

“Atheism” or “Does God exist?”



Introduction

- Secular society
- Scientific teachings
- We should ask the question:
 - To strengthen our own faith
 - “...always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you”
(1 Pet 3:15)

Overview of the Evidence

- You cannot “prove” the existence of God
- And yet, paradoxically, the proof is undeniable
- The evidence is that there is a “master designer” or the theory of “intelligent design”
- This is not proof of the Christian testimony, but rather of the existence of deity

Overview of the Evidence

- 3 main categories of evidence:
 1. Evidence of God in the universe
 2. Evidence of God in natural laws
 3. Evidence of God in life

God in the Universe

- Magnitude of the Solar System:
 - Defies our understanding that the universe is infinite
 - How can it not have an end; be limitless?
 - Even leaving this question aside, we have difficulty comprehending the size of the universe that we know....

Our solar system

- If the sun is an orange:
 - The earth is a grain of sand 10 metres away
 - Jupiter is a cherry seed 70m away
 - Saturn another cherry seed 200m away
 - Pluto is 800m away
 - The next closest star is another orange 2000kms away (Adelaide)
 - The Milky Way has 200 billion oranges in a sphere of 30 million kms across (circumference of the earth is 40,000 kms)

Magnitude of Universe

- If our galaxy seems big, how large is the whole known universe?
- Hubble telescope:





Hubble telescope

- Shock at first image which captured light through a tube of sky the diameter of a human hair
- Counted 1,500 galaxies
- Each has 100 - 200 billion stars
- Estimated there are 100 billion galaxies
- Furthest known galaxy is 10 billion light years away
- In 1 year, light travels 10 trillion kms

Magnitude of Universe

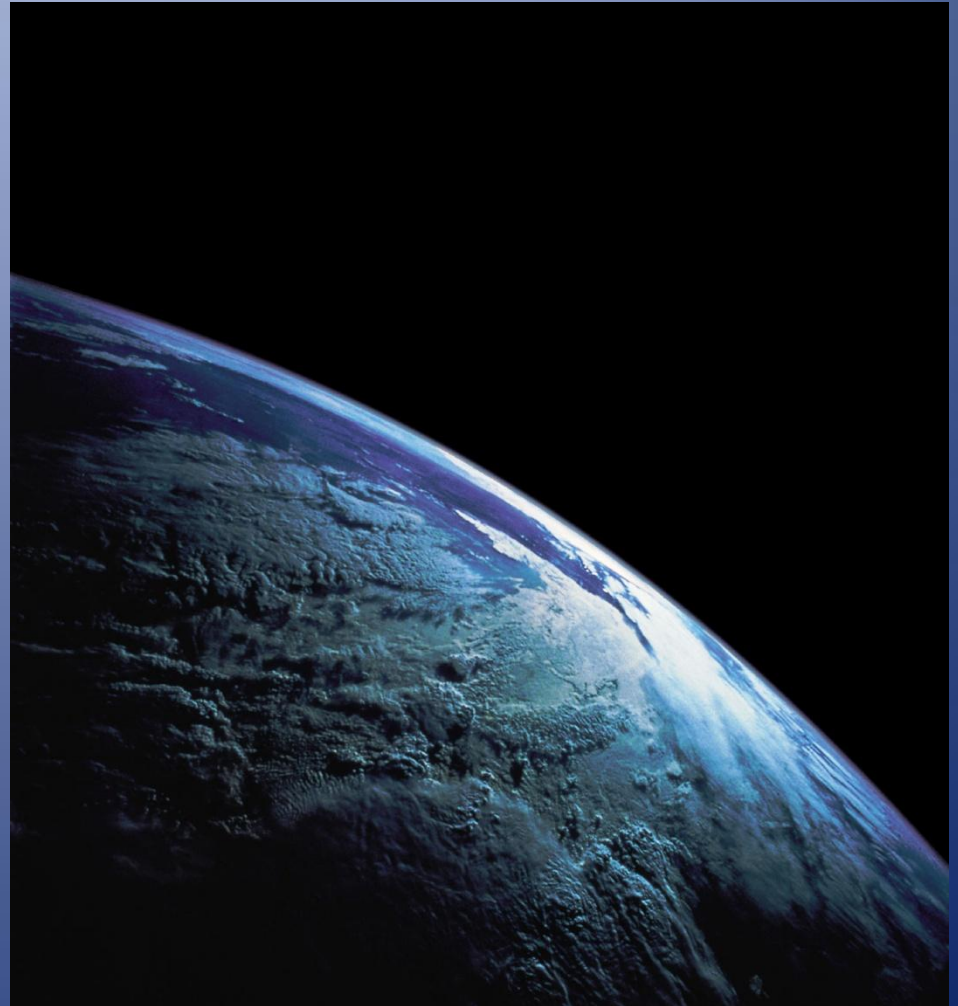
- Through the enormity of the universe, as believers we can see that God is showing us His existence, and giving us insight into His infinite size and power:
 - “The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.” Psm 19

