

Apologetics 2

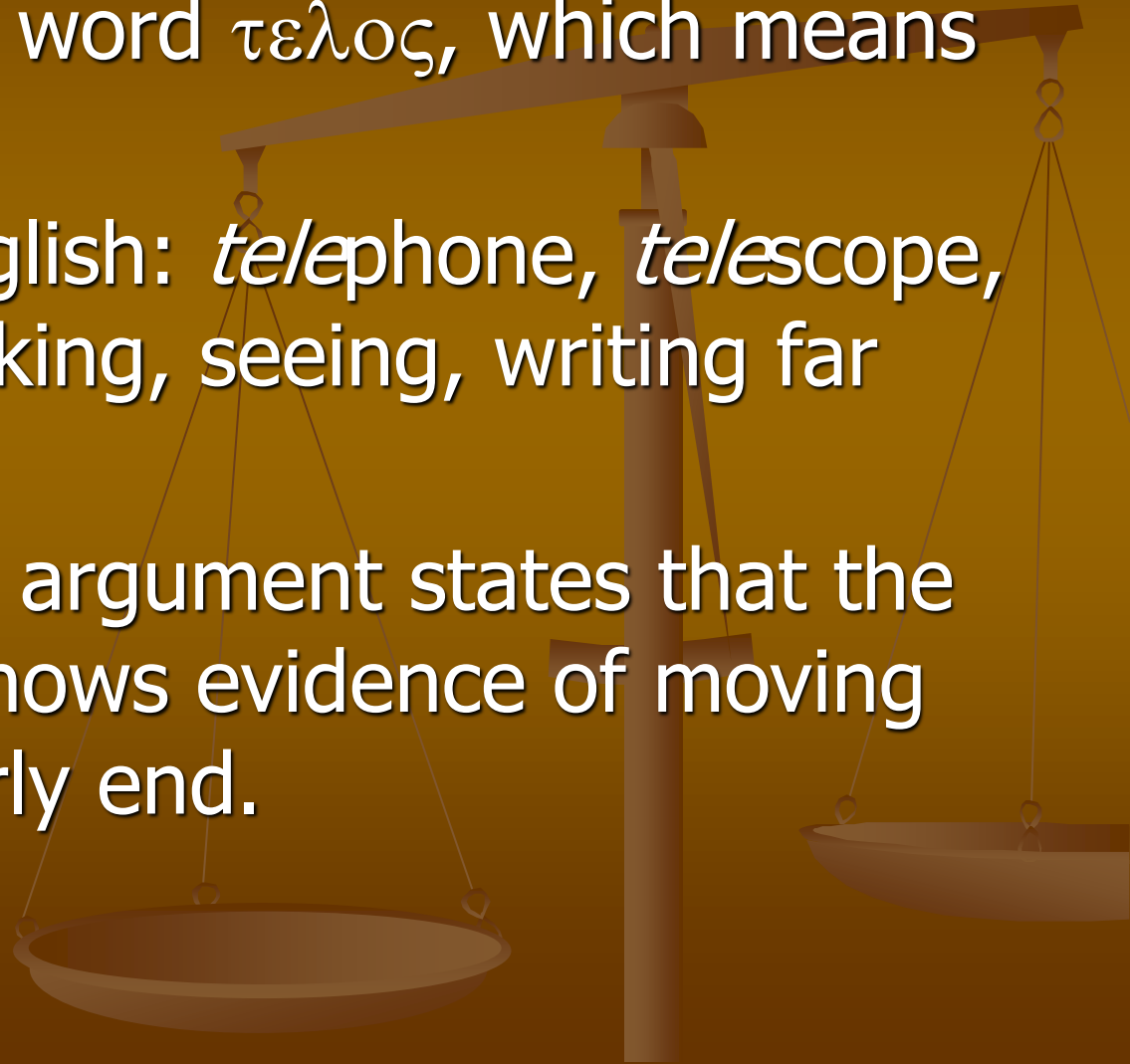


The Teleological Argument

Dr. Steve Mathews

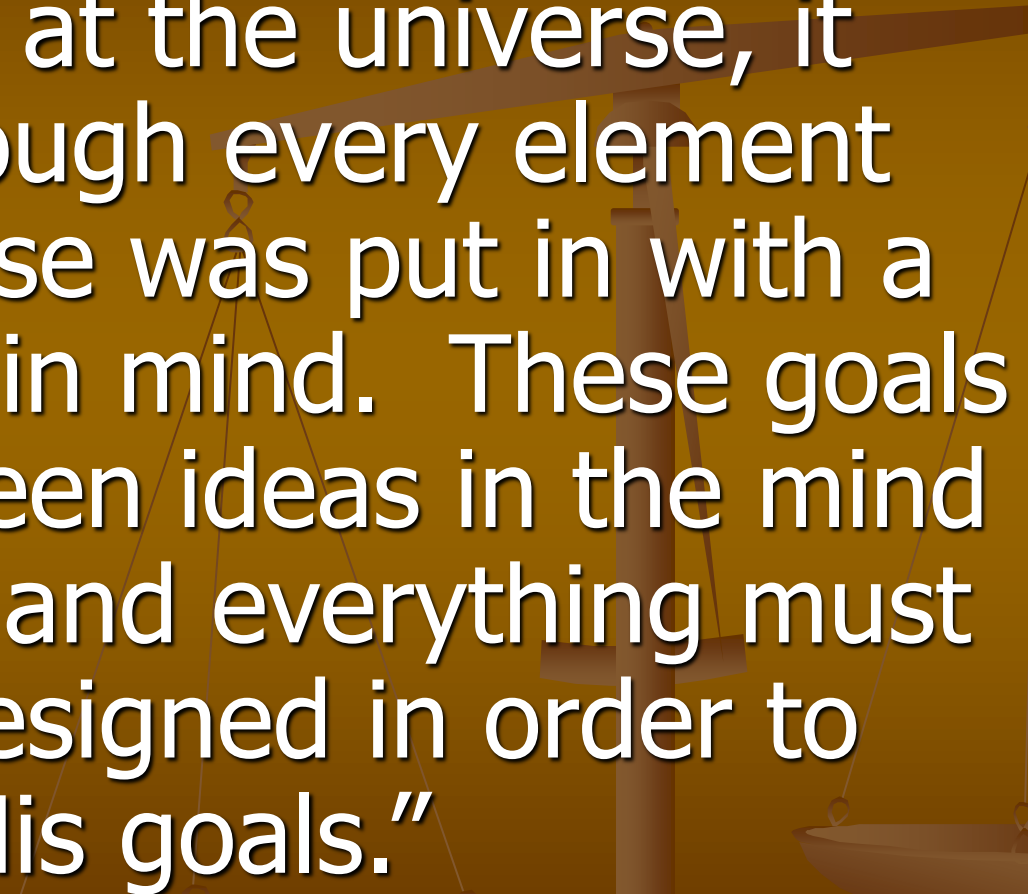
Defining Teleology

- From the Greek word *τελος*, which means “end” or “goal.”
- Examples in English: *telephone*, *telescope*, *telegraph*- speaking, seeing, writing far away.
- The teleological argument states that the created order shows evidence of moving toward an orderly end.



