

Can Science & God Co-exist?

GOD

AND

OR

VS

SCIENCE



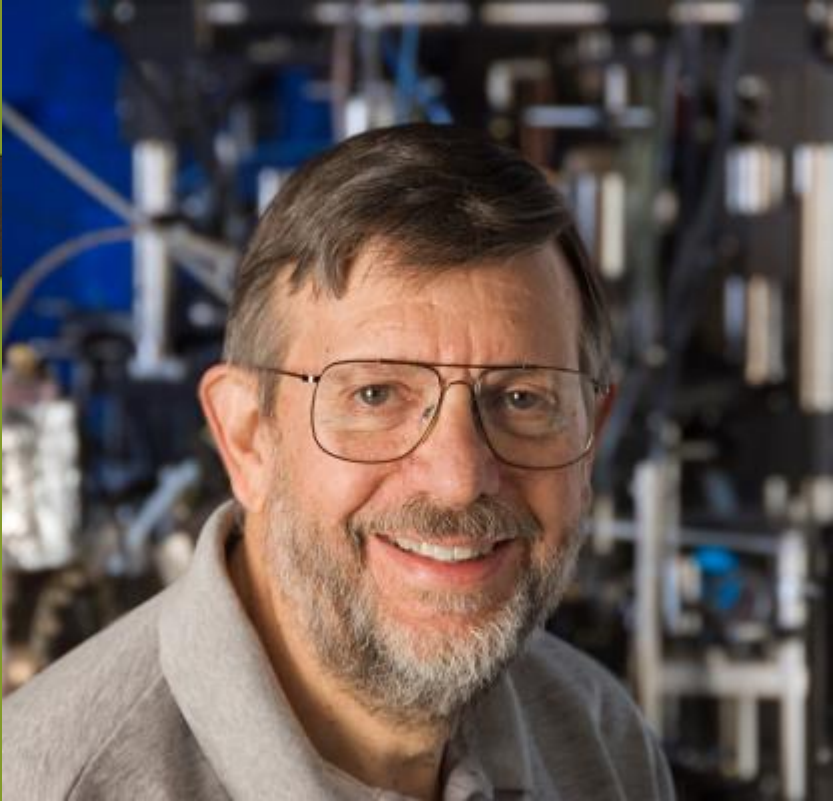
Steven Osmond

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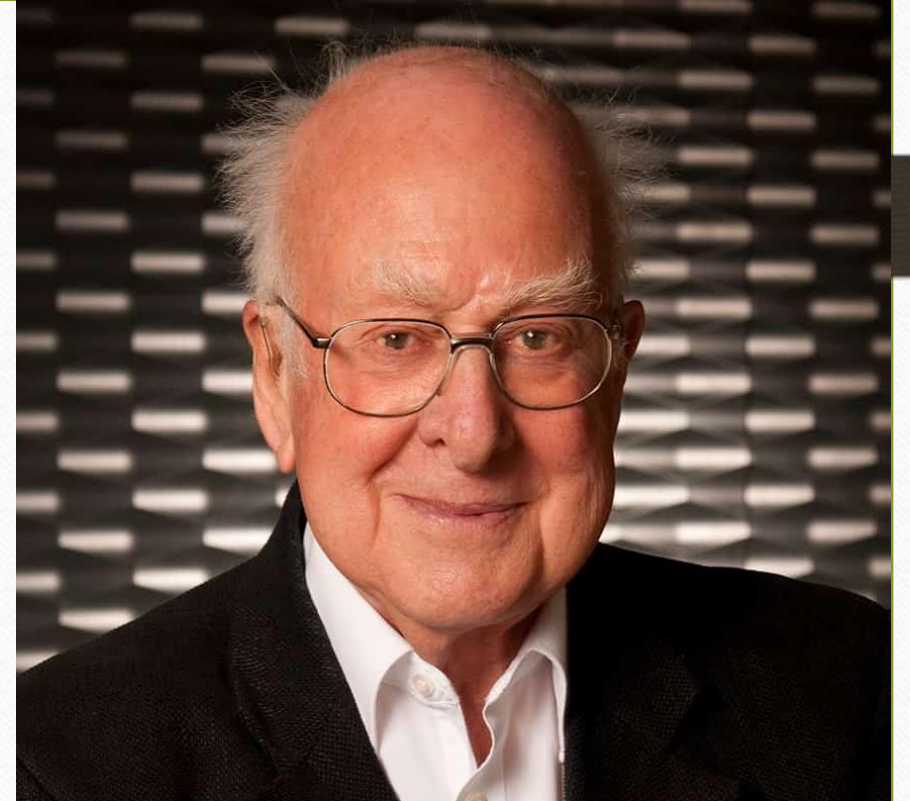
MA Theology & Apologetics

Nobel Prize for Physics

Bill Phillips



Peter Higgs



Introduction

- **Atheism** = This universe is all that exists – mass energy is fundamental
- **Theism** = There is something beyond the physical – a God who created it all

