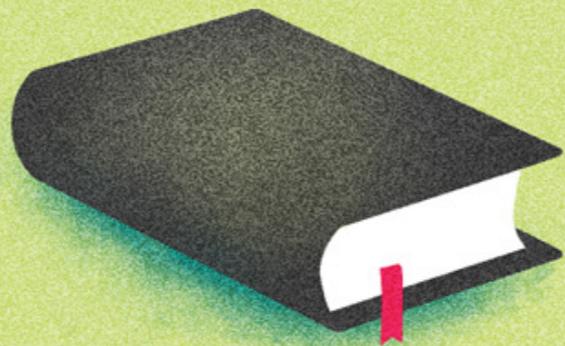
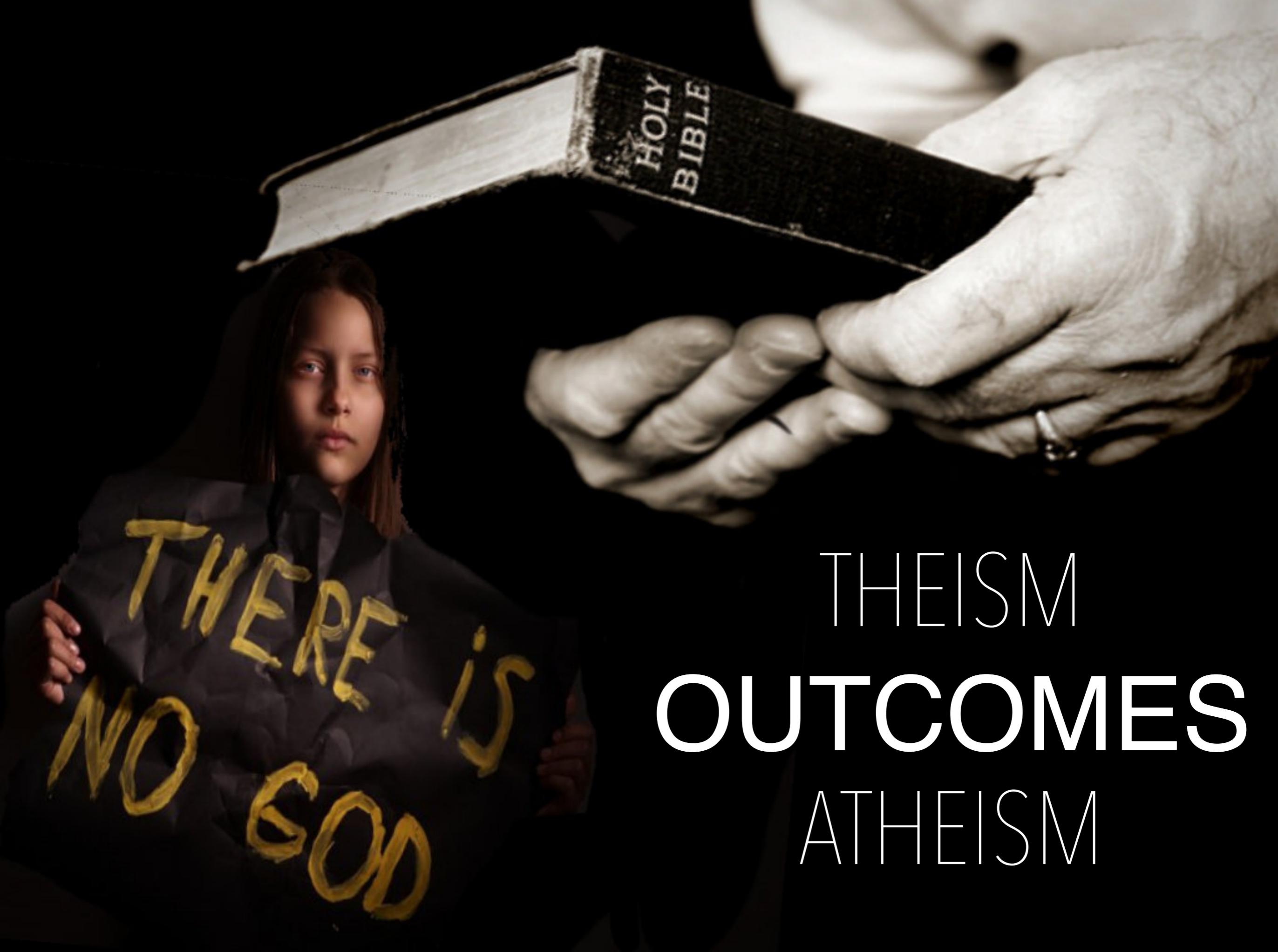


OUTCOMES: THEISM AND ATHEISM



“Is it Reasonable to Believe in God?”

