The Four Pillars of Design
Using Biochemistry to Build a Modern-Day Design Argument
Fazale “Fuz” Rana
Bermuda Cruise 2015

“You Need the Right Tool for the Job”

Four Pillars of Design
• Critique of evolution
• Watchmaker argument
• Empirical argument
• Bio-inspiration argument

Critique of Evolution
• Evolutionary mechanisms represent the Blind Watchmaker argument
• Limitations of critique of evolution
  o Negative arguments
  o Focus on capability of natural processes
  o Susceptible to “God of the gaps” critique
• Approaches to critique of evolution
  o Failed predictions
  o Challenge the evolutionary mechanism
    ▪ Irreducible complexity
    ▪ Origin of biochemical information
• Proteins
• Challenges to the origin of biochemical information argument

Watchmaker Argument
• William Paley
• Argument strengths
  o Positive argument
  o Based on analogical reasoning
• The Cell’s Design by Fazale Rana
• New Watchmaker argument
• Biomolecular motors
  o Bacterial flagellum
  o $F_1-F_0$ ATPase
• Challenges to Watchmaker argument
  o Design is a metaphor
  o Imperfections, “bad” designs
- e.g., “junk” DNA
  - The Blind Watchmaker argument

**Empirical Argument**
- Approaches
  - Synthetic biology
    - *Creating Life in the Lab* by Fazale Rana
    - Intelligence is required
  - Prebiotic chemistry

**Bio-Inspiration Argument**
- Biochemical designs inspire new technology

**Goal:** To do the necessary work to set the stage to effectively use these apologetics arguments from biochemistry
Does Nature’s Raw Power Scare You?

Jeff Zweerink
Bermuda Cruise 2015

God is always at work in his creation.

- Appreciate God’s power
  - Mount St. Helens 1980 eruption vs. Siberian volcanic eruptions
  - Comet Shoemaker Levy 9 impact on Jupiter
  - Example: aftermath of 30-mile asteroid impact on Earth
  - God is ultimately in control of his creation
- Understand God’s design
  - Growth of Earth’s continents compared with creation activity
  - Plate tectonics vs. greenhouse gas effects
    - Oxygen, methane $\Rightarrow$ carbon dioxide, water
    - Greenhouse gases shifted by plate tectonics
  - Earth’s fine-tuned design
    - Water solubility
- Abide in God’s plan

God’s fine-tuned creation

- Image of Earth vs. image of Mars
  - God’s purpose for plate tectonics
  - Impact events lead to subduction
- God has a greater purpose for his work in creation
  - Ephesians 2:10

Do you recognize God’s handiwork?

- Seeing God’s power, recognizing his fine-tuning, understanding God’s plan
- What are the standing “stones” in your life?
- What do you need to learn about creation to evangelize?
Four-Fold View of Creation
Kenneth Samples
Bermuda Cruise 2015

The Triune God created all things.
• God is a necessary being.
• Humans are contingent beings.
• Key Scriptures:
  o Father is primary agent of creation and Son is co-agent of creation (1 Cor. 8:6)
  o Creation ex nihilo (Gen. 1:1–2); Holy Spirit is co-agent in creation
• Trinitarian creation
  o From the Father, through the Son, and by the Holy Spirit
• Creator or Father?
  o Traditional monotheism
  o Trinitarian monotheism
• Judaism and Islam
  o Who did Yahweh and Allah love before he created the world?
  o Are Yahweh and Allah dependent upon creation for fulfillment?
  o Who did they love in eternity?

The Triune God created all things out of or from nothing.
• Creation ex nihilo
  o Romans 4:17, Hebrews 11:3, Colossians 1:16, John 1:3
• Five qualifications of creation ex nihilo
  1. Infinite power and incalculable wisdom
  2. Not from pre-existing materials
  3. Matter, energy, time, and space
  4. Spiritual realm
  5. Not applied to every creation act
• Creator-Creature distinction

The Triune God sustains all things.
• God’s providence
• Jesus actively maintains creation (Colossians 1:17)
• In him we live (Acts 17:28, Hebrews 1:3)

The Triune God directs all things toward their appointed end.
• Sovereignty of God
  o Predestination (Ephesians 1:11)
  o Humans’ birth, life, and death (Psalm 139:16)
  o Controls the details (Matthew 10:30–31)
  o Controls our needs (Philippians 4:19)
  o Controls the answers to prayers (Luke 18:7)
  o Central message of Jesus’ teaching
• God’s providence

**Application and response**
• Worship
• Meaning, purpose, and significance
• Doxology