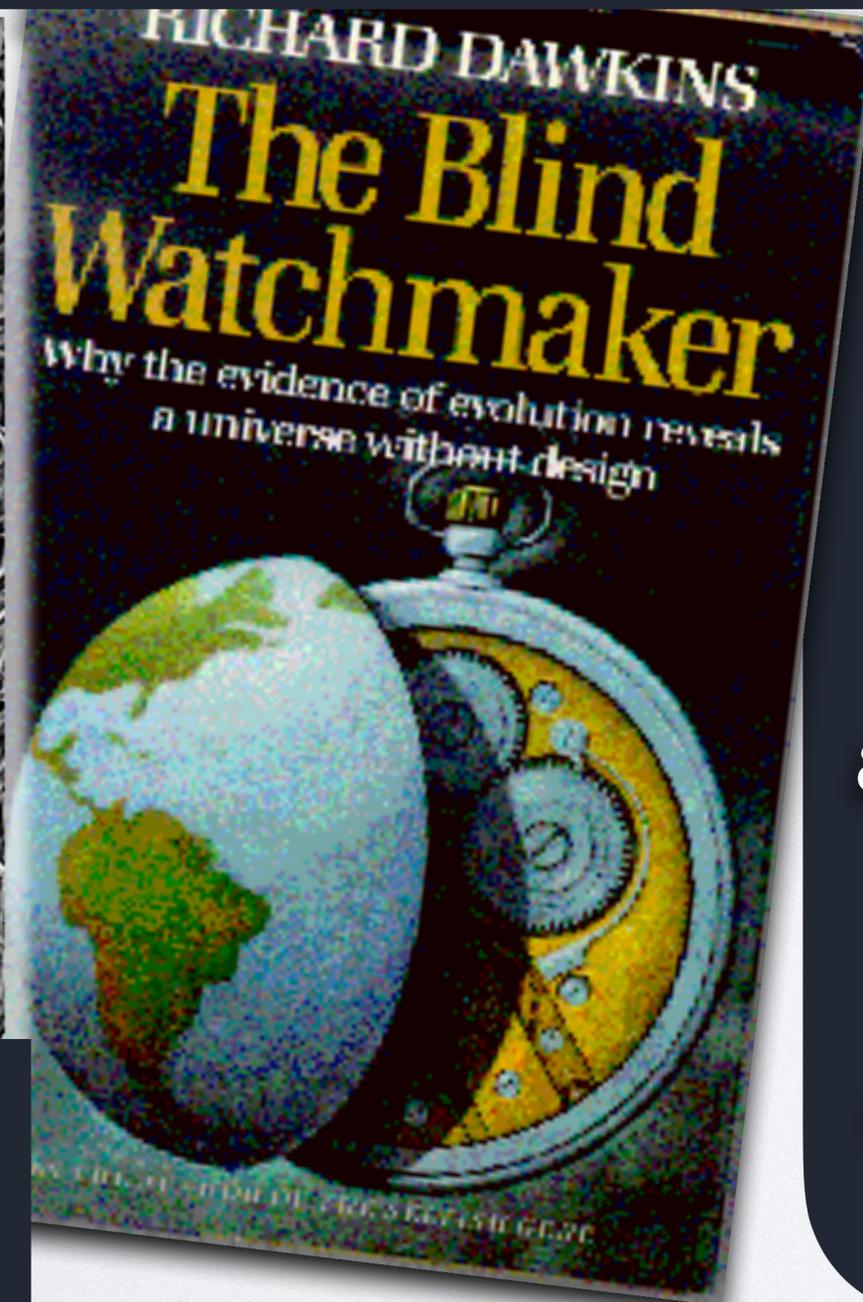
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Richard Dawkins

The Blind Watchmaker: Why the Evidence of Evolution Reveals a Universe Without Design (1996) by Richard Dawkins (Norton Publishing).



Natural selection, the blind, unconscious, automatic process which Darwin discovered, and **which we now know** is the explanation for the existence and **apparently purposeful form of all life**, has no purpose in mind. . . . It has no mind It does not plan for the future . . . it is the blind watchmaker.'

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Most Reasonable Cause For The **ORDER** of The Universe?

A Watch? Intelligent design, or “chance?”



The law of cause and effect states that every material effect must have an adequate cause that existed before the effect.

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Genesis 1:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.



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Romans 1:19-20 (NKJV)

²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,



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Psalm 19:1 (NKJV)

¹ To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.



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Psalm 33:6-9 (NKJV)

⁶ By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. . . . ⁹ For He spoke, and it was *done*; He commanded, and it stood fast.



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Exodus 20:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ For *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day.



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Hebrews 11:1-6 (NKJV)

¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

² For by it the elders obtained a *good* testimony. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.



IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

The Most Reasonable Cause For the Existence,
Order, and design of The Material Universe

IS GOD!



BELIEVE IN GOD

Acts 17:30-31 (NKJV)

³⁰ Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."



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Charts by Don McClain

Preached October 13, 2013 West 65th Street church of Christ

Preached June 9, 2024, Bryant church of Christ

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Hebrews 11:1–6 (NKJV)

¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ² For by it the elders obtained a *good* testimony. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. ⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. ⁵ By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “*and was not found, because God had taken him*”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. ⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.