

Life in space?

Romans 1:20 NIV

**“For since the creation of the world
God's invisible qualities--his eternal power
and divine nature--have been clearly seen,
being understood from what has been made,
so that men are without excuse.”**

Scientists, astronauts, and especially trekkers ask:

**Is there life on another planet or out there
somewhere?**

**Among the billions of stars and galaxies, isn't it
likely that life exists in some form?**

**Hugh Downs wrote in “Perspectives” many years
ago:**

**“There are more stars known to exist right now
than all the grains of sand on every beach in the
entire world. With those kinds of odds, it would
seem downright naïve for someone to go to a
beach in, say, some out-of-the-way-inlet in Baffin
Bay, stoop to pick up one tiny grain of sand, and
declare that that grain was the only place where
life could exist.”**

The late Carl Sagan stated:

“Yes. There is likely some form of life out there”

**Some agencies have set up huge listening devices
hoping to detect signals from space.**

**Many religious folks
reject the thought
saying: it's
impossible for life to
exist anywhere but
on earth.**



**Whether there's life somewhere else definitely
keeps our attention.**

**Maybe not as much currently as the elections,
the World Series, or football, but UFO's and life
in space draw lots of attention.**

**I don't know whether life exists on a planet
in another solar system.**

**But if you put the question this way: “Is someone
in space trying to communicate with us?” the
answer is decidedly, “Yes!”**

The affirmative is as certain as the following:

**It's 7:15 AM on a school day in a house
with six teenagers and one bathroom.**

You ask, “Is the bathroom occupied?”



That's how sure I am that someone out there is trying to communicate with us.

For ages, we've been receiving strong, clear signals.

We keep missing the messages.

We can't blame lack of technology or claim that we lack the proper listening devices. Perhaps you've heard this story about a stylite monk.

This fellow joined a monastery where each monk was restricted to saying one word per year.

He could say only one word then had to wait another 365 days to say another word.

So they brought this novice monk out after his first year and asked him what one word he wanted to say.

"Cold!" he shivered.

They confined the monk to his cubicle for another year and brought him out.

"What would you like to say?"

"Hungry!" he muttered.

The third year when they brought him out, he said, "I quit!"

His superior said, "You'd just as well quit. All you do is complain."

We all recognize the difficulties, don't we, when folks don't listen?

When Saddam Hussein controlled Iraq, some news agencies reported that a van loaded with 13 women and children headed for a checkpoint. U.S. soldiers ordered the van driver to stop.

For some reason the driver didn't listen.

At first, some charged the US soldiers with the atrocity of slaughtering innocent people.

Then authorities learned that Saddam's agents ordered the driver to run the van through the checkpoint.

If the driver did not comply with their orders, Saddam's agents would kill the driver's family.

Those 14 innocent souls suffered tragically.

Not listening to God is even more ruinous.

The Living Bible translates today's text:

"Since earliest times men have seen the earth and sky and all God made, and have known of his existence and great eternal power.

So they have no excuse for saying they don't know whether there is a God."

1) - Creation clearly shows that someone is trying to communicate with us.

The question is: “Are we paying attention?”

This camera I brought today is unique and nearly antique; it’s about 60 years old.

A Japanese company manufactured it so you can be sure of its precision quality.

This camera comes with a rare feature.

This picture-taking ugly, maroon colored box also contains a radio.

If you designed and built this combined radio-camera, what would you call it?

The manufacturer called this a “Ramera.”



Black and silver version of a Ramera.

Suppose I show you this unique radio-camera or any new digital camera.

You ask me, “What brand is it?”

I reply:

“There’s not any brand name. No one manufactured this Ramera; it just came to be.”

“What do you mean, Bob?”

“Well, Norma and I used to live near the La Brea tar pits in L.A. There’s a small lake there and there are huge pools of oil underground. Oil seeps to the surface. Ages ago, saber tooth tigers and now extinct elephants used to go to that area to drink water. They’d get stuck in the tar and then sink into it. Archaeologists have recovered the remains of many extinct animals at the site.

“Eons ago, fiery explosions occurred at the La Brea Tar Pits. The oil mixed with chemicals and heated, producing the plastic of the camera. The same fiery explosions heated sand to the right temperature to make glass for the camera’s lenses.

Millions of explosions took place and by sheer chance, out came this “Ramera.”

“What are you talking about, Bob? We’re arranging a hospital trip for you so doctors can check your mental acuity.”

Have you considered these facts?

In your head, two cameras work together.

Tiny muscles coordinate them—except when you’re drunk—to give you depth perception.

Your two “cameras” come equipped with automatic zoom lenses.

You can look at things up close and then at a distance.

Your eye lenses automatically adjust.

These camera eyes have lens protectors. Involuntary muscles close your eyelids if a foreign object invades your eyes.

You don't need to unscrew or remove these lens protectors.

