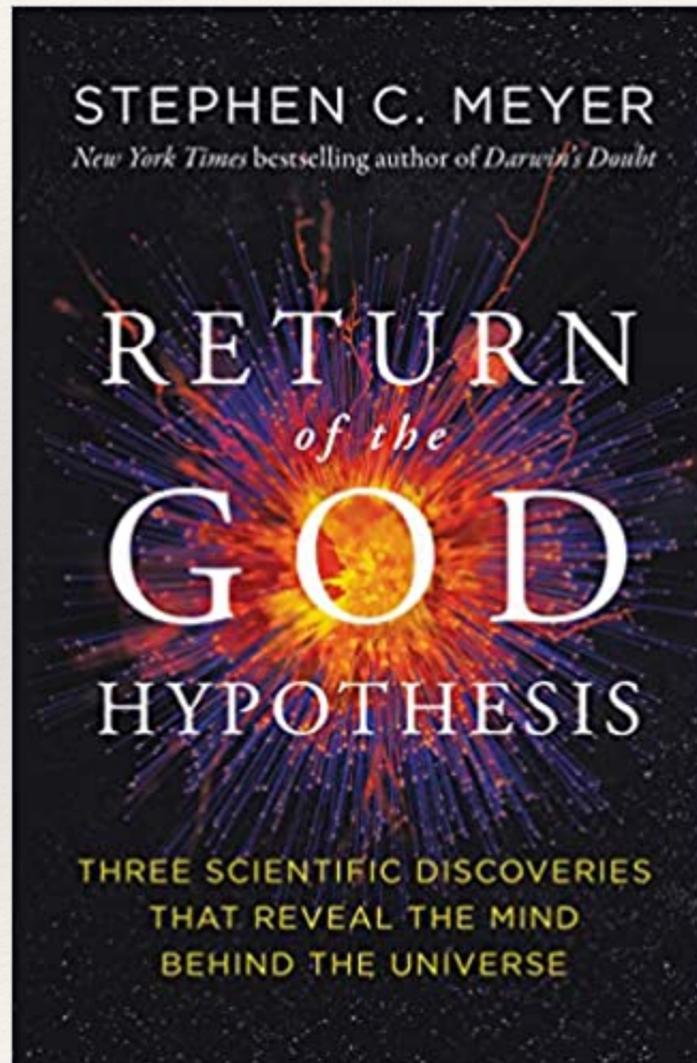


# Return of the God Hypothesis



ARE THERE SCIENTIFIC ARGUMENTS  
FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD?

*Probe Ministries*

INVITES YOU TO HEAR

*Dr. Ray Bohlin*

UNPACK THE BOOK  
THE RETURN OF THE GOD HYPOTHESIS  
BY DR. STEPHEN MEYER

HE WILL TALK ABOUT THE BEGINNING  
OF THE UNIVERSE, THE FINE TUNING  
OF THE UNIVERSE, AND THE INTRICATE  
WORLD OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

THURSDAY

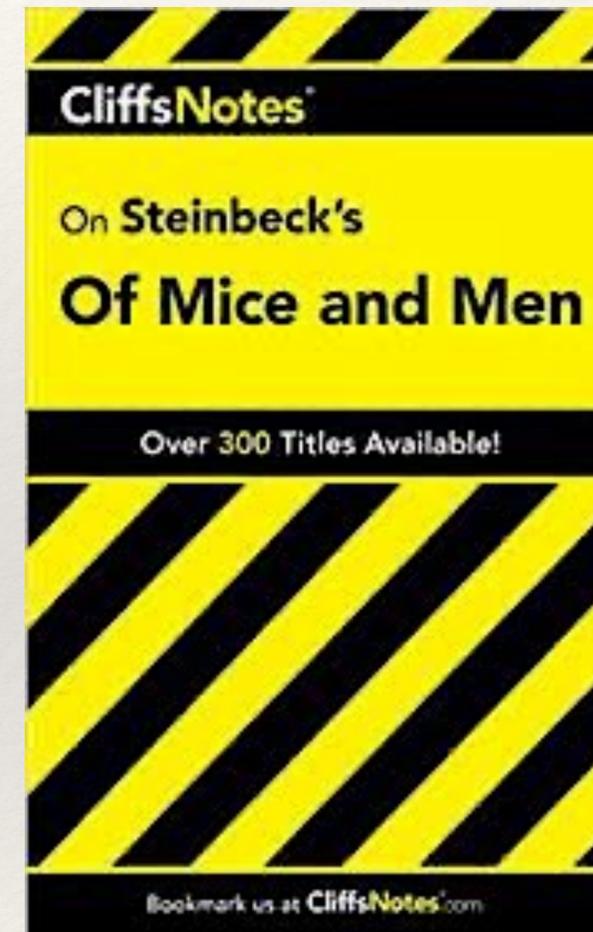
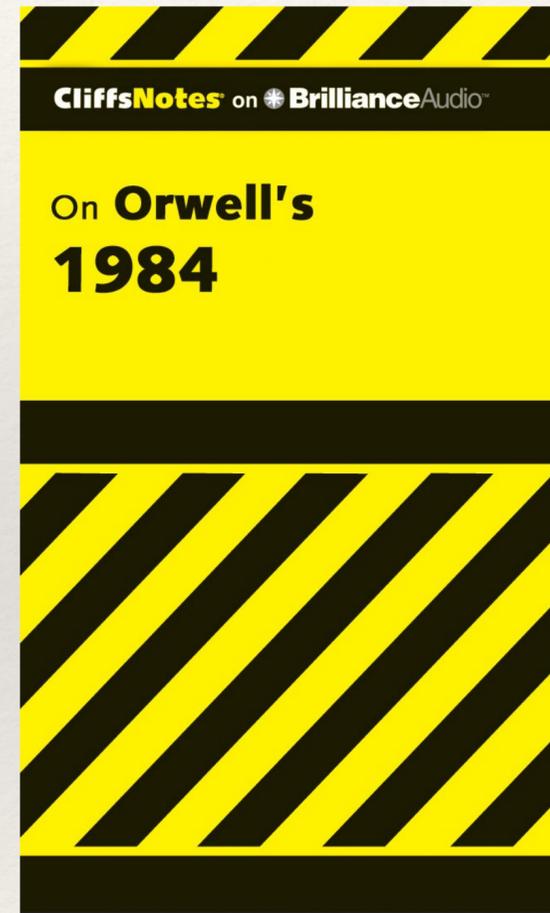
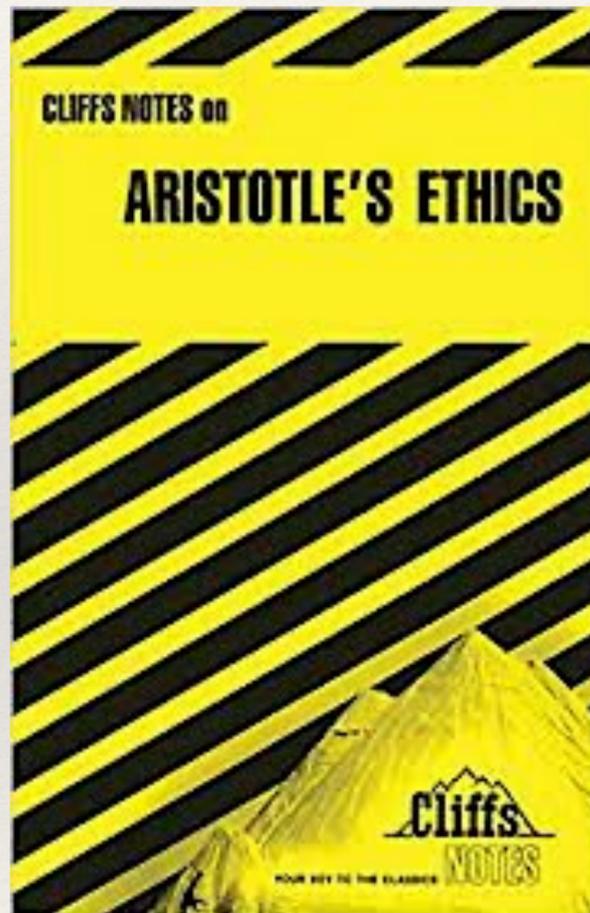
23  
SEP

