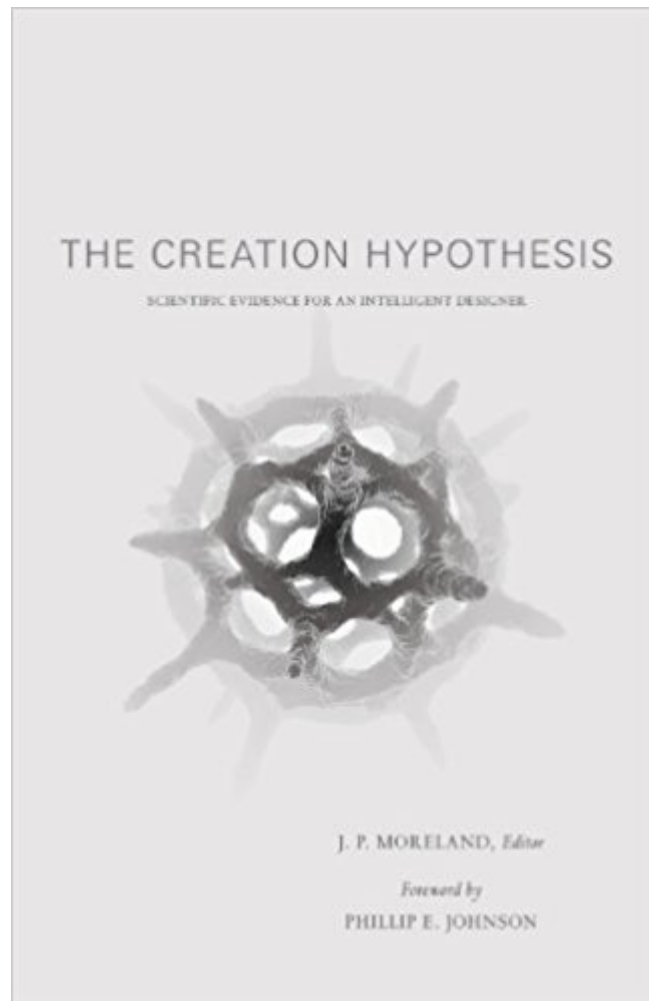


The book was found

The Creation Hypothesis: Scientific Evidence For An Intelligent Designer



Synopsis

Is there evidence from natural science for an intelligent creator of the universe? For a century the reigning scientific view has been that God is not necessary to account for the existence of the world and of life. Evolutionary theory is said to be all that is needed to explain how we got here. In addition, many theistic evolutionists contend that God likely used many of the mechanisms of evolution to achieve his will. In this book J. P. Moreland and a panel of scholars assert that there is actually substantial evidence pointing in a different direction. First, they consider philosophical arguments about whether it is possible for us to know if an intelligent designer had a hand in creation. Then they look directly at four different areas of science: the origin of life, the origin of major groups of organisms, the origin of human language and the origin and formation of the universe. The team of experts for this work includes a philosopher, a mathematician, a physicist, a linguist, a theologian, a biophysicist, an astronomer, a chemist and a paleontologist. Their data and their conclusions challenge the assumptions of many and offer the foundation for a new paradigm of scientific thinking.

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Customer Reviews

This is an excellent introduction to scientific evidence for a creative agent. Although I found some of the criticisms of Darwinism a wee bit ad-hoc, the book as a whole has some powerful arguments from the likes of some of the more noteworthy theists such as JP Moreland, Michael Dembski and Hugh Ross. Ross' essay was probably the best in the book as it dealt with clear, un-ambiguous evidence for a supreme mind. There is also an interesting article on the specificity of language being

a sound analogy to the specificity & complexity of DNA. Now, many of the reviewers who gave it one star do not appear to have even read it. Two of them bragged as much. Regardless of the subject matter of a book, I often find it difficult to review a work w/out reading it. I can only cast my suspicion on other people's ability to do so. One of the most frequent criticisms of "Creationism" (for lack of a better term) is that it is unfalsifiable & therefore bad science. I concede the point that it is unfalsifiable, but I would caution an atheist against calling it bad science. Most physicists believe they have it all figured out up to 10^{-43} power of one second after the Big Bang (known as the Planck Epoch). Beyond this instant (an incredibly small instant) the universe existed in the state of a singularity of infinite density and infinite temperature. The laws of physics as we know and love them came into being at 10^{-43} of one second. Therefore, if the atheist is not to insert an arbitrary double-standard, ALL speculations and theories of "what happened before" MUST be labeled as bad science.

I will make a few remarks about the question of the "scientific" status of the Intelligent Design Theory, which is the issue most discussed in the book (which is not about religion, contrary to what some reviewers claim, and of whom I doubt that they ever even had the book in their hands.) The first chapters of the books deal with the philosophy of the natural sciences. Among others, the authors review all the leading philosophers of the natural sciences and show that it is impossible to define what "science" is (and I would argue that this is due the current use of the word "science" in the Anglo-Saxon world, which is an inheritance of positivism.) Also using all the criteria that have been advanced to demarcate "science" from "non-science" they show that Intelligent Design Theory (IDT) has to be considered as science. BTW, also specially interesting is William Dembski's (a thinker who seems to have a very promising academic career) essay where he shows that it is possible to empirically detect intelligence in nature. Dembski's computational model does not consider quantum physics, but moving to the quantum scale would not change anything to the idea of his argument, given that there are mathematical computation that would exhaust the possible numbers of quantum states. The authors are successful in their argumentation for the scientific status of design. I have followed the angry books & articles that have since then attacked design, and I am still awaiting a succesful rebutal (and not a dishonest strawman attack or name-calling IDT theology or creationism) of their arguments.

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