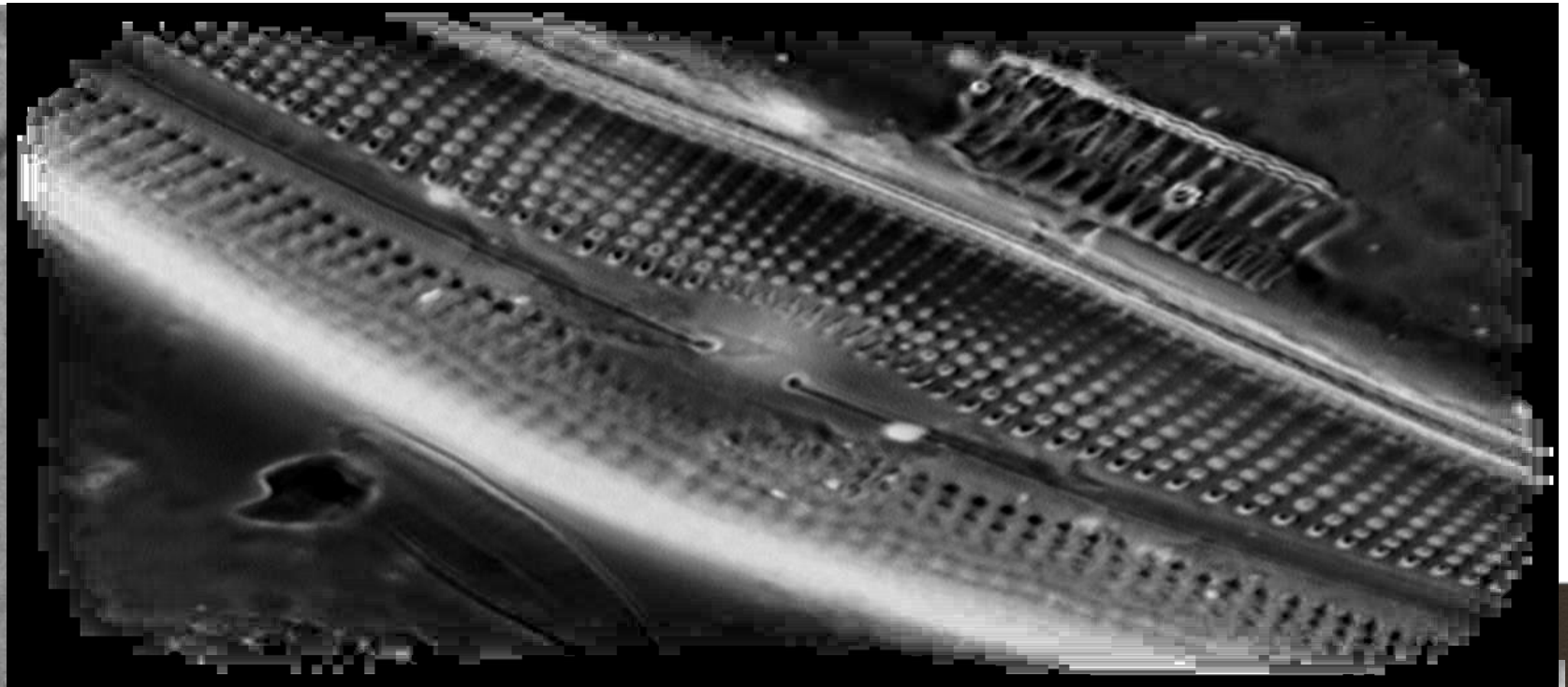
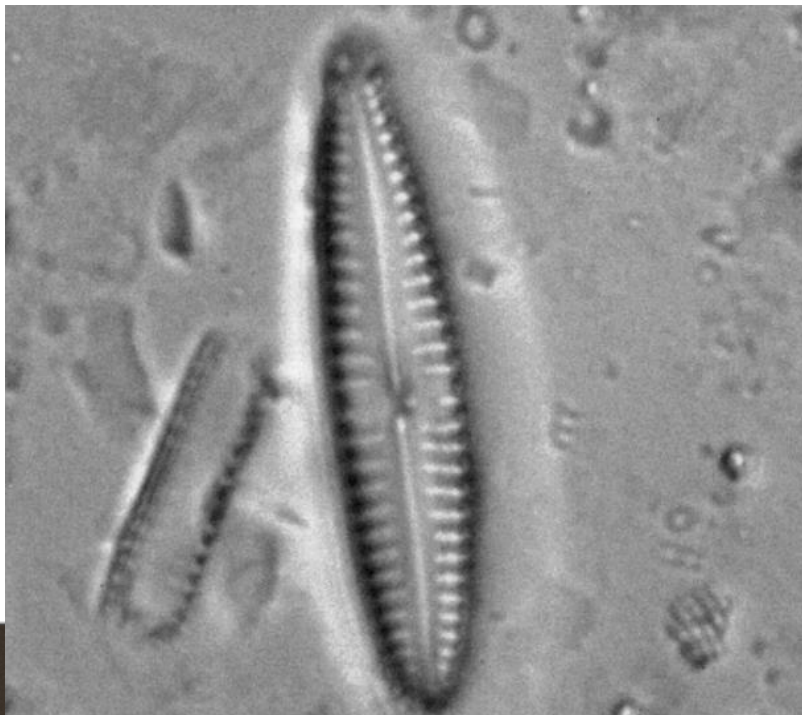
Introduction


- **‘Proof’**

Ie: Cannot prove mathematically that my wife loves me – but have enough evidence that I’d stake my life on it!