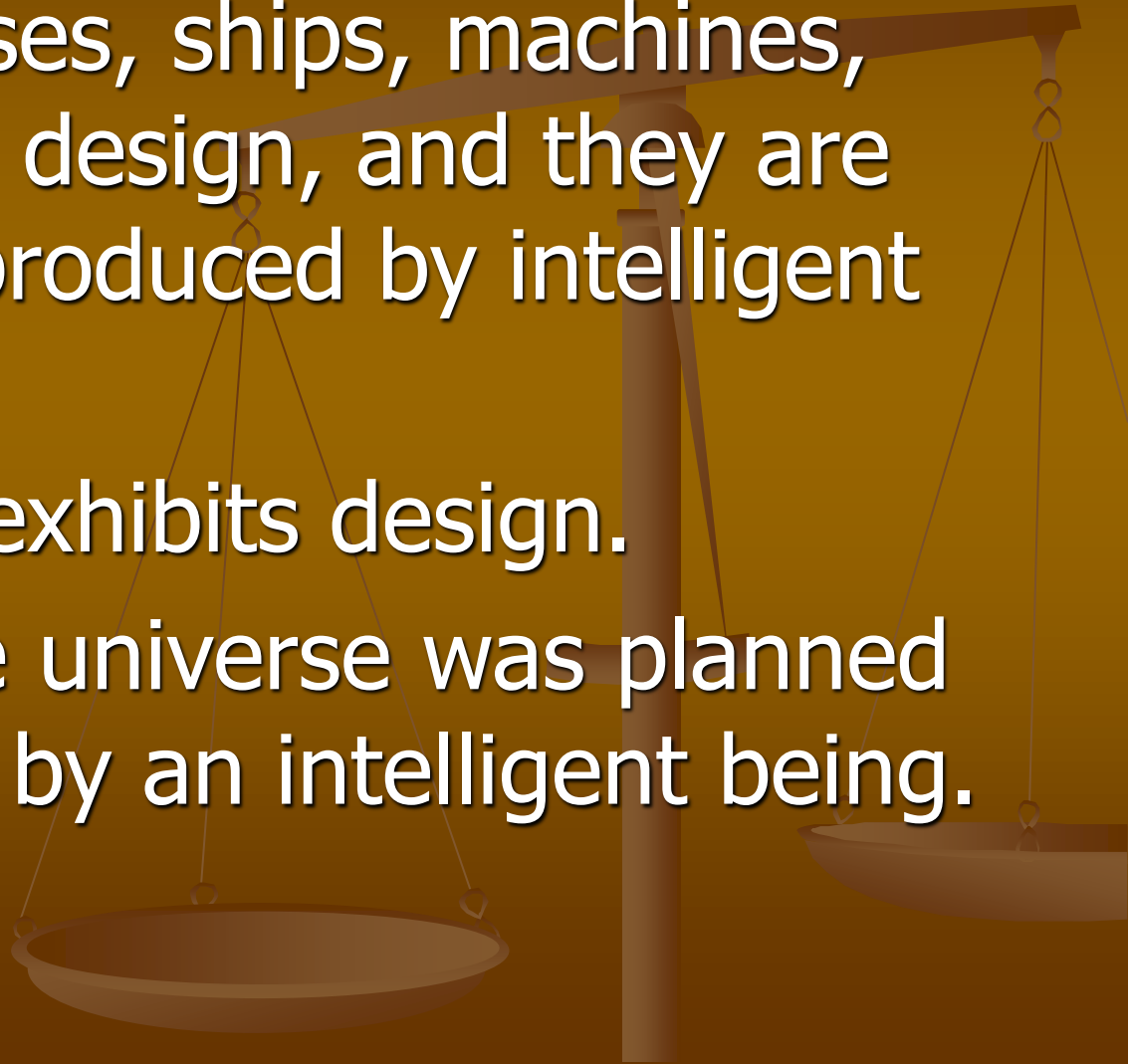
Statement of the Argument

“If one looks at the universe, it seems as though every element of the universe was put in with a specific goal in mind. These goals must have been ideas in the mind of a Creator, and everything must have been designed in order to accomplish His goals.”



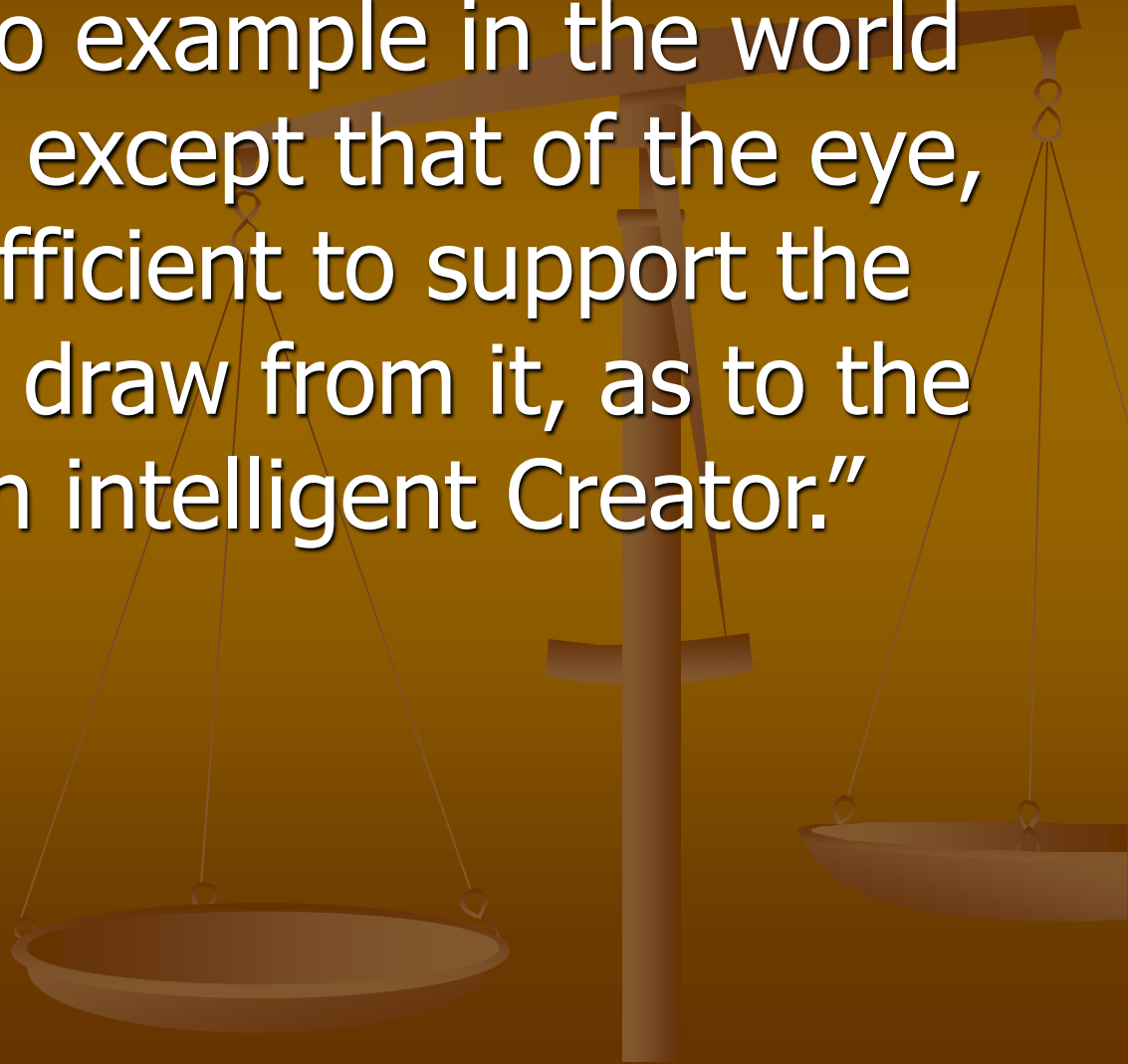
The Argument as a Syllogism:

- Watches, houses, ships, machines, etc. all exhibit design, and they are planned and produced by intelligent beings.
- The universe exhibits design.
- Therefore, the universe was planned and produced by an intelligent being.



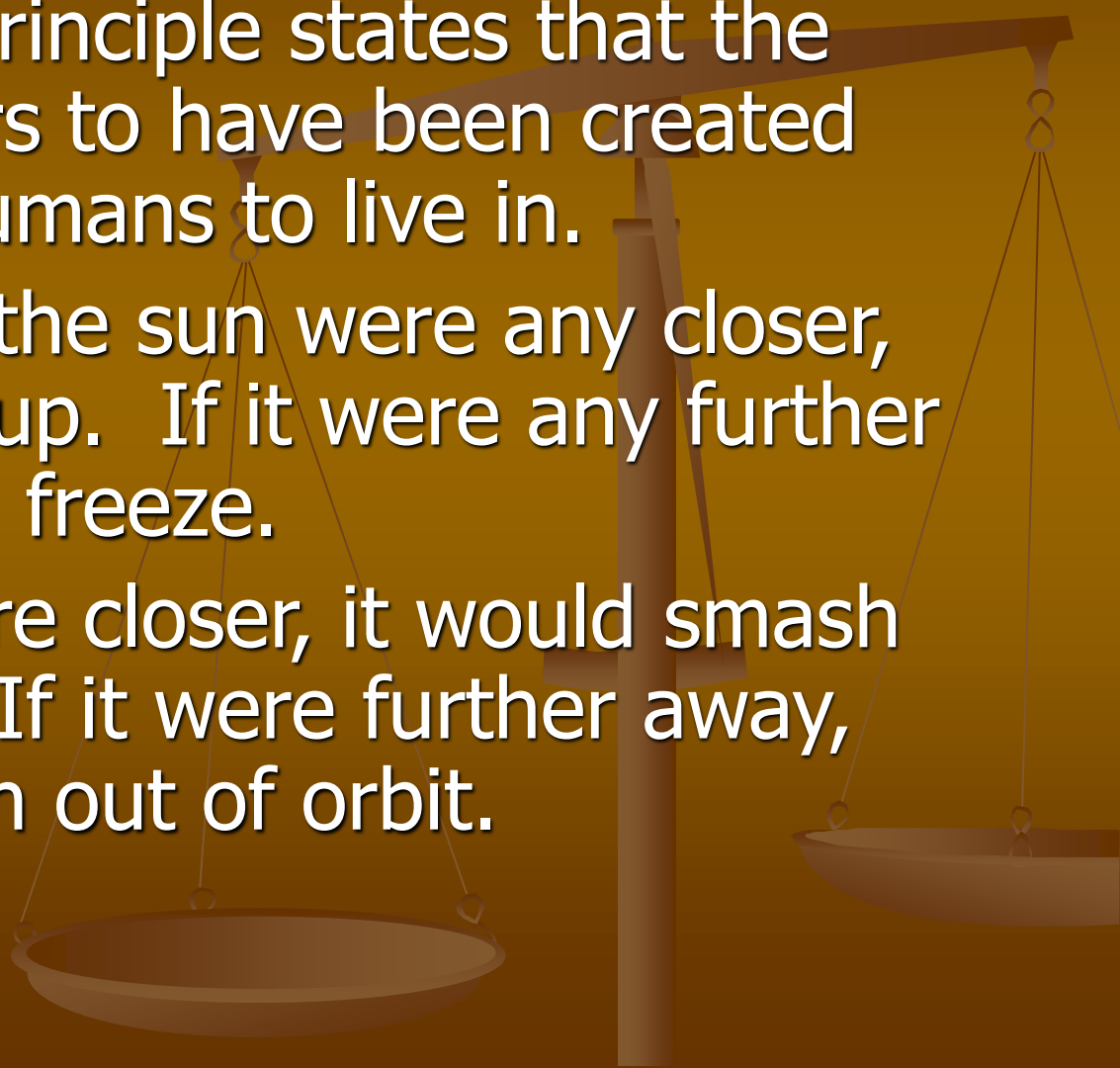
William Paley

“Were there no example in the world of contrivance except that of the eye, it would be sufficient to support the conclusion we draw from it, as to the necessity of an intelligent Creator.”