AT 7:00PM

*The Hope Center*

2001 W PLANO PKWAY  
PLANO, TEXAS 75075

# Consider this the CliffsNotes version



# The Rise and Fall of Theistic Science

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# Origin of Science

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- A Christian view was important in the development of modern science.
- The Greek view believed there was order in nature but due to a self-existent principle rather than from a mind or divine being.
- The Judeo-Christian doctrine of creation helped liberate Western science from this view by promoting:
  - the contingency of nature - Robert Boyle (what God actually did)
  - the intelligibility of nature - Johannes Kepler (God wanted us to recognize)

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# Origin of Science

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- Christian theologians referred to nature as a book (the book of nature).
- We find support for this is Psalm 19 (in the OT) and Romans 1 (in the NT).
- Natural philosophers also referred to nature as a clock.
- They also talked about the “laws of nature.”
- Oxford historian of science: “For Newton, as for Boyle and Descartes, there were laws of nature only because there had been a [Divine] Legislator.”
- This led to promotion of design arguments during the scientific revolution.

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# Rise of Scientific Materialism

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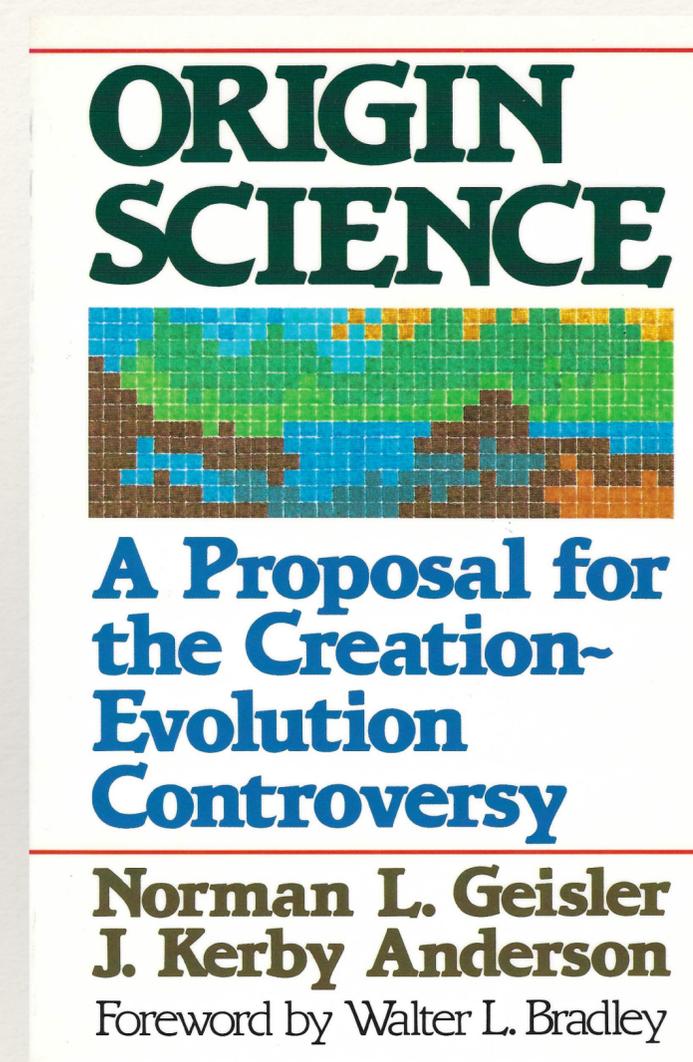
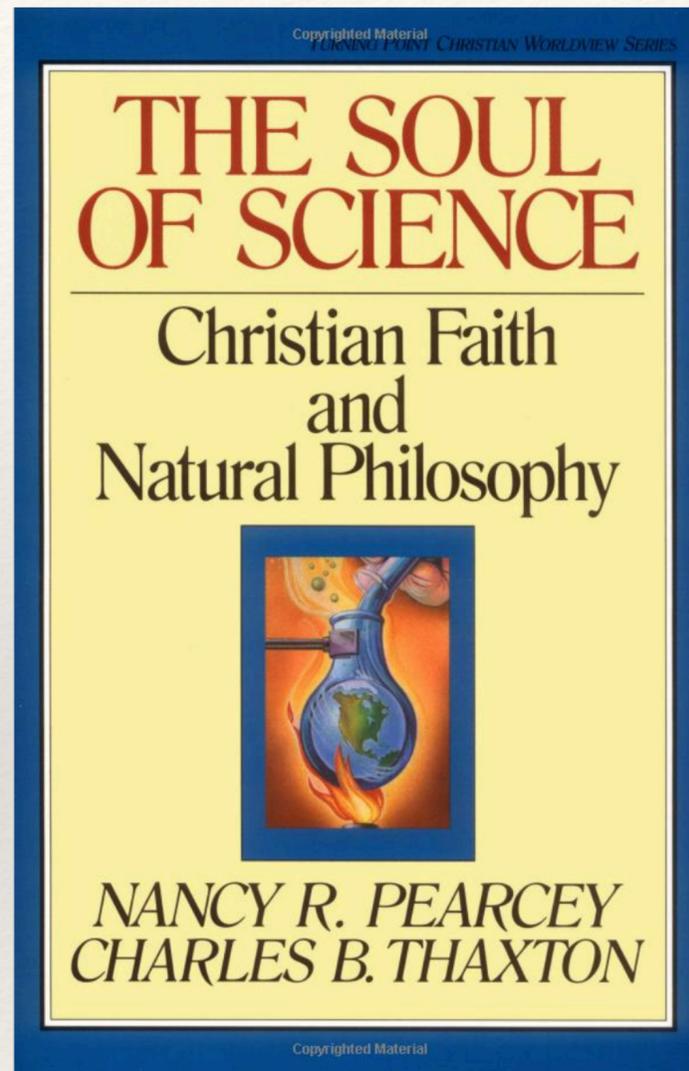
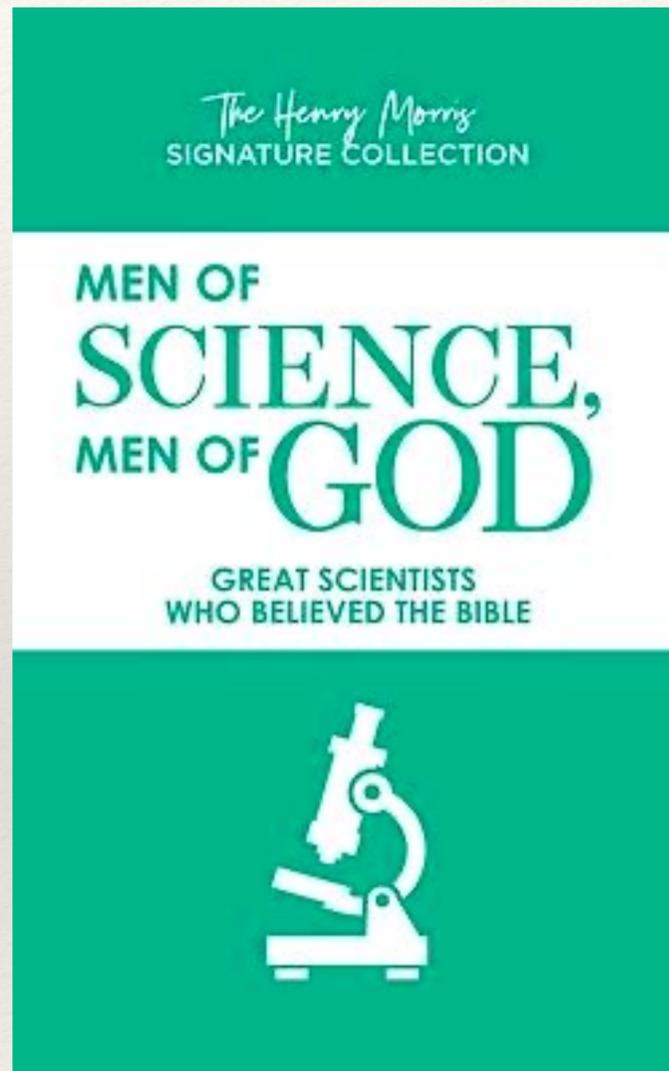
- During the Enlightenment, the focus was on reason and rationalism.
  - David Hume argued against miracles.
  - Auguste Comte proposed a dichotomy between science and religion.
  - Immanuel Kant argued against the cosmological argument.
  - Pierre Laplace said to Napoleon “I have no need of that hypothesis.”
  - Then came Charles Darwin, Karl Marx, and Sigmund Freud.