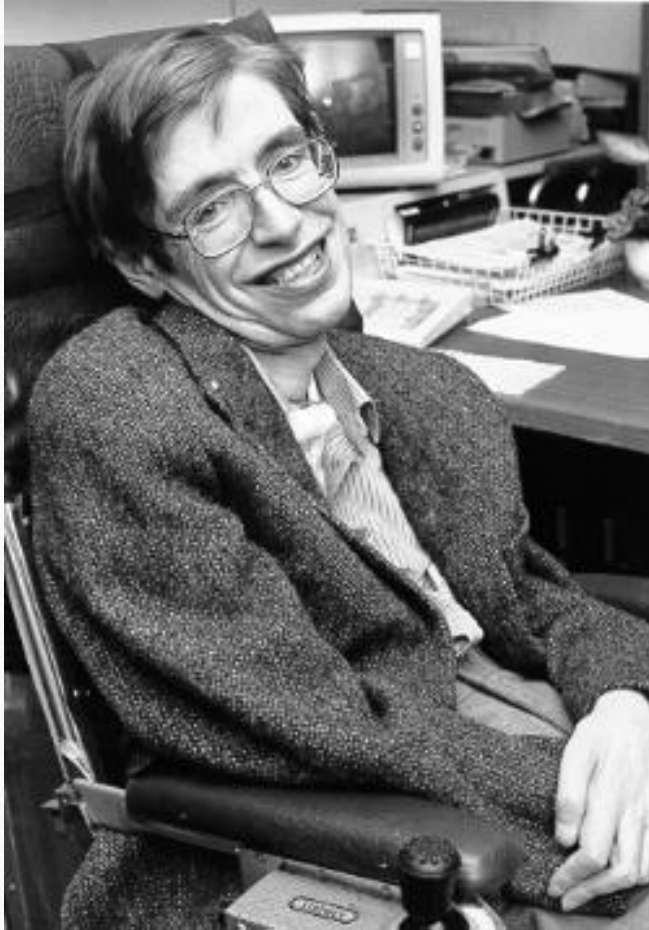
- **Other things?**

- Transport?
- Bridges?
- Food we eat?



A young man with voluminous, curly brown hair and glasses is smiling broadly, looking upwards and to the right. He is wearing a light-colored shirt with a green and white striped pattern. A large, black-outlined speech bubble is positioned to his left, containing the text "How can you be a scientist and believe in God?". The background is plain white with a faint green grid pattern.

How can you be a
scientist and
believe in God?



All my life, I have been fascinated by the big questions that face us, and I've tried to find scientific answers to them. If, like me, you have looked at the stars, and tried to make sense of what you see, you too have started to wonder what makes the universe exist.

- Stephen Hawking, Cosmologist



“The heavens declare the glory of God, the firmament shows His handiwork”

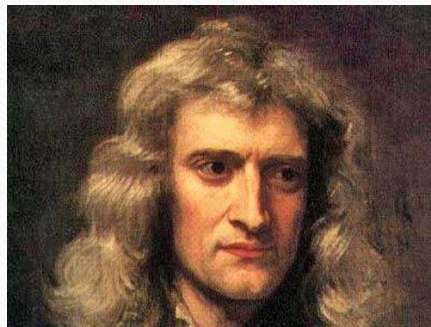
- The Bible, Psalm 19

History of Science
The Limits of Science
Science & Design
Science & Life's Big Questions
Faith in Science
Faith in Atheism

History of Science

- The giants who established modern science were deeply religious!

- Johannes Kepler
- Robert Boyle
- Sir Isaac Newton



The History of Science

“[People] became scientific because they expected law in nature, and they expected law in nature because they believed in a legislator [a lawgiver].”

- CS Lewis

“One of the greatest tragedies of our time is this impression that has been created that science and religion have to be at war”

- Francis Collins

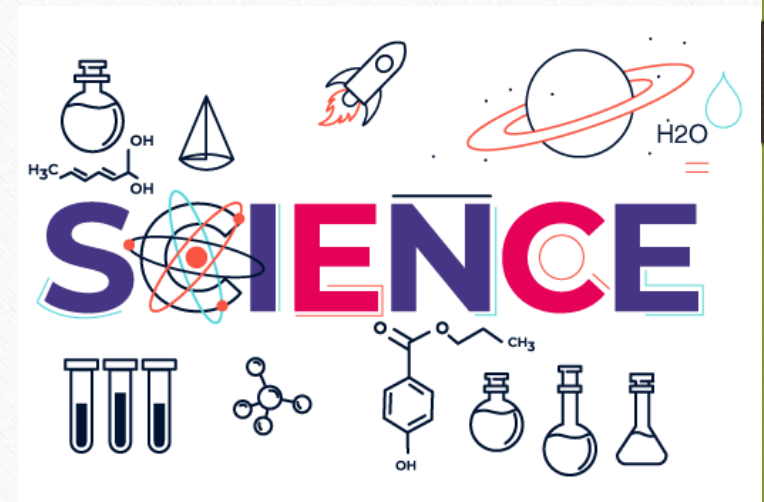
History of Science

What changed?

- 1800's – the *Enlightenment*
- New theories on the origin & evolution of life emerged
- Worldview of *scientific materialism* began to dominate thinking about the meaning of science

Confusion: What is Science?

- Investigation of the natural world through various means of observation and experimentation.
- Setting up hypotheses, testing them, then accepting, rejecting, or modifying them.
- Making inferences to the best explanation.



Confusion: What is God?



Confusion: What is God?

- The reason why there is something rather than nothing.
- The spaceless, timeless, all powerful, personal, cause of the universe and everything in it.

