**Is Belief In God Reasonable?**

**The Designed Man (SR: Ps. 100)**

*“For You 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; Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.”* (Ps. 139:13-16)

**I. Appreciation For The Human Body (Ps. 40:5; 111:1-4; 145:5)**

 A. *“The information content of the human brain...would fill some twenty million volumes, as many as in the world’s largest libraries. The equivalent of twenty million books is inside the heads of every one of us. The brain is a very big place in a very small space...The circuitry of a machine more wonderful than any devised by humans.”* (Carl Sagan, *Cosmos* (NY, Random House, 1980), 278.)

 1. This even seems to be an underestimate based on recent studies!

 2. Even at 20 million books, let’s conceptualize that. That would be like if you stacked 1,000 books on all 20,000 seats in Madison Square Garden!

 B. Rudolf Virchow, M.D., called the human body *“the most miraculous masterpiece of nature”* and called it “*a* *pleasure to study...and to learn about the smallest vessel and the smallest fiber.”*

 C. *“Your body is a complete marvel. The more you study its anatomy and how each part works in harmony, the more you will be convinced that you didn't just evolve. You were designed from the beginning by the hand of a Master.”* (Toni Sorenson Brown, bestselling Mormon author)

D. *“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.”* (Charles Darwin, *Origin of Species*, 154)

 E. *Complexity must be experienced to be appreciated*. Here are just a few details:

 1. Made of 7 octillion atoms! (7,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000)

 2. Made up of hundreds of trillions of cells! (RBCs, nerve cells, skin cells, etc.)

 3. There are a trillion nerves powering your memory!

 4. If uncoiled, your DNA would stretch 10 billion miles, from here to Pluto! If stretched out, the DNA contained in a single cell would be 6ft long.

 5. DNA contains a 6-billion letter code. Chromosome 1 has 270 million base pairs whose representative letters would fill 200,000 pages!

**II. Exquisite Detail Seen In The Human Body (Gen. 1:26-31)**

 A. The Ear (Pro. 20:12; Ps. 94:9a; 1Co. 12:16f) – maintains sound AND balance!

 1. God first spoke (Gen. 1). Speaking requires sound and in order to be effective, requires a listener who hears. God has also used the medium of hearing in all ages to convey His will (e.g. Rom. 10:17).

 2. The ear is sensitive to a change in air pressure of 1x10^-10 atmospheres (or the pressure occurring naturally at sea level). If we were to convey this in terms of altitude to make sense of it, it would be equivalent to a change in altitude of 1/30,000th of an inch (1/120th of piece of paper)

 3. Sound is transferred between three different mediums – from air in the outer ear, to bone in the middle ear, to fluid in the inner ear.

 4. The shape and size of the auditory canal is ideal for hearing the human voice, the wax and hair ideal for keeping foreign objects out, the laterally growing epidermal layer for clearing out excess wax.

 5. The three bones of the inner ear (hammer, anvil, stirrup) magnify sound waves by 120 dB & match impedance b/w air & water, preventing mitigation of the sound as it moves from air to fluid in the inner ear.

 6. At 4 kHz, the eardrum responds to movements of 1/10 diameter of a hydrogen atom all while filtering out the reverberation of its own living tissue with parts much larger! A built in noise filtration system!

 7. As the sound waves move into the inner ear, various processes maintain pressure where it needs to be maintained and open channels to convey the signal. Eventually, cellular cilia and a molecular spring open a channel up to 20,000x per second that releases ions that change electrical charges, which then convey a neurological signal that is then interpreted by our brains as a sound!

 B. The Eye (Prov. 20:12; Ps. 94:9b; 1Cor. 12:16f)

 1. The eye can distinguish between 2.3 and 7.5 million different colors. Plus, it has a resolution of 576 MP; about 40 MP in a REALLY nice camera.

 2. *“To simulate 10 milliseconds of the complete processing of even a single nerve cell from the retina would require the solution of about 500 simultaneous non-linear differential equations one hundred times and would take at least several minutes of processing time on a Cray super computer. Keeping in mind that there are 10 million or more such cells interacting with each other in complex ways it would take a minimum of a hundred years of Cray time to simulate what takes place in your eye many times every second.”* (J.K. Stevens, *Byte*, April 1985, pp. 287-299)

 3. *“To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest possible degree.”* (Darwin, in a chapter entitled “Organs of Extreme Perfection and Complication” in *Origin of Species*)

 4. *“Indeed, appearing as it does fully formed in the most primitive species extant today, and in the absence of transition forms with which it can be associated unless by speculative hypothesis with little factual foundati- on, there seems little likelihood of finding a satisfying and pragmatic solution to the puzzle presented by its evolutionary development.”* (Sir S. Duke Elder, *The Eye In Evolution*, Henry Kimpton, 1958, p. 247)

 C. Appendages (Arms/Hands/Fingers & Legs/Feet/Toes; Gen. 1; 1Cor. 12)

 1. Fingers can feel a ridge as small as 13 nanometers in size (1/7500th the diameter of a human hair).

 2. Without the pinky finger, 50% of hand strength is lost.

 3. In terms of compression strength, the average adult male’s femur bone can withstand the weight of 16,000 people standing on it at once.