Lecture #8 - 8:00p



THEISM
OUTCOMES
ATHEISM

INCOMPATIBLE WORLDVIEWS

Distinctions so fundamental
they present two separate
species

Atheism - man is the result of
undirected occurrences that
eventually produce order

Theism - man is the result of
the purposeful design of an
intelligent being

THEISM
OUTCOMES
ATHEISM

INCOMPATIBLE WORLDVIEWS

Distinctions so fundamental they present two separate species

Atheism - removes any foundation for objective morality

Theism - offers a standard upon which we can base objective morality

THEISM
OUTCOMES
ATHEISM

INCOMPATIBLE WORLDVIEWS

Theism

“belief in the existence of a god or gods specifically: belief in the existence of one God viewed as the creative source of the human race and the world who transcends yet is immanent in the world.”

THEISM
OUTCOMES
ATHEISM

INCOMPATIBLE WORLDVIEWS

Atheism

“a disbelief in the existence of deity.”

New Atheism - characterized by a materialistic naturalism which is the idea that the only thing that exists is matter. That all things are composed of material and all phenomena are the result of material interactions and are governed solely by natural laws and forces (as opposed to supernatural or spiritual).

THEISM
OUTCOMES
ATHEISM

INCOMPATIBLE WORLDVIEWS

Consequences of Atheism

The Destruction of Reason

Removal of Purpose

Degradation of Humanity

THEISM

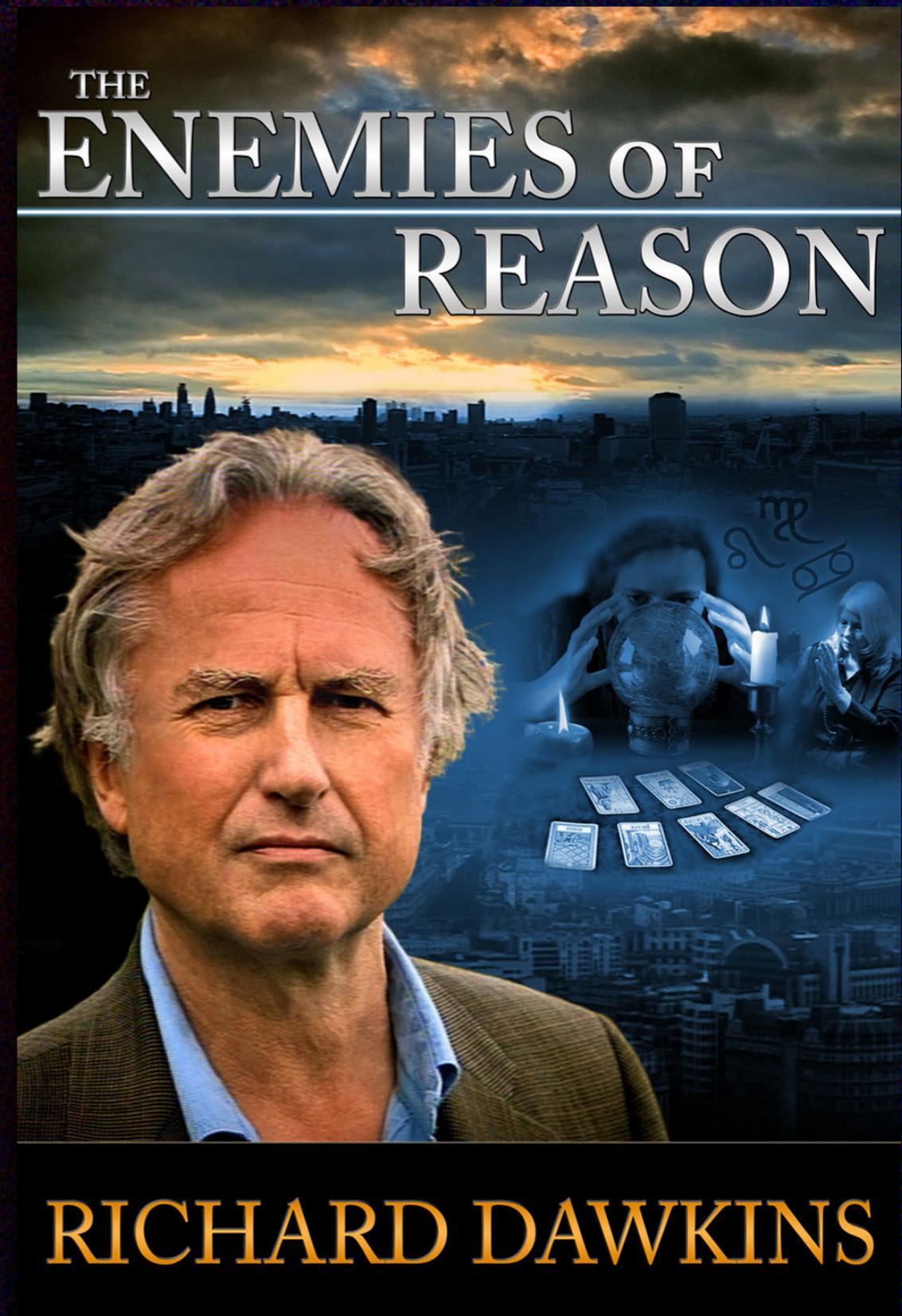
OUTCOMES

ATHEISM

THE DESTRUCTION OF REASON

"Reason has built the modern
world"

Richard Dawkins



THE DESTRUCTION OF REASON

"Atheism is based upon a materialist philosophy, which holds that nothing exists but natural phenomena. There are no supernatural forces or entities, nor can there be any. Nature simply exists..."

Madalyn Murray O'Hair



THE DESTRUCTION OF REASON

"...The Atheist must slice through all obfuscation to bedrock, to the basic idea that those who regard nature as primary and thought as a property (or function) of matter belong to the camp of materialism, and that those who maintain that spirit or idea or mind existed before nature or created nature or uphold nature belong to the camp of idealism. All conventional religions are based on idealism."

Madalyn Murray O'Hair



THE DESTRUCTION OF REASON

"all things are made of atoms, and ...
everything that living things do can be
understood in terms of the jigglings and
wiggings of atoms."

