

The Letter to the
Hebrews



Introduction

- Animal sacrifices could not perfect the sinner, but Christ's superior sacrifice did.
- Worshipers have been purified by the blood of Christ and are empowered in mind and heart to encourage one another in this new covenant reality.

The Permanence of Christ's Sacrifice

Hebrews 10:1-18

Old Testament Sacrifices

- Permanent in contrast to Old Testament sacrifices (1-4).
- The Old Testament law was supported by centuries of tradition.
- But these sacrifices could only remind of sin but could not remove sin.

Old Testament Sacrifices

- (vs 2) Asks a question: if offering made worshipers perfect wouldn't they no longer have any consciousness of sin?
- Instead (vs. 3) every sacrifice and offering reminded them of sin.
- (vs. 4) It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sin.

Obedience

- Permanence based on obedience (5-10).
- The focus turns to Psalm 40:6-8 and explains why Christ came into the world.
- Christ willingly submitted his life to the plan of God. Christ came in perfect obedience to the divine will. We are sanctified through Christ.

Secured Forgiveness

- Permanence because it secures forgiveness (11-18).
- Christ's sacrifice lasted because it offered permanent pardon to us.
- By contrast, every priest stands at his daily service offering repeated sacrifices.

Secured Forgiveness

- (vs. 12) Christ sat down at the right hand of God - His work was finished.
- (vs. 13) We are now waiting for the time when Christ returns in victory.
- (vs. 15-17) The Holy Spirit is the author of this application described in Jeremiah 31.

The Power of Christ's Sacrifice

Hebrews 10:19-39

Christ's Power

- An appeal to experience Christ's power (19-25).
- In light of what we have just learned, we need to draw near to God with a full assurance of faith.
- Believers can approach God because of the blood of Jesus.

Christ's Power

- The curtain (vs. 20) refers to the veil that stood between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place.
- Jesus opened up a new way to God.
- We can now approach God and have mercy and grace through our High Priest.

Christ's Power

- First, we are to come with a true heart.
- Second, we are to come in full assurance of faith.
- Third, we are to have our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience (confession).
- Fourth, we are to have our bodies washed with pure water (baptism).

Christ's Power

- We are also admonished to hold fast our confession (vs. 23) and to consider how to encourage one another (vs. 24).
- We should spur one another toward love and good works. We do this by meeting with other Christians (vs. 25).
- Apparently some neglected worship.

Warning

- A warning to avoid God's judgment (26-31).
- This is a similar warning to what we have already studied in Hebrews 6:4-6.
- The sin was the deliberate rejection of the truth of the gospel. Some considered leaving Christianity for Judaism.

Warning

- A commendation to all who persevere (32-39).
- These verses urged the readers to remember the days after their conversion when they stood their ground.
- They had compassion for those in prison and accepted the loss of possessions.