The Limits of Science

- Science
 - Deals with the 'what' & 'how'
 - Cannot answer the 'why' questions
- Need the tools of philosophy & theology
- God & Science are not competing

THE TWO
TOWERS



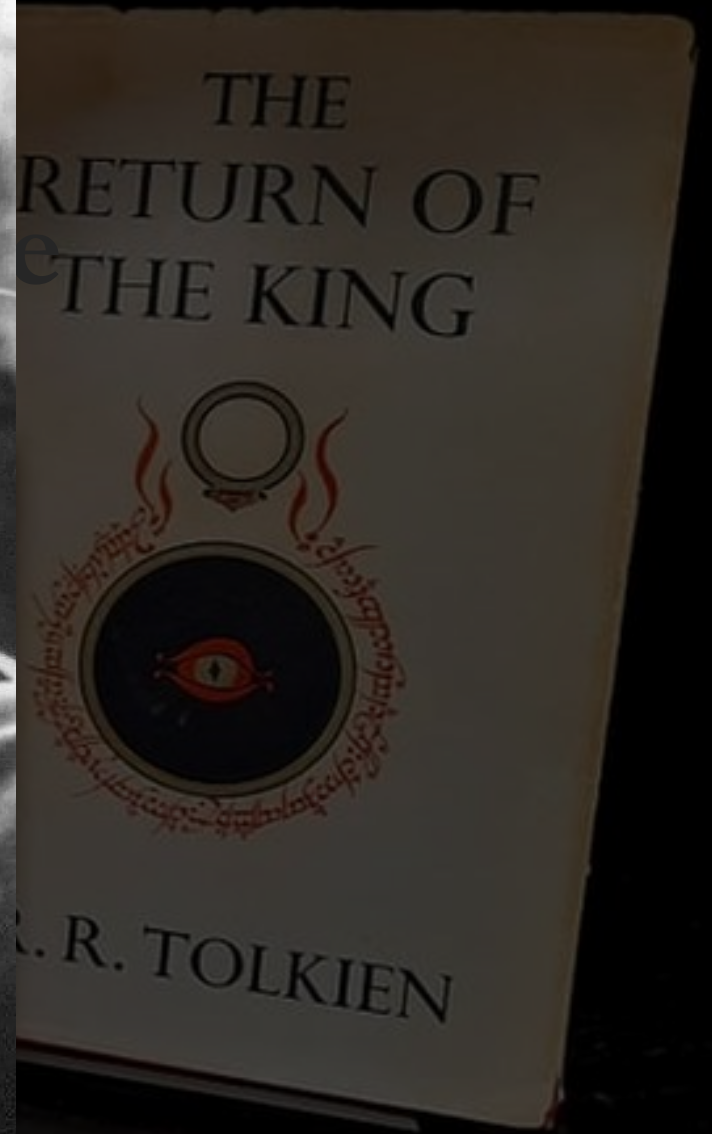
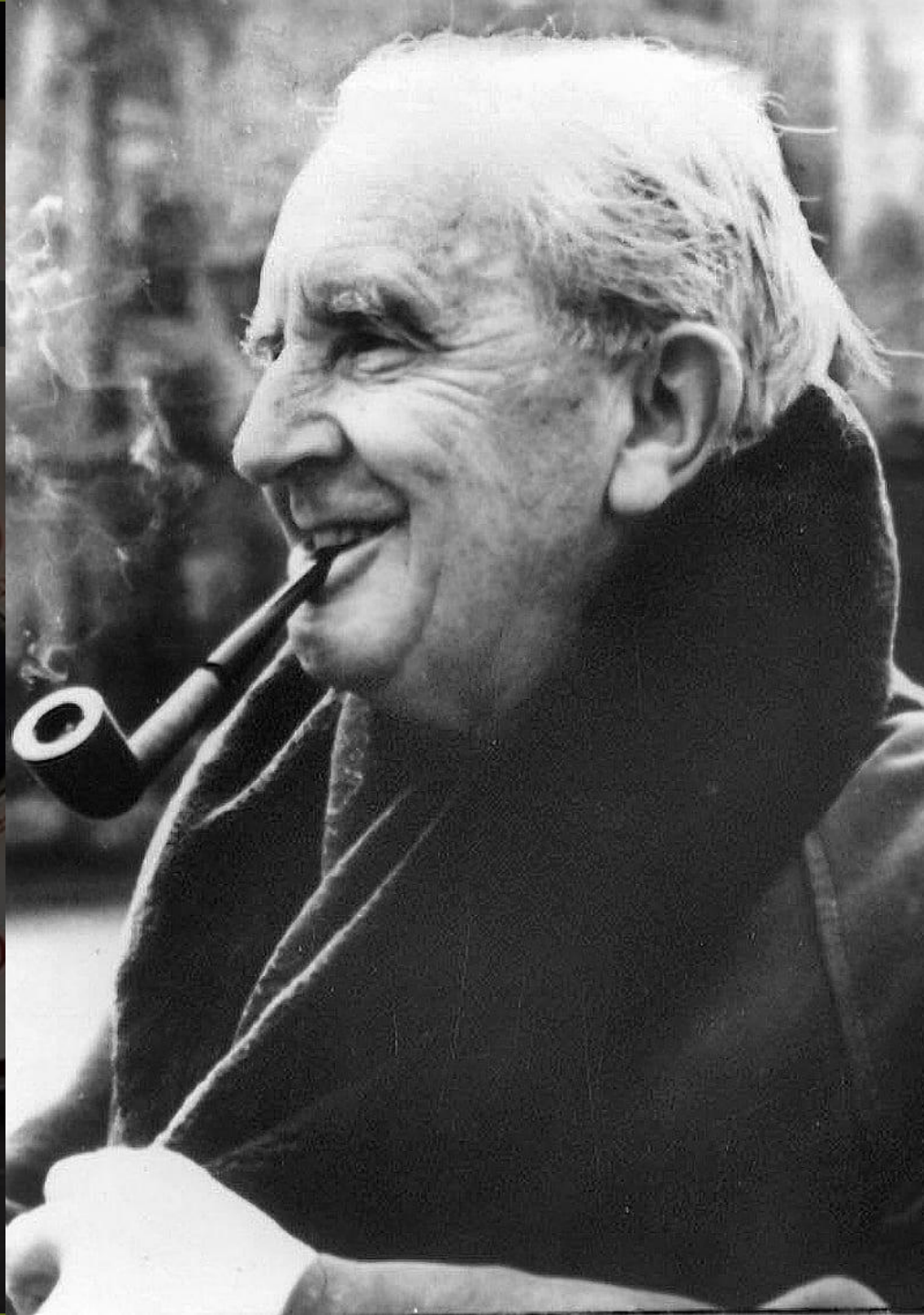
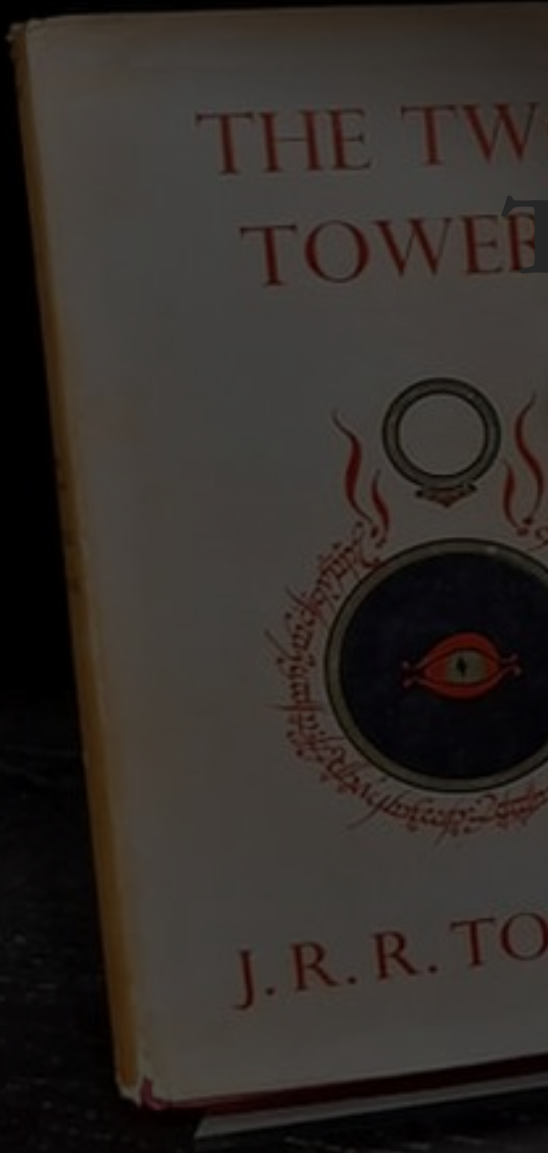
J. R. R. TOLKIEN