Perfection of the Earth

- Earth's atmosphere is perfectly maintained to be consistent with life:
 - Ozone layer protects from UV radiation and causes meteors to disintegrate and not hit earth
 - Oxygen is 21% of atmosphere – more would lead to spontaneous combustion, less would be inadequate for life
 - CO₂ is 5% of atmosphere → Plants and animals perfectly complimentary in CO₂ and O₂ production and use. Could this really be by chance?

Perfection of the Earth

- Earth size and position:
 - If the earth was slightly larger, H₂ gas would not escape the atmosphere, and would accumulate which is not c/w life
 - If the earth was smaller, O₂ and water would escape the atmosphere



Perfection of the Earth

- Earth's orbit of the sun:
 - The earth orbits the sun at 100,000 km/hr:
 - Any faster and we would orbit further from the sun and freeze
 - Any slower, we would orbit closer and burn
 - The earth is tilted at 23 degrees:
 - The tilt is not necessary for life, but results in the seasons
 - If the tilt was any more, very large areas of the world would be uninhabitable as the summers would be too hot, and the winters too cold
 - Earth rotates every 24 hrs:
 - Any slower, then the nights would become too cold, and the days too hot

Perfection of the Earth

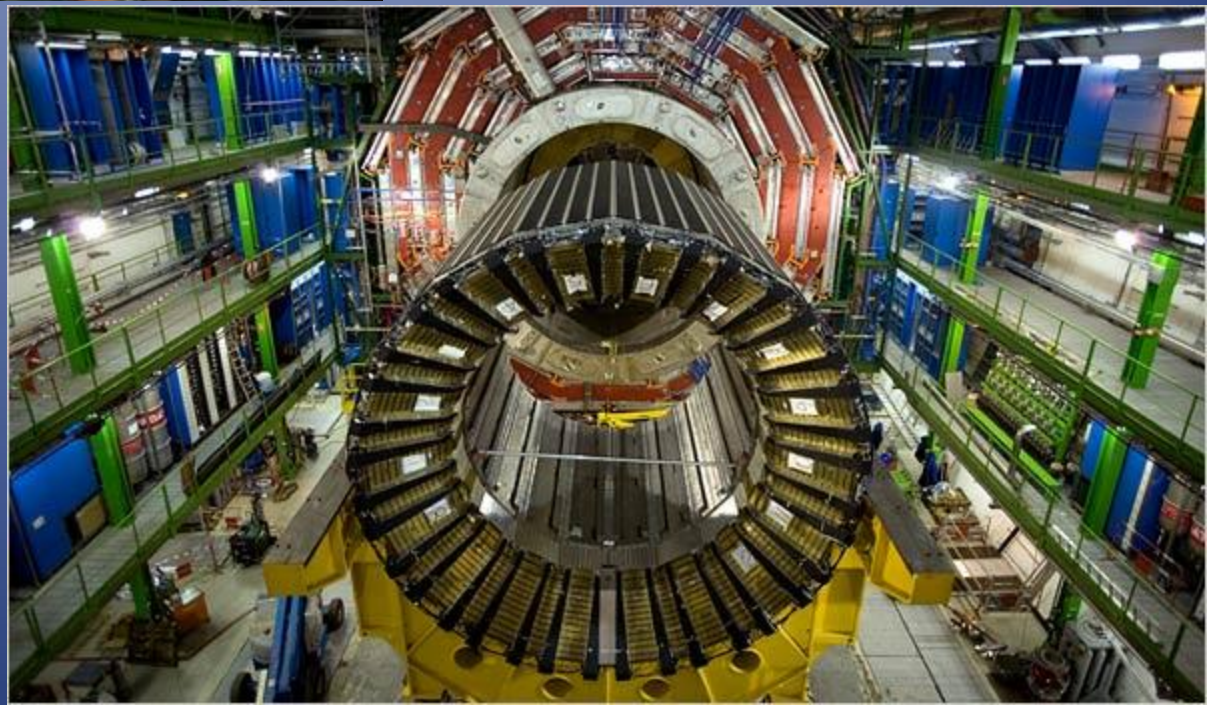
- Properties of water:
 - One of the few substances on earth where the liquid form is more dense than the solid form (ice floats)
 - Critical for marine life, as in winter when the surface of lakes freeze, the ice floats and forms a cover over the lake, keeping the remainder of the lake warm and preventing freezing → marine life survive

Evidence of God in Natural Laws

- All of the matter in the universe is governed by natural laws of physics
- None of them can be explained, just described
- All are critical to the function of the universe
- Eg) The law of gravity:
 - Obviously exists, can be measured and described
 - However, no one can explain why it exists – why should two masses with no physical connection have any attraction towards each other?
 - Absolutely critical for our existence – eg) distance from the sun, maintenance of atmosphere ...etc

Evidence of God in Natural Laws

