**WEEK 4 SCIENCE**

The second law of thermodynamics, which states that heat transfer occurs spontaneously only from *higher* to *lower* *temperatures*, establishes the concept of entropy as a physical property of living systems. This means *matter tends to deteriorate or degrade over time*, not proliferate and increase in complexity.

One of the key features of life--*cellular information*--is necessary for even the most basic forms of matter to exist. The simplest bacterial cells are teeming with enormous amounts of coded data, such that a single primitive cell would require *hundreds of thousands* of bits of information precisely sequenced in its DNA for life to occur. Without a designer, it would be almost mathematically impossible for such information to combine in a way that consistently produces life, much less life with increasing complexity.

* This is why many scientists today are conceding that *intelligent design* is the best explanation for the origin of life--even if they are unwilling to concede that such design points to God as the intelligent designer!
* Think of it like this: trying to assemble new bacteria or proteins by random mutation or chance would be like a thief trying to guess the precise numerical combination of a bicycle lock with not four digits, but 10:10 billion possible combinations exist--but only one would open the lock. The thief could spend a lifetime trying random combinations with only infinitesimal odds of even one-time success.

The size of our planet for example, is perfect. Its size and corresponding gravity holds a thin layer of particular gases only extending 50 miles above the Earth’s surface. If the Earth were smaller, such an atmosphere would be impossible. If it were larger, its atmosphere would become inhospitable for plant, animal, and human life. The Earth’s distance from the sun is optimal. Any further away and we would freeze. Any closer by even a fractional amount and we would burn up. Likewise, the Earth’s rotational speed around the sun and the tilt of its axis allow its entire surface to be properly warmed and cooled each day. And even our moon is the perfect size and distance from the Earth to exercise the correct gravitational pull upon tides and ocean waters. Speaking of water, the precise chemical balance of this universal solvent enables us to live in an environment of fluctuating temperature change while keeping our bodies at a constant 98.6 degrees. And water’s unique surface tension allows it to flow upward against gravity in plants, bringing life-giving sustenance to the tops of even the tallest trees--and the fact that it freezes from the top down--and floats--means fish can live in it even during winter.

The Earth is indeed a wonder, but man is perhaps the biggest wonder of all creation. The human brain processes vast amounts of input--more than a million messages a second. The human eye can distinguish among 7 million colors, focus automatically, and handle 1.5 million visual clues--simultaneously! And the DNA code inside each human cell operates much like a computer program, with four chemicals abbreviated as letters A, T, G and C combining in precise, ordered sequences of 3 billion letters.

“Scripture is not an encyclopedia of information to which we go when we are curious or in doubt. It is God speaking to us his own word, telling us what he wishes to tell us and omitting what is of no significance. (Have you ever made of list of all those items you are intensely curious about but for which there is no biblical data?)” *Eugene H. Peterson, That Hallelujah Banquet*

**Reflection**

*One day a group of scientists got together and decided that humankind had come a long way and no longer needed God. So they picked one scientist to go and tell Him that they were done with Him. The scientist walked up to God and said, “God, we’ve decided that we no longer need you. We’re to the point where we can clone people and do many miraculous things, so why don’t you just go on and mind your own business?”*

*God listened very patiently to the man. After the scientist was done talking, God said, “Very well, how about this? Let’s say we have a people-making contest,” to which the scientist replied, “Okay, we can handle that!”*

*“But,” God added, “we’re going to do this just like I did back in the old days with Adam.”*

*The scientist said, “Sure, no problem,” and bent down and grabbed himself a handful of dirt.*

*God looked at him and said, “No, no no. You go get your own dirt!”1*

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1 Mark Mittelberg, *The Questions Christians Hope No One Will Ask,* Tyndale House, 2010, p. 32.