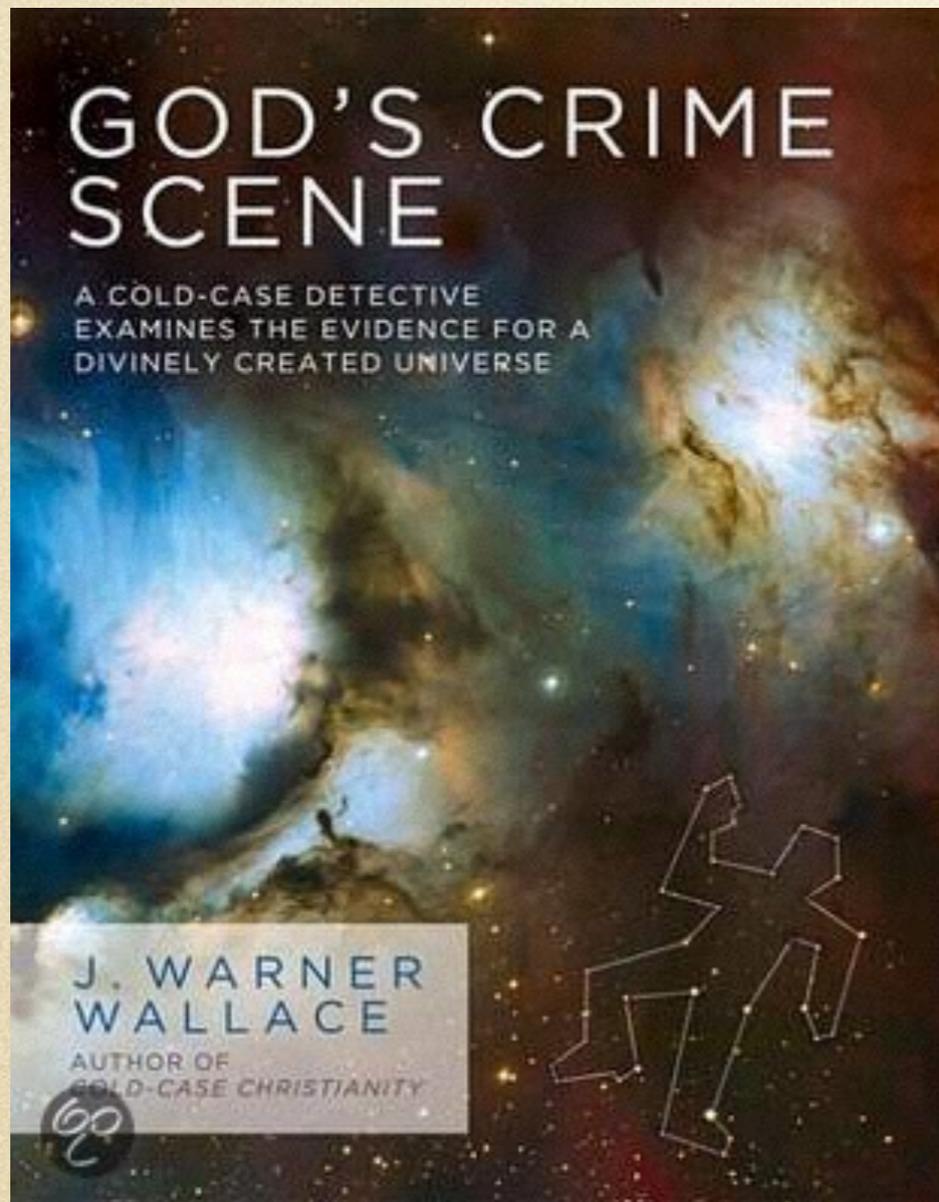
Warning

- (vs. 35) Don't throw away the confidence you once had.
- They need perseverance to endure the hardships they are now facing.
- These words from Isaiah 26:20 are more encouragement for them to endure.