- Other natural laws are similarly critical:
 - Laws of physics – mass, motion
 - Laws of energy – electromagnetic radiation, magnetism, electricity, light
 - Laws of chemistry ... Etc
- Current experiments in the Hadron Collider in Switzerland trying to determine how protons and neutrons are held in place in the centre of atoms. Theoretically there should be a huge force of repulsion, but they are held tightly in the centre.
- Currently known as the “strong force”



Evidence of God in Natural Laws

- The laws governing nature are so highly structured and ordered that it is impossible they have come into existence as a matter of chance
 - “If we could play God and select values for all of these quantities by twiddling a set of knobs, we would find that almost all knob settings would render the universe uninhabitable....the different knobs have to be fine-tuned to enormous precision for the universe to exist in a way that is compatible with life”
- Albert Einstein:
 - “...the harmony of natural law, reveals an intelligence of such superiority that, compared with it, all the systematic thinking and acting of human beings is an utterly insignificant reflection”

Evidence of God in Life

- Beginning of Life:
 - Evolutionists claim that life began from non-living matter by chance – that all of the matter necessary for the first cell came together in the one place and a living cell was formed, which formed the basis of all life
 - Three main problems with this theory
 - Firstly, estimated that the chance that all of the elements needed to make a single cell were in the right place at the same time in the correct proportions is believed to be incredibly small (1 in $10^{40,000}$)
 - Mathematical impossibility is described as being a chance less than 1 in 10^{50}

Evidence of God in Life

- Assuming all of the elements did come together in one place, this doesn't account for how living matter was made from non-living matter
 - No scientist claims that it is possible that a cell burst in a tube could spontaneously reform into a living cell
 - Yet, all scientists that believe in evolution believe without questioning that this happened by chance without any designed intervention