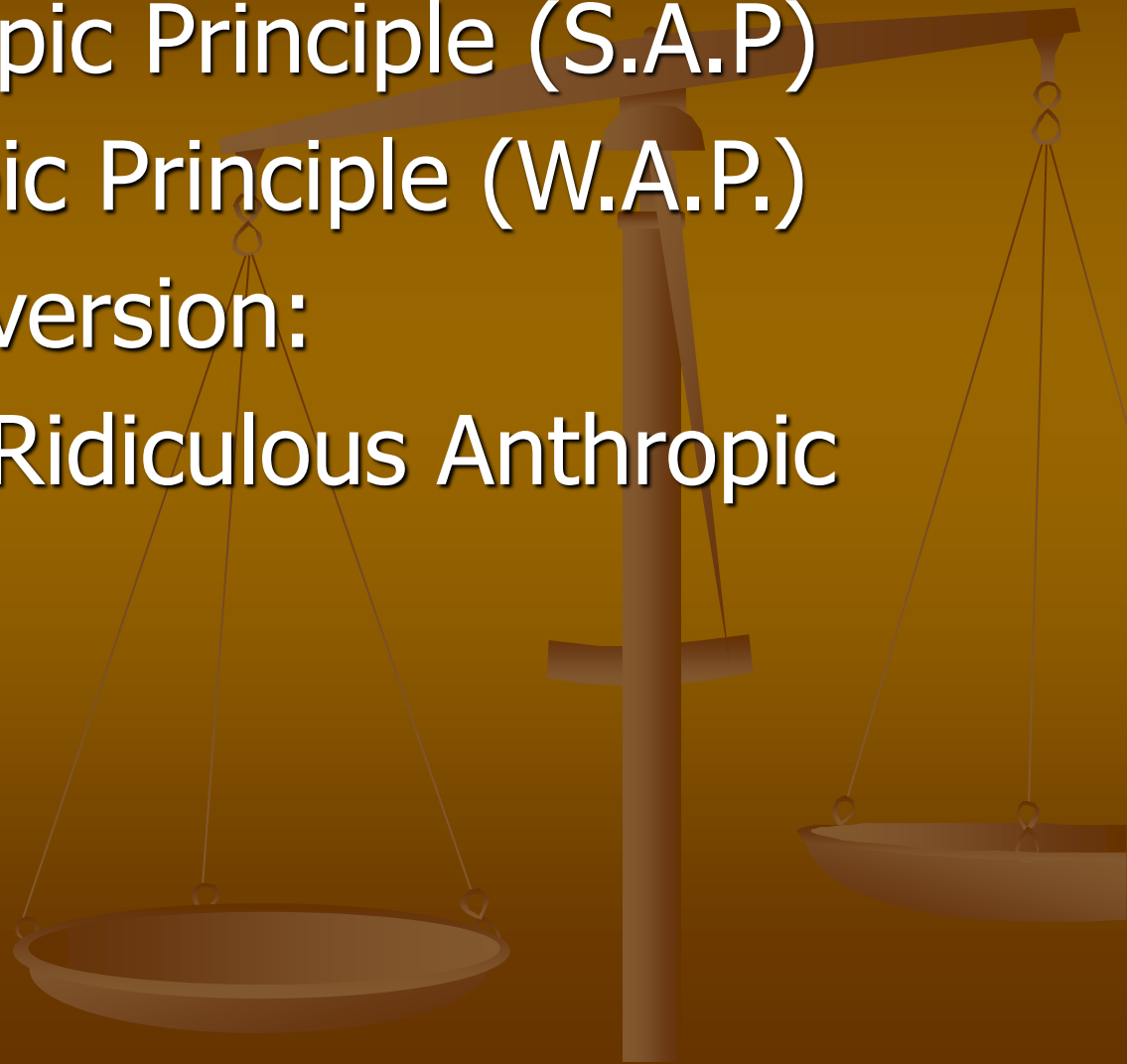
The Anthropic Principle

- The anthropic principle states that the universe appears to have been created especially for humans to live in.
- For example, if the sun were any closer, we would burn up. If it were any further away, we would freeze.
- If the moon were closer, it would smash into the earth. If it were further away, earth would spin out of orbit.



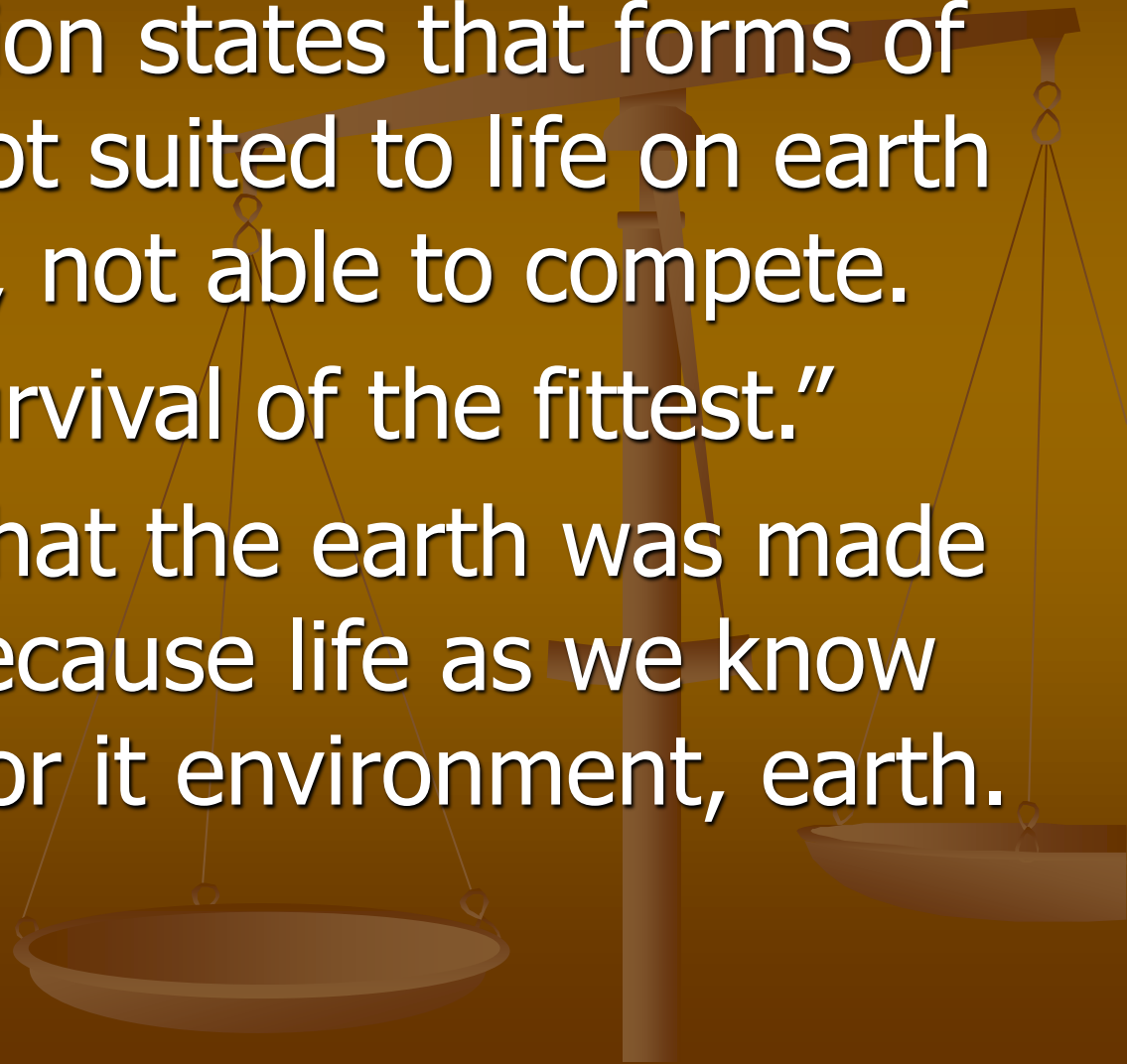
Versions of the Anthropic Principle

- Strong Anthropic Principle (S.A.P)
- Weak Anthropic Principle (W.A.P.)
- One atheist's version:
 - Completely Ridiculous Anthropic Principle
 - (C.R.A.P.)