God's Crime Scene

A Cold-Case Detective
Examines the Evidence for
a Divinely Created Universe

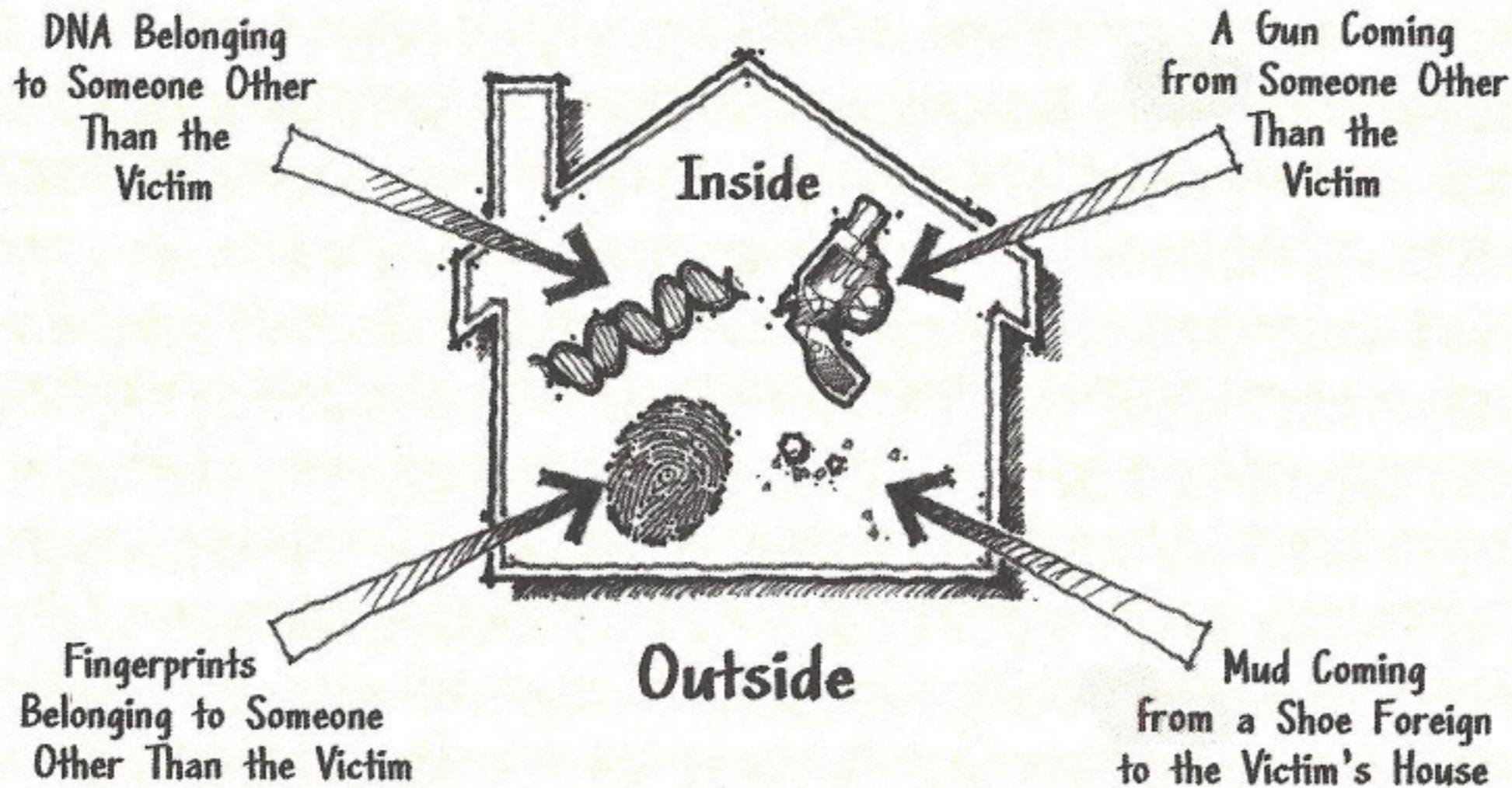
God's Crime Scene



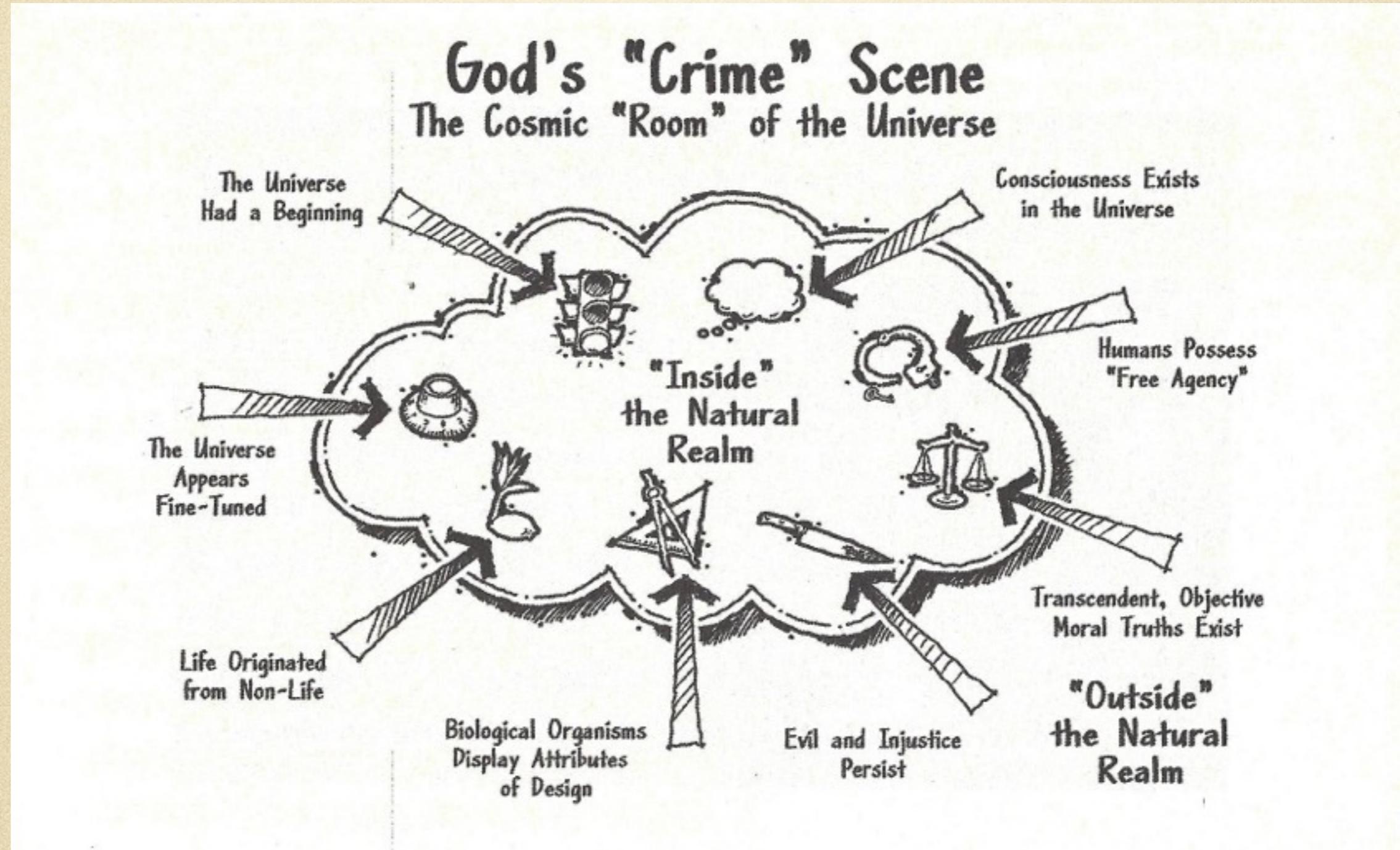
- J. Warner Wallace is a cold-case homicide detective who was regularly featured on Dateline and Fox News.
- He became a Christian and brings these skills to apologetics.