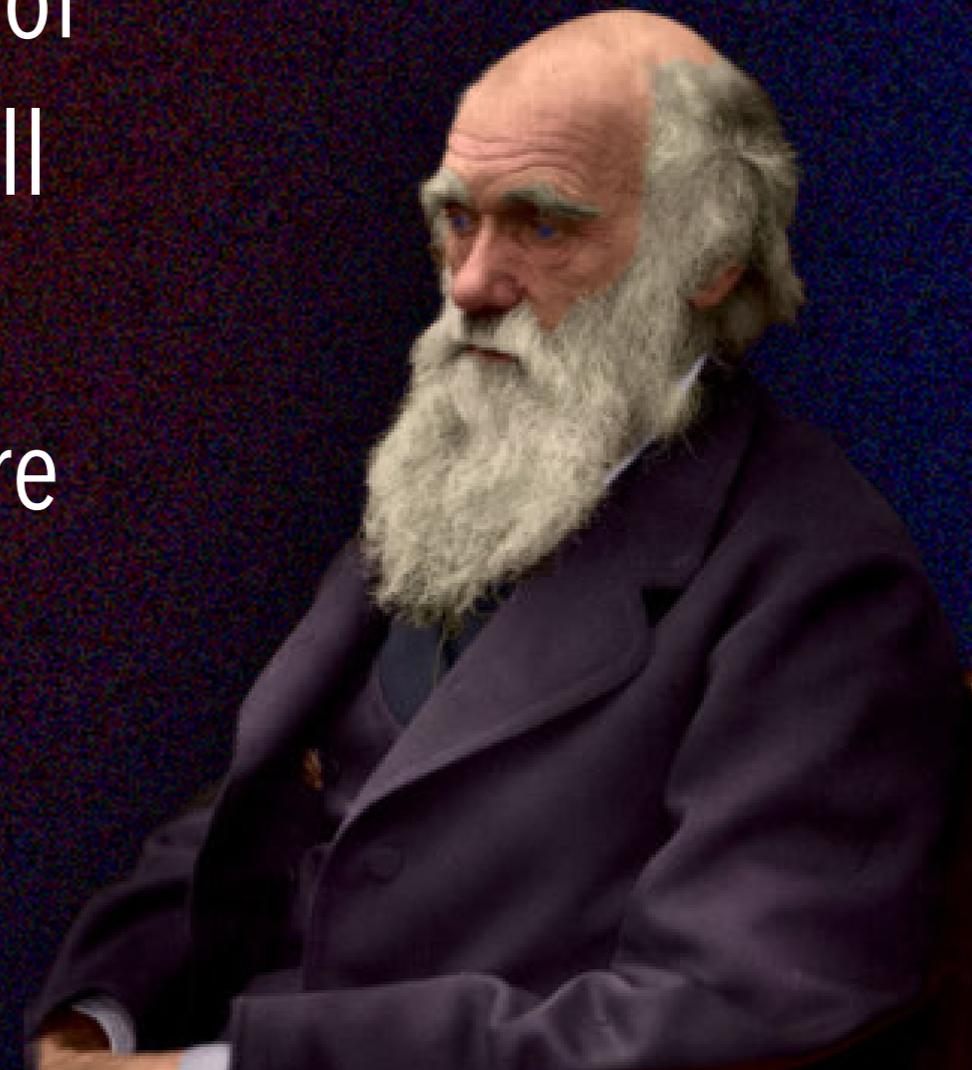
Richard Feynman



THE DESTRUCTION OF REASON

“With me the horrid doubt always arises whether the convictions of man’s mind, which has been developed from the mind of the lower animals, are of any value or at all trustworthy. Would any one trust in the convictions of a