

Which is True: Creation, Evolution, or Both?

Steven R. Hemler, President



How to Respond?

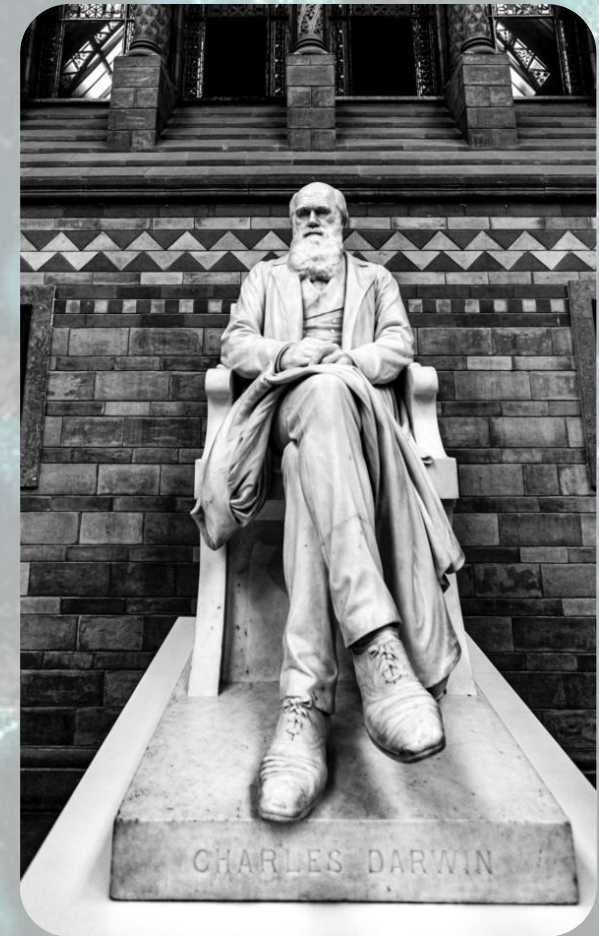
- “Man is the result of a purposeless and natural process that did not have him in mind. He was not planned.”
 - *Paleontologist Dr. George Gaylord Simpson*
- “The more we know of evolution, the more unavoidable is the conclusion that living things, including human beings, are produced by a natural process, with no indication of a controlling creator.”
 - *Evolutionary Biologist Dr. David Barash*
- “Biologists must constantly keep in mind that what they see was not designed, but rather evolved.”
 - *Dr. Francis Crick, co-discover of DNA*
- “Evolution is the greatest engine of atheism ever invented.”
 - *Biologist Dr. Will Provine*

Atheistic Evolution

- Life originated and developed through unplanned and unguided processes.
- Random genetic mutations and blind natural selection alone are fully adequate to explain life's complexity.
- Undirected natural processes are sufficient to mimic intelligent design.

Atheistic Evolution

- Seen as challenge to God's existence
- “Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist.” – *Richard Dawkins*
- Without any divine plan or guidance:
- “Hydrogen is a gas, which given enough time, turns into people.” - *Edward R. Harrison*
- *Video: Limits of science*





Limits of science

- Origin of human beings, which are an integral unity of **body** and **soul**, is not fully explainable by science.
- Science cannot say anything about origin of our spiritual and eternal soul.
 - “Every spiritual soul is created immediately by God.” (CCC #366)
- At the proper time, God imparted soul into first human and everyone since.
 - Even if our bodies did evolve over time.