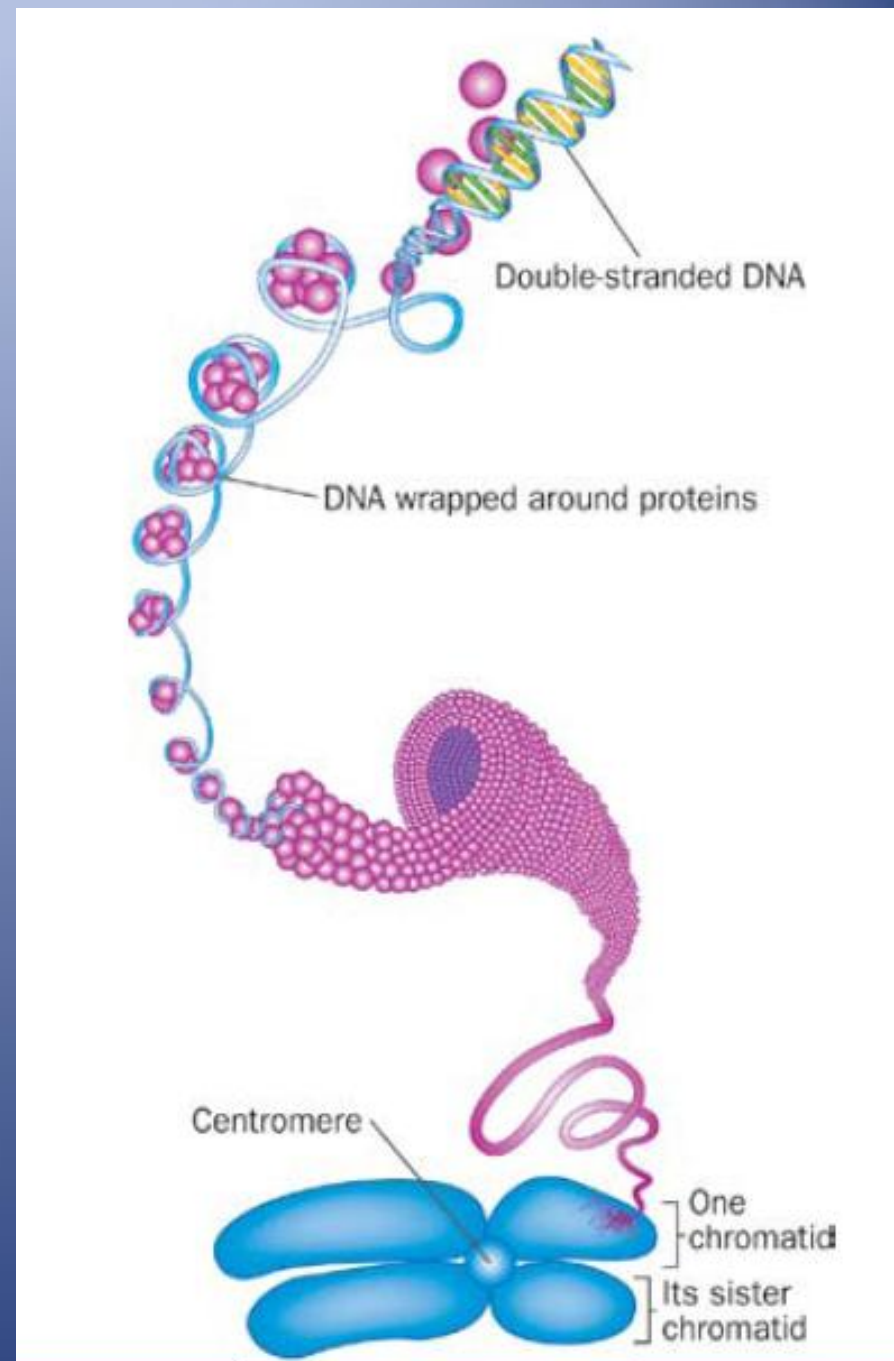
Evidence of God in Life

- Even if all elements came together and a cell was miraculously formed:
 - How did it survive and thrive?
 - How did it divide to form other cells?
 - The process of cell division is incredibly complex, but somehow evolutionists believe that this first cell spontaneously developed a mechanism to divide to form other living cells