monkey’s mind, if there are any convictions in such a mind?”

Charles Darwin



THE DESTRUCTION OF REASON

The Atheist appeal to reason
as the grounds of their
position

This reasoning leads them to
naturalism

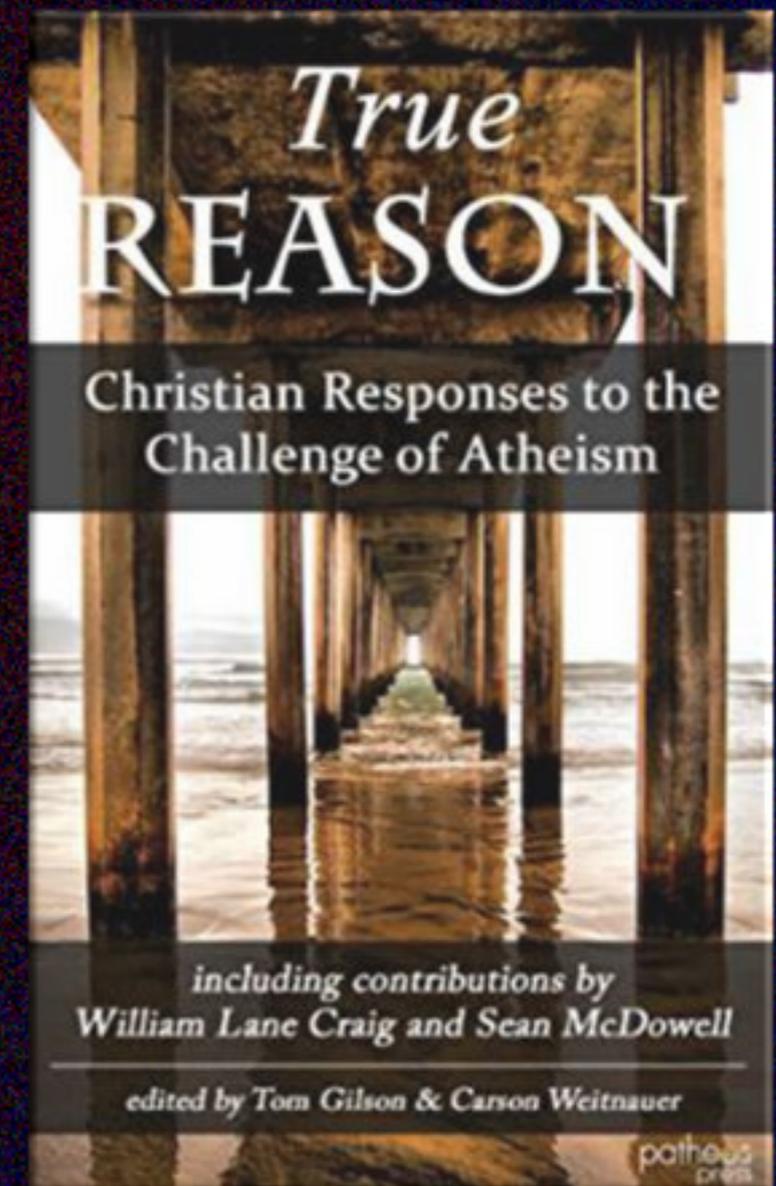
What explanation can
naturalism offer for the ability
to reason?