Crime Scene

The Homicide Crime Scene The Room Where Richard Died



"Crime" Scene



In the Beginning

- In the beginning: Was the universe an inside job?
- Impossibility of an infinite regress.
- Evidence from mathematics, physics, and astronomy (expanding universe, red shift, second law of thermodynamics).

In the Beginning

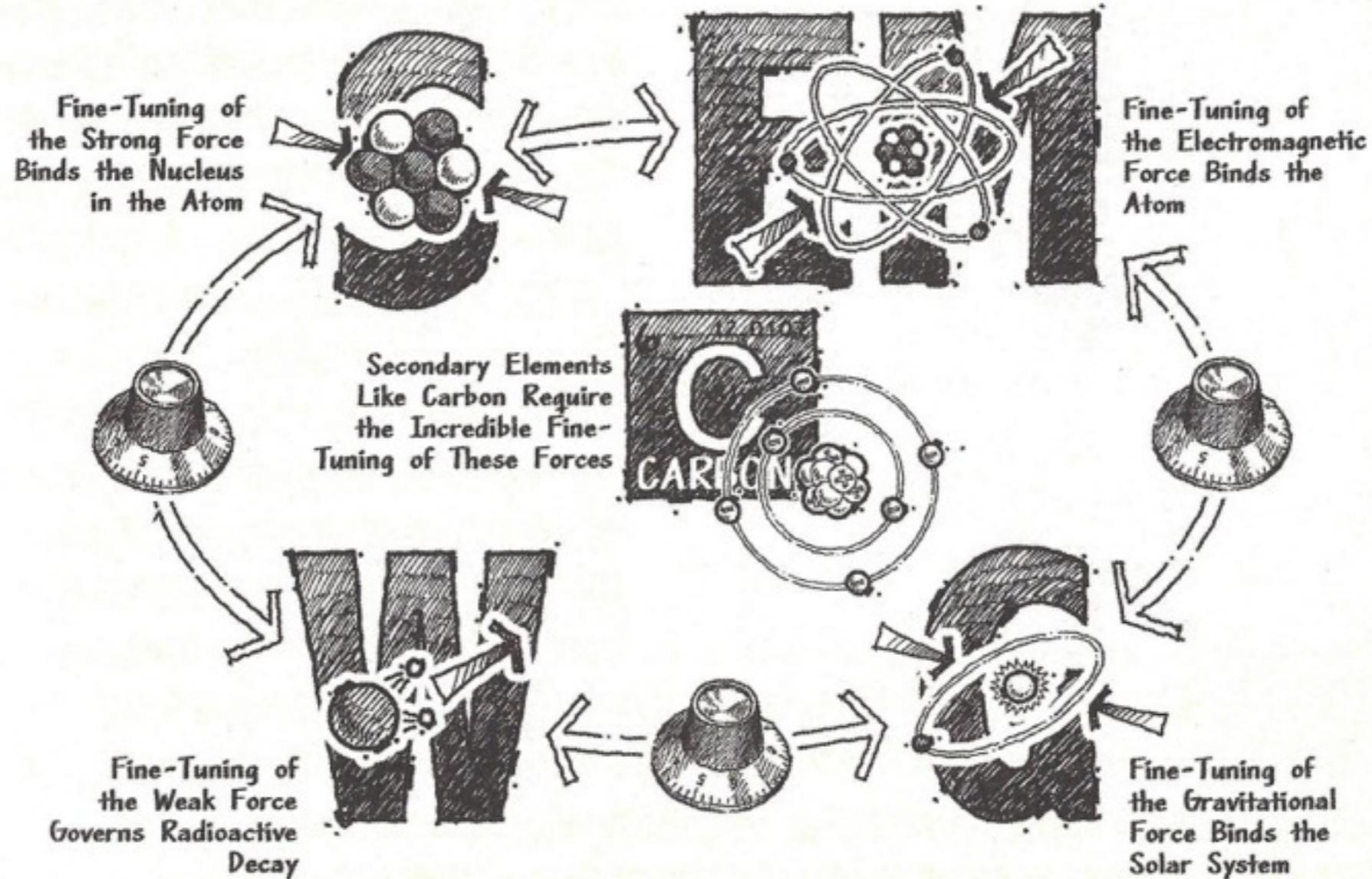
- Given the evidence, it is reasonable to infer that the universe had a beginning.
- The universe came into being from something *beyond* the space, time, matter, and energy of our universe.
- The cause of the universe could not have a cause (infinite regress).

