

SERMON
Creation, Foresight and Intentionality
Peter Eddington

commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Darwinarch.jpg
Movera at English Wikipedia

“For generations, ‘Darwin’s Arch’ in the Galápagos islands stood as an unmovable monument to the life and work of Charles Darwin. A few weeks ago, the arch collapsed. While the loss of this landmark is sad, it’s also fitting—for Darwinism as a scientific and social theory is collapsing as well. Just look around:



“In March, Nobel Prize-winning physicist Brian Josephson declared that ‘intelligent design is valid science.’ In April, researchers writing in the journal *Current Biology* asked whether Darwin’s ‘tree of life’ should ‘be abandoned.’

“In May, it was reported that Sheffield University has stopped hiding Darwin’s deadly social views from students. A university handbook now accurately notes that Darwin ‘believed... his theory of natural selection justified the view that the white race was superior to others, and used his theory of sexual selection to justify why women were clearly inferior to men.’” (*Center for Science & Culture*, June 15, 2021)

1. The Need for Belief in God, not Evolution

PSALM 104:30 You send forth Your Spirit, they are **created**; And You renew the face of the earth.

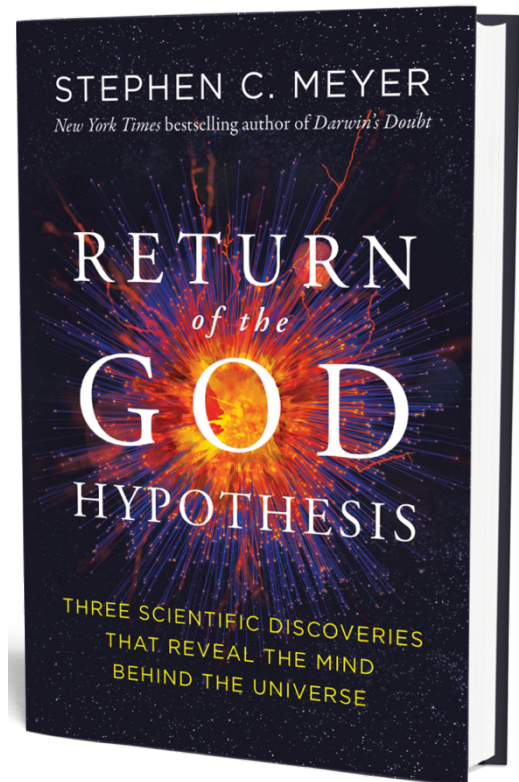
“Beginning in the late nineteenth century, many intellectuals began to insist that scientific knowledge conflicts with traditional theistic belief—that science and belief in God are ‘at war.’

“Philosopher of science and director of the Center for Science and Culture at Discovery Institute, Stephen C. Meyer challenges this view by examining three scientific discoveries with decidedly theistic implications... Meyer demonstrates how discoveries in cosmology and physics coupled with those in biology help to establish the identity of the designing intelligence behind life and the universe.

“Meyer argues that theism—with its affirmation of a transcendent, intelligent, and active creator—best explains the evidence we have concerning biological and cosmological origins.

Previously Meyer refrained from attempting to answer questions about ‘who’ might have designed life. Now he provides an evidence-based answer revealing a stunning conclusion: the data support not just the existence of an intelligent designer of some kind—but the existence of a personal God.” (Dustcover, “**Return of the God Hypothesis,**” by Stephen C. Meyer)

- Compelling scientific and mathematical arguments for existence of the God we see in the Bible.
- In Part I, Meyer examines the rise and fall of theistic science, showing that at one time in our not-too-distant past, religion and science were very compatible.
- Many early scientists were of Jewish and Christian faith, and saw the Bible and science working together.
- Meyer points out in Part II how light from distant galaxies and the discovery that our universe had a beginning—often explained as the Big Bang theory—points to a creator of some kind. It points to a “cause” for this beginning.
- The discovery of the curvature of space, along with the universe having a beginning, also scientifically and mathematically shows the need for an intelligent creator, not blind chance.
- The exquisite fine tuning of the fundamental constants of our universe, requires an intelligent designer.