THEISM
OUTCOMES
ATHEISM

THE DESTRUCTION OF REASON

"If human reasoning evolved naturally, it's because it helped human beings survive and reproduce. Does this give us any basis for trusting our reasoning ability when it comes to questions of cosmology, or quantum mechanics, or neuroscience? Not at all. At best, our cognitive faculties would be reliable when it comes to finding berries, or using a spear against an enemy, or doing something to attract a mate."

Carson Weitnauer



THE DESTRUCTION OF REASON

The Atheist's appeal to reason as the grounds of their position

This reasoning leads them to naturalism

If there is a naturalistic explanation for everything where does the mind come from?

THEISM

OUTCOMES

ATHEISM

REASON AND THEISM

In the Biblical Worldview man was made intentionally in the image of a rational being

Abstract concepts such as morality and logic have a solid foundation

We are not left to guess or discover these concepts, they are revealed to us

THEISM
OUTCOMES
ATHEISM

REASON AND THEISM

Where do the laws of logic
come from?

The Atheist's answer:

A community of thinkers
throughout the years
conceived of the laws of logic

THEISM
OUTCOMES
ATHEISM

REASON AND THEISM

The Law of Non-Contradiction

“A” cannot be “A” and not “A”
at the same time

I cannot be me and not me at
the same time

The Universe cannot exist and
not exist at the same time

THEISM
OUTCOMES
ATHEISM



THE REMOVAL OF PURPOSE

Solomon sought enlightenment through practical atheism - Eccl. 1:12-18

In Eccl. 2:1-11 he sums up his results - Vanity

Atheism, realized or practical, robs man of his purpose - Eccl 12:13

THEISM

OUTCOMES

ATHEISM

THE REMOVAL OF PURPOSE

"An Atheist believes that only in a knowledge of himself and a knowledge of his fellow man can he find the understanding that will help to a life of fulfillment."

American Atheists Center

THEISM
OUTCOMES
ATHEISM

THE REMOVAL OF PURPOSE

"the person who practices "enlightened" self-interest... is the person whose behavioral strategy simultaneously maximizes both the intensity and duration of personal gratification. An enlightened strategy will be one which, when practiced over a long span of time, will generate ever greater amounts and varieties of pleasures and satisfactions."

