

GOD AND INTELLIGENT DESIGN



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What Can We Know about God from Nature?





Psalm 19:1-4

“The heavens declare the glory of God;
The skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech;
Night after night they display knowledge.
There is no speech or language
Where their voice is not heard.
Their voice goes out into all the earth,
Their words to the ends of the world.”



Romans 1:20

“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”



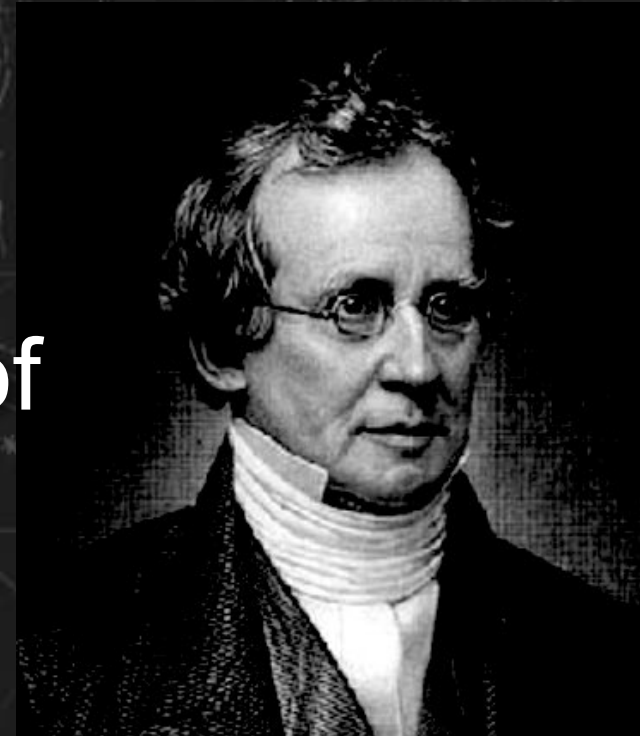
The Book of Nature

- General (EI)
- Continuous
- Abundant
- Universal

God's Two "Books"

"Theology is properly distinguished as natural and revealed. The former is concerned with the facts of nature so far as they reveal God and our relation to him, and the latter with the facts of Scripture."

Charles Hodge



What is Science?



Some Definitions

1. Science
2. Natural Science
3. The *Evidence* of Science
4. *Scientism*
5. Applied Materialism

Key Features of Natural Science

- Based on public evidence from nature
- Theories can be tested
- Systematic
- Standard methods of reasoning
- Openness to nature

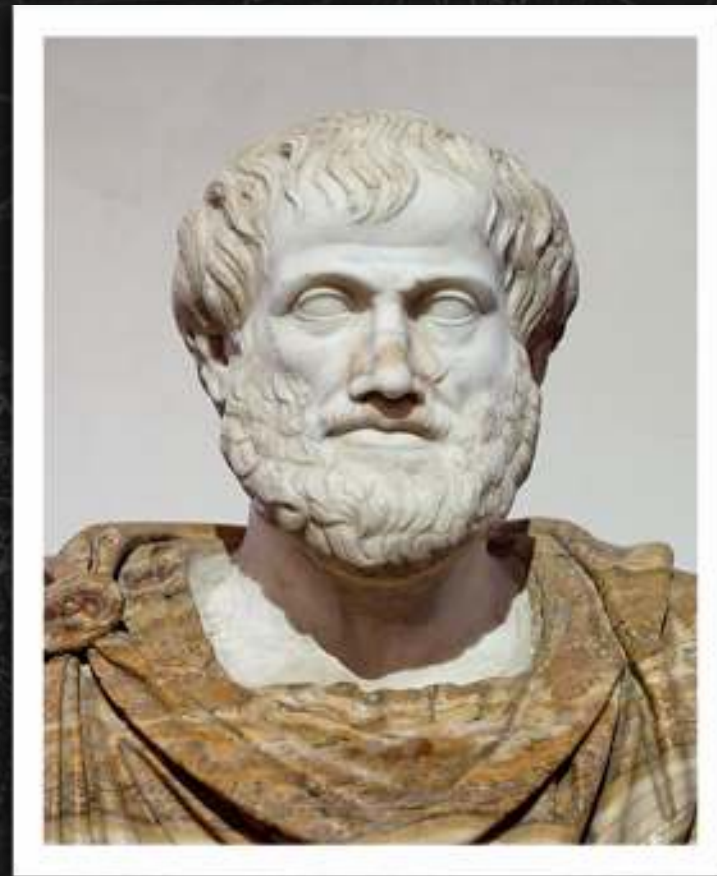


Is There Scientific Evidence for Intelligent Design? What About Evidence of God?