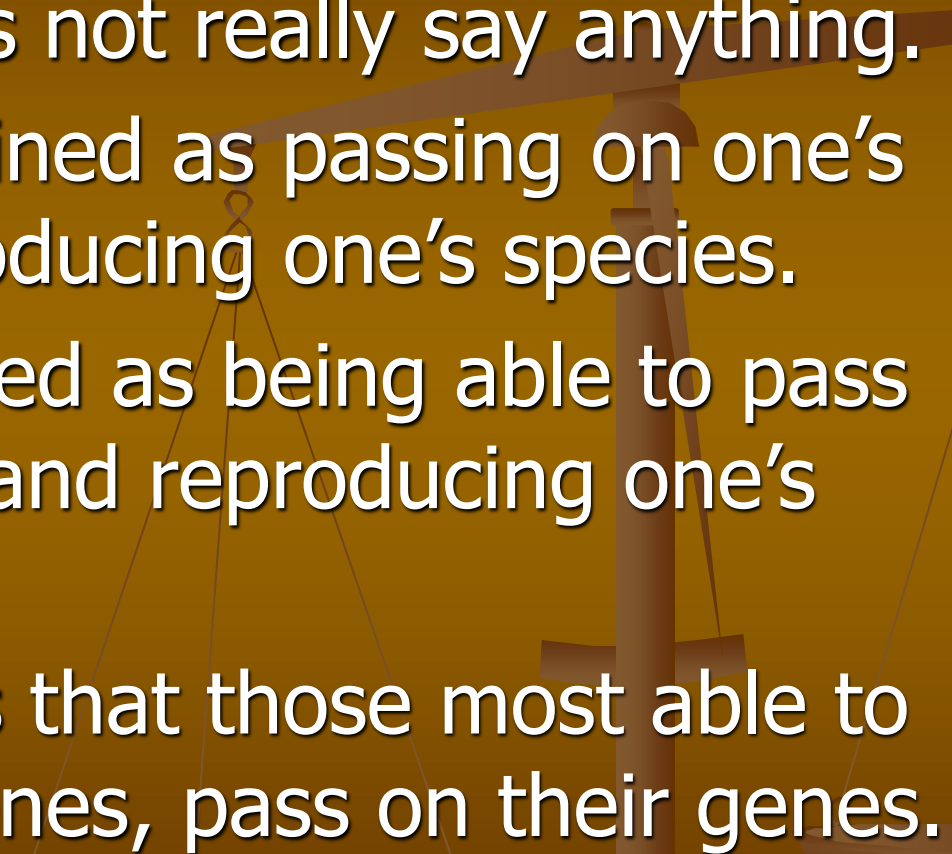


Counter to the Anthropic Principle: Natural Selection

- Natural selection states that forms of life that are not suited to life on earth have died out, not able to compete.
- This is the “survival of the fittest.”
- If it appears that the earth was made for life, it is because life as we know it was made for its environment, earth.

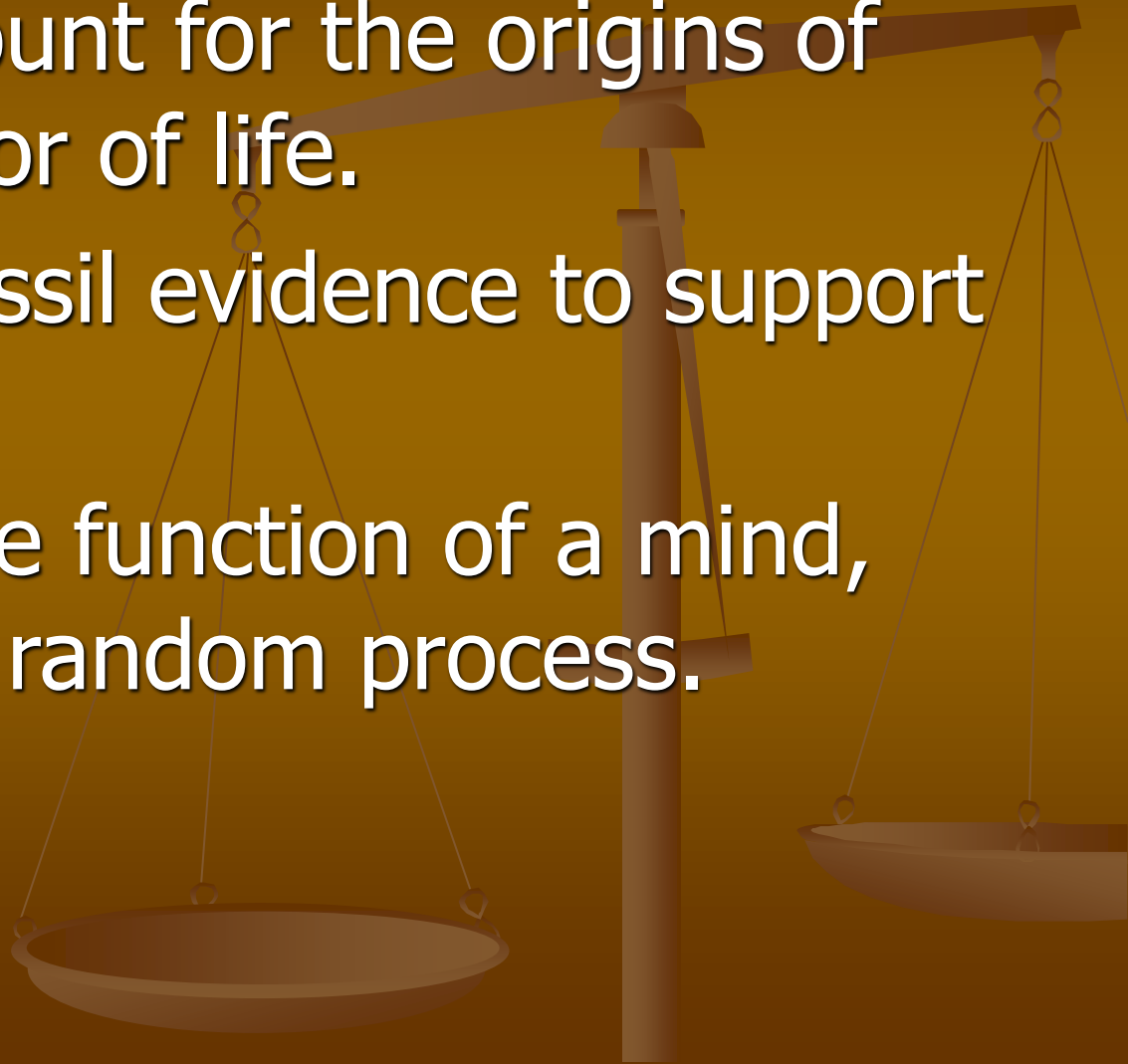


What is Wrong With “The Survival of the Fittest”