THE
FELLOWSHIP
OF THE RING



J. R. R. TOLKIEN

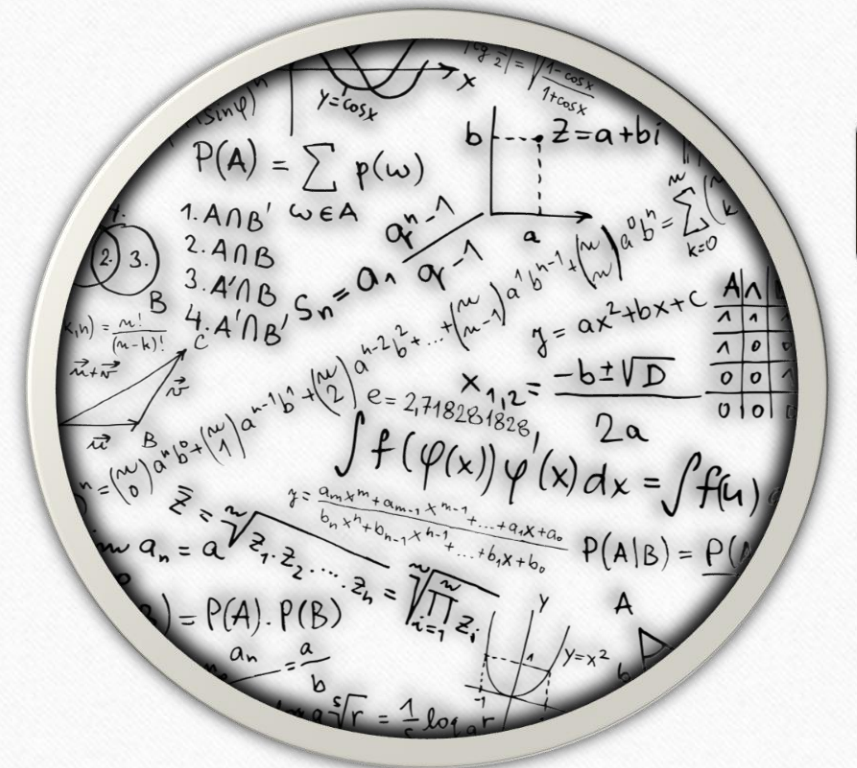




Science Points to a Designer

Science Points to a Designer

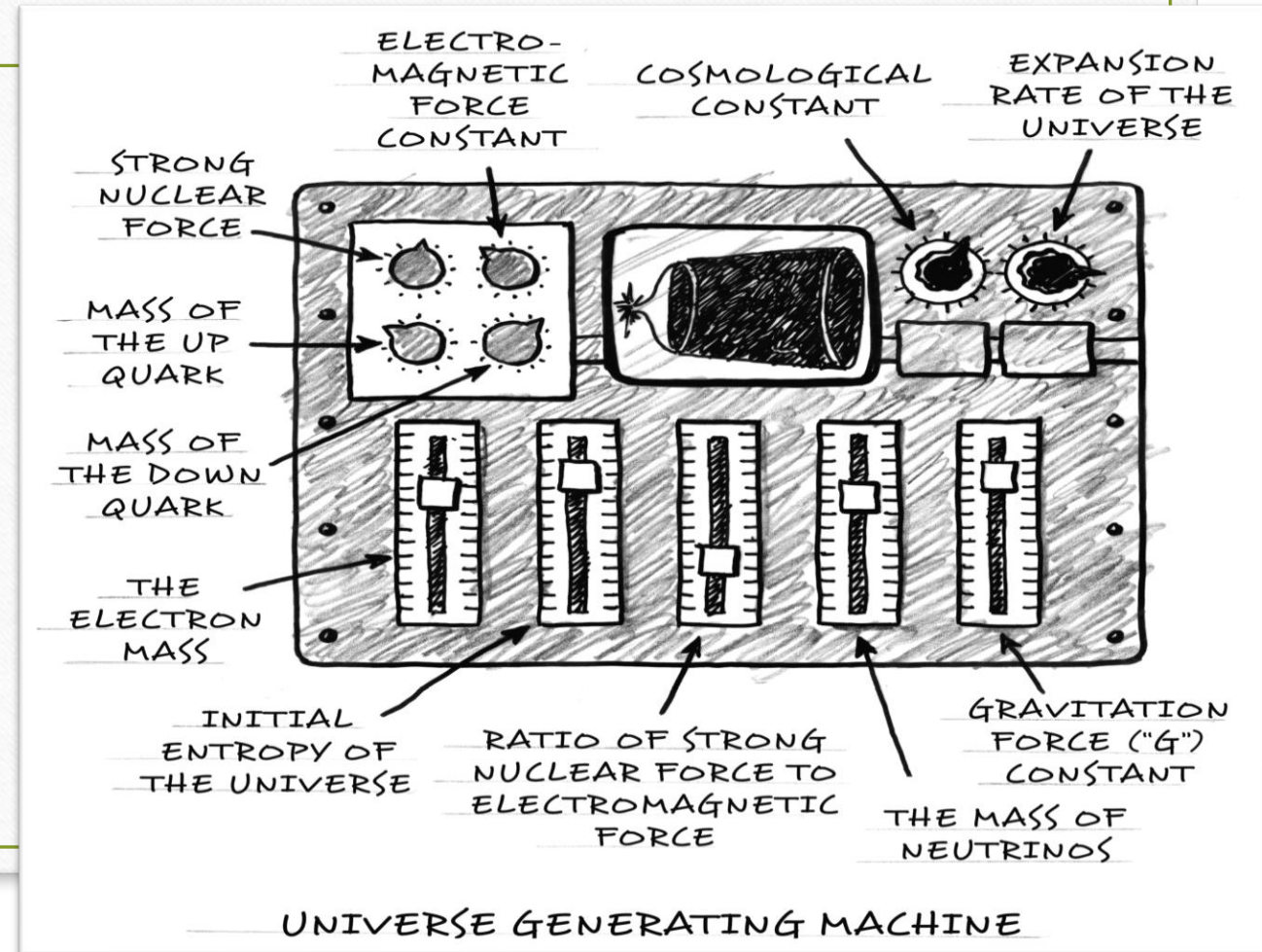
- Applicability of mathematics



Science Points to a Designer

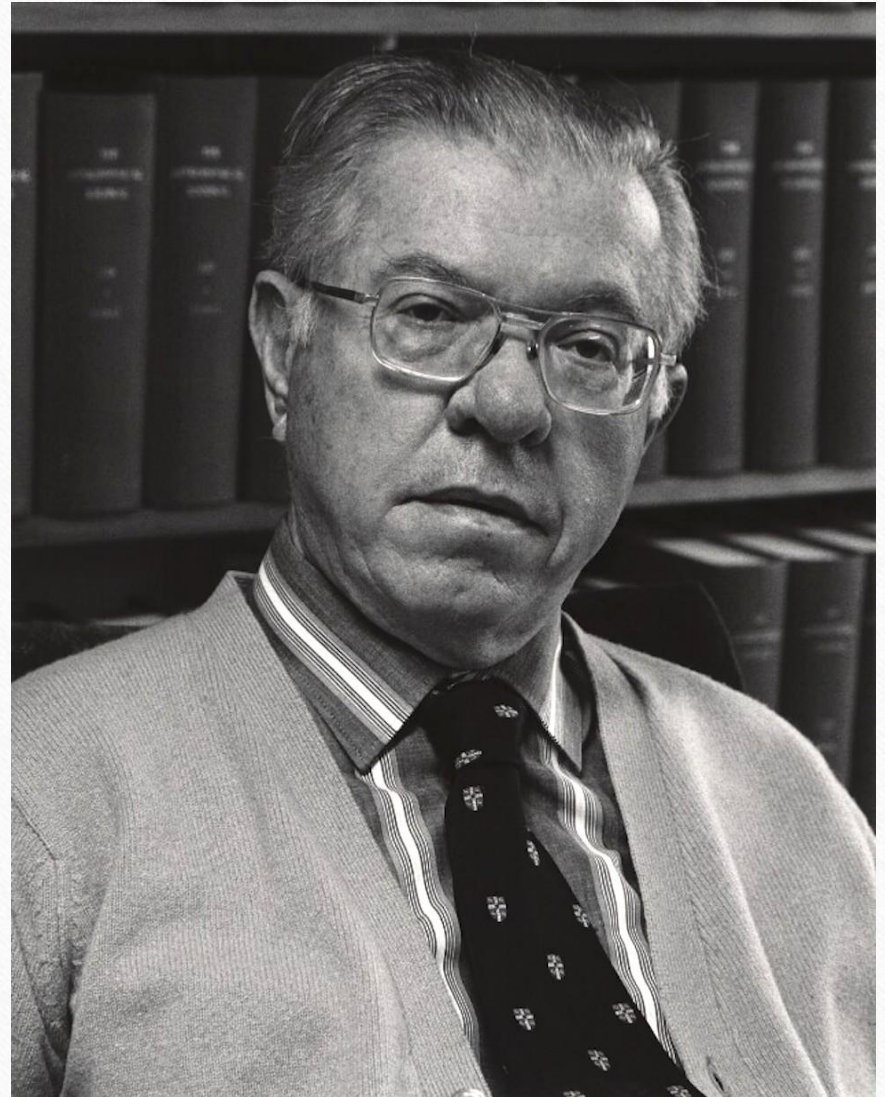
Fine Tuning of the Universe for Life

- The conditions that allow for life to exist are *extremely* improbable



“A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a super-intellect has monkeyed with the physics, as well as with chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature.”