“Physicists have determined that if the matter at the beginning of the universe had been configured even slightly differently, there would be either an extreme clumping of matter resulting in a universe in which only black holes would exist or, alternately, a highly diffuse arrangement of matter without any large-scale structures at all” (“**Return of the God Hypothesis,**” Stephen C. Meyer, page 147).

Meyer writes of Oxford physicist Sir Roger Penrose determining, “that getting a universe such as ours with highly ordered configurations of matter required an exquisite degree of fine tuning—an incredibly improbable low-entropy set of initial conditions... The number that Penrose calculated—1 in 10 to the 10 to the 123—provides a quantitative measure of the unimaginably precise fine tuning of the initial conditions of the universe.” (ibid. page 149, 150).

Physicists have estimated the whole universe contains “only” 10 to the 80 elementary particles (a huge number—1 followed by 80 zeroes).

“If we tried to write out this number [10 to the 10 to the 123] with a 1 followed by all the zeros that would be needed to represent it accurately without the use of exponents, there would be

more zeros in the resulting number than there are elementary particles in the entire universe.” (ibid. page 151).

- Part III titled: “Inference to the Best Metaphysical Explanation.”
- How to mathematically and scientifically assess a hypothesis.
- Scientists can rationally evaluate different worldviews as competing metaphysical hypothesis and determine which is most likely to be true.
- The God hypothesis a more probable explanation for the origin of the universe and the origin of life than any other competing hypothesis.
- No other theory or hypothesis—even belief in other gods or in religions other than what we find in Scripture—provides a better inference to why we are here.

GENESIS 1:1, 26-27 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...”

27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

PSALM 19:1 1 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament [the skies, NIV] shows His handiwork.

2. The Need for Foresight

Examples of foresight:

- Alex had the foresight to have the builders install a gas range. [Yeah, so he could cook and not starve!]
- An example of foresight is knowing to save money in an emergency fund in case you lose your job.
- Planning and foresight can eliminate the last-minute crisis of an unfinished project or an unhappy client.

ROMANS 1:20 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,

Marcos Nogueira Eberlin is a Brazilian chemist and former professor at the Institute of Chemistry of the University of Campinas. He is a member of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and received the Brazilian National Order of Scientific Merit in 2005 and the Thomson Medal in 2016.

One of his most recent books is titled, “Foresight: How the Chemistry of Life Reveals Planning and Purpose.”

“In studying life in the universe, we see solutions that solve really big problems. When we see those solutions, we wonder, could evolution have provided those solutions?”

“As you look at the solutions and look for mechanisms that could provide those solutions, we see that foresight is so important. When we study those solutions at the molecular level, we see those solutions have to be there from the very beginning.

“Cells can’t exist without membranes to enclose them... When we start to study the way they function, we discover those simple membranes are not so simple after all. It’s not just the isolation, the enclosure, that the membranes provide. The molecules that make up those membranes make a barrier to the outside world. That barrier must prevent some types of molecules from entering, but also not totally isolate the outside world but also allow some molecules to get in! And then, to let other molecules escape. For example, water must both go in and out through the cell membrane.

