

INVESTIGATING THE DESIGNER

The Case For A Creator: A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence That Points Toward God. Lee Strobel. 2004. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. 341 p. Cloth, \$19.99.

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Lee Strobel holds a Master of Studies in Law degree from Yale Law School and also a journalism degree from the University of Missouri. “His journey from atheism to faith has been documented in the Gold Medallion-winning books *The Case for Christ* and *The Case for Faith*” (p 341).

Using his experience in journalism and law, Strobel’s approach in *The Case for a Creator* is “to cross-examine authorities in various scientific disciplines about the most current findings in their fields.” He chose doctoral level professors “who refuse to limit themselves only to the politically correct world of naturalism or materialism....” Having listened to the arguments, Strobel stands, “in the shoes of the skeptic, reading all sides of each topic and posing the toughest objections that have been raised” (p 28).

Interviewing Jonathan Wells, Strobel begins by probing Darwinism (naturalism) in general as a theory, and some specific “proofs,” including Darwin’s “tree of life,” Haeckel’s embryos, *Archaeopteryx* as a missing link, the “legend of Java man” and a number of other significant icons of evolutionary theory (p 31-67). Then, in his interview with Stephen C. Meyer, Strobel learned that “there are insurmountable hurdles involving the origin of biological information that simply cannot be resolved by more research and effort” (p 278). These and other factors led him to his first general conclusion:

... if I were to embrace Darwinism... I would have to believe that: nothing produces everything, non-life produces life, randomness produces fine-tuning, chaos produces information, unconsciousness produces consciousness, non-reason produces reason....Simply put, the central pillars of evolutionary theory quickly rotted away when exposed to scrutiny (p 277).

Strobel’s probe continued with six different scientific disciplines “to see whether they point toward or away from the existence of an intelligent designer” (p 279).

not a separate thinking entity. Strobel's basic conclusion still points in the right direction: the human being is not just a material body. The body by itself is not only incapable of consciousness, but it is simply dead. Consciousness is an emergent property when the God-given spirit brings matter to life.

As a whole, *The Case for a Creator* summarizes well, for the non-specialist, the essential elements of the debate between naturalism and intelligent design during the last decade. The language can be understood by a high-school graduate who has taken the basic sciences courses.