Frank Zindler

THEISM
OUTCOMES
ATHEISM

THE REMOVAL OF PURPOSE

"all came from the dust and
all return to the dust"

Ecclesiastes 3:20

THEISM
OUTCOMES
ATHEISM

THE REMOVAL OF PURPOSE

Paul emphasized something greater that we are intended for

He saw a goal worth attaining, a purpose in his suffering, a reason for the life he lived

This offers mankind a useful outlet for intellect and desires for companionship

²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴

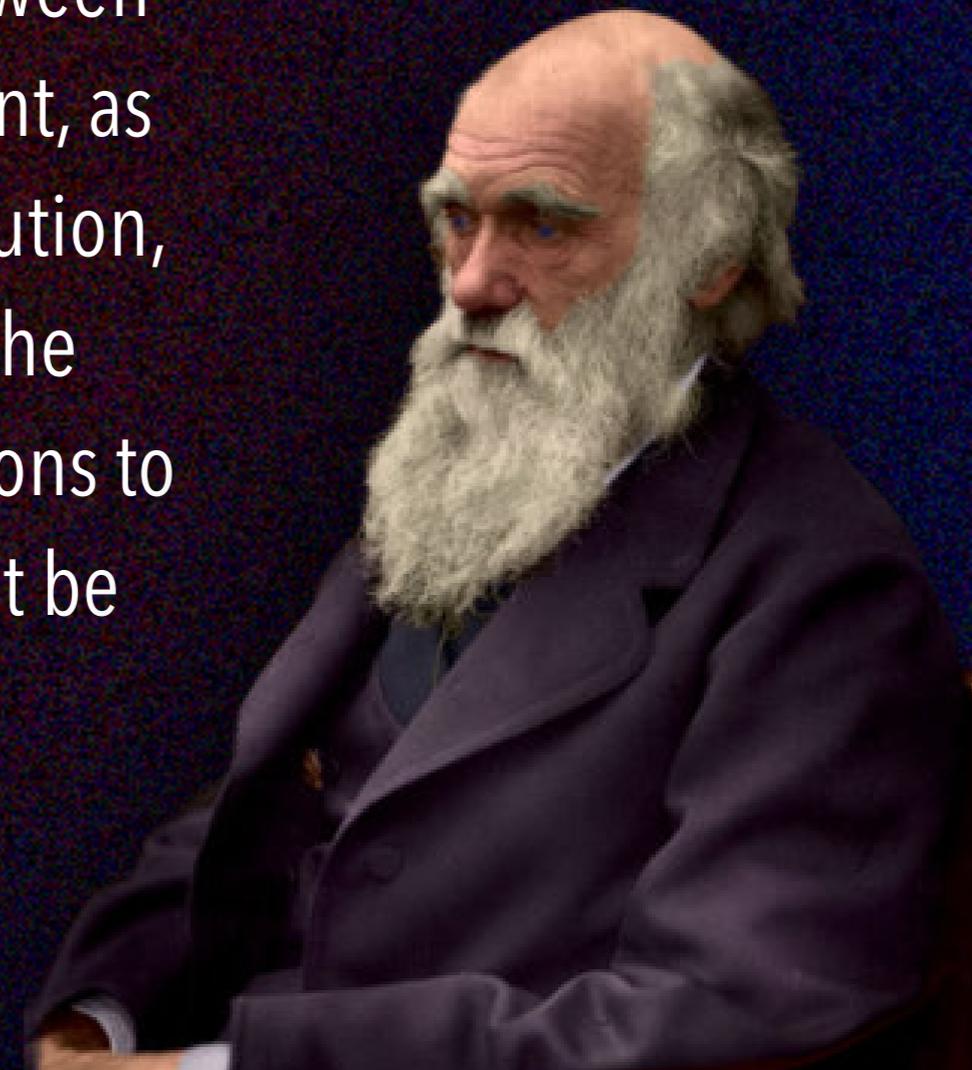
For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

Romans 8:23–25 (NASB95)

THE DEGRADATION OF HUMANITY

"The main conclusion here arrived at, and now held by many naturalists who are well competent to form a sound judgment, is that man is descended from some less highly organised form. The grounds upon which this conclusion rests will never be shaken, for the close similarity between man and the lower animals in embryonic development, as well as in innumerable points of structure and constitution, both of high and of the most trifling importance,—the rudiments which he retains, and the abnormal reversions to which he is occasionally liable, are facts which cannot be disputed."