Suspect Profile

- Given what we know so far, the cause of the universe is:
 1. External to the universe
 2. Nonspatial, atemporal, and nonmaterial
 3. Uncaused
 4. Powerful enough to create the universe

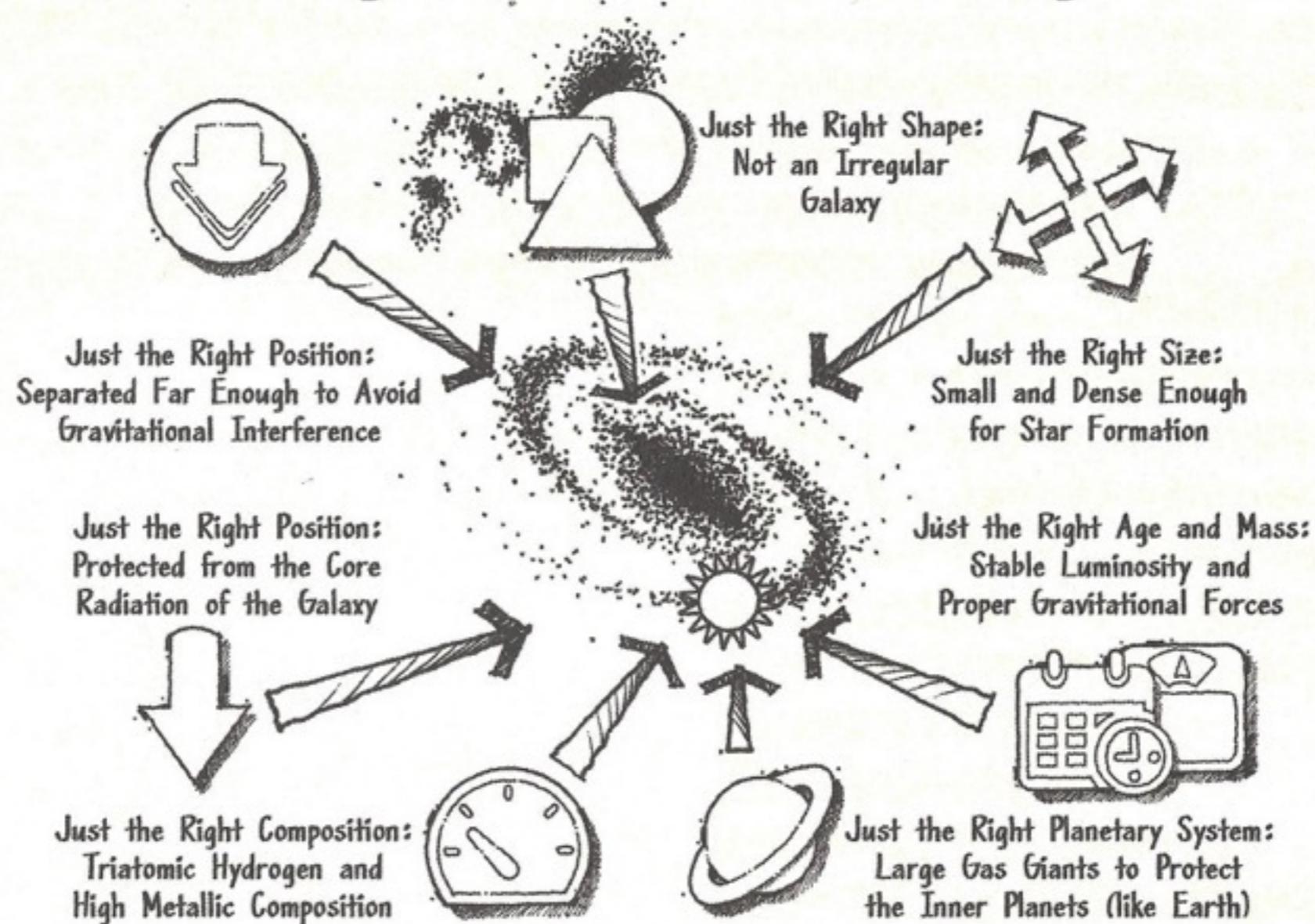
Layers of Evidence

Foundational Fine-Tuning



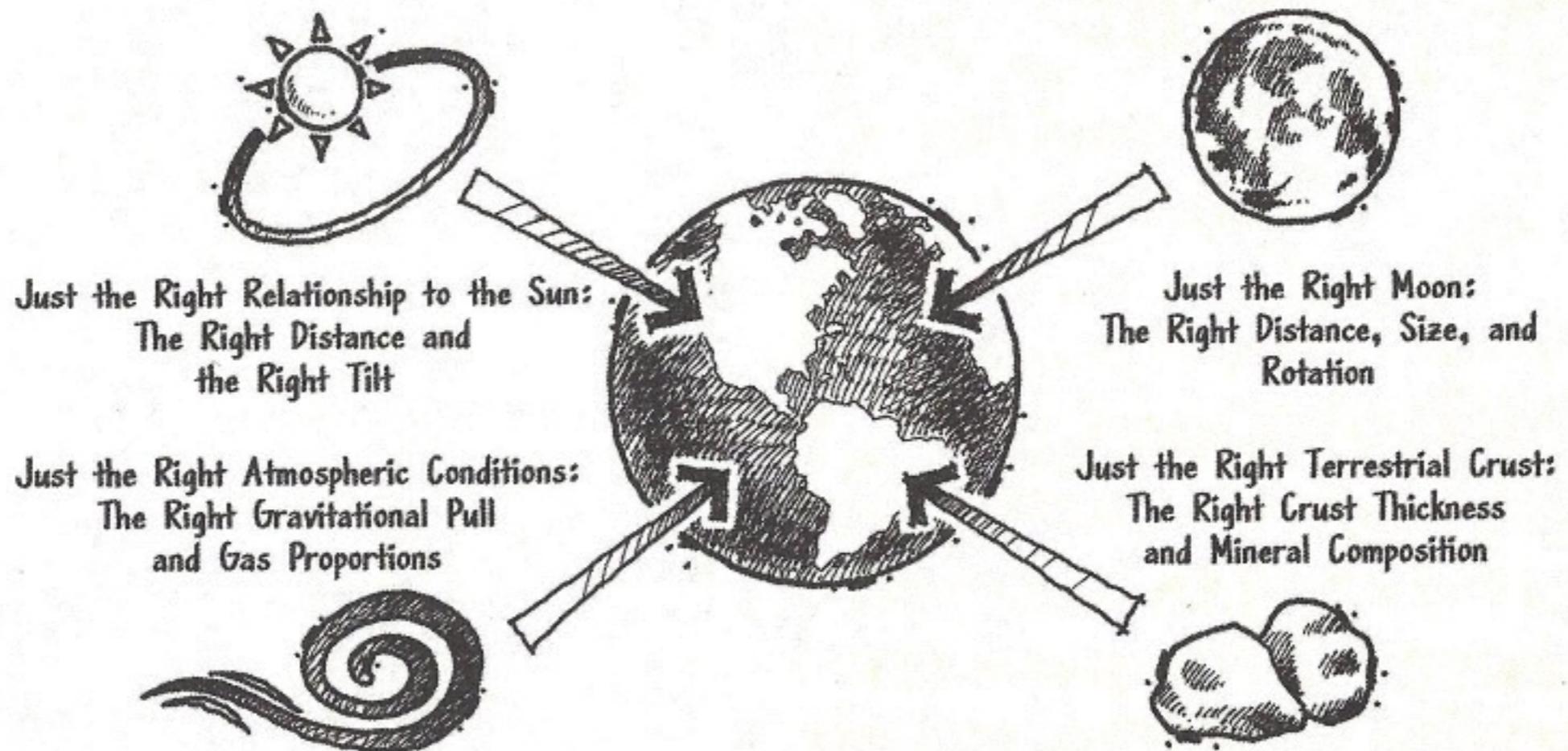
