

# REASONS

Reasons to Believe Newsletter | September/October 2021



## MEANINGFUL ANSWERS TO FAITH QUESTIONS

by Catherine Clark



As Christians, we're constantly considering how we can engage in Christ-centered conversations with those around us. RTB's latest resource, *Christianity Cross-Examined* by Kenneth Samples, provides you with knowledge and insight to navigate discussions involving some of the most pressing questions of our time. That's why we're excited to see the book in the hands of Christians, seekers, and skeptics across the globe.

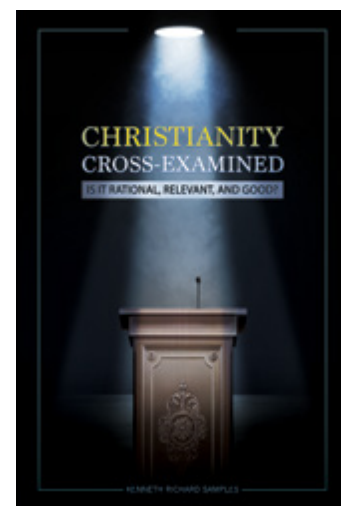
We've already witnessed the tangible impact of this resource, made possible by your faithful partnership. Shortly following its release, *Christianity Cross-Examined* held the #1 spot in Amazon's "New Releases in Religious Studies—Science & Religion" for multiple weeks. As of this writing, Kenneth has received 19 interview and media requests (and counting!) to discuss the book's content. We've been encouraged not only by the breadth of this outreach but also by the depth of influence it's had on those who have read it.

After reading the book, longtime RTB donor Nick Tavani commented that "every chapter has invaluable truth and useful insight . . . . A real keeper for future reference in conversation." We hope that each person

who picks up this book will find meaningful answers to their faith-related questions—and that these answers will point them back to our Creator.

Faithful ministry partners like you make the writing, publication, and distribution of invaluable, enlightening resources like this one possible. Thank you for your generosity, which allows us to put faith-building resources in the hands of individuals around the world.

### RESOURCE



You can grab a copy of Kenneth's book in our web store at [reasons.org/products](https://reasons.org/products).

# THE SOUNDTRACK OF THE UNIVERSE

by Joe Aguirre



RTB authors continue to uncover evidence for a Creator's hand in nature. In this interview, biochemist Fazale "Fuz" Rana shares why he's excited about his new book, *Fit for a Purpose*.

## Why did you write *Fit for a Purpose*?

This book presents a new design argument from biochemistry. Perhaps it's my *magnum opus*. Nobody to date has shown how the anthropic principle—the notion that we live in a just-right universe with just-right constants of nature—applies to biochemistry. I focus on core biochemical systems—proteins, DNA, cell membranes, and core metabolic processes—to reveal how the structure and function of these biomolecular systems are just right, making life's existence possible. You might say that biochemical systems are fit for a purpose.

## Why is this argument unique?

Many people are familiar with the design/fine-tuning argument for the universe. And they are familiar with design arguments from biochemistry, such as irreducible complexity and the Watchmaker argument. By making the case that the anthropic principle applies to chemistry and biochemistry, I introduce a novel approach to making the case for a Creator's role in the origin and design of life.

## Why was it important for you, personally, to write this book?

The idea for this book goes back years. I saw problems with commonly used design arguments. For example, the claim that there's no way evolution can produce information. As a biochemist, I saw those arguments as ineffective. I realized that if we give up a flawed argument, it leads us to a better one. I had an "aha" moment. If the anthropic principle is valid, we should see it in chemistry, biochemistry, and biology. And we do. It's been deeply gratifying to see it. It appears that somebody has "rigged the system." This insight suggests that biochemical design is much deeper than we thought.