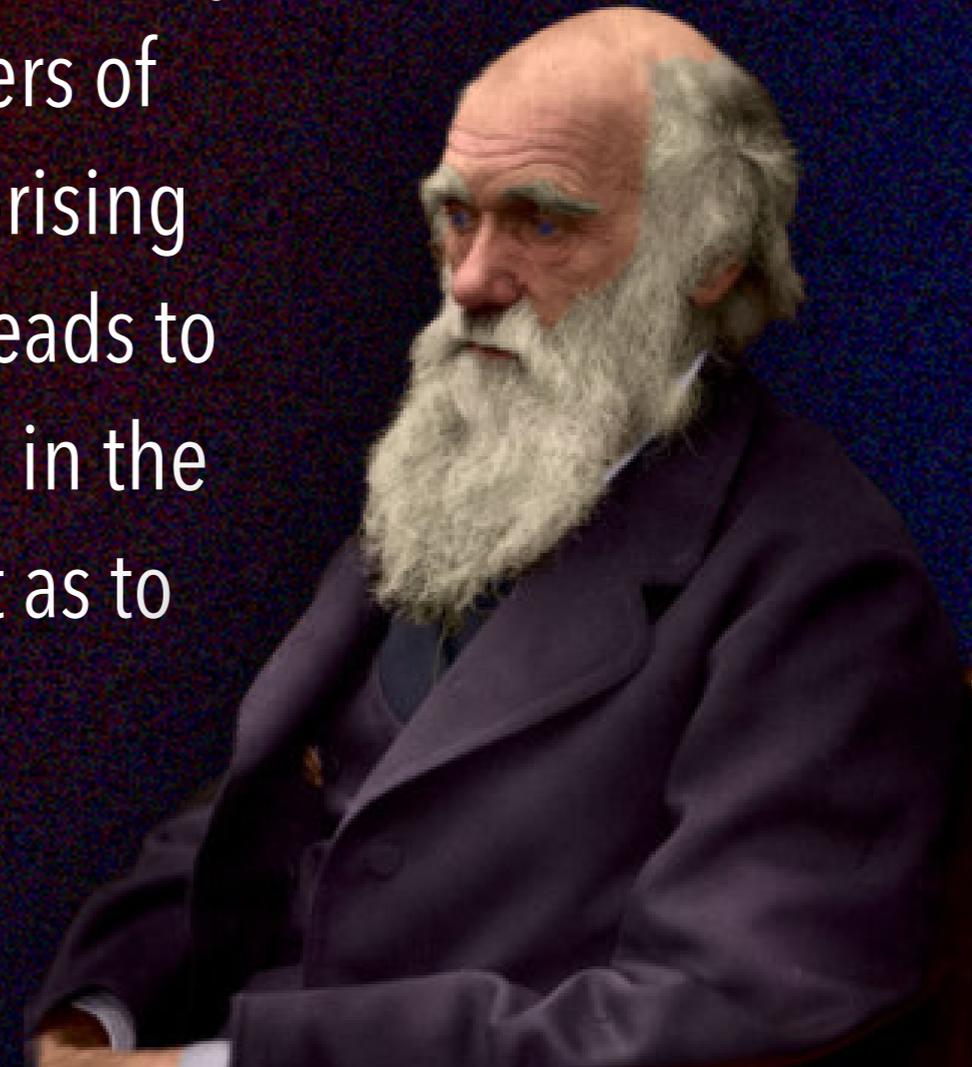
Charles Darwin



THE DEGRADATION OF HUMANITY

"We civilised men... do our utmost to check the process of elimination; we build asylums for the imbecile, the maimed, and the sick; we institute poor-laws; and our medical men exert their utmost skill to save the life of every one to the last moment. ... Thus the weak members of civilised societies propagate their kind.... It is surprising how soon a want of care, or care wrongly directed, leads to the degeneration of a domestic race; but excepting in the case of man himself, hardly any one is so ignorant as to allow his worst animals to breed."