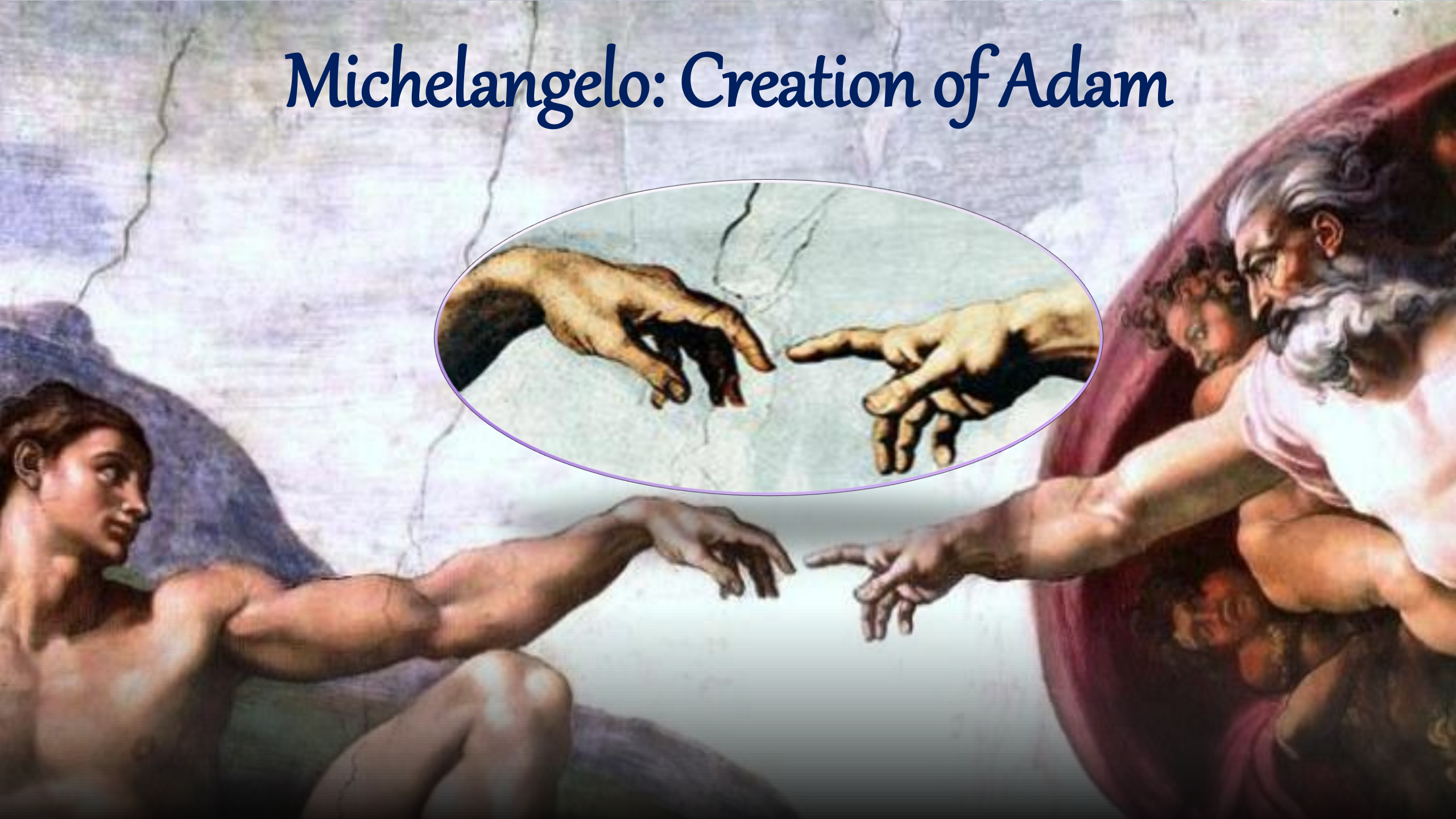
“From the viewpoint of the doctrine of the faith, there are *no difficulties* in explaining the *origin of man* in regard to the *body*, by means of the theory of *evolution*.... It is possible that the human body could have been gradually prepared in the forms of antecedent living beings. However, the human *soul*, on which man’s humanity definitively depends, cannot emerge from matter, since the soul is of a spiritual nature.” - *Pope St. John Paul II*



Body and Soul

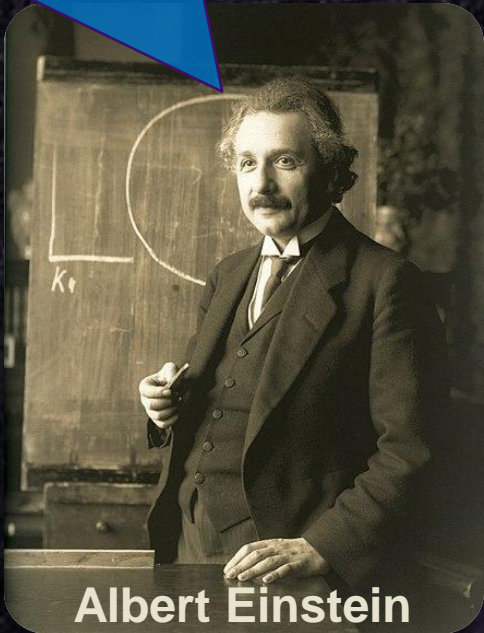
- Therefore, first true humans (body and soul) could have come into being when God imparted souls into homo sapien bodies.
 - Which developed over time through evolutionary processes.
- This view seems to be supported by Genesis 2:7, which states:
 - “The Lord God **formed man out of the clay** of the ground...”
 - Pre-scientific and symbolic wording describing evolutionary development of homo sapien **bodies** over time?
 - “...and blew into his nostrils the **breath of life**, and so man became a living being.”
 - “breath of life” = rational human **soul**?

