



# Evidence FOR CHRIST

## The Bible and the Natural Sciences: How Astrology and Biology Reveal the Handiwork of God

Rev Bruce Boeckel, PhD

Interlaken Experience 2015  
International Baptist Convention





# Session Four: Life as Information



## Overview

- The Origin of Life: Darwin and Kenyon
- Proteins as Machine Parts
- DNA as Instruction Manual





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## The Origin of Life





# The Origin of Life

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## Darwin and Kenyon

- Many people misunderstand that, despite the title *Origin of Species*, Darwin's book deals only with species already alive, not with the origin of a species or of biological life.
- 20th-century biologist Dean Kenyon sought a plausible explanation of the *origin* of biological life on the basis only of chance plus certain chemical reactions that might spontaneously "cook" the ingredients for life. But this attempt was a failure

# The Origin of Life

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## Proteins as Machine Parts

- There are some 20 amino acids used in biological life. The possible combinations are enormous — like an alphabet of 20 letters. However, only some 30,000 of these are actually functional proteins.
- The right sequence is crucial because it allows a protein to be “folded up” (with the help of other molecular machines) into a specific shape needed as a machine part to interact with other parts.





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Life Based on Information





# Life Based on Information



## DNA as Instruction Manual

- DNA is a long chain of “sentences” written in a code of four chemical letters: ACTG. DNA “sentences” cannot be written simply by having the letters present and “shaking”.
- As with the sequences of amino acids producing functional proteins, the code sequence of DNA have almost countless possibilities — such genetic sequences do not arise simply by falling into place at random.

# Two Films on Intelligent Design in Biology



“Movie of Flagellar Assembly”. ICorp Dynamic Nano-Machine Project at Osaka Harvard University, Japan. 00:00-01:48. Showing the assembly of motor and propeller.

*Unlocking the Mystery of Life*. Dirs., Lad Allen & Timothy Eaton. Narrators, Ed Raggazino & Fred Pattle. Perf. Stephen Meyer, Paul Nelson, Michael Behe, Dean Kenyon, Scott Minnich, William Dembski, Jonathan Wells, Jed Makosko. Illustra Media, 2003. DVD.



# Session Five:

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## *Unlocking the Mysteries of Life*

6. How Did Life Begin

7. Proteins

8. DNA

9. Chance and Natural Selection

10. Cell Factory

11. The Design Inference

12. Credits





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View 2nd Half of *Unlocking  
the Mysteries of Life*







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## The Design Inference





# The Design Inference



## DNA at Work

- DNA at work involves chosen segments of DNA being translated into RNA (with some re-splicing), and RNA taken up by other molecular machines to the manufacture of proteins inside the cell.
- The process is “irreducibly complex” in itself and involved much more than simply “copying” DNA from one point to another.



# The Design Inference



## Drawing Non-Darwinian Conclusions

- Recognising that biological life is based on information then raises this question: What is the plausible source of this information.
- Universal human experience indicates that only personal intelligence can originate information. That is why the SETI Project assumed that information-bearing signals much come from an intelligence, from “Extra-Terrestrial Life”.



# The Design Inference



## Discussion Time

- Does your view of biology change in seeing that functional proteins are life machine parts of complex machinery inside the cell?
- Why do some scientists embrace the “design inference” for the SETI Project but reject it as related to macro-evolution?





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