Explain Paley's Teleological Argument

The Teleological Argument or proof for the existence of a deity is sometimes called the Design argument. The central idea of the argument is that there exists so much intricate detail, design, and purpose in the world that a creator must exist. All of the sophistication and detail we observe in nature could not have occurred by chance.
When looking at the universe people might see more order or disorder as is their tendency and they might see it in varying proportio ns. When examining the universe and seeing complexity and order, there are a variety of explanations for how it may have come about.

The Teleological Argument is another traditional "a posteriori" argument for the existence of God. One of the most famous examples for this argument is Paley's "watch" analogy. Basically, this argument says that after seeing a watch, with all its intricate parts, which work together with precision to keep time, we must assume that this piece of machinery has a creator, because it is far too complex to have simply come into being by some other means, such as evolution.

The argument can be presented in the following manner:

1. Human artefacts are products of intelligent design; they have a purpose.
2. The universe resembles these human artefacts.
3. Therefore: It is probable that the universe is a product of intelligent design, and has a purpose.
4. However, the universe is vastly more complex and gigantic than a human artefact is.
5. Therefore: There is probably a powerful and vastly intelligent designer who created the universe.

"Paley's Teleological Argument For The Existence Of God"
(Taken from Philosophy of Religion text)

"For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."
Romans1:19-20

The term teleological comes from the Greek words 'telos' and logos. 'Telos' means the end or purpose of a thing while logos means the study of the very nature of a thing.

The Teleological argument is an attempt to prove the existence of God that begins with the observation of the purpose of nature.

The teleological argument moves to the conclusion that there must exist a designer. The inference from design to designer is why the teleological argument is also known as the design argument.

The basic premise, of all teleological arguments for the existence of God, is that the world shows signs of an intelligent purpose based on experience from nature such as its order, unity, coherency, design and complexity. Hence, there must be an intelligent designer to account for the observed intelligent purpose and order that we can observe.

Now the teleological argument applies this criteria to the whole universe. If designs imply a designer, and the universe shows marks of design, then the universe was created.

Even if we grant that this argument leads to the conclusion that the un iverse had a Creator, it doesn't follow that this Creator still exists. It could be that the creator is long dead, as nothing in the argument requires or implies immortality, or even a non-physical existence.

Since this is an argument by analogy, the stre ngth or weakness of the analogy will allow us to determine the reliability of the argument. I believe it is a weak analogy, and hence, a weak argument. " *The strength of an analogy is determined by the amount of similarities between the analogies. The fewer the similarities, the weaker the argument; the greater the similarities, the stronger the argument.*"

So the argument is not only based upon a very weak analogy, but the one analogous trait between the universe and a watch also applies to God, leaving us with a redundant argument. If it is granted as a reliable argument, it can prove that the universe had a Creator but also that the Creator had a Creator. If this argument proves that the universe had a creator, it also suggests that God had a creator.