- The phrase does not really say anything.
 - “Survival” is defined as passing on one’s genes and reproducing one’s species.
 - “Fittest” is defined as being able to pass on one’s genes and reproducing one’s species.
 - The phrase says that those most able to pass on their genes, pass on their genes.
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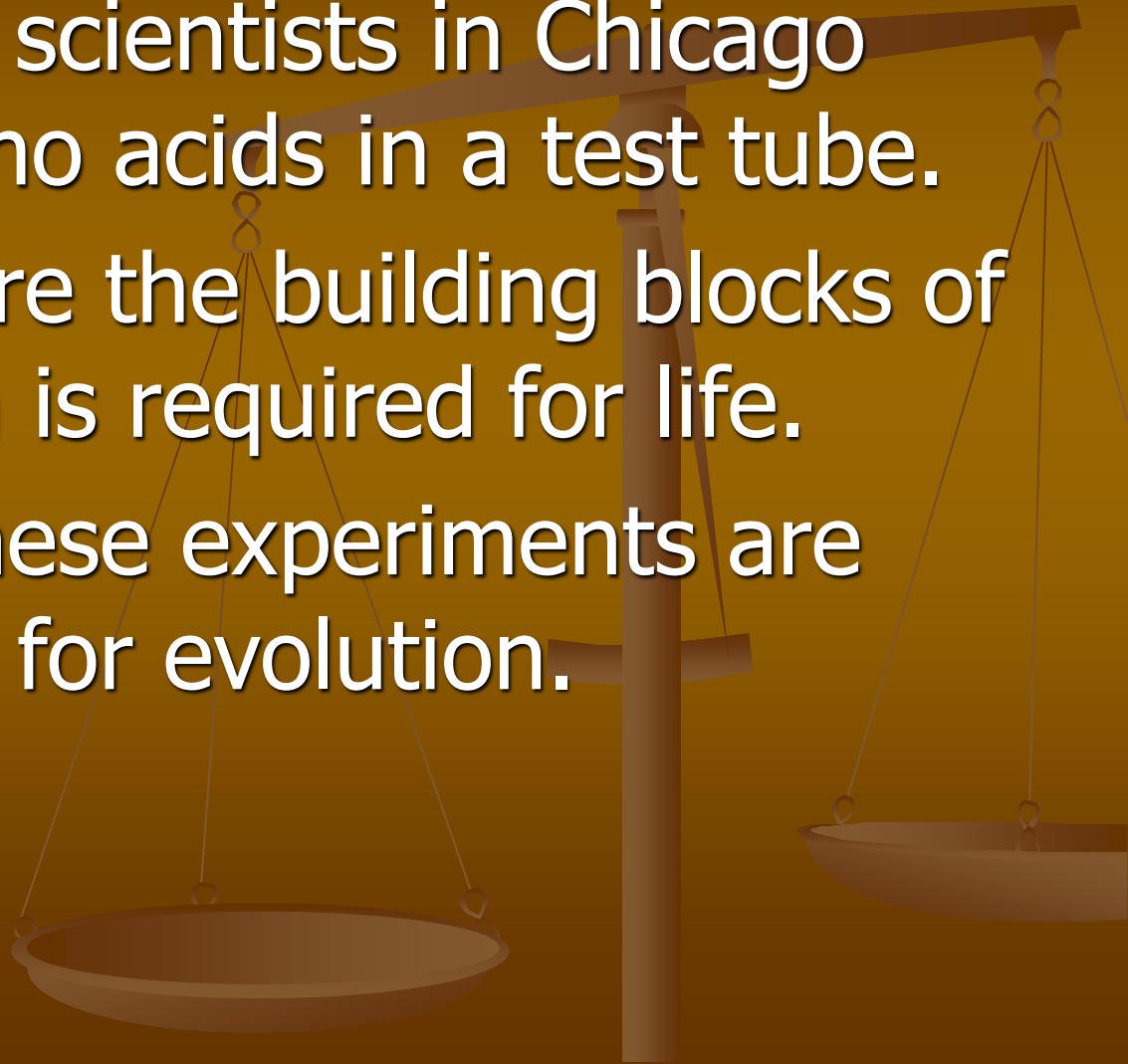
What's Wrong With Natural Selection?

- It cannot account for the origins of the universe, or of life.
- There is no fossil evidence to support it.
- Selection is the function of a mind, not a chaotic, random process.