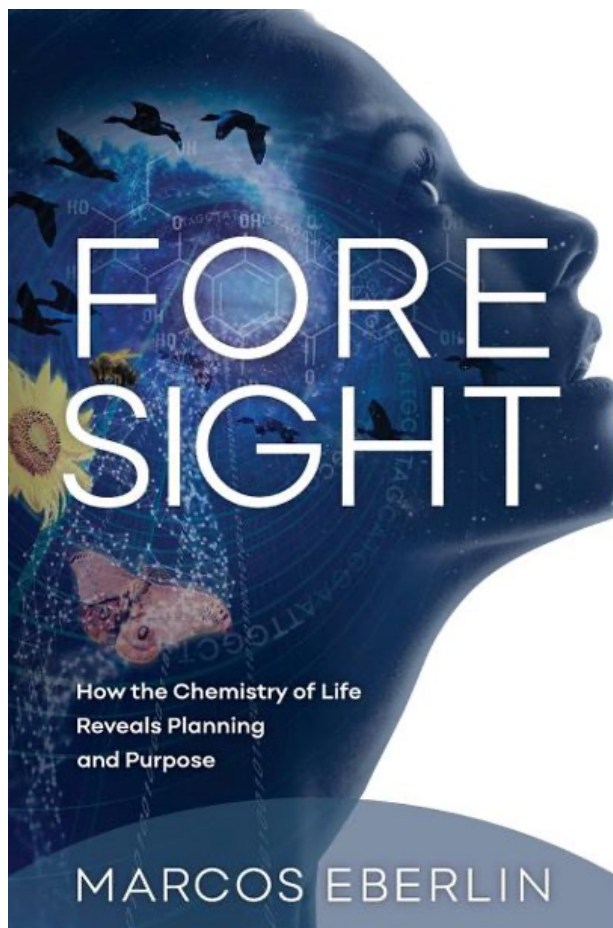
“To let some molecules in and out...the cell needs gates, doors, to open and close. This is the most crucial problem for cell membranes—what is called the permeation problem—which needs foresight to solve before the first cell is formed!

“The membranes that evolutionists have proposed are not able to provide for those gates instantly... First, an intelligent being must look at those membranes and see the explicit need for permeation—see the need for gates—and also see the need for mechanical resistance for those gates to open and close. And all at the same time, everything must be there from the very first time the cell membrane starts to work as a cell membrane”

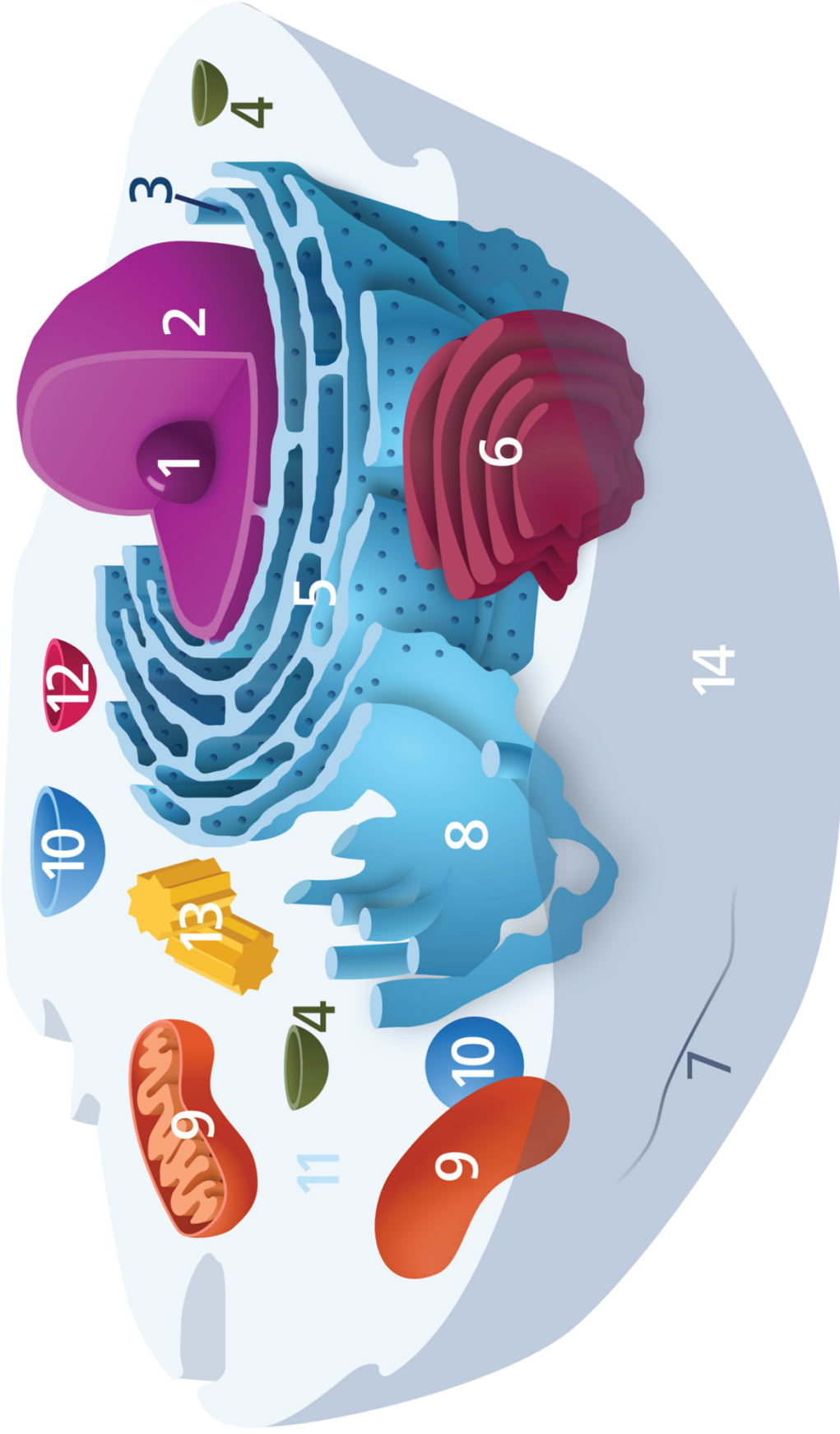
“A true definition of science is not restricted by natural causes. True science is not restricted by a materialistic or naturalistic view of our universe, where there are no outside influences on our universe. Science should consider causes which are supported by the evidence, causes that are supported by the data.”

