

Faith Integration in the Science Classroom

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Framework: Teaching Goals

- *help students develop a strong foundation for spiritual growth & intellectual pursuits*
- *exercise & stretch students' capacity to think critically*
- *demonstrate how studying academic subjects enables a greater knowledge of & faith in God*
- *enable students to see science as a tool for discovering God's creativity & wisdom in the wonders of nature*
- *encourage each student to develop his/her God-given gifts & abilities to the fullest potential in every aspect of his/her life for God's glory as an act of worship.*

Methods

- 1. Excellence: doing everything – including science – to the best of one's ability, as unto God*
- 2. Ethics: practicing science according to biblical morality*
- 3. Stewardship: exploring one's role as accountable stewards*
- 4. Exploration: investigating the wonders of creation*
- 5. Hermeneutics: searching out the context & intention of Biblical passages relating to origins & other scientific concepts*
- 6. Worldview: examining the truth-claims of alternative worldviews vis a vis the Christian perspective relative to efficacy, utility, reason & logic.*

*Science & Theology
can enlighten & inform each other
as we seek to know ultimate TRUTH
about God & Nature*



S
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Truth

knowledge

understanding

interpretation

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Nature



God

**Copernican
Revolution:
A Paradigm
Shift**

Classical Arguments for God's Existence

- *The cosmological argument*
- *The ontological argument*
- *The anthropological argument*
- *The teleological argument*

Cosmological Argument

- *Everything that has a beginning of its existence has a cause of its existence.*
- *The universe has a beginning of its existence.*
- *Therefore:*
The universe has a cause of its existence.

*If the Cosmos had a beginning,
then there must have been a Beginner:
a Cause outside of resulting matter & energy.*

Ontological Argument

- *Man's "God-consciousness" implies a God who imprinted such a consciousness on him*
- *Pascal suggests there is a "God-shaped vacuum" in every man*
- *If perfection is a part of the concept of God, & if God's perfection implies God's existence, then God's existence is implied by the concept of God*

Anthropological Argument

- *Distinctly human, spiritual traits point to an intelligent, moral, personal Creator*
- *“Moral conscience” or “natural law” implies a moral Creator*
- *Religious experiences can only constitute direct evidence of God’s existence for those that have them, but the fact that there are many people who have had such experiences constitutes indirect evidence of God’s existence to those who have not.*

Teleological Argument

- *The design & order observed in the natural world point to a purposeful Creator*
- *“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – his eternal power & divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”*