Layers of Evidence

Regional Fine-Tuning



Layers of Evidence

Locational Fine-Tuning



Suspect Profile

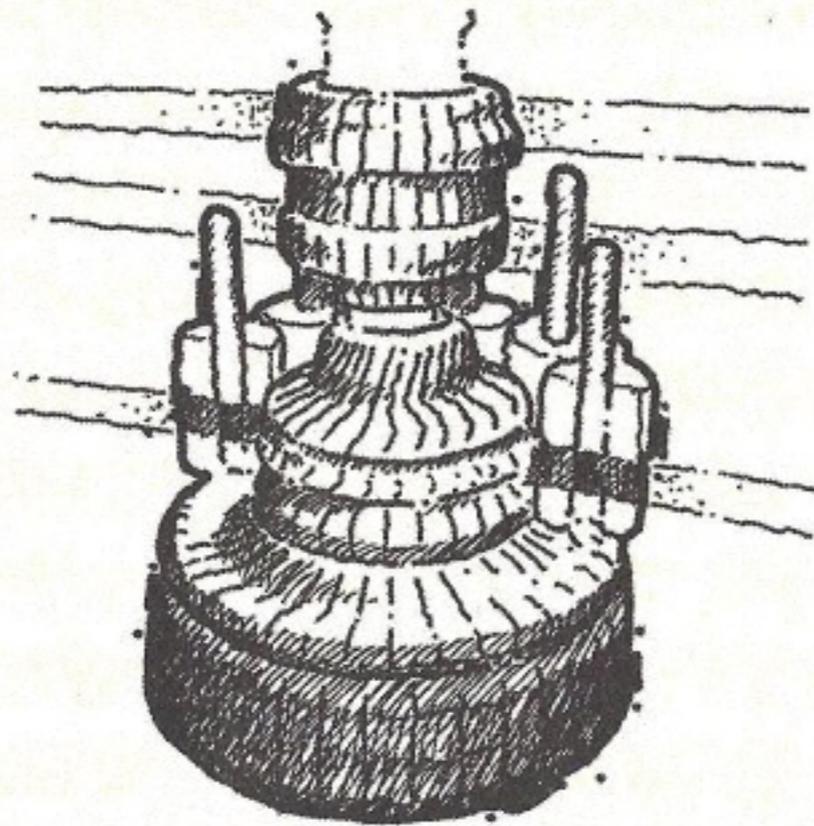
1. External to the universe
2. Nonspatial, atemporal, and nonmaterial
3. Uncaused
4. Powerful enough to create the universe
5. Purposeful enough to produce a universe fine-tuned for life

