



The Truth Project Study Aid
Harbor of Grace Church Winter 2021

Week Five Study Aid – Science (Part One)

Science is a beautiful tool. It is the systematic study of the particulars of the natural world. God has given man a rational mind and an orderly physical world to live in and study. It is through the natural sciences we learn about how beautiful and complex is the world God has created. And while science is a wonderful tool, it is not the ultimate source of reality. There are questions that science cannot answer, and as we saw in this week's study, when scientists begin to speak of the origin and meaning of life, they begin to make philosophical statements rather than scientific statements.

With all of this in mind, even when we turn to science for clues, when we follow the evidence wherever it leads, we see that we have good reason for believing in God. When we look inside the "box" we see that what is plain is that the natural world appears to be designed. Do you remember the quote Dr. Tackett shared by Johannes Kepler, the famous astronomer and scientist? Kepler said this, "The chief aim of all investigations of the external world should be to discover the rational order and harmony which has been imposed on it by God." Science in a sense is trying to understand the rational and orderly working of nature, and these natural and orderly workings point to an intelligent designer.

The evidence says the universe began to exist, and as Leibniz noted, whatever begins to exist has a cause for its existence. The alternative is that the universe has always been, which is simply not supported by modern science. We have good reason to believe that our world has been created and that life itself is not the product of blind chance and time. But if there is nothing outside of the box, then all we have is matter and energy producing great diversity, complexity and order by blind chance alone. The odds of this being the case are not good.

Do you recall the analogy used to describe the odds of meaningful information in DNA coming about by chance alone? It is like producing the two lines of Shakespeare, "To be or not to be? That is the question." by randomly dropping scrabble letters on a table. That is assuming you had the letters in the first place. To take this a little further, consider the following facts regarding the probability of chance best explaining the order in our universe.

1. According to mathematicians, there has not been enough time in the existence of the universe to produce a 150-amino acid functional protein by chance alone given the probability is 1 in 10^{164} . We need 10^{164} opportunities in order to have the probability that one of the 10^{164} opportunities is a favorable outcome. The most bit operations that could have been performed in the history of the universe if it were given completely to this task would be 10^{120} . For reference, one million is 10^6 and a trillion is 10^{12} or 10 followed by 12 zeros. How large of a number is 10^{164} ? The approximate diameter of the milky way (its galactic disc) is 10^{21} meters.
2. The cosmological constant, an important feature of our universes energy and expansion characteristics is so fine-tuned that the odd of it coming about by chance alone would be the same odds as getting a billion pencils to stand all at once on their points on a smooth sheet of glass. Visit www.CASEEVANGELISM.com/apologetics for more on this topic.

I pray that we see God's creation as an arrow that points us to Him and leads us to worship and admire Him. Science has only given us greater reason to believe in God, and it has never given us reason to doubt Him.

-Pastor Rob Lewis