Michelangelo: Creation of Adam



Need Both Science & Religion

“Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind.”



Albert Einstein



Pope St. John Paul II

“Science can purify religion from error and superstition; religion can purify science from idolatry and false absolutes. Each can draw the other into a wider world, a world in which both can flourish.”



Evolutionary Creation

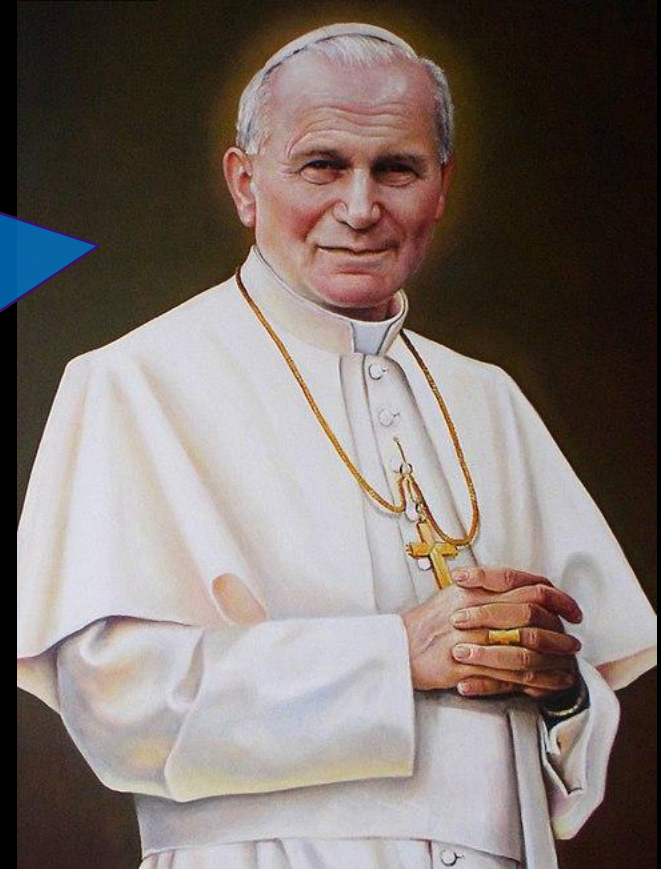
- God **ordained** and **sustained** the gradual evolution of life on earth.
- God established the framework that enabled evolution to occur.
 - Including finely-tuned laws of nature.
 - Nature predestined for evolutionary development of life.
 - May have providentially enabled major transitions and seemingly “random” genetic mutations.
- Also called **Theistic** Evolution.
 - “Let the **earth bring forth** all kinds of living creatures.” (Genesis 1:24)

Evolutionary Creation

- “My predecessors Pope Pius XII and Pope John Paul II noted that there is **no opposition** between faith’s understanding of creation and the evidence of the empirical sciences.”
- *Pope Benedict XVI*
- “The possibility that the Creator also makes use of the instrument of evolution is **admissible** for the Catholic faith.”
- *Cardinal Christoph Schönborn*
- *Video: Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D.*
 - *Can Catholics accept evolution?*

Evolutionary Creation

“Indeed, the theory of natural evolution, understood in a sense that ***does not exclude divine causality***, is not in principle opposed to the truth about the creation of the visible world, as presented in the Book of Genesis.”



Pope St. John Paul II

Four Types of Causes



- Did Michelangelo or his chisel carve the *Pietà*?
- Both.
- Michelangelo was **primary cause** & **intelligent cause**.
- His chisel was **secondary cause** & **natural cause**.

Four Types of Causes

- Which types of causes are God's actions in the evolution of life?
 - God is **primary intelligent** cause.
 - Who works thru **secondary natural** causes.
 - Actions guided by laws of nature God created.
 - Evolution is God's tool ("chisel").
 - "God is the first cause who operates in and through secondary causes." (CCC #308)
- Atheistic Evolution: Natural causes are **primary** cause, not secondary cause.

