

Contents

Foreword by Michael J. Behe	9
Preface	13

Part 1 Historical Backdrop

1 Recognizing the Divine Finger	25
1.1 Homer Simpson's Prayer	25
1.2 Signs in Decision-Making	28
1.3 Ordinary Versus Extraordinary Signs	31
1.4 Moses and Pharaoh	35
1.5 The Philistines and the Ark	37
1.6 The Sign of the Resurrection	40
1.7 In Defense of Premodernity	44
2 The Critique of Miracles	49
2.1 Miracles as Evidence for Faith	49
2.2 Spinoza's Rejection of Miracles	51
2.3 Schleiermacher's Assimilation of Spinoza	55
2.4 Unpacking Schleiermacher's Naturalistic Critique	58
2.5 Critiquing the Naturalistic Critique	61
2.6 The Significance of the Naturalistic Critique	67
3 The Demise of British Natural Theology	70
3.1 Pauli's Sneer	70
3.2 From Contrivance to Natural Law	73
3.3 From Natural Law to Agnosticism	79
3.4 Darwin and His Theory	82
3.5 Design and Miracles	85
3.6 The Presupposition of Positivism	90

Part 2 A Theory of Design

4 Naturalism & Its Cure	97
4.1 Nature and Creation	97
4.2 The Root of Idolatry	99
4.3 Naturalism Within Western Culture	103
4.4 The Cure: Intelligent Design	105
4.5 Not Theistic Evolution	109
4.6 The Importance of Definitions	114
4.7 A New Generation of Scholars	120
5 Reinstating Design Within Science	122
5.1 Design's Departure from Science	122
5.2 Why Reinstat Design?	124
5.3 The Complexity-Specification Criterion	127
5.4 Specification	133
5.5 False Negatives and False Positives	139
5.6 Why the Criterion Works	144
5.7 Irreducible Complexity	146
5.8 So What?	149

6 Intelligent Design as a Theory of Information	153
6.1 Complex Specified Information	153
6.2 Generating Information via Law	160
6.3 Generating Information via Chance	165
6.4 Generating Information via Law and Chance	167
6.5 The Law of Conservation of Information	170
6.6 Applying the Theory to Evolutionary Biology	174
6.7 Reconceptualizing Evolutionary Biology	179

Part 3 Bridging Science & Theology

7 Science & Theology in Mutual Support	187
7.1 Two Windows on Reality	187
7.2 Epistemic Support	192
7.3 Rational Compulsion	195
7.4 Explanatory Power	199
7.5 The Big Bang and Divine Creation	203
7.6 Christ as the Completion of Science	205

8 The Act of Creation	211
8.1 Creation as a Divine Gift	211
8.2 Naturalism's Challenge to Creation	212
8.3 Computational Reductionism	216
8.4 Our Empirical Selves Versus Our Actual Selves	220
8.5 The Resurgence of Design	222
8.6 The Creation of the World	224
8.7 The Intelligibility of the World	229
8.8 Creativity, Divine and Human	234

Appendix: Objections to Design	237
A.1 The God of the Gaps	238
A.2 Intentionality Versus Design	245
A.3 Scientific Creationism	247
A.4 But Is It Science?	252
A.5 Dysteleology	261
A.6 Just an Anthropic Coincidence	264
A.7 Applying the Math to Biology	268
A.8 David Hume's Objections	271
A.9 Mundane Versus Transcendent Designers	276

<i>Notes</i>	280
--------------	-----

<i>Index</i>	303
--------------	-----