

**Not a New Idea: The Long History of Intelligent Design** (Discussion 1 of 6)

Today's discussion is largely one of worldviews. What is a *worldview*?

How would you define *intelligent design* (ID)?

While the terminology may be recent, how has the concept of ID been exhibited in the past?

E.g. "*Was the eye contrived without skill in opticks, and the ear without knowledge of sounds? [...] And these things being rightly dispatch'd, does it appear from Phænomena that there is a being incorporeal, living, intelligent, omnipresent...*" (1)

E.g. "*So...whatever changes are known to take place in the course of time among organized beings appear as the result of an intellectual power, and go therefore to substantiate the view, that all the differences observed among finite beings are ordained by the action of the Supreme Intellect, and not determined by physical causes.*" (2)

E.g. "*[T]here seems to be evidence of a Power which has guided the action of those laws [of organic development] in definite directions and for special ends. And so far from this view being out of harmony with the teachings of science, it has a striking analogy with what is now taking place in the world...*" (3)

How is ID different than *creationism*? Why is this significant?

What does the scientific theory of ID offer to Christians?

What are some of the cultural impacts of these juxtaposed ideas?

*Darwinism*

*Intelligent Design*



What does the Bible have to say about the concept of ID?

### **References Cited:**

1. Isaac Newton, *Opticks* (1704), pgs. 369-370 (Prometheus Books, 2003).
2. Louis Agassiz, "An Essay on Classification," first published in 1857, pg. 83, at <http://books.google.com/books?id=QXkLAAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Louis+Agassiz#PPA83,M1>.
3. Alfred Russel Wallace, *An Anthology of His Shorter Writings* 33-34, (Charles H. Smith ed. Oxford University Press, 1991).

### **Further Reading:**

1. Axe, Douglas. *Undeniable: How Biology Confirms Our Intuition That Life Is Designed*. New York: HarperOne, 2016.
2. Dembski, William A. and McDowell, Sean. *Understanding Intelligent Design: Everything You Need To Know In Plain English*. Eugene: Harvest House Publishers, 2008.
3. Kemper, Gary, et al. *Discovering Intelligent Design: A Journey Into The Scientific Evidence*. Seattle: Discovery Institute Press, 2013.

4. Wells, Jonathan. *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Darwinism and Intelligent Design*. Washington D.C.: Regnery Publishing, Inc., 2006.