NEXT

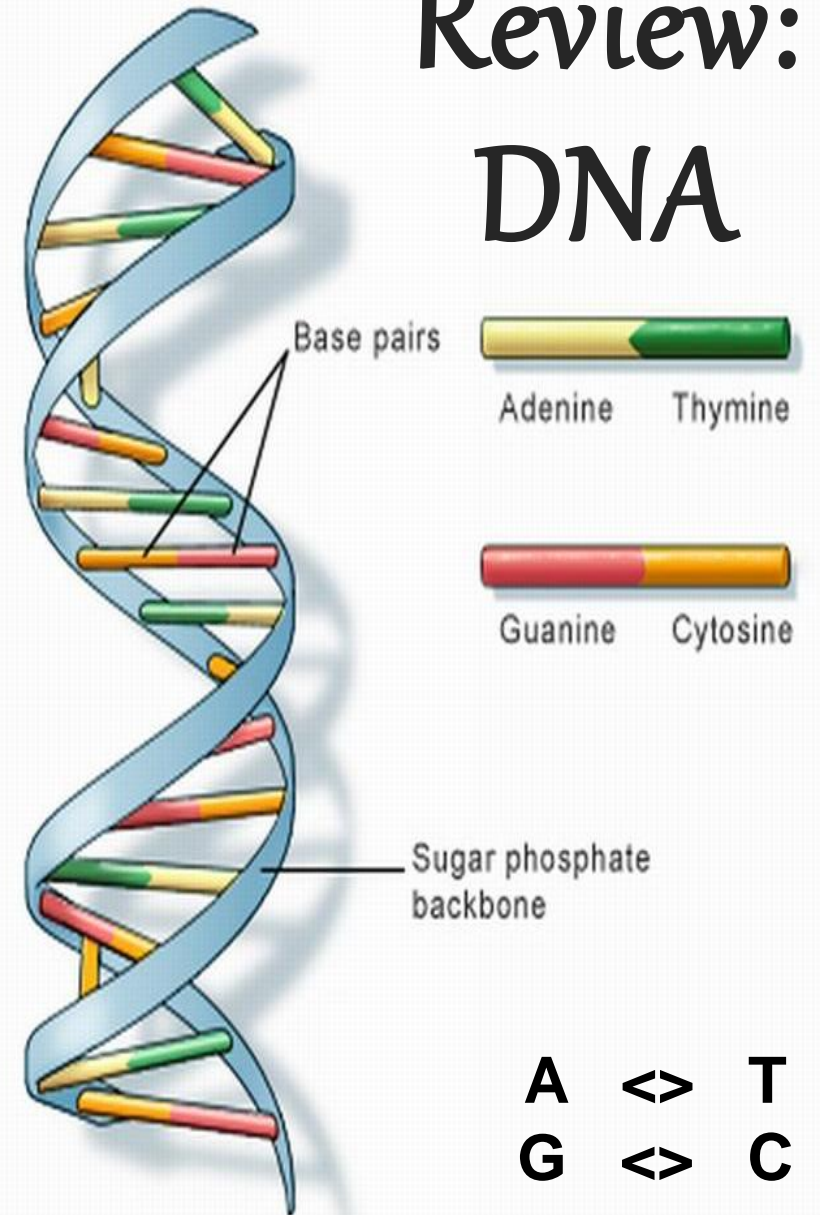
- Is there any scientific evidence that **life** has an **intelligent cause**?
- But first, a commercial break...
- *Video: Things **not** due to an intelligent cause*