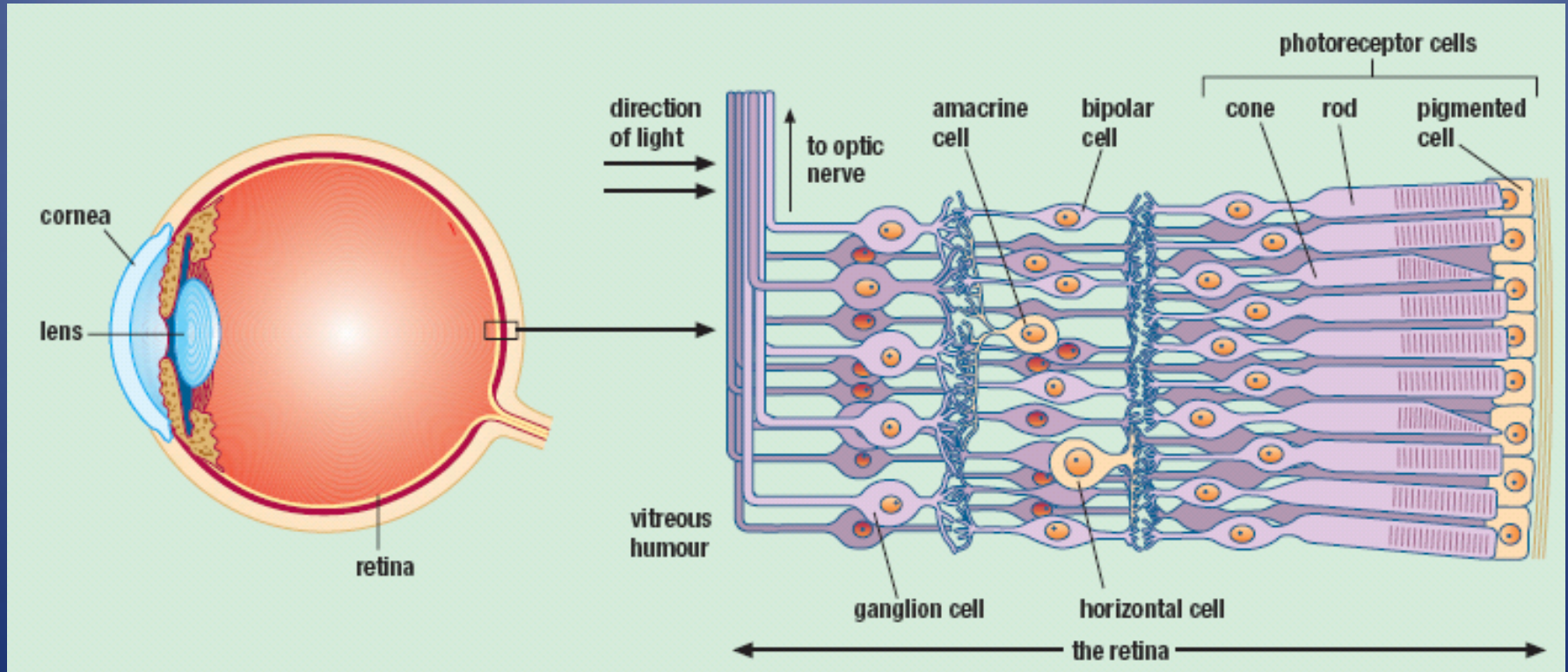
Evidence of God in Life

- Finally, even if this could have occurred, how did this single cell develop into the millions and millions of perfect and extremely complex life forms that we know today
 - Modern theory of evolution is that DNA, which encodes all proteins that go to making organisms, has mutated billions and billions of times to make all of the codes of every living being
 - However, mutations are not by design
 - Selection is, but not mutation
 - Analogy of a hurricane going through a junk yard