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# Comprehensive Materialism

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- The three figures established a comprehensive materialism:
  - Darwin, from biology, told us where we came from.
  - Marx, with a secular eschatology, told us where we are going.
  - Freud, with psychology, told us what to do with the human condition.
- Stephen Meyer: “By the end of the 19th century, you had this materialistic worldview that answered all the basic questions that Judeo-Christian religion had always answered.”



# Return of the God Hypothesis

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# Light from Distant Galaxies

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- Dating back to classical antiquity, most philosophers (Aristotle) thought that the universe existed forever. Jewish and Christian philosophers argued that the idea of creation *ex nihilo* implied that the universe had a beginning.
- Astronomers started to argue that the universe could not be infinite.
- Edwin Hubble, using the most powerful telescope in the world, calculated that the Andromeda galaxy and other galaxies were receding from earth.
- Other scientists also reported that the light from these galaxies was shifted to the red part of the spectrum (Doppler effect).

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# Light from Distant Galaxies

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- Other scientists (Robert Wilson and Arno Penzias) also measured background radiation.
- All of this evidence confirmed the idea of the big bang theory.
- Robert Jastrow concludes his book, *God and the Astronomers*:
- “For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”

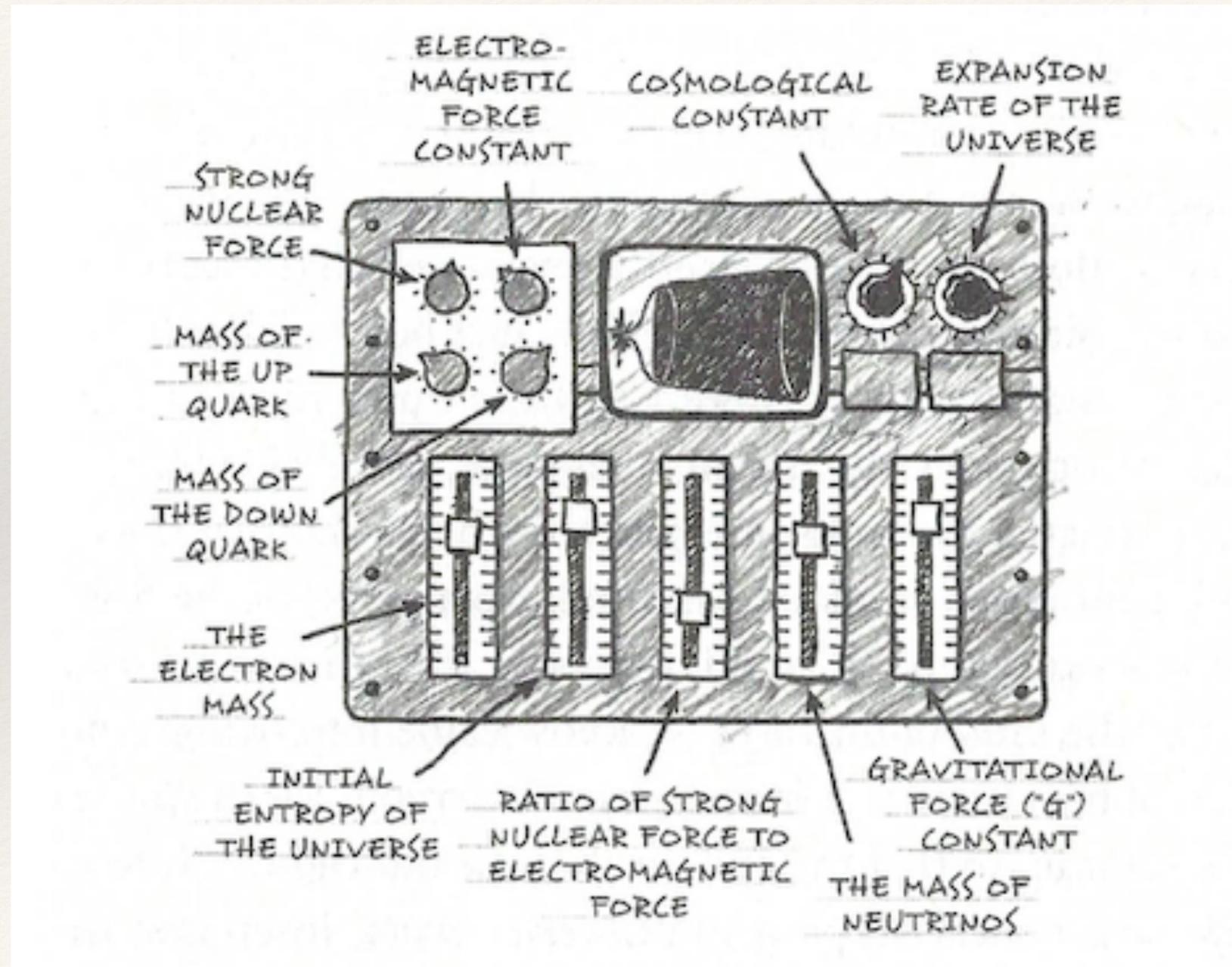
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# The Goldilocks Universe

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- Sir Fred Hoyle in determining how the element carbon might have formed in stars discovered many fine-tuning parameters.
- Physicists discovered that many properties of the universe fall within extremely narrow and improbably ranges for life to exist.
- Sir John Polkinghorne asked students to imagine finding a “universe-creating machine” responsible for the fine-tuning of the universe.
- Stephen Meyer extended that by asking students what they would think if one dial click either way resulted in catastrophic consequences.

# Universe Creating Machine



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# Anthropic Principle

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- Weak Anthropic Principle - we should not be surprised to find ourselves living in a universe suited for life, because we are here to observe it.
- Strong Anthropic Principle - the universe might depend for its existence upon an observer. That would mean the universe would have to be finely tuned from the beginning to produce conscious life to observe it.
- The laws of physics do not account for why the laws of physics are that way.
- A finely-tuned universe suggests a “fine-tuner” or “superintellect” of some kind.





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# Design Detection

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- Stephen Meyer started one class arguing that chance alone was not a plausible way of explaining the fine tuning of the universe.
- He would pass around a lock and ask them to guess the combination.
- All the students failed, until one student nonchalantly turned the dial three times and popped open the lock.
- Then the students started asking questions.