“When we consider foresight we see it is by far the best explanation for many solutions in life in the universe. Scientists should follow the evidence wherever it leads, and when they do, foresight is clear and is evident. We are forced to accept it as the best evidence for design in the universe” (“**How the Chemistry of Life Reveals Planning and Purpose**,” Marcos Eberlin, YouTube).).

PSALM 139:13-14 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.



3D cross sectional representation of a Typical Animal Cell



- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Nucleolus | 6. Golgi apparatus (or "Golgi body") | 11. Cytosol |
| 2. Nucleus | 7. Cytoskeleton | 12. Lysosome |
| 3. Ribosomes (dots on reticulum walls) | 8. Smooth endoplasmic reticulum | 13. Centriole |
| 4. Vesicle | 9. Mitochondrion | 14. Cell membrane |
| 5. Rough endoplasmic reticulum | 10. Vacuole | |

“Membrane repair would have been necessary with the first cell. If by a most fantastic miracle scenario — against all probability — a protocell emerged from the primordial soup, it would be all over quickly if the membrane sprang a leak...

“Along with code, machinery must be present to translate the code into other machines that know what to do when a membrane breaks. Unwatched membranes are vulnerable to leaks, and they don’t care. Without foresight and oversight, protocells would be like bubbles that pop in due time...”

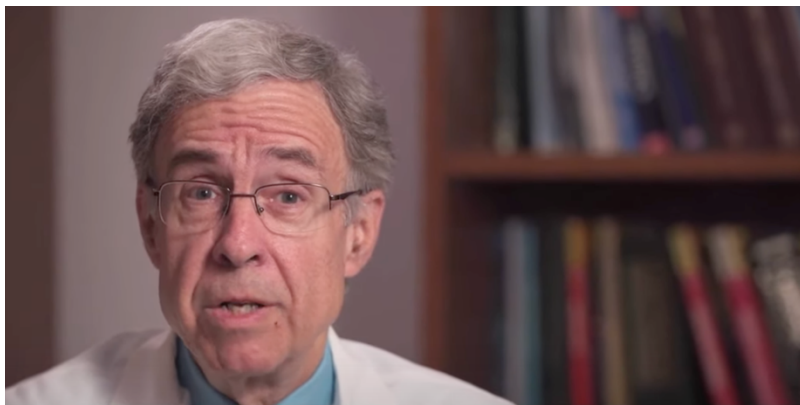
“The cell must have ways to know that a leak has begun. A rapid influx of Ca^{2+} ions triggers a ‘simple yet powerful mechanism for detection of membrane integrity.’ This, however, requires the presence of proteins that bind to the calcium ions so that they can trigger mechanisms that ‘promote membrane sealing by membrane fusion, fission or tension reduction... At least 16 proteins and protein families promote membrane sealing in four categories of damage...

