

INTELLIGENT DESIGN: DELUSION OR DIVINE REVELATION?

High School Edition

Denis O. Lamoureux DDS PhD PhD

St. Joseph's College, University of Alberta

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 1st & 2nd 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

¹The heavens declare the glory of God;
the firmament proclaims the work of His hands.

²Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they display knowledge.

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

⁴**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

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

²¹For 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.

²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

²³ 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

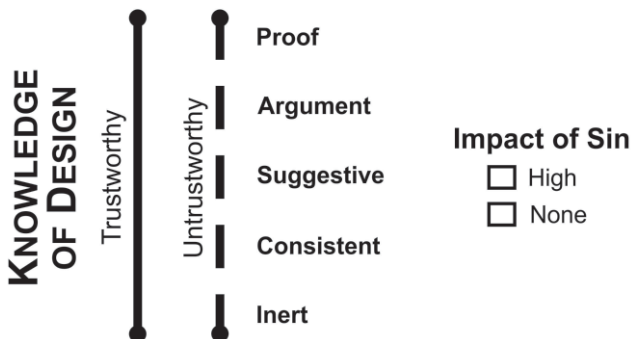
CHARACTER OF ID

Asks the question: What is design?

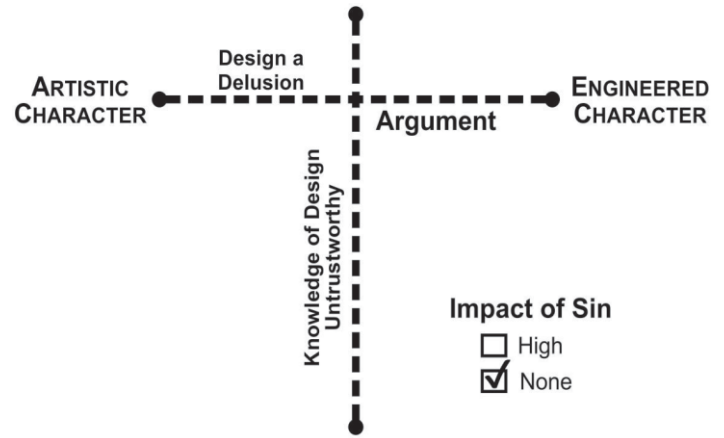


KNOWLEDGE OF ID

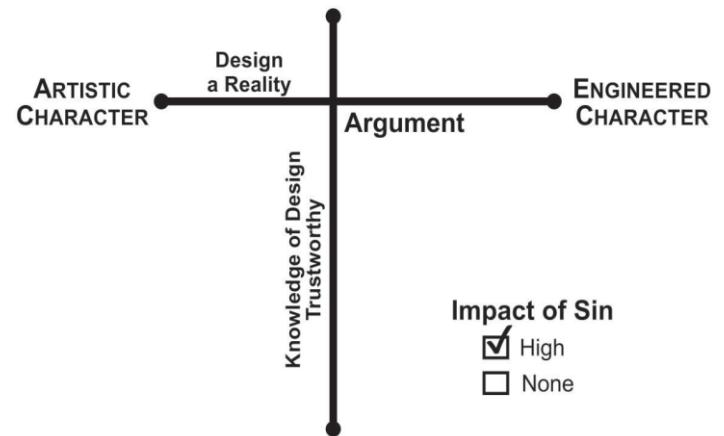
Asks the question: How certain is design?



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? 1st 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

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.