Aristotle & the Four Causes

- Material
- Efficient
- Formal
- Final



The Causes Expanded



St. Thomas

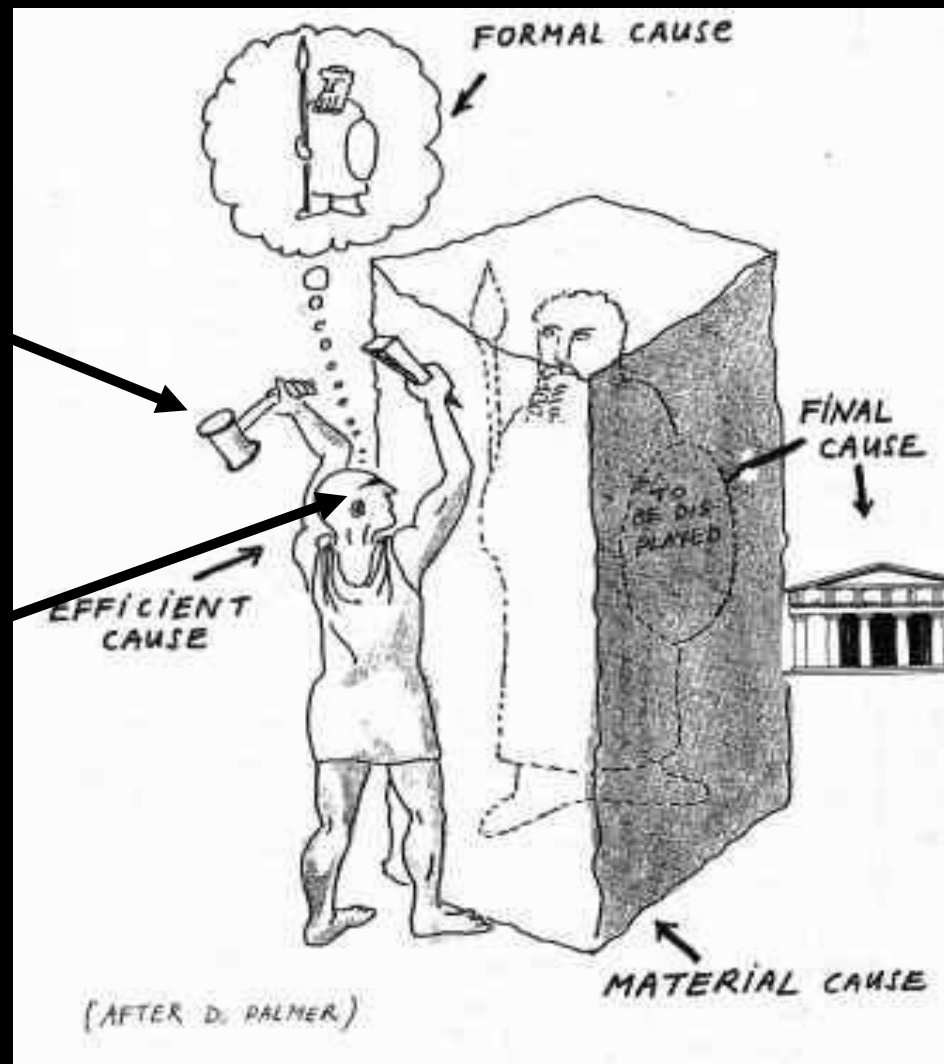


St. Bonaventure

The Causes Expanded

Instrumental
Cause

Exemplar
Cause



Bacon/Descartes

Divide Reality



- **Material**
- **Efficient**
- **Formal**
- **Final**



Bacon/Descartes

Divide Reality



- Material
- Efficient
- ~~Formal~~
- ~~Final~~



Isaac Newton: Mechanism Based on Design



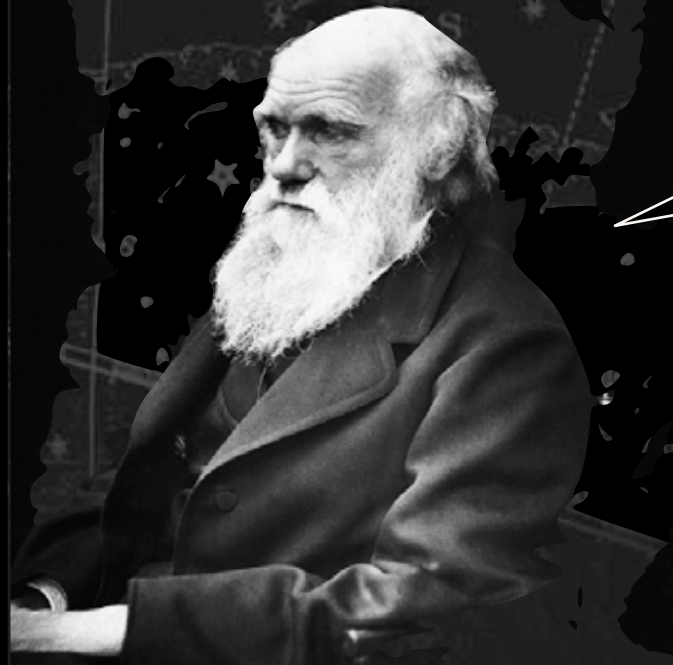
“Though these bodies may indeed continue in their orbits by the mere laws of gravity, yet they could by no means have at first derived the regular position of the orbits themselves from those laws. Thus, this most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets, could only proceed from the council and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being.”

William Paley and the Watchmaker



Materialism Limits Science

“Design is just apparent, and besides, design isn’t a *scientific* explanation.”



What is Intelligent Design?

- Claim: (At least) some features of nature are best explained as the result of intelligent agency.
- A search for tell-tale patterns in nature.
- Draws on public evidence of nature and uses standard modes of reasoning.
- A revival of formal/exemplar and final causation in science, in more rigorous and testable form.

Is Evidence of Intelligent Design Evidence for God?



Cumulative Case