## Would a skeptic agree with your findings?

If they're open-minded, yes. I approach this argument as a scientific question. Each chapter includes a set of scientific criteria for evaluating the anthropic principle in biochemical systems. I hope a skeptic will see the criteria and evaluate accordingly. I try to be fair; in fact, in one case I acknowledge that the argument is not as strong as I would have hoped. I also try to show that the laws of nature constrain systems to bring about their fitness for a purpose.

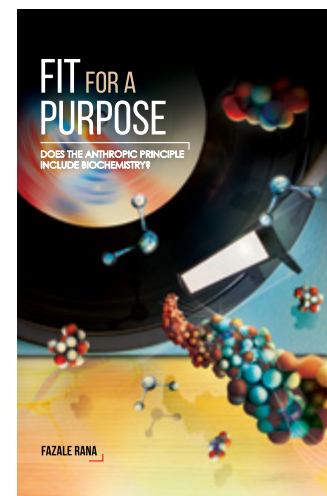
## You begin each chapter with a vignette about a musical artist. Why?

Each of us has a soundtrack to our lives—an ensemble of songs connected to our most meaningful or memorable experiences. In my case, many of these songs seemed to fit a purpose at a given critical moment. The universe also has a soundtrack—an ensemble of just-right physical

constants and parameters that make life possible. I think such "anthropic coincidences" can also be found in chemistry, biochemistry, and biology.

## Is there a particular audience you are hoping and praying this book will impact?

After nearly every outreach event where I speak, at least one disheartened parent (if not several) approaches me to ask for help in bringing a son, daughter, or other loved one back to faith in Christ. For someone who has gone to college, studied the life sciences, and walked away from the faith, this book would be really useful.



You can get a copy of Fazale's new book, *Fit for a Purpose*, when it comes out in November. We are excited to get this resource to you!

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Do you know that stock gifts to RTB have potential to maximize the impact of your giving while also benefiting you financially? One couple who has supported RTB for many years shares why they give through stock and hope others will too:

"We really appreciate RTB's ministry and try to be as generous as we can in supporting it. From time to time this has meant we have donated stock to the ministry. In addition to the fact that RTB gets the current market value of the stock, which is usually more than the equivalent cash gift we could afford, we can give a stock that has appreciated over the years, thereby realizing a capital gain, or, conversely, one that has lost value over our original purchase price, thus realizing a capital loss. It's a win-win in either case. RTB gets a larger gift and we get a tax break."

We hope you take inspiration from this couple's experience and find that this method of giving will benefit you, as well. If you'd like to donate to RTB through stock, please fill out the included insert and either mail it back or reach out to us at [stewardship@reasons.org](mailto:stewardship@reasons.org) to start the process today.

# 9/11: REMEMBERING THE WORST AND THE BEST

by Maureen Moser



I woke up on the morning of September 11, 2001, to the sound of the phone ringing. When I heard my dad dash down the hall to turn on the

TV, I knew instantly that something was wrong. By that time, both towers had been hit, and people were awakening to the reality that our country was under attack.

Some of my initial reactions to 9/11 included horror, then anger at the terrorists, then shock at the scale of catastrophe. Now, looking back on the days that followed the attacks, I see something besides just terror and devastation.

As cleanup began at Ground Zero and stories and images surfaced, a beautiful picture of heroism, courage, sacrifice, and compassion emerged. Hundreds (if not thousands) of volunteers flooded New York City to help with the immediate recovery efforts.

Reflecting on these memories, I see a stark contrast between the ugly hatred of the terrorists and the beautiful selflessness of the people who tried, or even died, to save others that day—or sacrificed health, time, and money to help in the aftermath.

There are some things that even terrorists cannot destroy or conquer. When I tell my children about September 11, 2001, I'll tell them that even as we witnessed the worst of humanity that day, we also witnessed the best.

**As we observe the 20th anniversary of the tragic events that took place on September 11, 2001, we asked the Reasons to Believe scholars to share with the next generation what wisdom they have gained since that day. Their responses incorporate personal experiences, their worldviews, and inspiring Bible verses. Watch the video on YouTube [here](#).**

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