“Saying these systems “have evolved” explains nothing. Something had the foresight to know these systems would be necessary for life and health... The irreducible complexity [of] membrane repair provides additional and powerful evidence for intelligent design” (“**Zip It: How Cells Repair Leaking Membranes**,” *Evolution News @DiscoveryCSC*, May 27, 2021)

3. The Need for Intentionality

Intentionality is the fact of being deliberate or purposive. We can decide intentionally we are going to take a vacation. Bake a cake. We can look at artwork or other objects. It’s part of our consciousness.

“The earliest theory of intentionality is associated with ontological argument for the existence of God, and with distinguishing between objects that exist in the understanding and objects that exist in reality. A common dispute is between naturalism [those who don’t believe in God] about intentionality...and the phenomenal intentionality theory, the view that intentionality is grounded in consciousness” (“**Intentionality**,” Wikipedia).



Dr. Michael Egnor
Professor of Neurosurgery, Stony Brook University

Discovery Science



Peter Eddington!

Michael Egnor is a pediatric neurosurgeon, intelligent design advocate and blogger at the Discovery Institute. He is a professor at the Department of Neurological Surgery at Stony Brook University.

“Intentionality...is the ability for something to be about something else. For example, if I’m thinking now about Washington D.C. my thought is intentional in a sense that I am thinking about something that’s not me. I’m thinking about a city, or I’m thinking about a doorway, or thinking about my wife. So, the ability for a thought to be about something is unique to the mind, because no physical object is about anything... You can’t explain intentionality using materialistic beliefs...

“You can’t explain a living thing without explaining what the purpose of the parts of that living thing are. You can’t explain the heart unless you explain that the purpose is to pump blood. You can’t explain the eye unless you understand the purpose is to see. Where do those purposes come from? ...The implication is that behind the universe there’s a mind, a grand mind, a mind that is reflected in the way the universe works...

“Materialism in my viewpoint is not even really a philosophical perspective, it’s just a mistake. It’s just like...claiming that 2+2 is 5 is mathematics. It’s not really mathematics, it’s just an error. And materialism isn’t even sufficiently coherent in my view to qualify as a philosophical perspective...

“In biology we need to focus on the purposes of biological structures, not just on the details of the structure itself. We need to know why they’re doing what they’re doing. And once you start looking for purposes you start looking at immaterial aspects of nature, at form. And that leads you out of materialism...

“The best science is science that looks for deep conceptual principles that underlie the natural world and that’s inherently not a materialistic perspective.” (“**The Evidence Against Materialism**,” Michael Egnor, YouTube).

JEREMIAH 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

There is obvious intentionality in life all around us. God has a future for us. It all points to a master mind, a master designer, a master of intentionality.

HEBREWS 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

4. The Need for Jesus Christ

“Because UC Health trains 1 out of every 3 doctors in the region, we are the teachers others look to. We are the authors of healthcare’s greatest breakthroughs. And we are always showing the world how science can win. UC Health, In Science Lives Hope” (www.uchealth.com).

JOB 38:1-11 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: “Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy? “Or who shut in the sea with doors, When it burst forth and issued from the womb; When I made the clouds its garment, And thick darkness its swaddling band; When I fixed My limit for it, And set bars and doors; When I said, ‘This far you may come, but no farther, And here your proud waves must stop!’

I guess we could add new verses today: “Where were you when I designed the cell membrane to repair itself from tears and give them gates to let nutrients in and waste out?” Our hope is in Jesus Christ, not science.

1 PETER 2:24 [Jesus] who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

1 PETER 1:13-16 herefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

ISAIAH 40:28-31 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

Many of us here today are facing serious struggles. We need solutions, healing, help. We may be weary and faint. We need to be lifted up with wings like eagles. And, at the highest level we ultimately need the strongest of faith and belief in our Creator.

We have to make sense of our world and believe in our destiny as children in God’s family. We must not lose sight of that goal. We must understand just how awesome is our God—to always keep the larger goal of our eternal life in perspective.

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