

# INTELLIGENT DESIGN: DELUSION OR DIVINE REVELATION?

## Sunday School Edition

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### INTRODUCTION

#### Definition of Intelligent Design

Traditional belief that beauty, complexity & functionality in nature point toward an Intelligent Being/Creator.

*aka* the argument from design for God's existence

NOT to be confused with:

#### Intelligent Design Theory

The new anti-evolutionism

Claim ID is "scientifically detectable"

#### Irreducible Complexity:

Biological structures (*eg*, flagellum) are so complex that they could not have originated through a natural evolutionary process.

Therefore:

God intervened miraculously in the origin of life

BUT Intelligent Design Theory should be termed:

INTERVENTIONISTIC Design Theory

#### Characteristics of Natural Revelation according to the Bible

##### *Active*

non-verbal "voice" in nature powerfully impacts humans

##### *Intelligible*

humans understand the revelation in nature

##### *Incessant*

never stops; experienced in every generation

##### *Universal*

everyone aware of it; like music, a universal "language"

##### *Revelatory*

points to God & reveals some of His general attributes

##### *Relational*

with God & connected to the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandments

##### *Rejectable*

humans free to dismiss the "voice" in nature

##### *Accountable*

humans "without excuse" if they reject natural revelation

### INTELLIGENT DESIGN A DELUSION

#### Richard Dawkins

The world's most famous atheist.

The problem is that of complex design. The complexity of living organisms is matched by the elegant efficiency of the apparent design. If anyone doesn't agree that this amount of complex design cries out for an explanation, I give up. *The Blind Watchmaker* (1986), xi

Our world is dominated by feats of engineering and works of art. We are entirely accustomed to the idea that complex elegance is an indicator of premeditated, crafted design. This is probably the most powerful reason for the belief, held by the vast majority of people that have ever lived, in some kind of supernatural deity. *Ibid*, xvi

### INTELLIGENT DESIGN A DIVINE REVELATION

#### Definition of Divine Revelation

Traditional belief that God communicates with humanity

SPECIAL REVELATION (Verbal) Latin *verbum*: word

Incarnation

Biblical Revelation

Personal Revelation

GENERAL REVELATION (Non-Verbal)

Moral Revelation (our conscience)

Natural Revelation

*aka* Natural Theology → Intelligent Design

#### Psalm 19:1-4

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the firmament proclaims the work of His hands.

<sup>2</sup>Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they display knowledge.

<sup>3</sup>They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.

<sup>4</sup>**YET** their voice [Hebrew *qaw*: chord of music]  
goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.

#### Romans 1:18-23

<sup>18</sup>The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness & wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, <sup>19</sup>since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. <sup>20</sup>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.**

<sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

<sup>22</sup>Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

<sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

# INTELLIGENT DESIGN ARGUMENTS

## Skeptics of Design

*Sociological*

believers brainwashed by traditional culture & Church

*Psychological*

"ID" a drug/crutch to deal with meaningless universe

*Biological*

"ID brain cells" evolved by chance for survival

## Believers of Design

*Sociological*

skeptics brainwashed by secular culture/education

*Psychological*

rejection of ID a drug/crutch to deal with reality of God

*Biological*

God created thru evolution brain cells that were made to see reflections of ID in nature