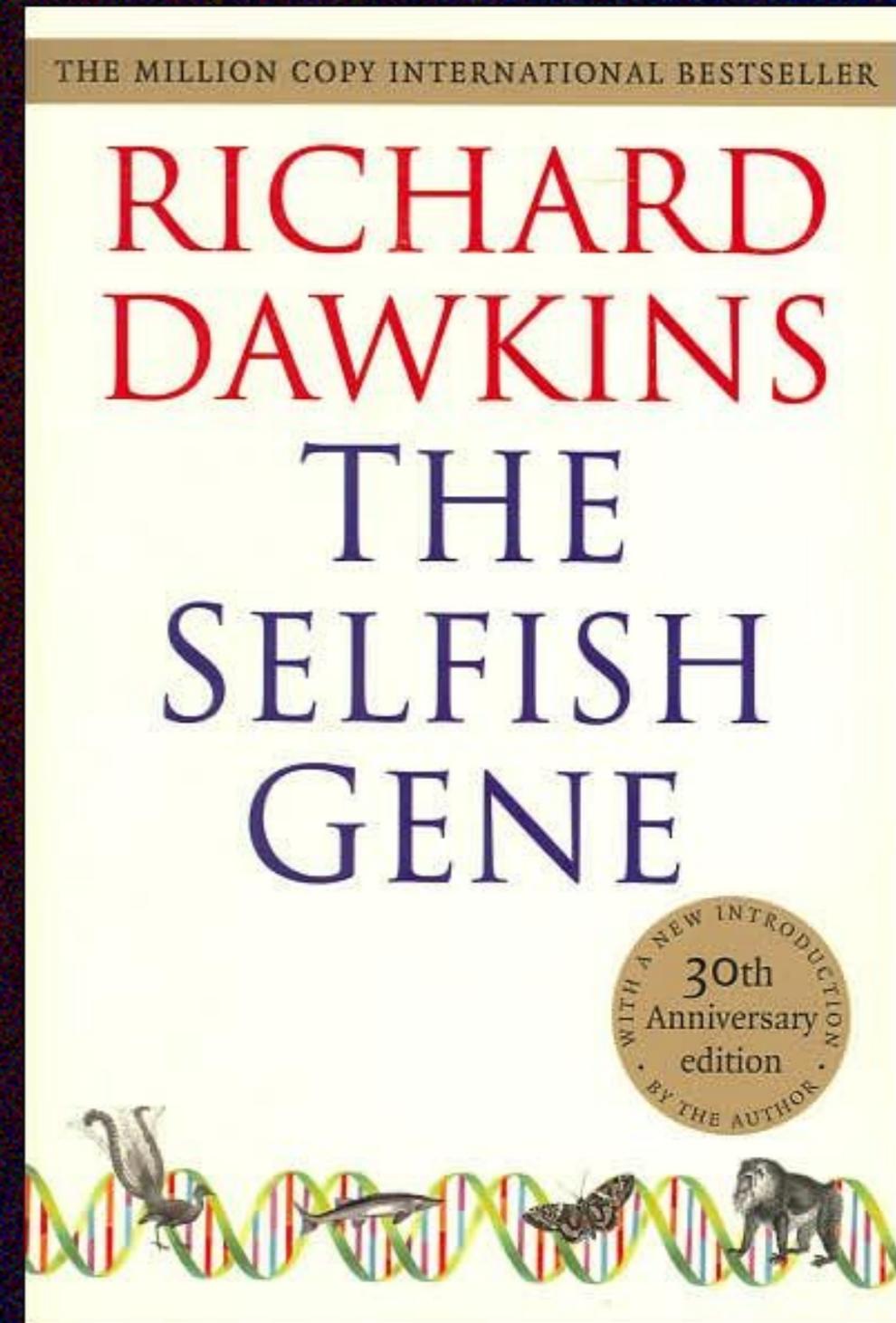
Charles Darwin



THE DEGRADATION OF HUMANITY

"My own feeling is that a human society based simply on the gene's law of universal ruthless selfishness would be a very nasty society in which to live. But unfortunately, however much we may deplore something, it does not stop it being true."

Richard Dawkins



THE DEGRADATION OF HUMANITY

If man is the product of chance
and random occurrence an
individual has no intrinsic value

The Biblical Worldview presents
each individual as a living soul
made in the image of the
Creator

It is this special creation that
gives mankind intrinsic value

THEISM
OUTCOMES
ATHEISM