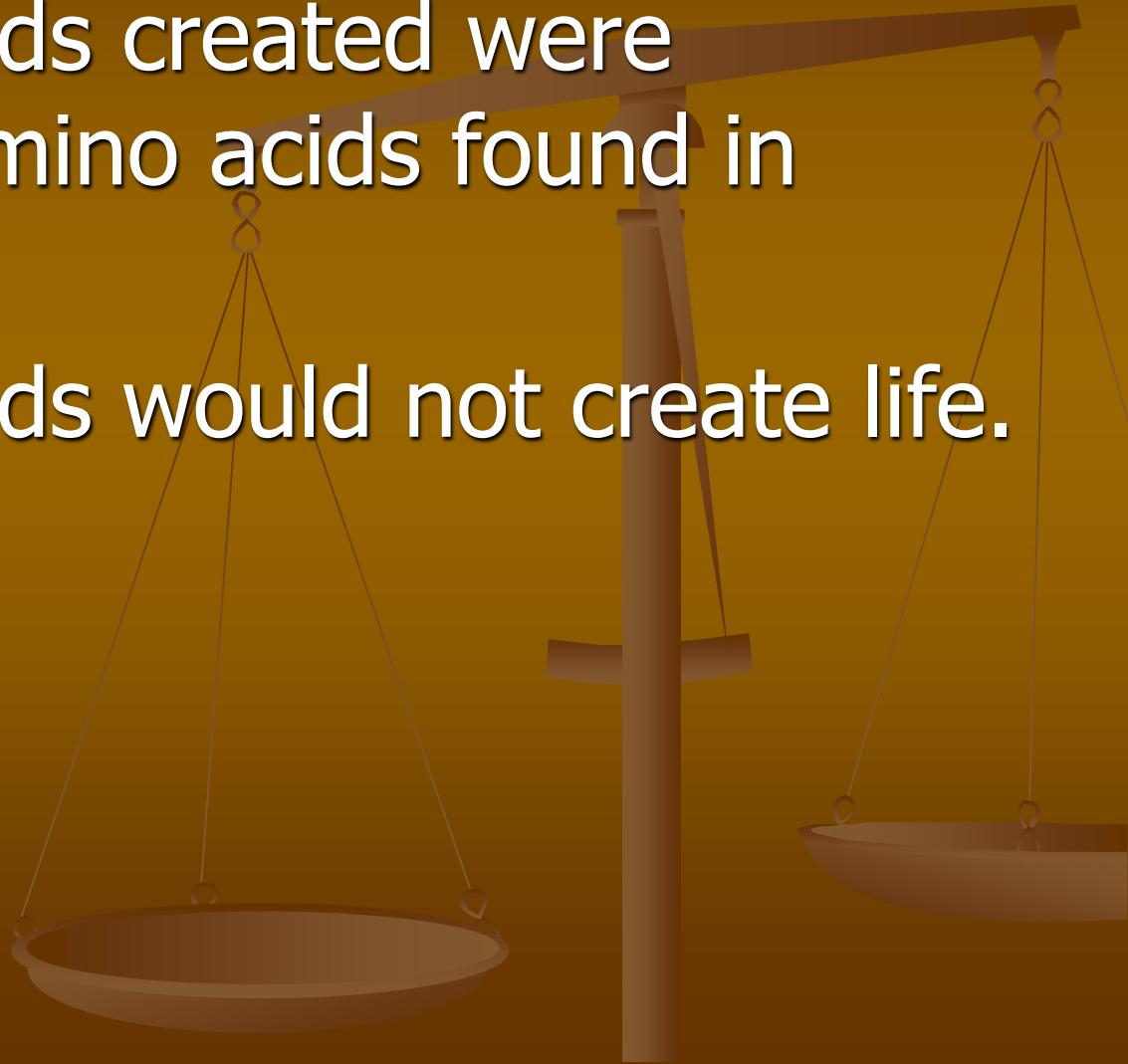
The Chicago Experiments

- In the 1950's, scientists in Chicago produced amino acids in a test tube.
- Amino acids are the building blocks of protein, which is required for life.
- Even today, these experiments are used to argue for evolution.



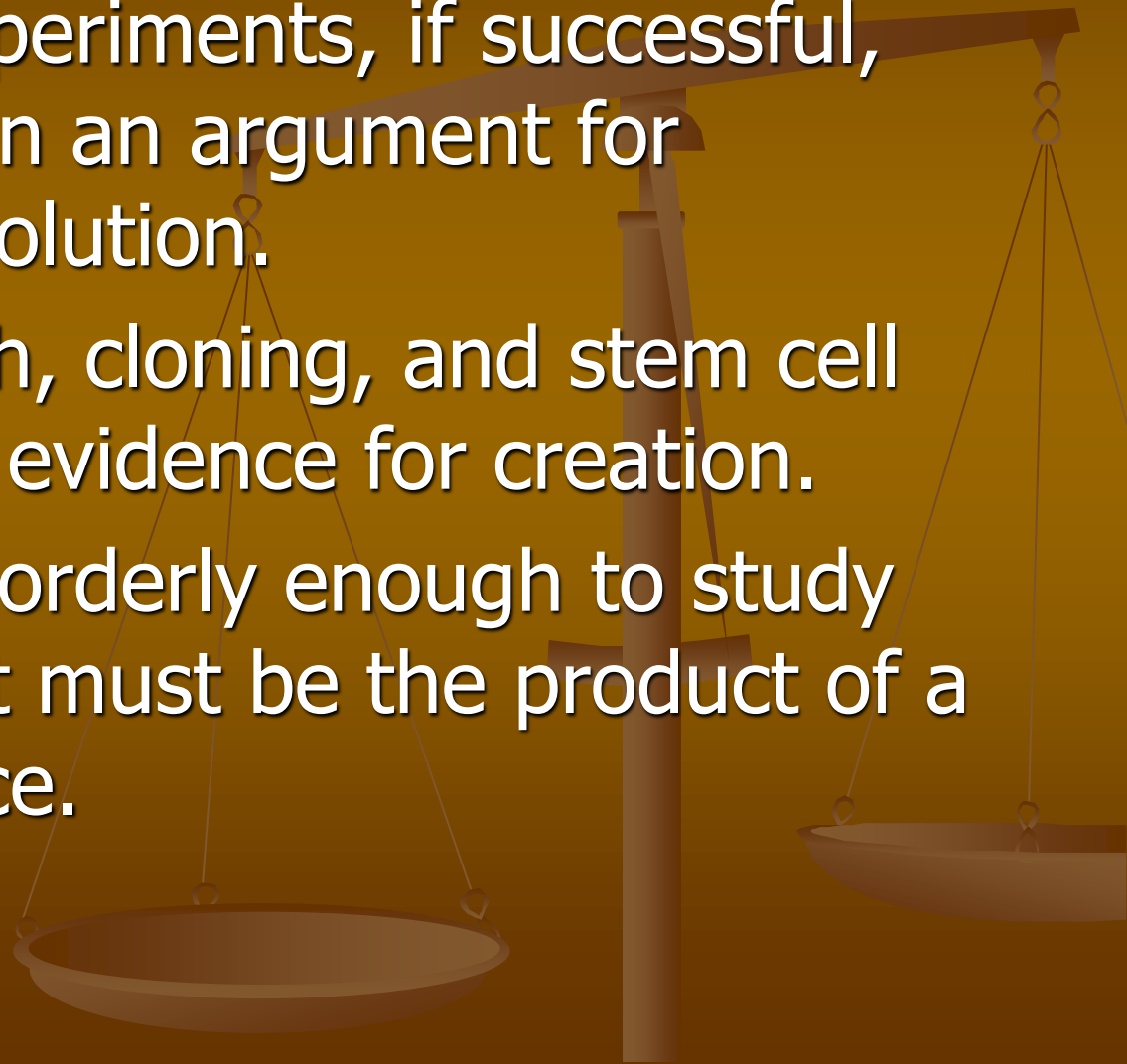
The Truth About Chicago

- The amino acids created were actually not amino acids found in living cells.
- The amino acids would not create life.



What Would Chicago Have Proven?

- The Chicago experiments, if successful, would have been an argument for creation, not evolution.
- Genetic research, cloning, and stem cell research are all evidence for creation.
- If human life is orderly enough to study and duplicate, it must be the product of a mind, not chance.