Origin of Life

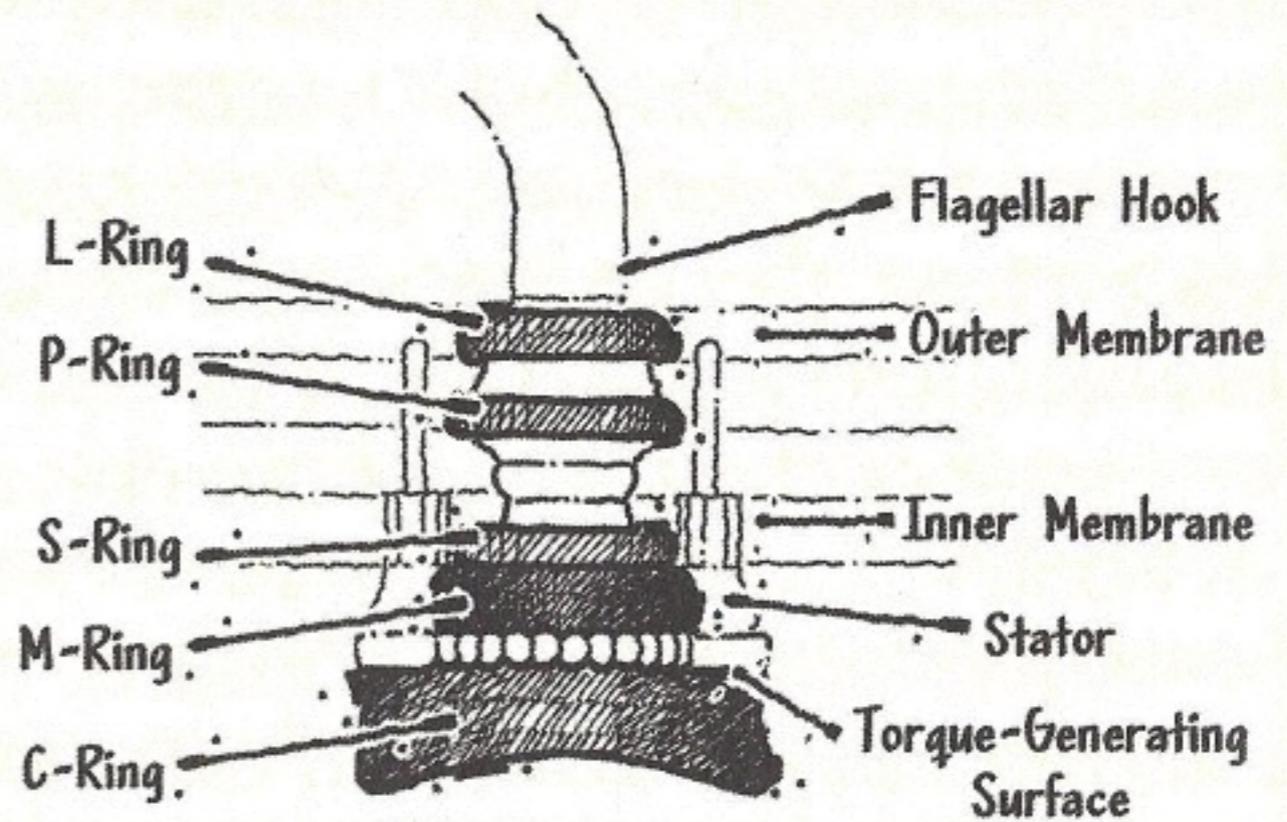
- The complexity of life at the cellular level.
- The formation of amino acids and nucleotide bases.
- The formation of nucleotides (DNA).
- Origin of life - Catch 22 (proteins are required to create ribosomes, vice versa).

Signs of Design

The Bacterial Flagellum Motor



In Three Dimensions



In Cross-Section

Suspect Profile

1. External to the universe
2. Nonspatial, atemporal, and nonmaterial
3. Uncaused
4. Powerful enough to create the universe
5. Purposeful enough to produce a universe
fine-tuned for life
6. Intelligent and creative

Consciousness

Brain	Mind
Publicly accessed	Privately accessed
Impersonal	Personal
Objective	Subjective
Measurable	Measureless

Suspect Profile

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fine-tuned for life
6. Intelligent and creative
7. A conscious Mind

Free Will - Full Wiring

- In a purely physical universe, our behavior is outside our control.
- Yet we experience free will and have responsibility.
- Supreme Court ruled that “a deterministic view of human conduct” was inconsistent with criminal justice system.

Suspect Profile

Given what we know so far, the cause of the universe is: external to the universe, nonspatial, atemporal, nonmaterial, uncaused, powerful enough to create the universe, purposeful enough to produce a universe fine-tuned for life, intelligent and creative, a conscious Mind, and free to choose (and create) personally.