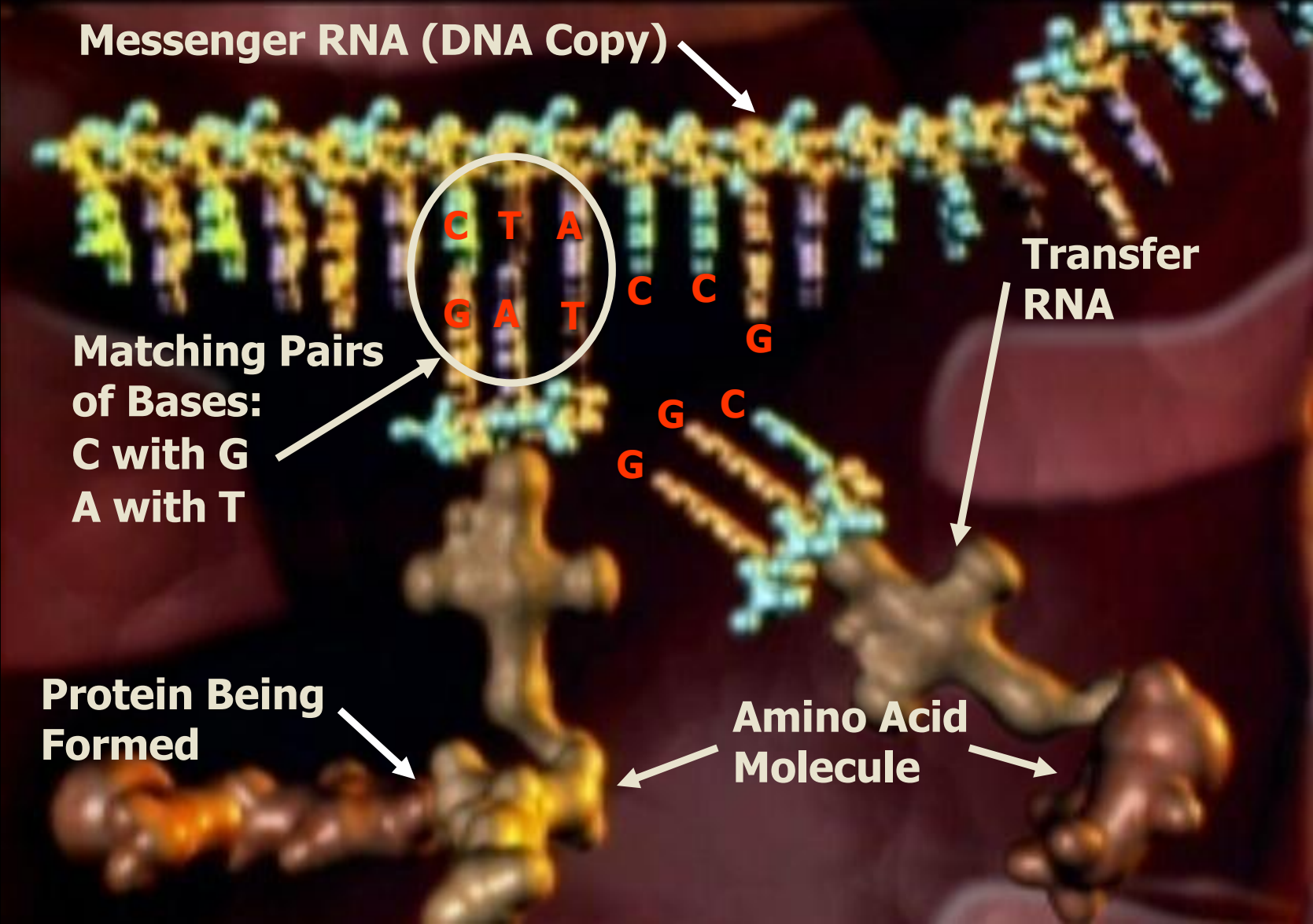


Review: DNA



U.S. National Library of Medicine

How does DNA enable amino acids to be in the correct sequence to make proteins?



Intelligent Cause

- How did the DNA nucleotide bases (the As, Ts, Cs and Gs) get in the correct sequence needed to properly form proteins from amino acids?
- The proper arrangement of nucleotide bases in DNA contains information.
 - Just like letters in a meaningful sentence.
- *Video: An intelligent cause is a valid explanation for genetic information in DNA*

Intelligent Cause

- Biological Information Argument:
 1. Premise One – DNA contains useful information (to place amino acids in the proper order to make functional proteins).
 2. Premise Two – Useful information habitually arises from an intelligent cause.
 3. Conclusion – Therefore, an intelligent cause (God) is a valid explanation for the useful information contained in DNA.

**EACH OF US IS THE
RESULT OF A
THOUGHT OF GOD.**

**EACH OF US
IS WILLED,
EACH OF US
IS LOVED,
EACH OF US
IS NECESSARY.**

POPE BENEDICT XVI



Summary

- Atheistic Evolution
 - Limits of science (soul)
- Evolutionary Creation
 - Theistic evolution
 - Four types of causes
- Scientific Evidence that Life has an Intelligent Cause (God)



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An aerial photograph of a forest with a large tree trunk in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the image.

Questions?

Comments?

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