

## Chapter Twenty-Seven

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# Do the Order and Majesty of the Universe Prove That It Must Have Been Designed by a Creator?

The notion of intelligent design is the creationists' attempt at a scientific argument to support creationism. The intelligent-design argument is based on the assumption that a higher order of being such as humans cannot simply appear but instead must have had a creator or an intelligent designer. This is also the creationists' argument against the theory of evolution. Evolution, however, does not purport, and never has purported, to be a theory about how the universe *began*; rather, it is a theory limited to how already existing life-forms on Earth can adapt, change, mutate, survive, and successfully reproduce through natural selection and other processes over vast periods of time.

Intelligent-design theorists argue that life-forms had to have had a creator, as only a creator can make things appear from nothing. If God exists but did not Himself have a creator, however, then His existence *without a creator* violates intelligent-design theory because, according to this theory, nothing in the universe, especially something fairly complex, can exist without an intelligent designer. It is therefore not necessarily self-evident solely from the existence of the universe that there must have been a creator of that universe, because if everything must have a creator, then so must God, which leads to the question: Who created God, the supposed creator of everything else? Isn't God's self-evident complexity proof that a creator must have intelligently designed Him; for God could not have just appeared out of nothing as some random accident, right?

The idea of infinite time backward, coupled with God's existence, though He lacks a creator, poses a huge logical problem for intelligent design as a legitimate explanation of how the universe began. This notion that God did not have a creator (a position firmly held by creationists) undercuts the whole notion of intelligent design as a *scientific* theory of how the universe necessarily must have begun. Intelligent design is actually an outgrowth of creation science, which courts of law already have determined was merely religion masquerading as science and therefore could not be taught in public schools as an alternative scientific theory. When courts struck down creation science some years ago, members of the group changed the name from "creation science" to "intelligent design theory." They then attempted to get their theory taught in public schools as science. The courts, however, were wise to the attempted substitution and resurrection and once again struck down intelligent design in the *Dover* case. (See *Tammy Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District*, 400 F. Supp. 2d 707 (M.D. Pa. 2007),

## GENESIS 1:1 “IN THE BEGINNING...” THE FLAWED FOUNDATION

holding that intelligent design is not a scientific theory but merely a religious belief attempting to pass itself off as science.) The claim “God exists without being created Himself is just a religious mystery” is not a scientific argument, nor is it even a supportable rhetorical assertion.

Although redundant, it is worth restating in summary so we see what this argument looks like in its final form: If we accept God as a reality, then God is a very high form of complex being, certainly a higher form than, say, an amoeba. To use intelligent design terminology, God is “irreducibly complex.” If even an amoeba had to have a creator/designer to exist as a complex organism life form, however, then certainly, God also had to have a creator/designer. God could not have just evolved out of nothing by accident (in fact, “accidental evolution” is a major argument used by creationists against atheists and evolutionists). If God did not have a creator, however, the whole theory of intelligent design falls under the weight of its own logic that says *everything* must have had a beginning and must have been intelligently designed, because God Himself exists without ever having been created and intelligently designed by some other earlier God. The essence of the debate is actually quite simple: Who or what intelligently designed God? If creationists assert that God has always been and therefore did not need a creator, that acknowledgment at least opens up the possibility that things, especially irreducibly complex things, do not necessarily need to have a creator in order to exist! The logical conundrum becomes impossible for creationists to escape, because to argue that nothing can exist without a creator means that God himself had to have some other creator or else God could not now exist—something that creationists obviously do not support.

If it is at least possible that the universe has always existed (or universes have always existed in some form or another), our current universe did not need to be created, and neither did life, which undercuts the intelligent-design theory that everything needed to be intelligently designed in the beginning in order to exist. God did not (and logically could not) create Himself (“In the beginning God [who obviously was *already alive and in existence*] created the heaven and the earth”). Besides, a creator who also creates Himself is a logical impossibility—if God were not yet in existence, how could He create or do anything before He ever was?

Even if a person subscribes to intelligent-design theory despite these logical concerns (perhaps rationalizing the lack of logic as merely “our puny minds cannot understand the complexity of God”), that person still must decide exactly *which* intelligent designer, out of the many possible candidates, he or she believes in, and why. This issue is not an officially recognized part of intelligent-design theory but is a logical extension and assumption made by the proponents of intelligent design. Would the creator be the Judeo-Christian God, or would it be Uranus or Thor or the Great Spirit of the Native Americans, or would it be a master race of space aliens who view us as nothing more than an experiment in their cosmic Petri dish? It is a little easier to understand this damaging critique of who created the creator when one assumes the creator is someone or something *different* from their own concept of the creator. As a result, there is also great disagreement as to *who* the intelligent designer, if there is one, would be, with absolutely no proof or reason as to whom or what it is. Creationists quickly become full-fledged “atheists”

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once it is assumed that the intelligent designer need not necessarily be the God of the Bible but could be some other intelligent designer. Intelligent-design theory as a scientific theory, of course, should not fall completely flat on its face just because one assumes that the intelligent designer is someone or something *other* than the biblical God, just as a mathematical or scientific formula should not succeed or fail as a logical principle based merely on the differing numerical data plugged into it.

It is beyond the scope of this book to recount all of the hundreds and even thousands of religions throughout the world and throughout history, each with its own creation stories and myths, but a quick sampling follows. Some Chinese believed there was chaos (whose name was Hun dun and who was zapped with lightning bolts for seven days), and from there, life was created. The Greeks believed that at first there was Mother Earth (called Gaea) and Father Heaven (called Uranus) and from them came a one-eyed Cyclops, powerful giants called Titans, the gods who lived on Mount Olympus, and, after some warfare, regular human beings. The Egyptians thought the world began as an ocean called Nun and that a sky goddess then pulled a mountain out of the ocean and the earth began. Hindus believed there was a dome-shaped Earth supported by six elephants that were standing on giant tortoises that were resting on a snake. Like the God of the Bible, who created a man out of dust and then pulled out one of his ribs and created a woman, none of these creators were ever themselves created but just sort of always were and then they started doing various things that led us to the present. For a list of and explanation of more than 3,000 worldwide gods and creation myth stories, see <http://www.godchecker.com/>.