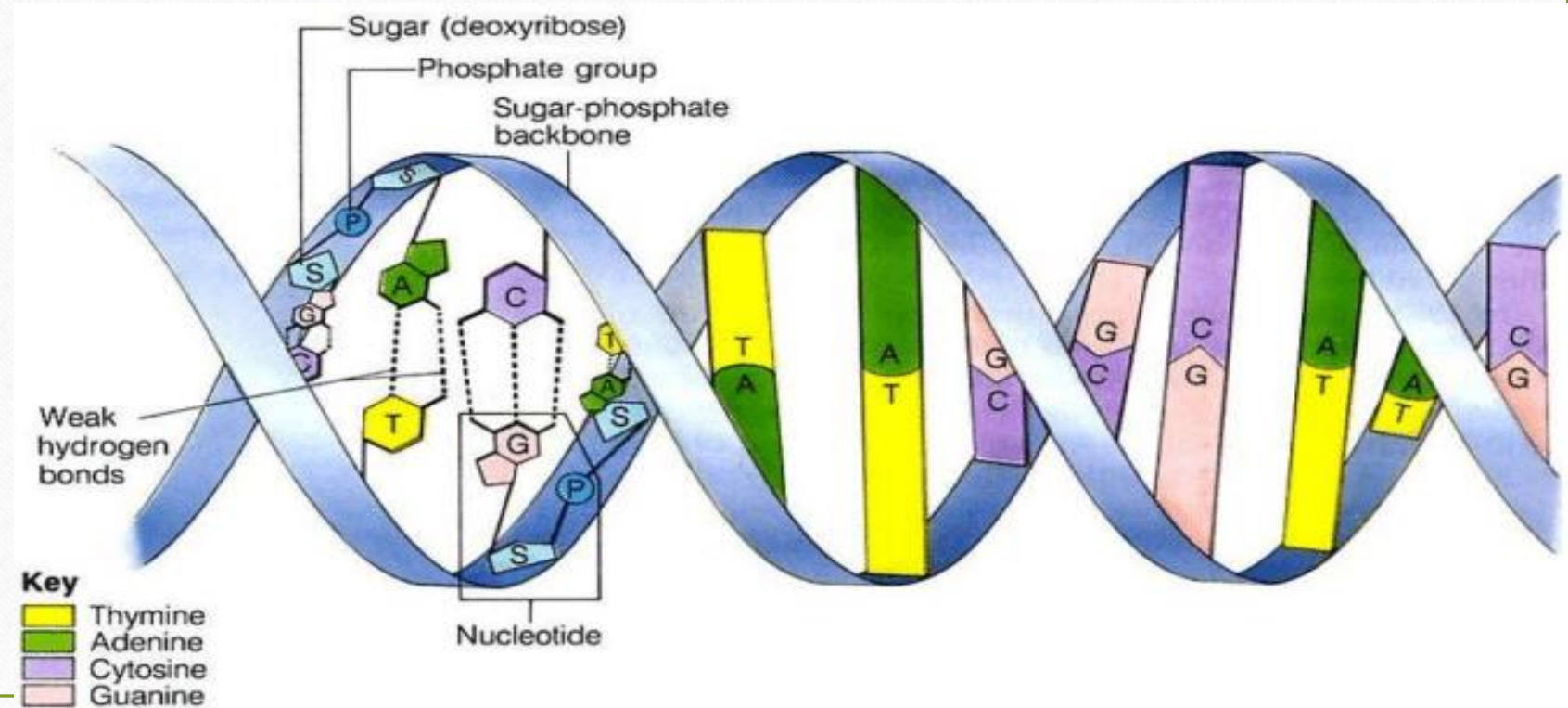
- Sir Fred Hoyle (Astronomer: ‘Big Bang’)



Science Points to a Designer



DNA code



Science Points to a Designer



“The machine code of the genes is uncannily computer-like. Apart from differences in jargon, the pages of a molecular biology journal might be interchanged with those of a computer engineering journal.” – Richard Dawkins

Science Points to a Designer



“DNA is like a computer program but far, far more advanced than any software ever created.”