Law and Order

- Even the most skeptical among us believe moral truth is more than simply a matter of cultural or personal opinion.
- For most of us the transcendent, objective nature of moral truth seems self-evident.
- Morality is more than about survival or even majority opinion.

Suspect Profile

Given what we know so far, the cause of the universe is: external to the universe, nonspatial, atemporal, nonmaterial, uncaused, powerful enough to create the universe, purposeful enough to produce a universe fine-tuned for life, intelligent and creative, a conscious Mind, free to choose (and create) personally, and the personal source of moral truth and obligation.

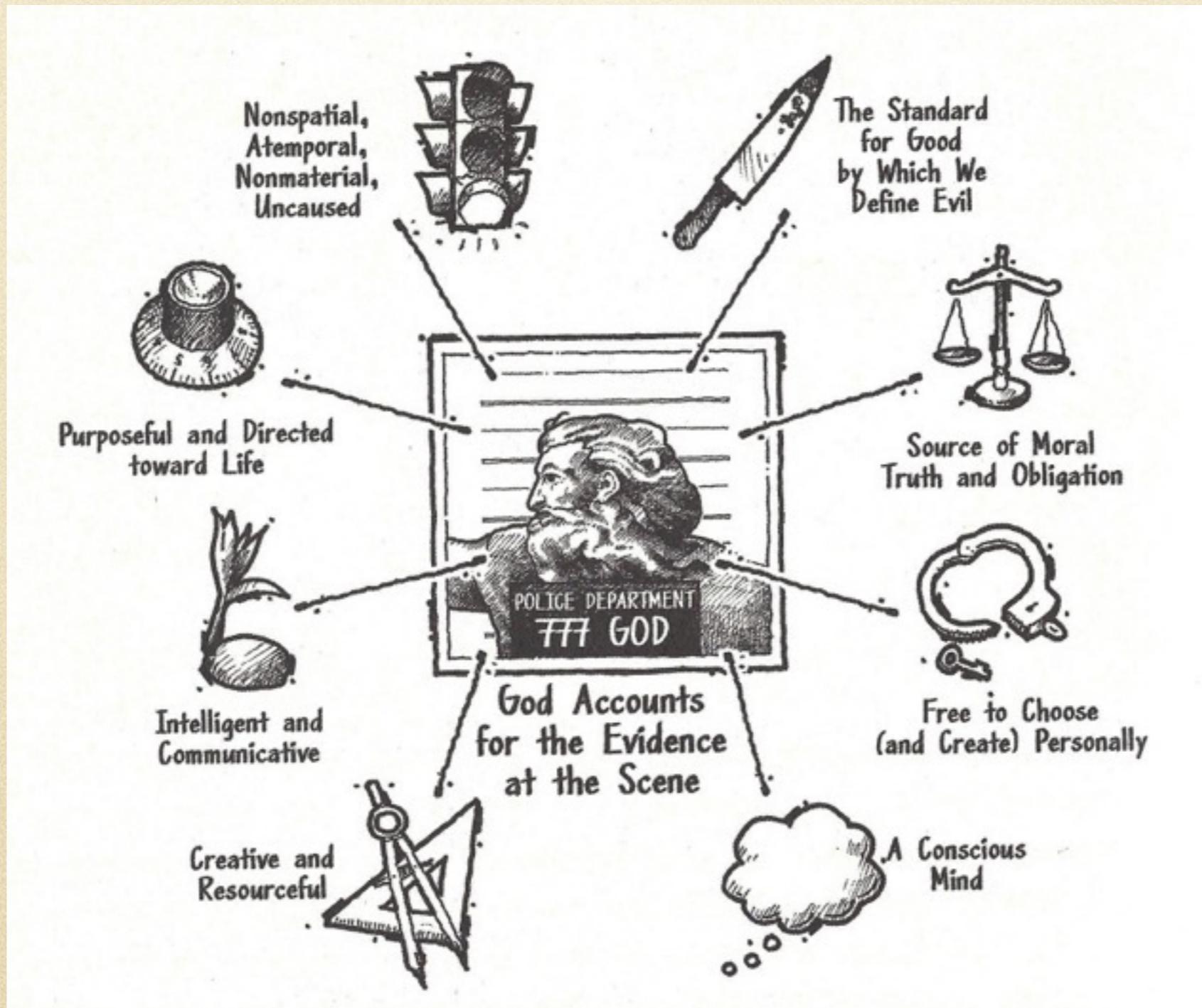
Evil

- Naturalism cannot account for evil or any standard to judge evil.
- The standard to judge evil must come from an external source and be the source of good.
- A transcendent, objective standard of goodness is how evil can be defined.

Suspect Profile

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Closing Argument



GOD'S CRIME SCENE

A COLD-CASE DETECTIVE
EXAMINES THE EVIDENCE FOR A
DIVINELY CREATED UNIVERSE

J. WARNER
WALLACE

AUTHOR OF
COLD-CASE CHRISTIANITY