– *Romans 1:20*

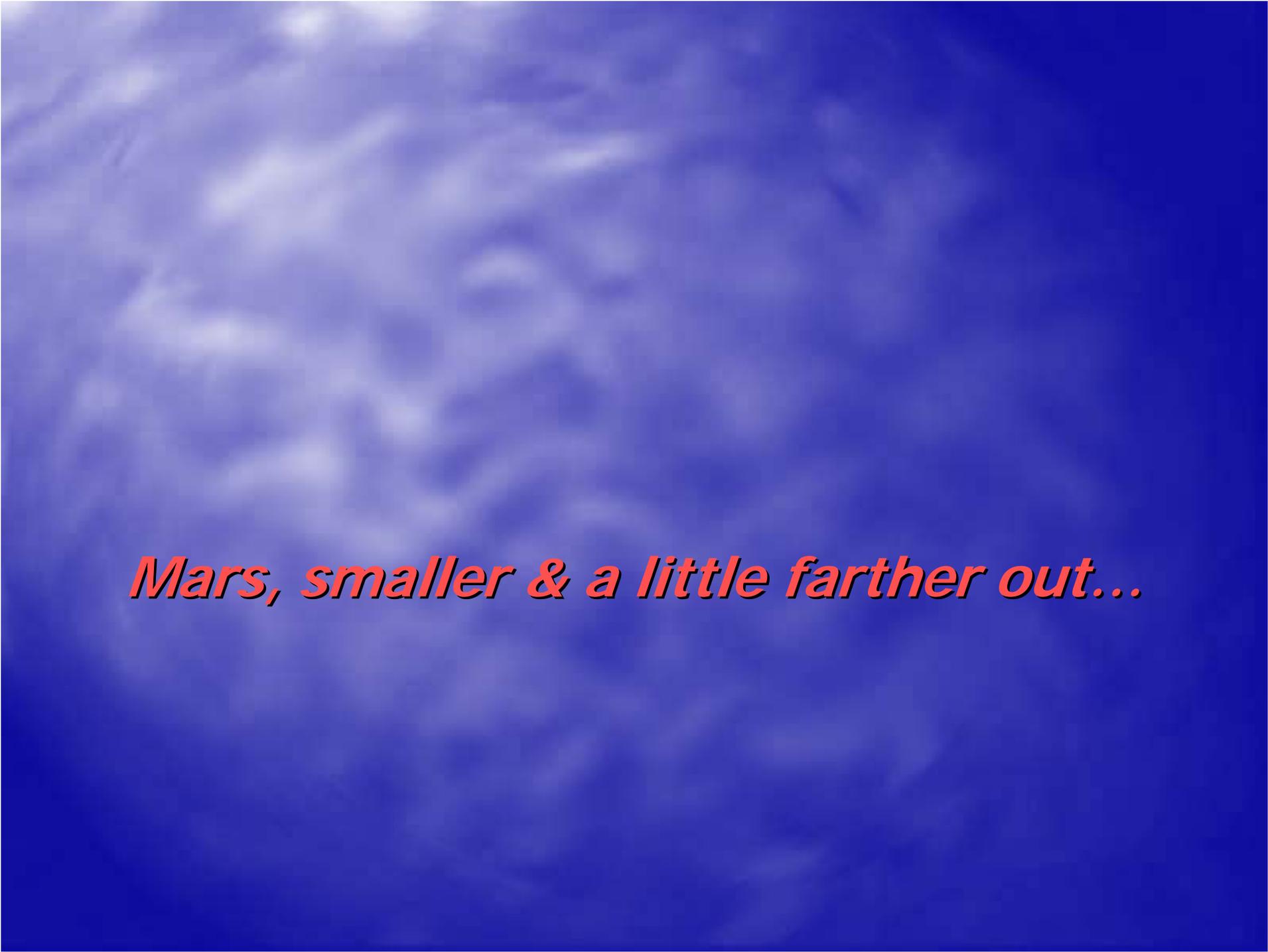
“Whence arises all that order & beauty we see in the world?”

- Sir Isaac Newton, 1650

Teleological Argument: Earth

- *Consider Earth's:*
 - *Narrow range of relatively moderate temperatures*
 - *Protective & perfectly balanced atmosphere & magnetic field*
 - *Just right gravity*

*Venus, Earth's so-called
"sister planet"...*



Mars, smaller & a little farther out...

Our planetary big brothers Jupiter & Saturn...



Comet Shoemaker-Levy

Fine-tuning throughout the universe

- Strong nuclear force
- Weak force
- Electromagnetic force
- Gravity
- Velocity of light
- Expansion rate of universe
- Mass density of the universe....

The Physical Laws

Quote from Lydia Jaeger, physicist and dean, l'Institut Biblique de Nogent-sur-Marne

The Anthropic Cosmological Principle

- *There is a long and growing list of universal parameters (by some accounts, over 300) whose magnitudes must fall within a very narrow range of values in order for life to exist anywhere in the universe.*

Examples of Complexity in Biology: the Cell

- *A single living cell contains as much information as 100 million pages from an encyclopedia!*
- *Sir Fred Hoyle estimated the odds of getting the basic enzymes together that are necessary for life to be 1 chance in $10^{40,000}$*

The Multiverse Hypothesis

- **An infinite number of separate universes, each with a different set of physical laws**

"Bio-philicity"

Quote from Paul Davies, theoretical physicist

God's Love for Creation

Quote from Randy Van Dragt & James Clark

God's Reflection in Creation

- Quote from William Lazareth, The Augustine Institute

Resources

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