

WHAT IF...I KNEW MY ORIGIN?

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• Everyone's starting point

Either God exists or He doesn't

• Evolution's Big Bang Theory

All of the matter of the universe was compressed in a point. The point exploded. The hot gases spread out and cooled. The cooling gases produced the stars, planets, and everything.

• Questions for Evolution theory

1. Where did the matter come from?
2. What about the Law of Entropy? (Things go from order to disorder)¹
3. What about the Law of Biogenesis? (Life comes from living things)²
4. What about the complexity of organisms & systems?³
5. Why has macro-evolution never been observed? (One organism changing into another)^{4 5}
6. How did thought & morality develop from matter?

• Arguments for God's existence—He is the BOM

1. Everything has a beginning. Who began everything?
- *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Ge 1:1)*
2. Every design has a designer. Who gave order to everything?
- *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 people are without excuse. (Ro 1:20)*
3. Every law has a law-giver. Who gave morality to people?
- *Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them. (Ro 2:15)*

• Implications of Evolution

1. No God
2. No heaven or hell
3. No absolute standard for right & wrong
4. No ultimate meaning in life

• Watchmen

"Life's so fragile, a successful virus clinging to a speck of mud suspended in endless nothing... We are alone. There is nothing else." (Alan Moore, *Watchmen*, Volume 6, p. 28.)

• What if I knew my origin?

It would impact my purpose—why I'm here

¹ "It turns out that if the constants of nature—unchanging numbers like the strength of gravity, the charge of an electron and the mass of a proton—were the tiniest bit different, then atoms would not hold together, stars would not burn and life would never have made an appearance. John Polkinghorne, a physicist at Cambridge University says, 'When you realize that the laws of nature must be incredibly finely tuned to produce the universe we see, that conspires to plant the idea that the universe did not just happen, but that there must be a purpose behind it.'" (*Newsweek*, July 20, 1998, p. 48)

² Harvard University's George Wald: "...but I can't accept that philosophy (creation) because I do not want to believe in God. Therefore I chose to believe in that which I know is scientifically impossible, spontaneous generation leading to evolution." (*Frontiers of Modern Biology on Theories of Origin of Life*, p. 187.)

³ To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree. (Charles Darwin, *Origin of Species*, (J.M. Dent & Sons, Ltd.: London), 1971, page 167.)

⁴ At Michigan State University, Professor Richard Lenski wanted "to follow evolution in real time." In his experiment, Lenski grew bacteria in his lab until he had millions or "roughly the equivalent of a million years in the history of humans." His conclusion: "Nothing fundamentally new has been produced." In the end, the bacteria were still bacteria. (Michael Behe, *The Edge of Evolution* (New York, NY: Free Press, 2007), p. 141-142.)

⁵ Curator and paleontologist of London's Museum of Natural History, Colin Patterson, who had over seven million fossils at his disposal, did not know of any evidence, "fossil or living", that provides "direct illustration of evolutionary transitions." "I will lay it on the line—there is not one such fossil for which one could make a watertight argument." (Tom Bethel, *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Science* (Washington, DC: Regnery Publishing, 2005), p. 218.)

WHAT IF...I KNEW MY PURPOSE?

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- **Importance of knowing my origin**

Purpose & meaning for life comes from this

- **Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy**

- **Unknown purpose**

74% of church youth say they don't know their life's purpose or meaning (George Barna's *3rd Millennium Teens*)

- **Genesis 1:26-29**

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food."

- **Origin & purpose**

1. Who you are—made in God's image (originally perfect)
2. What you have—dominion over all creatures; vegetation for food
3. What you do—get married & have children: plant farms, make things, etc.

- **God's plan for earthly life: Cultural Commission**

1. "Be fruitful & increase in number" (Start families, communities, etc.)
2. "Fill the earth & subdue it" (Plant crops, build structures, etc.)

- **Genesis 3:9**

But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

- **God seeks the 1st sinners**

Adam and Eve rebel & He reunites relationship

- **Luke 19:10**

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

- **God seeks all sinners**

Where do you fit in God's Big Story?

- **Matthew 28:19-20**

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

- **God's plan for eternal life: Great Commission**

1. Going to them
2. Baptizing in name of Trinity
3. Teaching obedience in everything

- **Tom Brady**

"Why do I have 3 Super Bowl rings and still think there's something greater out there for me?...God, there's got to be more than this." "What's the answer?" "I wish I knew. I wish I knew."

- **Why are you here? You are God's PAL**

1. Purposefully created
 - "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." (Re 4:11)
2. Artwork
 - For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ep 2:10)
3. Loved
 - This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. (1 Jn 4:9)

- **John 15:15**

"I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."

- **What if I knew my purpose?**

It would impact my life and destiny: why I'm here and what will happen to me

WHAT IF...I KNEW MY DESTINY?

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- **Importance of knowing my origin**

Purpose & meaning for life comes from this

- **Importance of knowing my purpose**

Destiny comes from this—what will happen to me

- **You are God's *segullah***

Treasure that is valuable since it is loved

- **Exodus 19:5**

"...then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession."

- **Matthew 13:44-46**

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."

- **God is the Seeker asking "Where are you?" (God focuses on the 4 R's)**

1. We rebel & He reunites relationship
2. We ruin & He restores reality

- **2 Peter 3:8-13**

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

- **Witnessing opportunities—make the most of them (Co 4:5)**

1. Know what's important to people & relate to spiritual topics
 - Paul became "all things to all people" to save some (1 Co 9:22)
2. Do things together & relate to spiritual topics
 - Jesus ate with "tax-gatherers and sinners" (Mk 2:16-17)
3. Be available when trouble comes
 - Faith without deeds is dead (Ja 2:14-17)
4. Share Christian books, music, events, worship services
 - 25% of unchurched would go but are uninvited; plant seeds that God can grow (1 Co 3:6)
5. Share your story with Law & Gospel

- **Titanic scenario**

- **What if I knew my destiny?**

It would impact my outlook and motivation