# MODEL OF INTELLIGENT DESIGN

## Science-Religion Relationship

### RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

Ultimate Beliefs



### SCIENCE

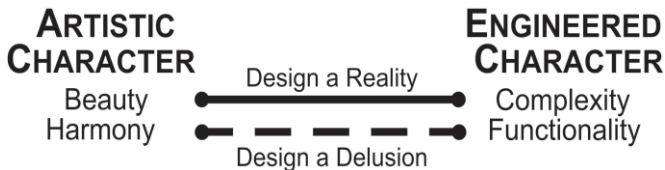
Theories & Laws

Observations & Experiments

## Parameters of Intelligent Design

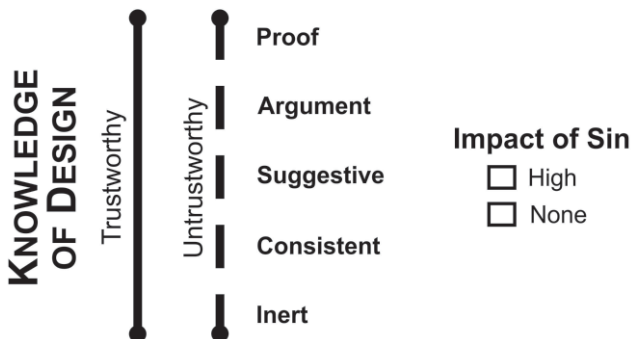
### CHARACTER OF ID

Asks the question: What is design?

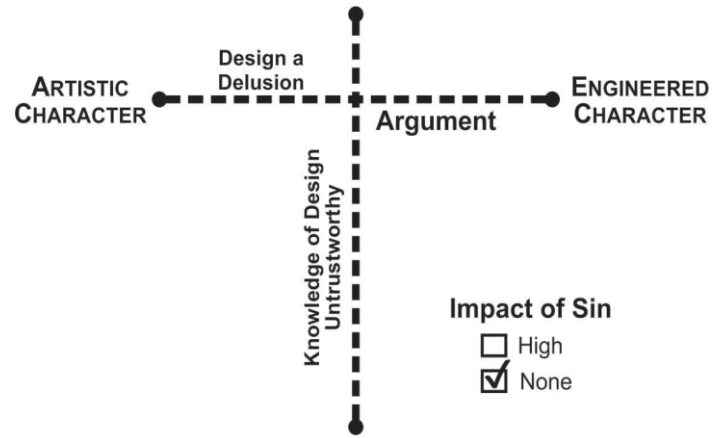


### KNOWLEDGE OF ID

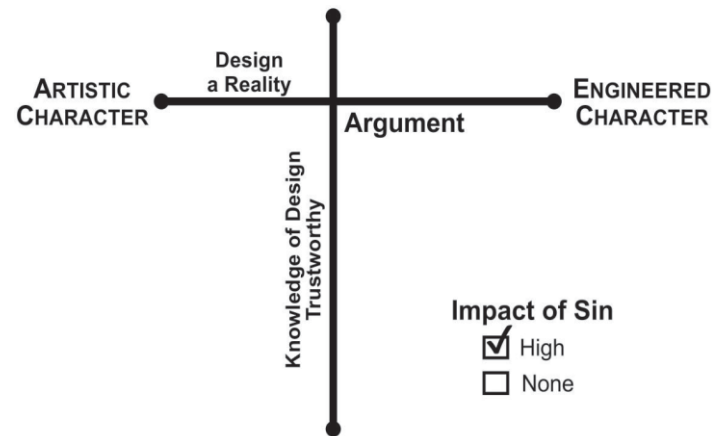
Asks the question: How certain is design?



## Dawkins' ID Interpretation



## Lamoureux's ID Interpretation



# CONCLUSIONS

### 1. ID Powerful

experienced by both skeptics & believers

eg, conversion of famed atheist Antony Flew

### 2. ID Limited

only points to some nameless Designer

calls for special revelation (verbal) & Designer's Name

### 3. ID Personal

huge implications & controversial

Creatorship → Relationship → Lordship → Worship

Who is captain of the ship? 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment Issue?

☛ Lifestyle change?

### 4. ID & Accountability

humans "without excuse" regarding ID (Rom 1:20)

MY SPECULATION

### 5. ID & Suffering

nature heals & comforts us in our pain

God's response in Job 38-41 an ID argument

[www.ualberta.ca/~dlamoure](http://www.ualberta.ca/~dlamoure)

**Web Lectures:** Other high school science-religion lectures in audio-slides with a handout.

**Online University Course:**

CHRTC 350: Science & Religion: An Introduction

24 hrs of audio-slide lectures with 200 pages of class notes & 100 class handouts.