

Just Thinking Apologetics

In the story of Goldilocks and the three bears, Goldilocks searches for the just right chair, porridge, and bed. In her quest to find the perfect object only one was suitable for her. Similar to Goldilocks, it appears that our planet is very unique in the vastness of space. As astronomers are discovering more planets, earth is emerging to be extremely unusual.

Not all see the specialness of earth. For example the late Carl Sagan states, we (planet earth) are “a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark.” Oxford’s Richard Dawkins says our planet “has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.”

However, there is a difference of opinion from those who say the earth is unique precisely because design is present. Geologist Peter Ward and astronomer Donald Brownlee, both professors at the University of Washington, have written a book on the earth’s uniqueness called *Rare Earth*. These unique properties are what I would like to explore in the coming weeks. Why is earth so different? Are we here by chance or has a designer prepared us for this planet? Finally, can we see design in the earth’s special properties that point to a designer?