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# DNA Enigma

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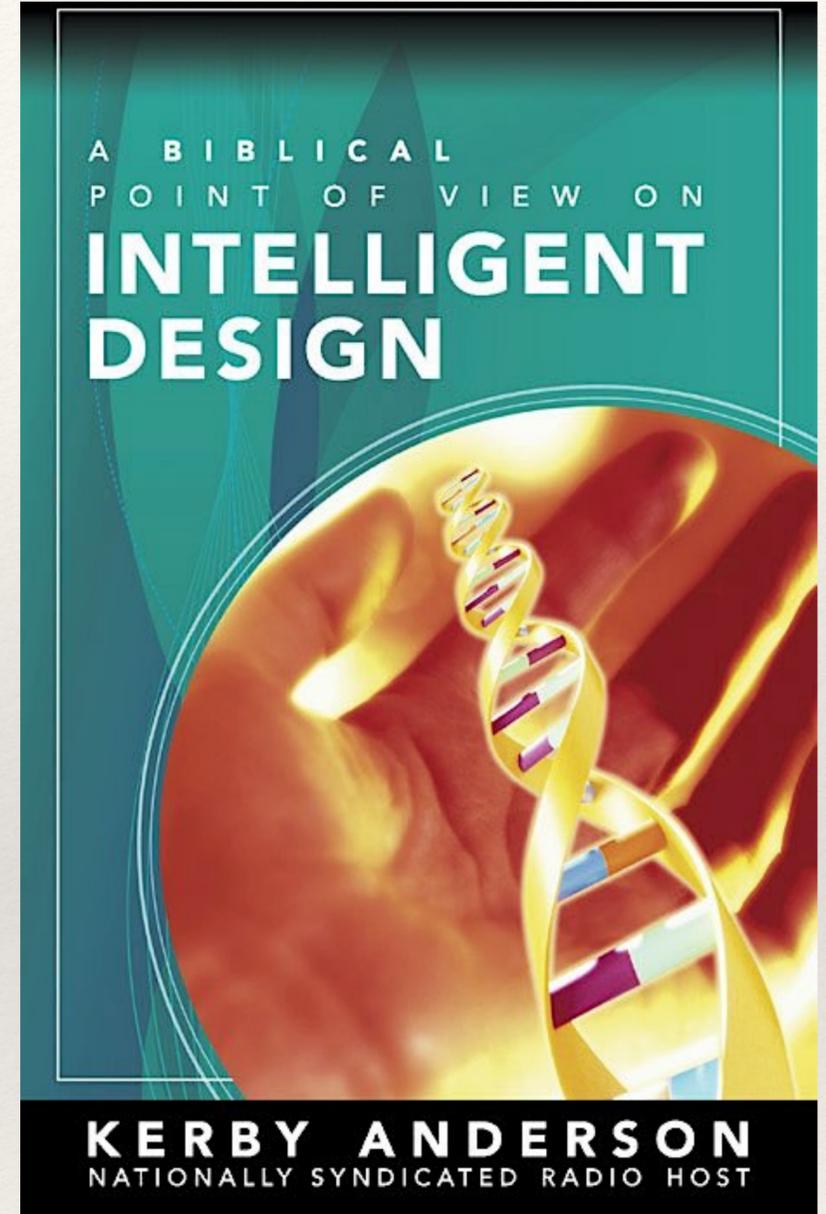
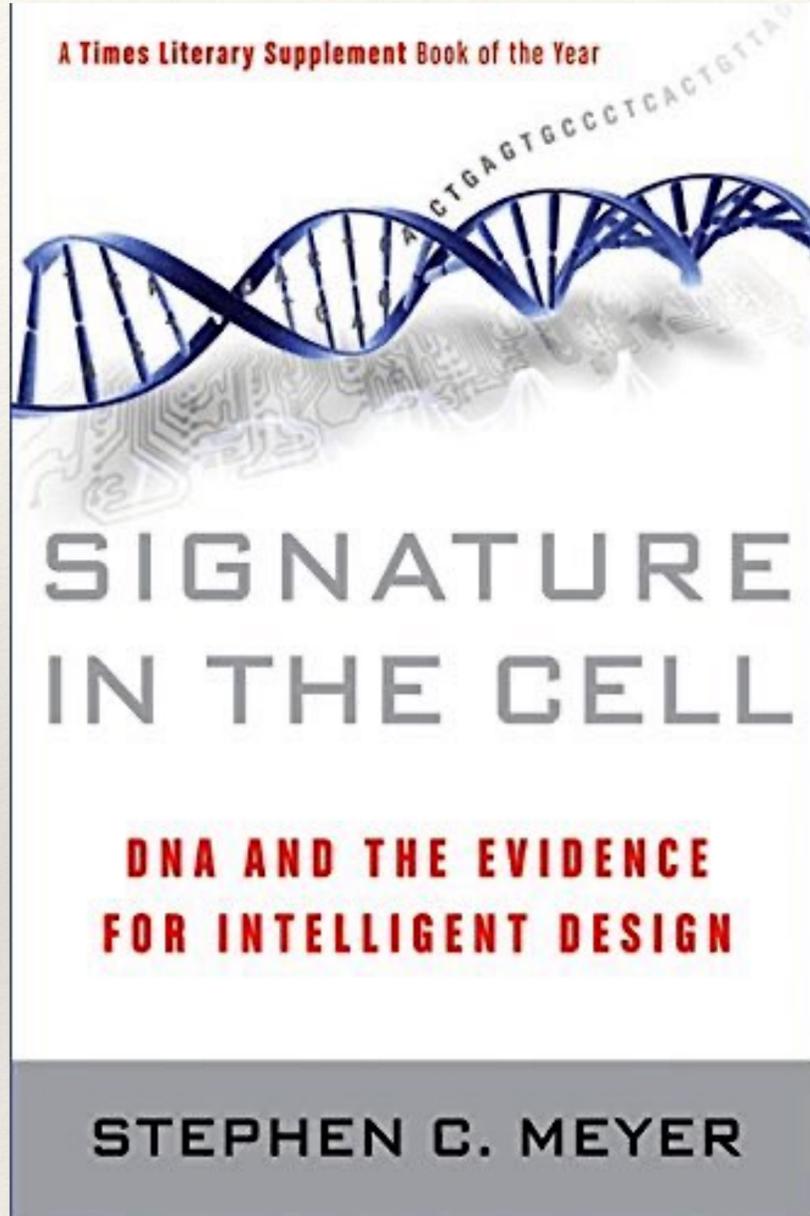
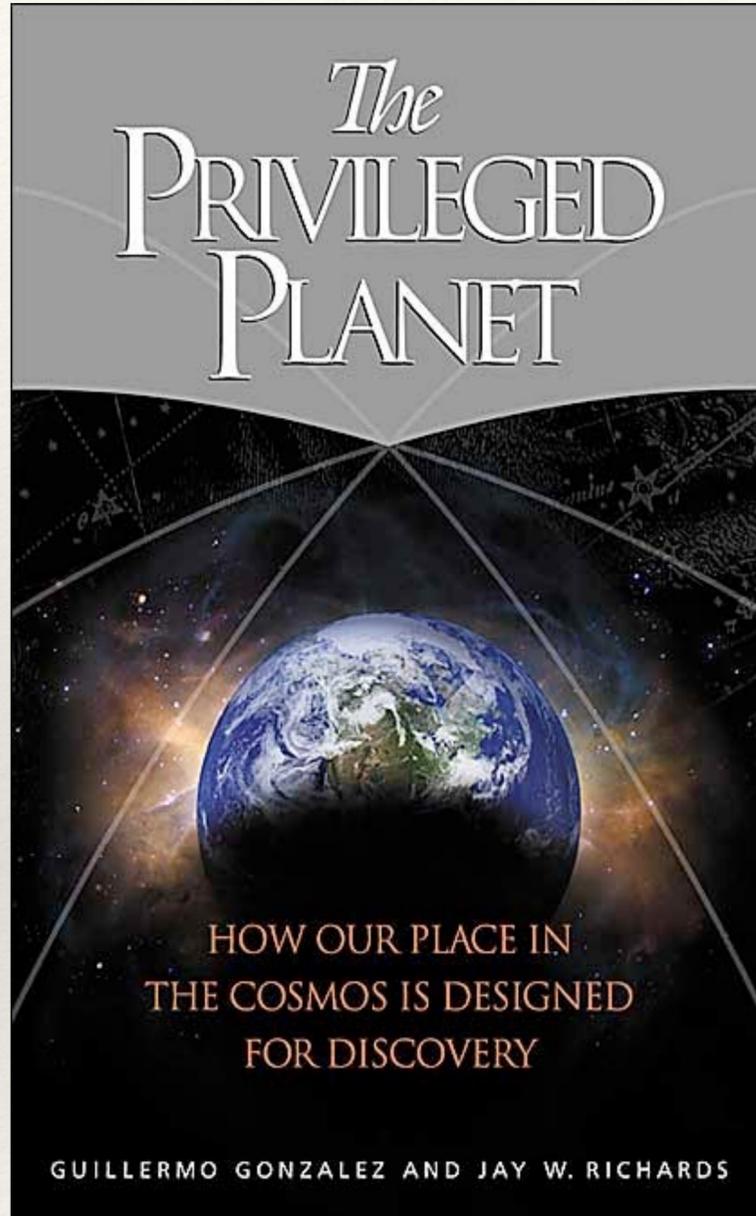
- Ever since Darwin, evolutionists have assumed that they could explain “design without a designer.”
- The discovery by James Watson and Francis Crick of the structure of DNA began to unravel the materialist understanding of life.
- The chemical subunits of DNA function just as letters in a written text of digital characteristics in computer software.
- Professor Dean Kenyon (*Biochemical Predestination*) argued that molecules self-organized without DNA, but began to question his theory.