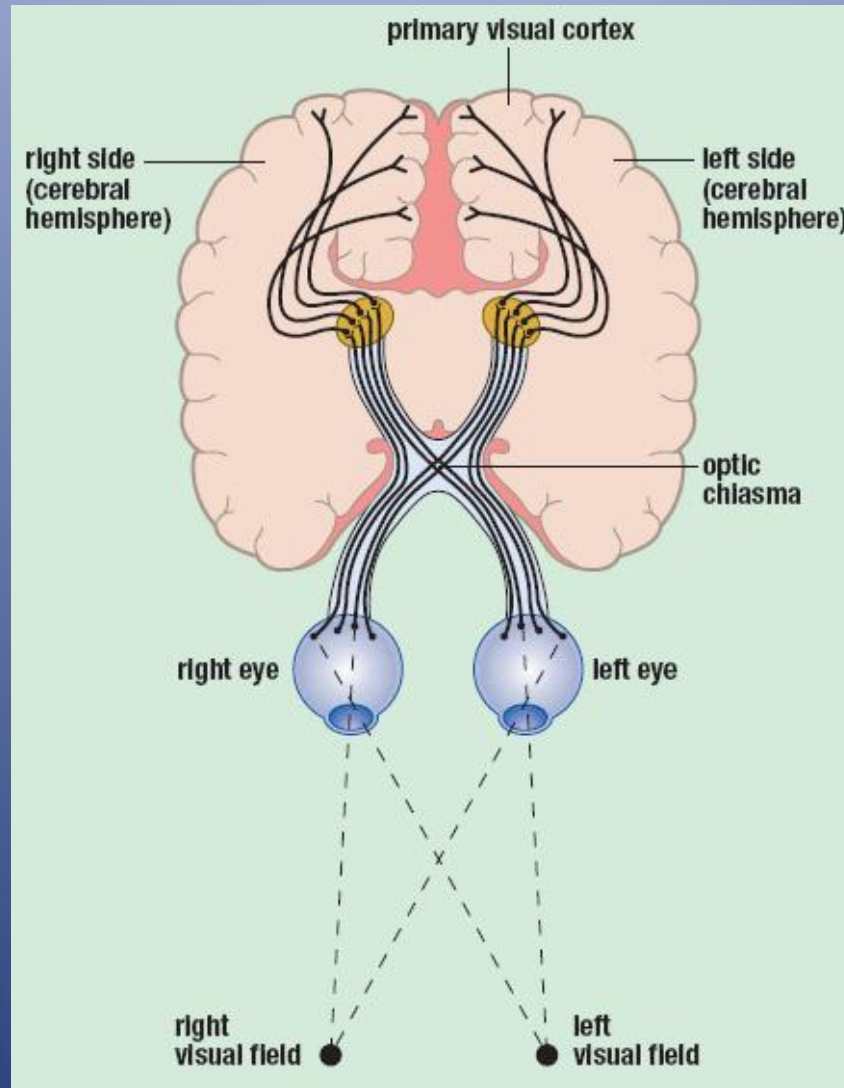
- Human genome has 3 billion base pairs
- Full length is 2 metres
- One strand, if the thickness of fishing line, would extend from Sydney to Cairns (3000km)
- Never gets tangled!

