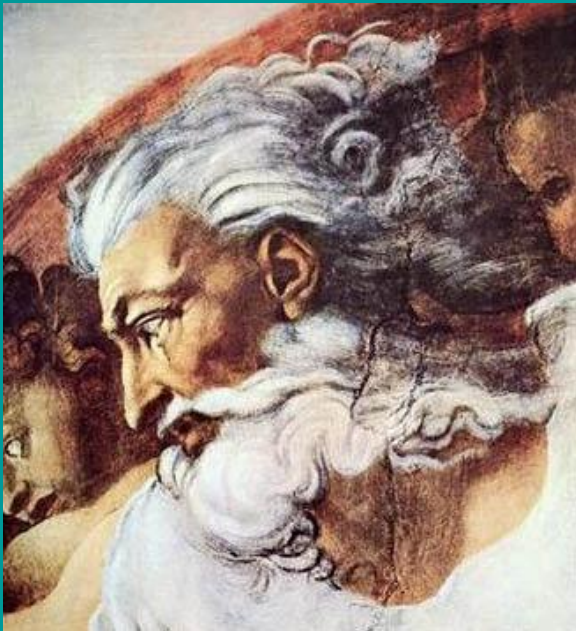




PHIL 101

Winter 2007



Self, World,

& God

Classical Teleological Argument

E₁. The physical universe exists.

E₂. It came into existence 10 to 20 billion years ago.

E₃. The biological world exhibits tremendous structure, order and purpose.



T₀. God exists, designed and created it.

Explaining Biological Structure, Order, and Purpose

- **Theistic explanation**
- **Rivals in Hume and Paley's time**
 - **Secular naturalism**
 - **Religious pluralism**
- **The Darwinian rival**
- **Understanding Darwin**
- **The best explanation?**

My Cause

- **A conflict for my students**
- **What their culture teaches them**
- **What their professors teach them**
- **What is intellectual freedom?**
- **Lack of understanding about evolution**
- **Need to sympathetically understand those positions you most disagree with**
- **The conflict may be unreal**

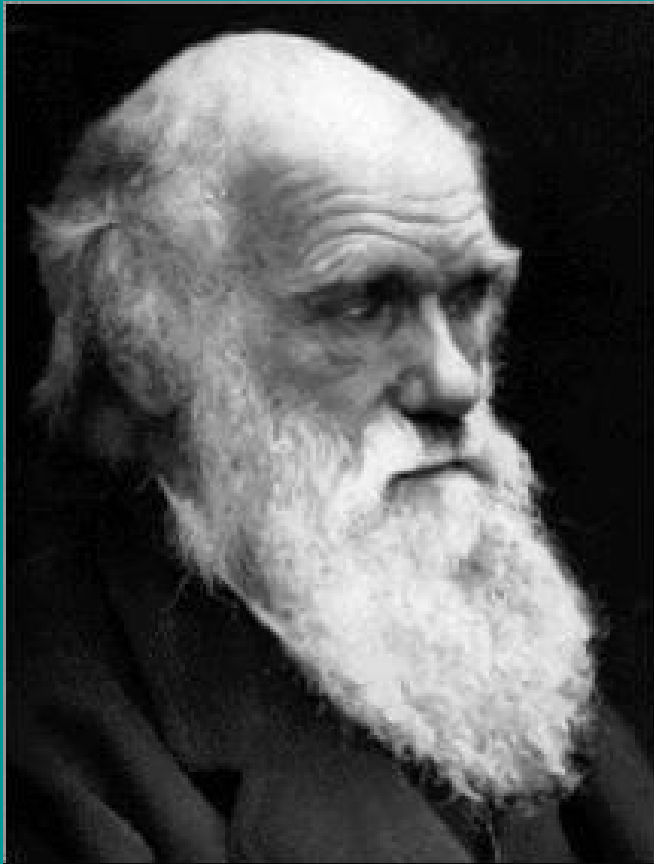
What Darwin's Theory Isn't

- It isn't a theory about the origin of the universe
- It isn't a theory about the origin of life
- It isn't a theory that says that God does not exist
- It isn't "just a theory"
- The secular world view
- Understanding and misunderstanding science

God and Evolution

- Are religion and science compatible?
- Are theism and evolution compatible?
- The culture, again
- Fundamentalism
- Evolution in mainstream Christianity
- Science and academic theology
- Science as positive evidence for the existence of God
- Why couldn't evolution be God's chosen mechanism for creating life?

Charles Darwin



- 1809-82
- Family
- College
- *The Beagle*
- Return to England
- Early research
- The idea
- 1844 paper
- Alfred Wallace's 1858 letter
- *Origin of Species* (1859)