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# DNA Enigma

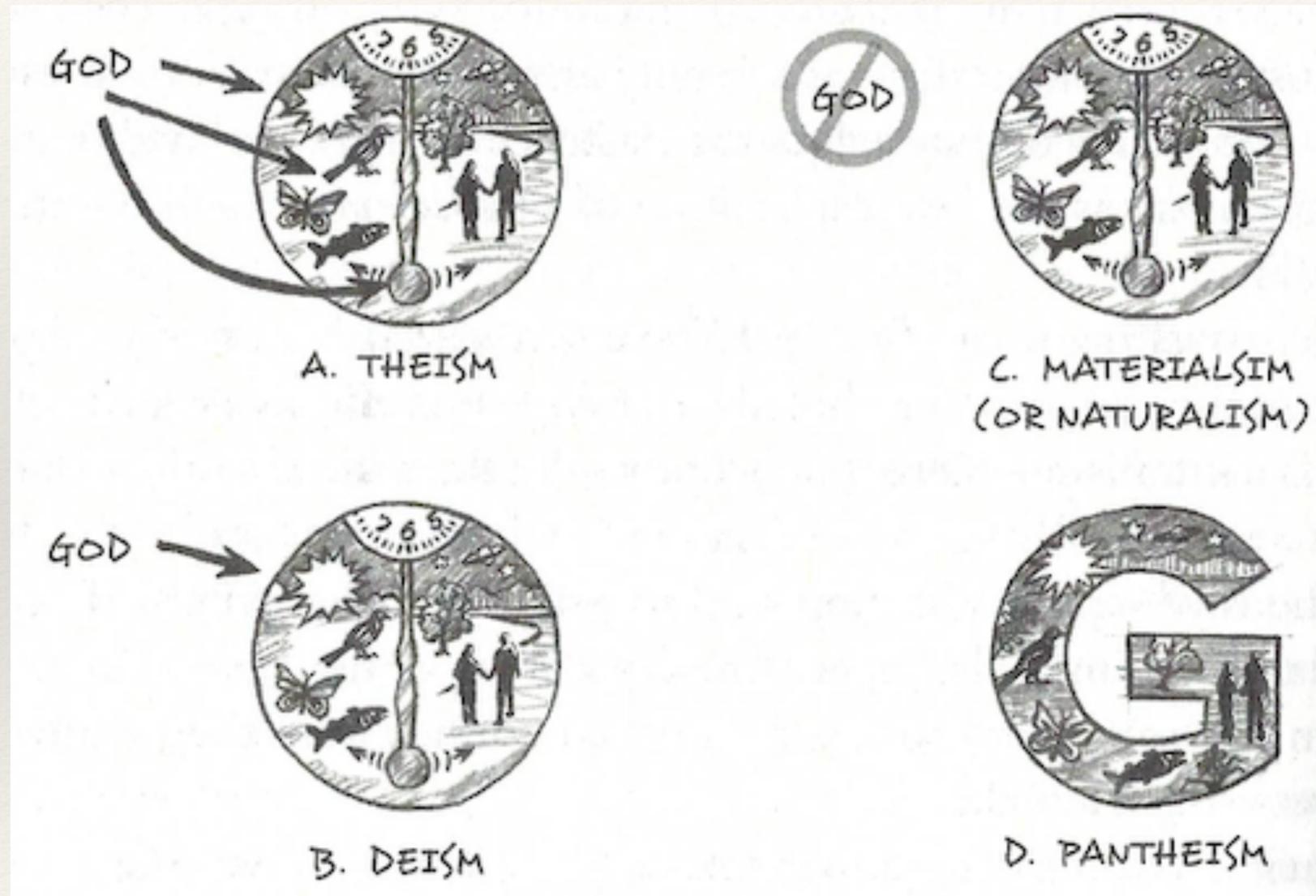
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- The book, *Mystery of Life's Origin*, raised serious questions about whether any of the origin of life scenarios could be scientifically possible.
- Mathematicians started calculating the amount and probability of information necessary in just a simple cell.
- In Stephen Meyer's book, *Signature of the Cell*, he calculated the probability of the origin of even a single functional protein or functional gene.
- Peter Lipton, *Inference is the Best Explanation*, explains how to find the best explanation through inference. Intelligent design is the best explanation.