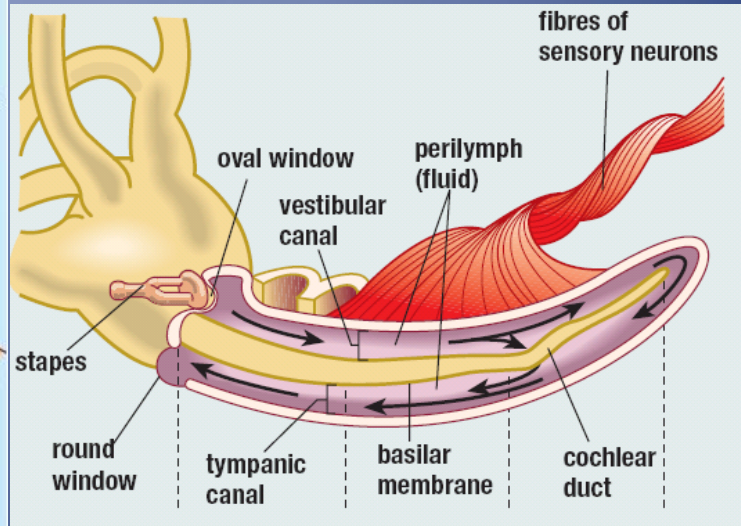
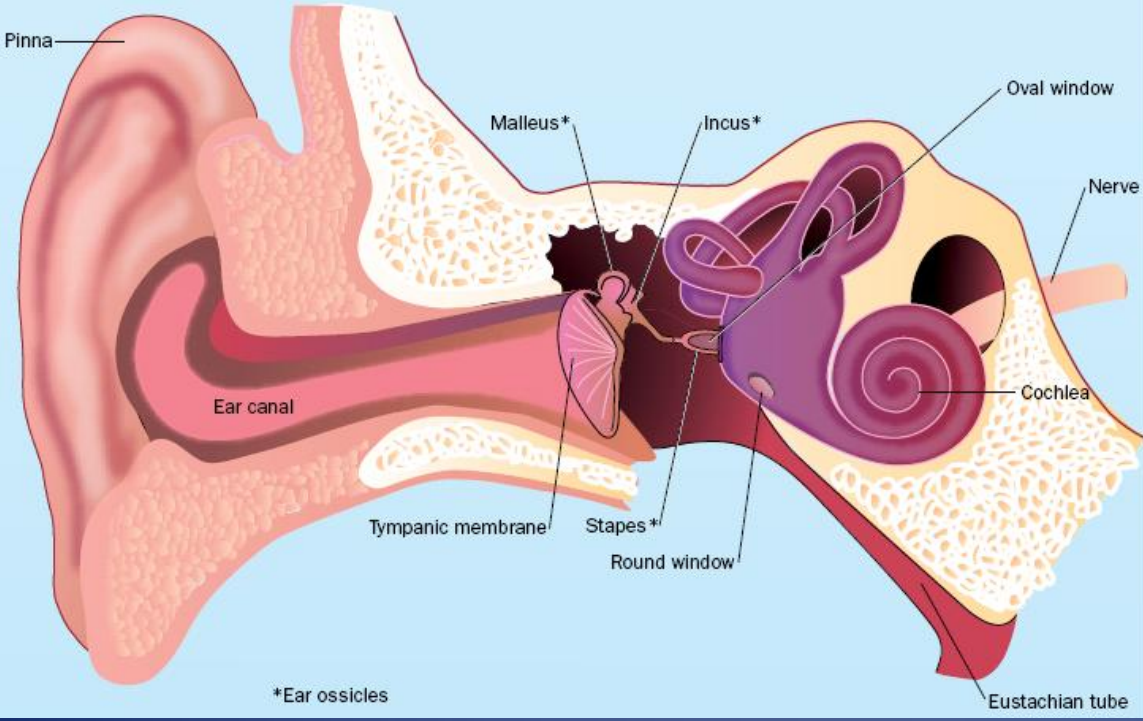


Evidence of God in Life



Evidence of God in Life





Conclusion

- Pascal's wager:
 - Two options:
 1. Minor loss with potential infinite gain
 2. No gain with potential infinite loss
 - Which way would you bet?

“God doesn’t
believe in
Atheists”