– Bill Gates

Science Doesn't Answer the Biggest Questions of Life



Science Doesn't Answer the Biggest Questions of Life

- Value – human worth
- Morality – what is right and wrong?
- Purpose – why are we here?
- Identity – what it means to be human

Faith in Science

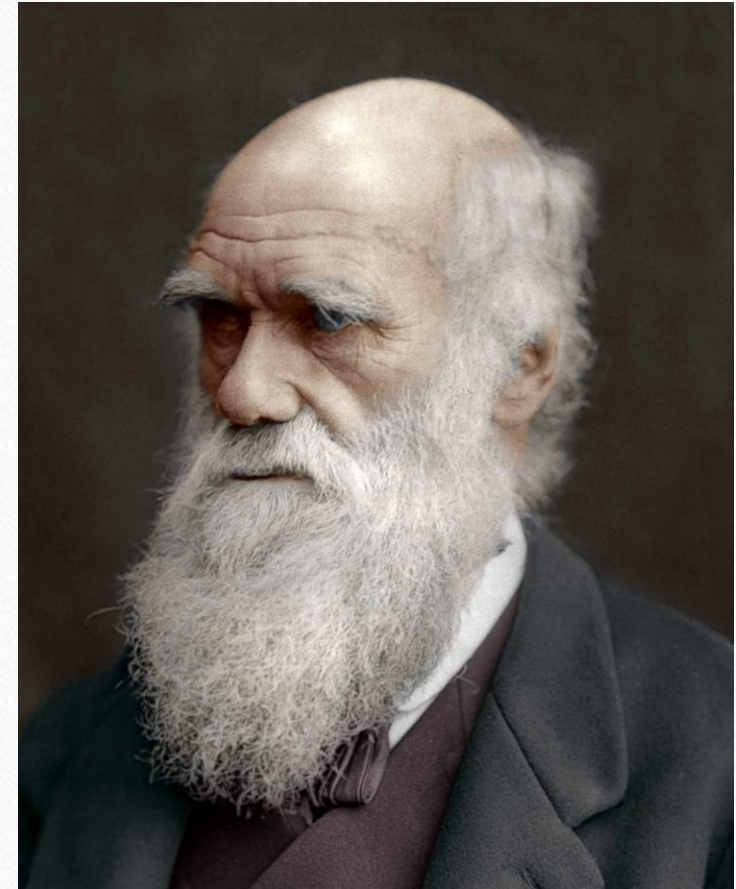
- Wrong definition of 'faith' as 'blind faith'
- Faith is essential in science!
- Faith in God is compatible with faith in science

Faith in Atheism?

Faith in atheism is not compatible with faith in science!

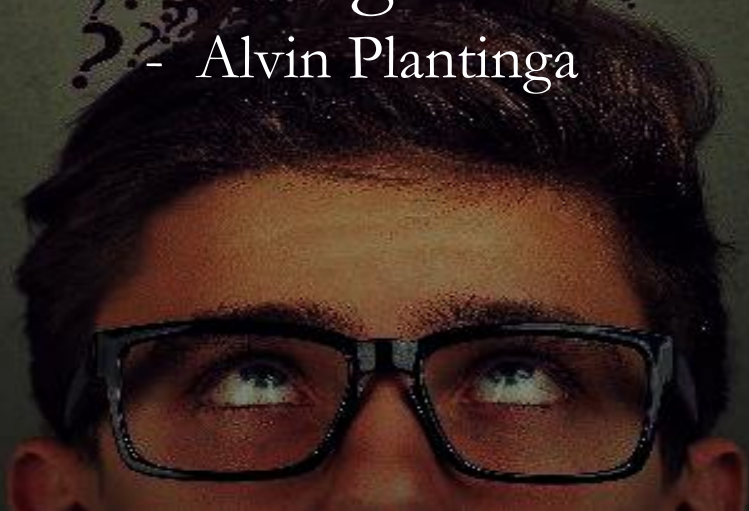
“With me the heart of doubt always arises whether the convictions of man’s mind, which has been developed from the mind of the lower animals, are of any value or at all trustworthy.”

- Charles Darwin



“If Dawkins is right that we are the product of mindless unguided natural processes, then he is given a strong reason to doubt the reliability of human cognitive faculties and therefore inevitably to doubt the validity of any belief they produce, including Dawkins’ own science and atheism. His biology and his belief in naturalism would therefore appear to be at war with each other in a conflict that has nothing at all to do with God”

- Alvin Plantinga



Faith in Atheism?

The point:

- If our minds are the product of blind, random chemical mechanisms, then why trust them at all?
- Atheism takes a *huge* amount of faith!

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that have been made, even His eternal power and Godhead...”

– The Bible, Romans 1:20

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