Lecture 8: Intelligent Design
January 31, 2020

Definition – The intelligent design movement (ID) proposes the *design inference* as a best explanation.
Background
    Agreement – both sides agree on the *appearance* of design
        Quotes – Richard Dawkins, George Gaylord Simpson, A. G. Cairns-Smith
    Question – is the appearance real?
        Note: There must be some inference from created things to a Creator (Romans 1:19-20).
                  Otherwise, mankind could plead ignorance and there would be no need for the gospel.
    Philosophical Naturalism – No.
    Methodological Naturalism – Irrelevant.
        "When you enter the lab, leave your religion at the door."
    Challenge – At a crime scene, would forensic science only look for natural causes?
        Illus. College newspaper – a smoke-and-light show for chapel?!
            In literary genres and even in relationships, we often only see what we expect to see.
            Instead, should we not be open to wherever the data should lead us?

                                                  like rationalism vs. empiricism

Kinds of Logic
    Deduction – a consistent system from axioms to theorems based on the law of non-contradiction
    Induction – a consistent theory from data to generalizations based on statistical reliability
        Fallible?
        Deduction is only as good as its assumptions—cf. Euclidean geometry vs. non-Euclidean geometry.
        Induction is disproven by one counterexample—cf. everyone dies and is buried vs. one Resurrection.
    Abduction – a form of historical argument, but technically a logical fallacy (affirming the consequent)
        Goal: Explanatory power – causal adequacy – works best when there is only one known cause for an effect
            Illus. A darkening sky on a cloudless day => a solar eclipse.
        Claim: For certain forms of complexities, universal experience knows only one cause—intelligence.

Three Areas and Two Complexities
    Molecular Biology – the digital information of DNA and RNA
                    Random – *irregular and complex*
    Type of Cause?   Natural Law – *regular and not complex*
                    Intelligence – *regular and complex*   only one capable of a mathematical model
        Illus. SETI – the excitement over the false reading from a pulsar
        Complexity: <mark>*Specified Complexity*</mark>
            By definition, this is the nature of *information*.
    Cellular Biology – nanotechnology
        Illus. Bacteria flagellum – 100,000 rpm, 30 proteins, chemical rotor
        Complexity: *Irreducible Complexity*
            By definition, this is antithetical to evolution by natural selection:
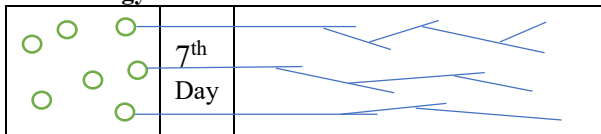
                "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not
                possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications,
                my theory would absolutely break down."
                                —a falsification criterion of Charles Darwin, *The Origin of Species*

    Fine-Tuned Universe – for life to exist, the constants of the universe must **all** be set precisely
        Illus. An empty control room has hundreds of dials set at precisely the correct setting (J. P. Moreland)

Biblical Analogy: The Tower of Babel and a Mother Tongue for Each Family of Languages

Just as languages develop dialects
and then new languages which cannot communicate,
so also, God created *kinds* like the horse family
that eventually speciate into new horse species.

            Handout: "Table I. The Indo-European Languages" (Metzger, *Lexical Aids*, pp. 74-75)
    Illus. The Indo-European languages share a basic structure different from the Semitic verb system of causation.