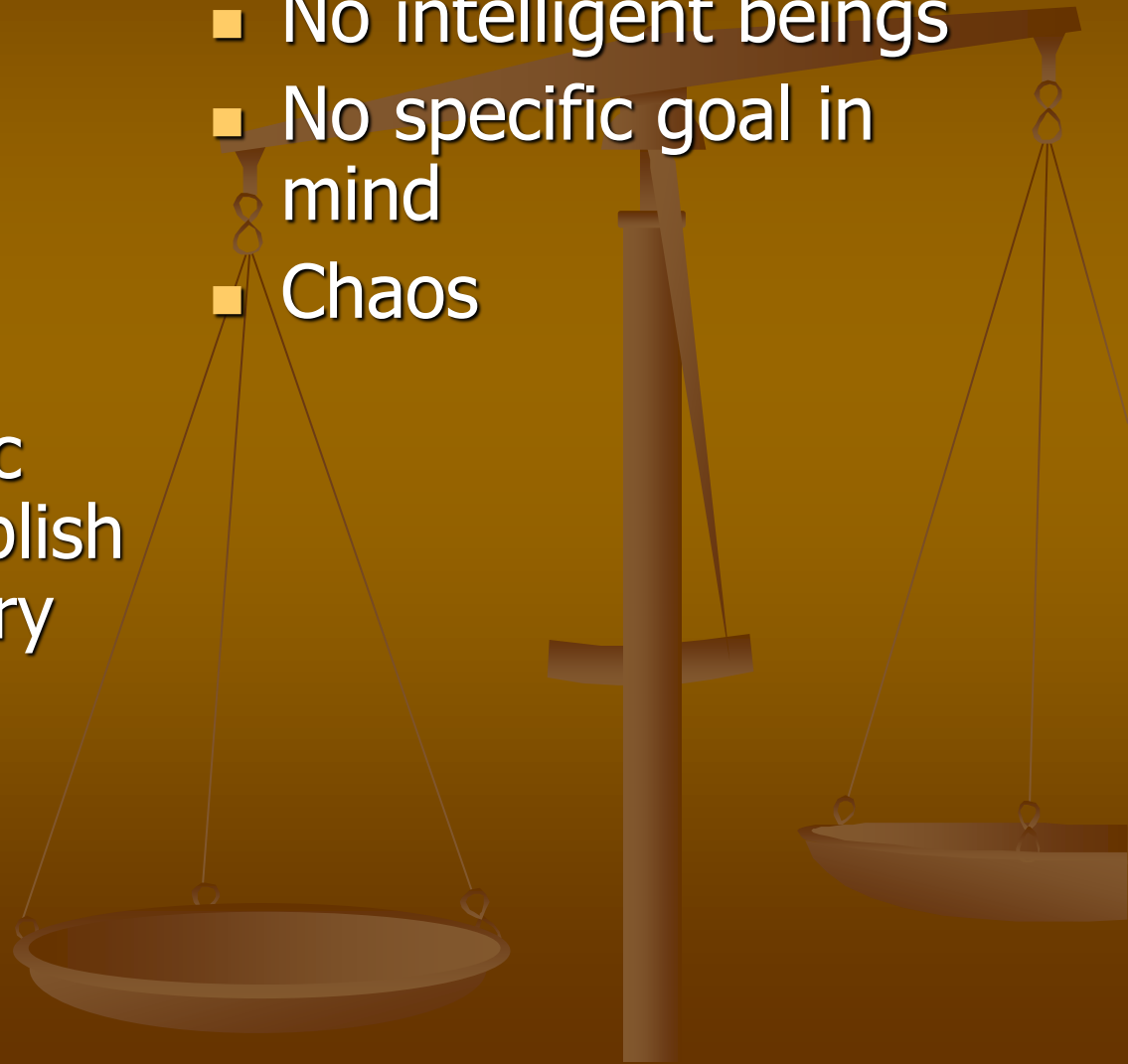


Creation

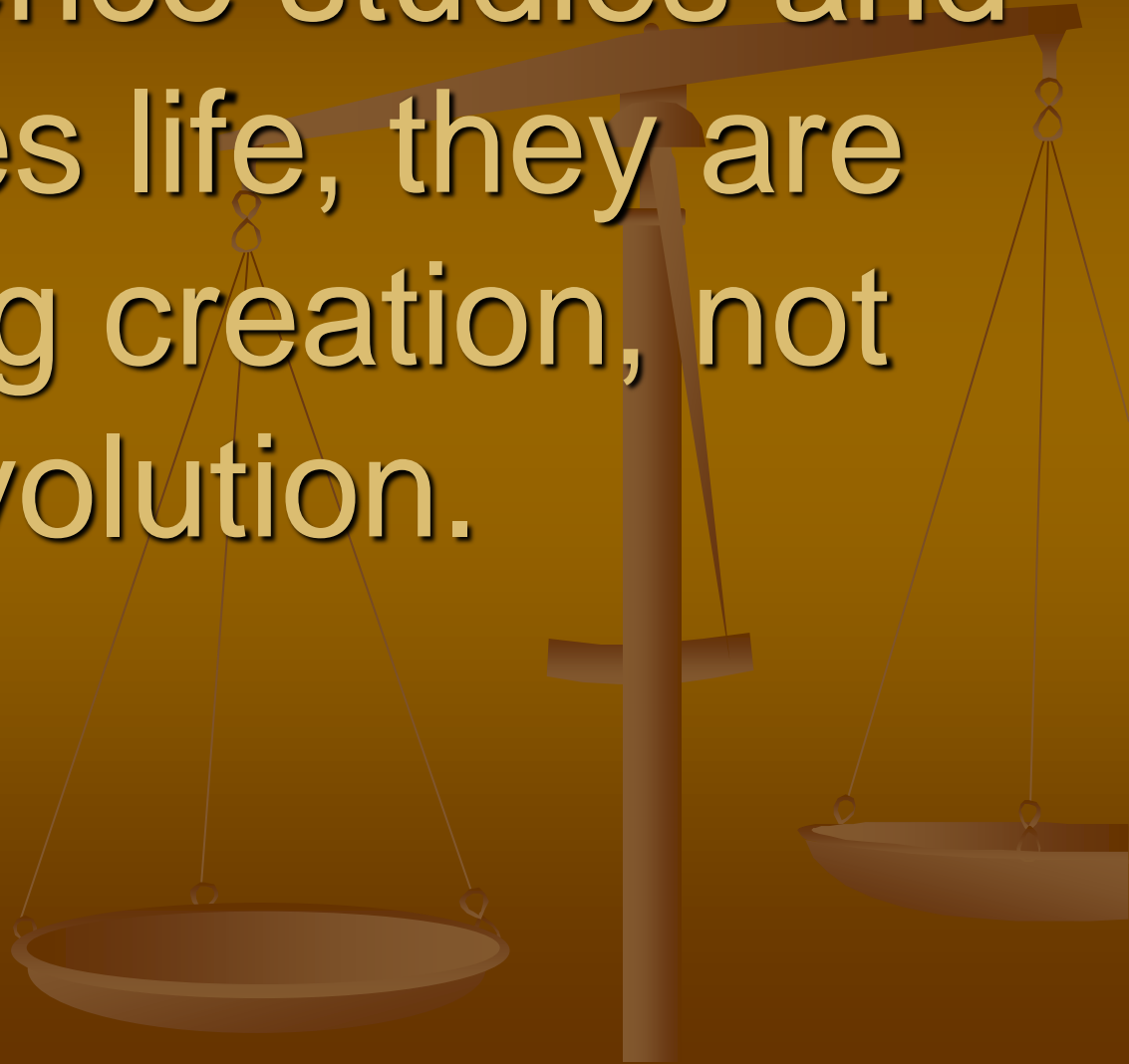
- Intelligent beings (scientists, God)
- A specific goal in mind (creation of living cells)
- An orderly, specific process to accomplish the goal (laboratory experiments, the spoken word)

Evolution

- No intelligent beings
- No specific goal in mind
- Chaos



When science studies and
duplicates life, they are
validating creation, not
evolution.



Not a Chance!

- Evolutionists use “chance” to account for life
- Is “chance” really an active agent?
Can it do anything?
- Everything that is attributed to “chance” actually has physical, psychological, or emotional causes.