 D. The Blood (Lev. 17:11//Deut. 12:23)

 1. Incredibly complex inner lining of the RBC plasma membrane

 2. The heart beats 100,000x/day, pumping 5.5 L/min, 3million L/year.

 3. Blood clotting cascade requires 23 separate steps, all one after the other. Without all of them happening in order, clothing doesn’t occur. Thus, this system is irreducibly complex. *“Blood coagulation is a paradigm of the staggering complexity that underlies even apparently simple bodily processes. Faced with such complexity beneath even the simple phenomena, Darwinian theory falls silent.”* (*Darwin’s Black Box*, 97)

 E. The Cell (Col. 1:15-17; Jn. 1:3) – Darwin’s “Black Box” – 100s of trillions in us

 1. Movement & protein transport is irreducibly complex

 2. Cells play an integral role in the immune system. Its role is also irreducibly complex because the cascade has individual steps that are contingent on previous steps, yet that are also independent in development.

 3. Three key areas in the cellular role of the immune system in which irreducible complexity is shown: clonal selection, antibody diversity, & complement system (Behe in *Darwin’s Black Box* explores in detail).

 F. Bacteria – *“God holds the germ within His hand”*

1. Several pounds of your body is made up of bacteria!

2. Between 100 million-1 billion bacteria grow on a single tooth!

3. Even bacteria on and in our body show irreducible complexity! (e.g. bacterial flagellum and bacterial/cellular cilia)

**III. What About “Poor Design”, “Vestigial Organs”, & “Junk DNA”?**

 A. A Classic Example Of Poor Design – The Human Eye (retina is upside down, hole in the back of the eye for the optic nerve, etc.)

 B. Refutation Of The “Argument From Imperfection” (Job 40:4f; 42:1-6)

 *1. The argument demands perfection.*

 a. Designers don’t always make the best designs. Most commodities we see today have a built-in obsolescence (cf. 2Cor. 5:1-5)

 b. Perhaps the Designer might have multiple motives with perfect design taking a backseat to other roles such as aesthetics or as a blockade for fleshly pride (cf. Job 38:2f; 40:2; 1Cor. 12:18).

 *2. The argument depends on psychoanalysis of the Designer.*

 a. The reasons the Designer has done something cannot be determined without appealing to their stated reasons for doing something. The critic has to borrow from the Bible while simultaneously denying the Bible is reliable! (Job 40:7-9)

 b. The design of a feature may have an as-yet-undetermined practical purpose or it could simply be for variety. Tonsils were once considered vestigial until an immune role was discovered.

 c. Further, imperfections often illustrate design better than perfection. A skin tear heals faster than a surgical cut of the same size. God can be glorified in imperfection and sometimes He allows imperfections that seem unjust or unjustified (John 9).

 *3. The negative psychoanalysis of the Designer is used as positive support for undirected evolution.* In regards to the “imperfection of the eye”, Michael Behe highlights this issue: *“The scientific literature contains no evidence that natural selection working on mutation can produce either an eye with a blind spot, an eye without a blindspot, an eyelid, a lens, a retina, rhodopsin, or retinal. The debater has reached has conclusion in favor of Darwinism based solely on an emotional feeling of the way things ought to be.”* (*Darwin’s Black Box*, 224)

 C. Dr. Francis Collins and the Human Genome Project decoded the human genome in 2003. They found that only 1.5% of DNA was used to code proteins. They dismissed the other 98.5% as purposeless junk DNA left over from supposed evolution. They considered this a slam-dunk against Bible believers. However, they overlooked the fact that this other DNA held non-protein producing functions such as regulating transcription, controlling RNA processing, editing and splicing, regulating embryonic development, and thousands of other functions. Consequently, there is no “junk DNA”.

 D. Furthermore, the argument overlooks that the Bible explains such aberrations with a plausible and sound explanation – sin. Sin is so powerful it corrupts even DNA and environmental conditions (cf. Rom. 8). God is still good!

E. I asked Debbie Sebree to help me with this from a personal and professional perspective. What type of mentality does she, as a Christian, maintain when faced with the failures of the immune system? Her answer was simple: *“I always default to it being a part of God’s plan that I don’t understand completely now but I will understand one day. God created perfection. Decay began when sin came into the world. But I don’t think that in any way reflects negatively on the designer, just as a bad battery or external factor may cause a clearly designed watch to stop working.”*

 F. To question God’s design is dangerous & ignorant (Is. 29:16; 45:9-10; Rom. 9:20f).

 *“My soul knows it very well.”* There is a God. He has revealed Himself in exquisite detail. He is the God that we should know, Who speaks through His inspired Word. To deny God in light of this available and copious evidence is foolishness (Ps. 92:5f). Science has no more disproven God than the undeniable fact that I stand and speak before you today.

The evidence tells us that there is a Designer of each of us. As with all designed things, we have a purpose that is given to us by our Designer. He could have created us any way, for any purpose. He created us as we are – free thinking moral agents whose bodies, although exquisitely designed, will inevitably break down.

What truly gives us meaning is that our bodies are inhabited by a spirit, which will continue after our bodies decompose. Our spirit, given by God, will either go back to God or be banished from God for all eternity. This reality expresses itself in Heaven and Hell. *“Without heaven and hell, this incredibly designed universe is a stairway to nowhere.”* (Geisler and Turek, 387) We hope that you will choose Heaven by pursuing God’s desire for you – submission to His Son and repentance from your sins.