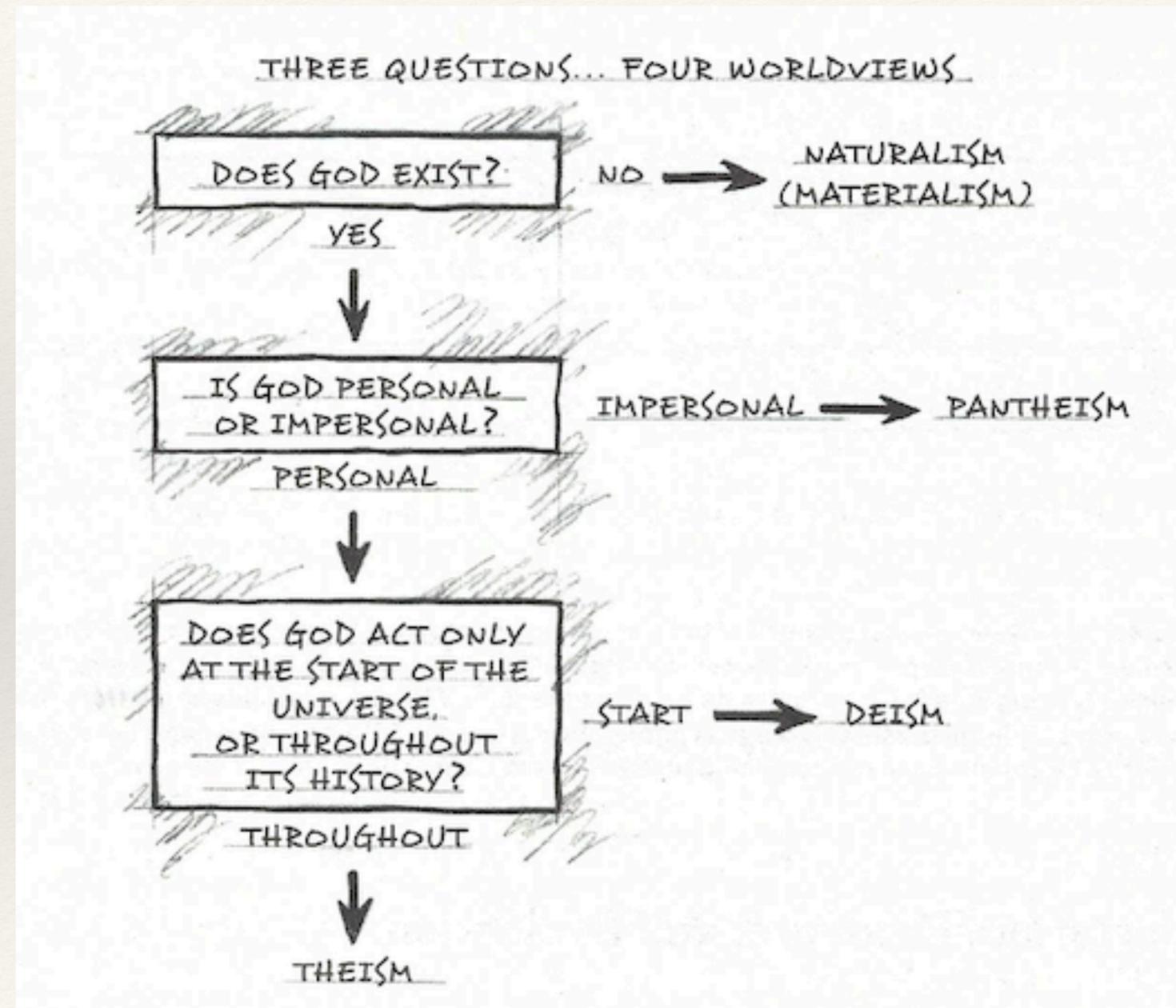


# Theological Inferences

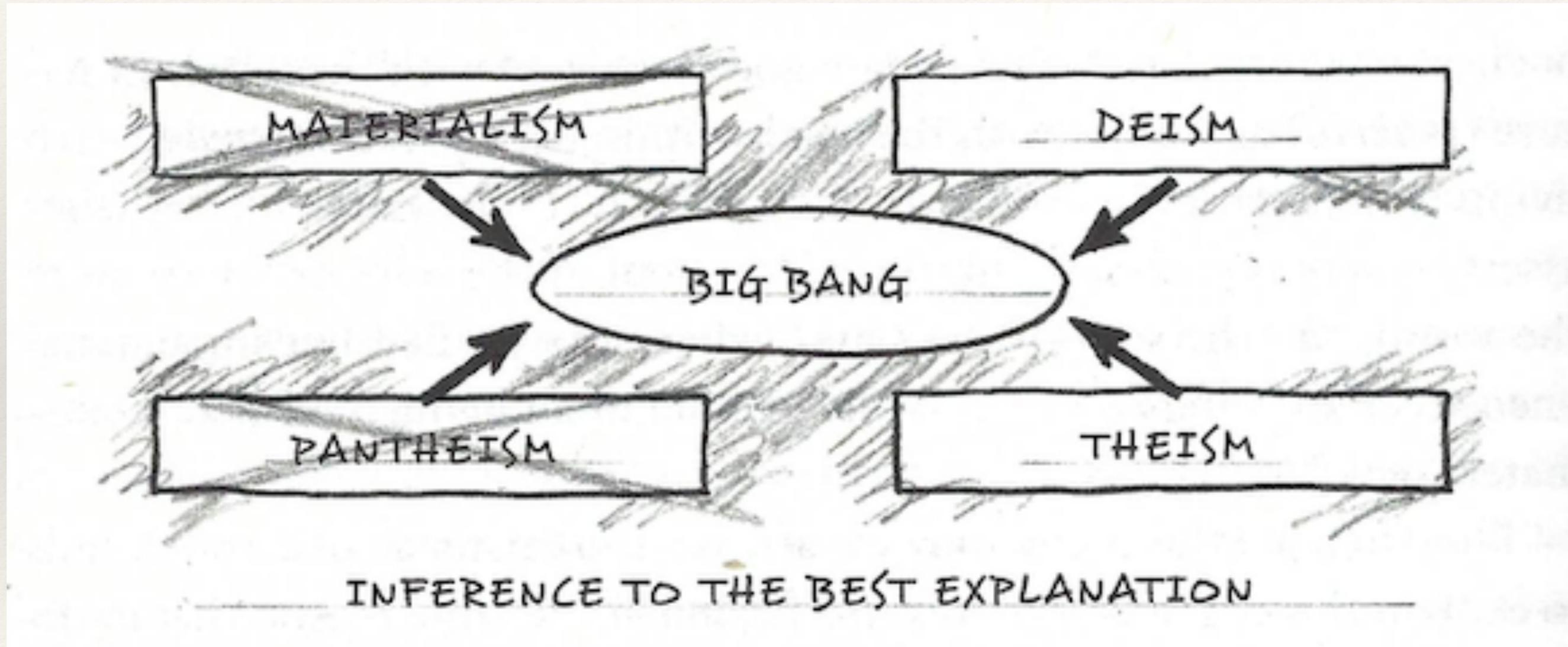
# Worldviews



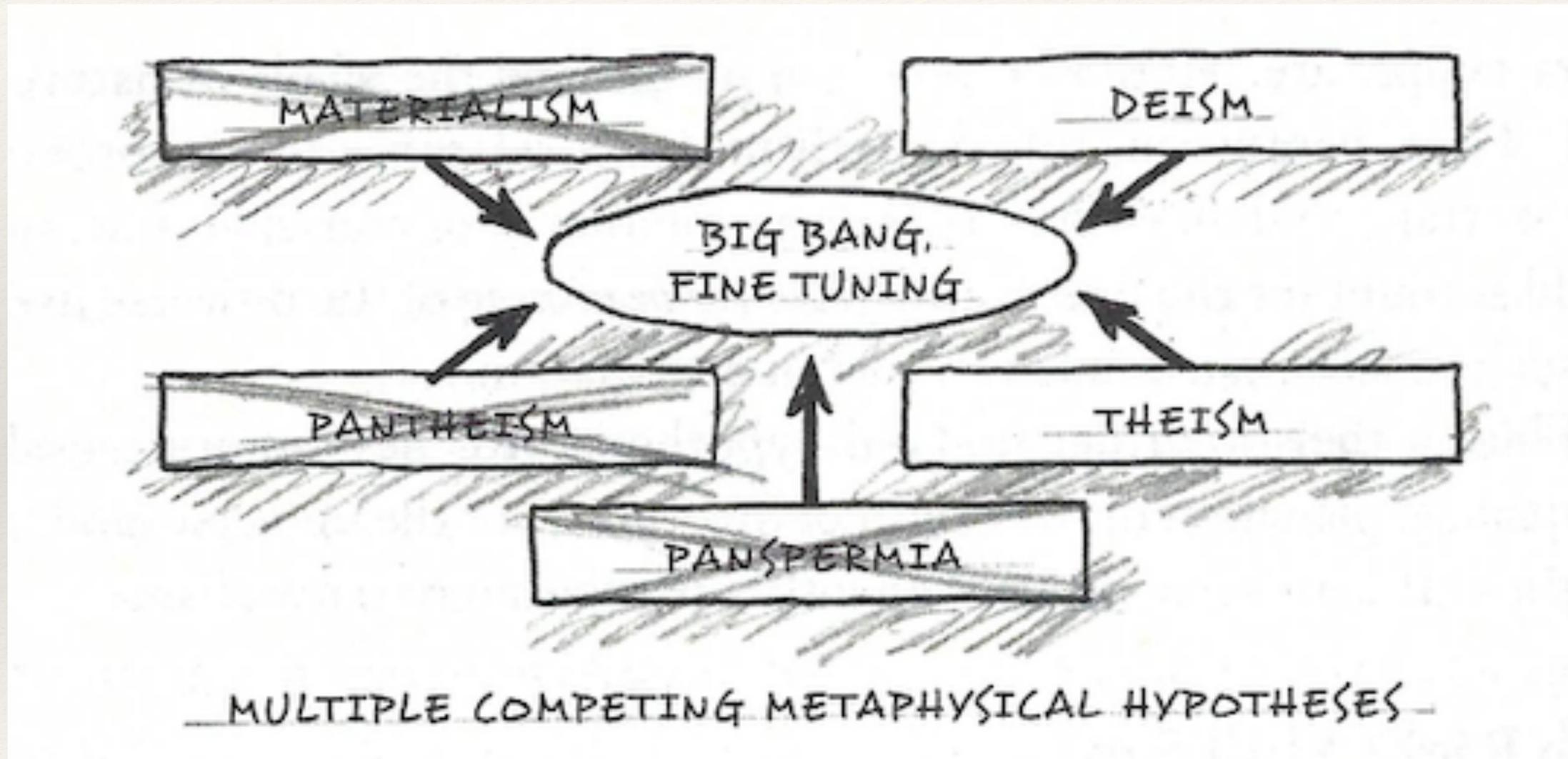
# Three Questions - Four Worldviews



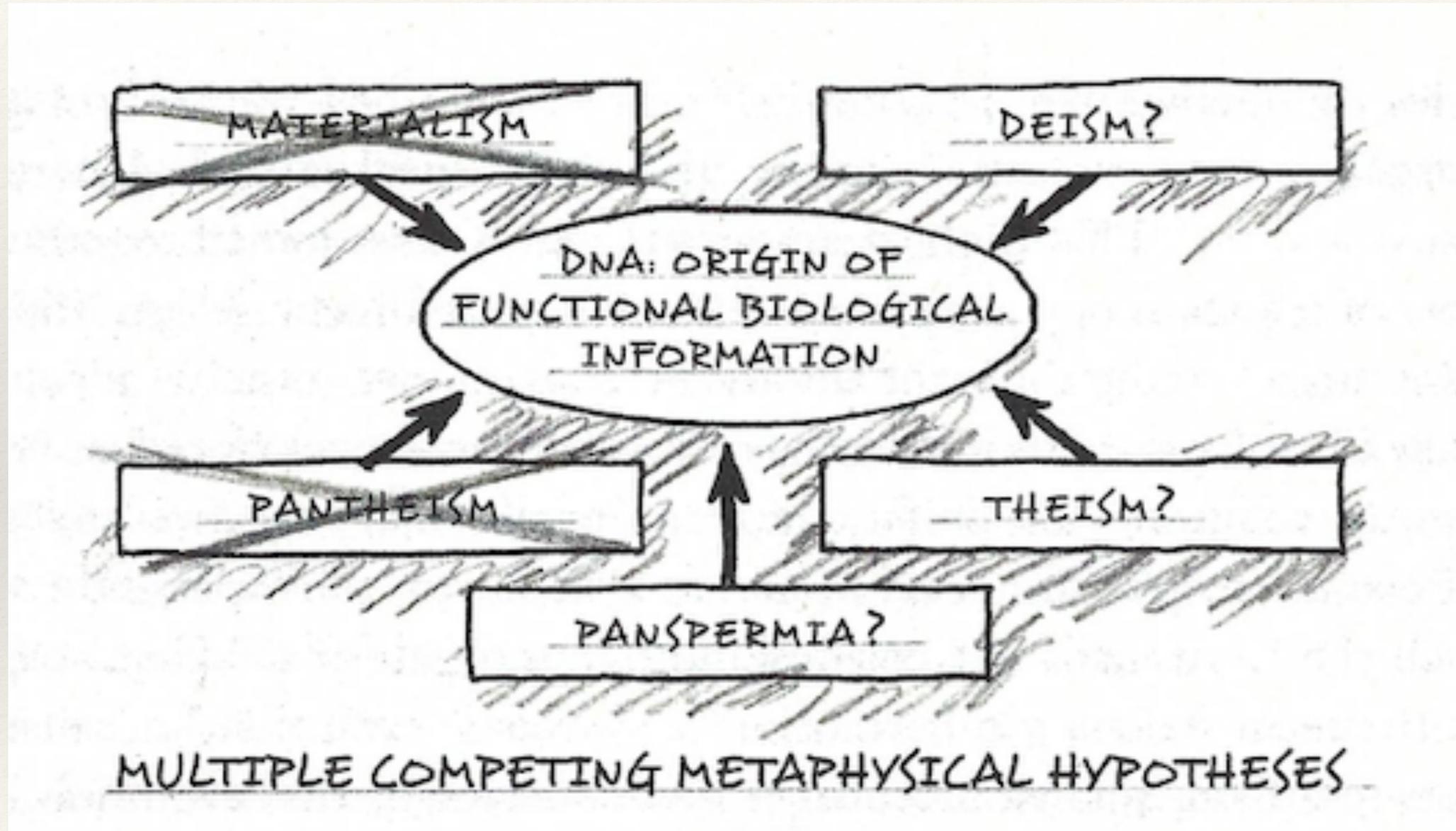
# Beginning of the Universe



# Design of the Universe



# Design of Life



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# Conjectures and Refutations

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- Stephen Meyer devotes 150 pages to conjectures and refutations:
  - The information shell game
  - One God or many universes?
  - Stephen Hawking and quantum cosmology
  - The cosmological information problem
  - Collapsing waves and Boltzmann brains

STEPHEN C. MEYER

*New York Times* bestselling author of *Darwin's Doubt*

RETURN

*of the*

GOD

HYPOTHESIS

THREE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES  
THAT REVEAL THE MIND  
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