

Signature in the Cell: DNA and the Evidence for Intelligent Design

Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species* revolutionized biology, but did it refute the design argument? In this talk, Stephen Meyer argues that it did not. Instead, he shows that the digital code imbedded in DNA points powerfully to a designing intelligence and helps unravel a mystery that Darwin did not address: how did the very first life begin? This presentation, based upon Meyer's book *Signature in the Cell* explains the scientific case for intelligent design based on DNA. In it, Meyer shows that the argument for intelligent design is not based on ignorance or "giving up on science," but instead upon our growing scientific knowledge of the information stored in the cell and what we know from our experience about what it takes to produce functional information. He shows the case for design can be formulated as a rigorous scientific argument using the same method of reasoning that Darwin himself used.

Stephen C. Meyer earned his Ph.D. in the Philosophy of Science from Cambridge University for a dissertation on the history of origin-of-life biology and the methodology of the historical sciences. He also holds degrees in Physics and Geology. He is currently the Director and Senior Fellow of the Center for Science and Culture at the Discovery Institute in Seattle. Previously has worked as a professor of philosophy at Whitworth University and as a geophysicist with the Atlantic Richfield Company. He has authored *Signature in the Cell: DNA and the Evidence for Intelligent Design* (HarperOne, 2009) which was named a Book of the Year by the *Times* (of London) *Literary Supplement* in 2009. His next book *Darwin's Doubt: The Mysterious Origin of Animal Life and the Case for Intelligent Design* is due to be published on June 18th also with HarperOne. He has written editorials on scientific issues for publications such as *USA Today*, *The National Post (of Canada)*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Los Angeles Times*.

I. Darwin and the Demise of the Design Argument

II. Chemical Evolutionary Theory and the Origin of the First Life

A. Nineteenth Century Biology and the Simple Cell

III. The Molecular Biological Revolution

A. The Sequence Specificity of DNA

B. The Sequence Specificity of Proteins

IV. Naturalistic Explanations for the Origin of Information

A. Chance

B. Prebiotic Natural Selection + Random Variation

C. Necessity (i.e., Self-Organizational Scenarios).
1. An empirical problem

2. A theoretical problem

V. Intelligent Design as an Inference to the Best Explanation