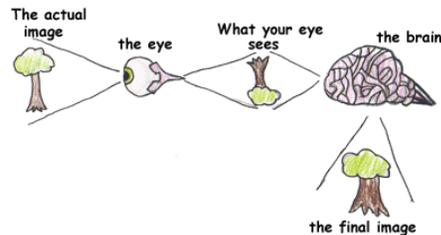
Your cameras don't require batteries. And don't have to have lights.

The apertures in them close and open automatically.

These two cameras with which you came equipped have amazing connections.

Imagine walking in a field, and your two cameras spot a snake—or even a stick that looks like a snake.

- Your cameras send electrical signals to a certain place in your brain.
- Your brain orders the release of messenger chemicals.



- These in turn set off electrical impulses and chemicals throughout your body.
- Adrenaline releases throughout your body.
- Muscles in your legs and arms activate.
- Your heart races.
- Sometimes your vocal cords get involved in a screaming fashion.
- Sometimes they're so taut you can't scream.

How long does this complicated electrical-chemical process take? **Milliseconds.**

It's infinitely more complicated than the most sophisticated computers NASA possesses.

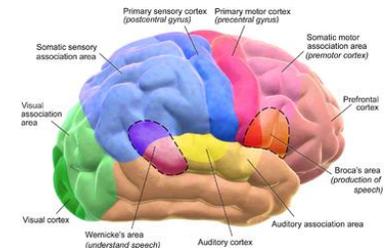
The Lord didn't put a “made by God” label on us.

He shouldn't have to.

As Joel Swerdlow wrote in the June 1995 National Geographic Magazine:

“The human brain, with its many billions of cells, is the most complex object in the known universe.”

Complex things don't come about by accident.



Do you accept my story that Norma's Ramera came from an explosion at the La Brea Tar Pits?

Why does society so easily accept that nature's intricacies occurred without an intelligent Creator?

“His eternal nature and divine power have been clearly seen.”

2) – Some biologists speak of higher and lower forms of life, yet many of the “lower forms” can do things that we can't.

Each plant and animal comes equipped with its own specialization.

Catfishes are ugly bottom-feeders that many folks consider fine eating.

But catfishes can do something that we can't.

I don't refer to swimming underwater.

We have taste buds in our mouths and on our tongues.

According to Ian George, writing in Smithsonian:

Catfishes use head-to-tail taste buds.

One Potomac River fisherman said that

“The catfish is such a sophisticated eater he can taste crayfish with his chin, mussels with his sides, while all the time his tail is drooling over a sip of turtle.”

It's like some dude sipping lemonade. However his hands are in a bowl savoring a banana split drenched with chocolate syrup, and his toes are drooling and enjoying a strawberry shortcake.



It's as if a catfish has a label,
Made by the Lord God of the Universe.

Consider another ugly animal that few folks want for a pet—bat.

Several myths about bats:

They're blind and always rabid.

They tangle in people's hair;

Bats may bite in self-defense, but rarely do.

Bat's get a bum rap.

3 bat caves near San Antonio, TX, house about 50 million Mexican free-tailed bats.

Those bats eat about a million lbs. of insects per night.

A colony of 150 big brown bats can eat enough cucumber beetles each summer to protect local farmers from 18 million rootworm larvae.

Bats have excellent vision and amazing hearing.

Stay quiet about ten seconds.

Could you hear a caterpillar munching on a leaf?

The footsteps of a centipede?

Your local friendly bat can.

An article by James Poling describes the sonar signals bats send.

A bat sends these tiny electrical impulses that strike something and create an echo that the bat can read.

Ounce for ounce ... the bats' system is a billion times more effective than any radar system that humans have developed.

Some of you may duel with the highway patrol.

I refer to the use of so-called fuzz-busters—devices that detect when a highway patrolman has his radar on.

I understand that sometimes patrolmen don't turn the switch on until they are in close proximity. That renders the fuzz-busters almost useless.

People who sell fuzz-busters talk about the latest technology.

Radar and echolocation duels have been going on for a long time.

Bats love to eat moths.

They use their echolocation ability to find moths on dark nights.



Ah, but the moth can hear the bat's echolocation signal.

So what do the bats do?

Mr. and Mrs. Bat turn off their sonar and depend on their incredible vision and hearing to detect the moth's location.¹

It's as if those bats and moths also have written on their underbellies "Made by the Lord of the Universe.

The Lord developed this technology millions of years ago.

Modern scientists are copycats.

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

The Lord speaks to us through his creation of human brains and other specialization in nature.

Most astounding of all, God speaks through his love in Christ Jesus.

The complete story is in the Bible.

¹ The above information concerning bats and brains from aforementioned Natl. Geographic and Smithsonian articles.

Have you been reading it, listening and responding to our Creator?

LOVE CAN HEAL THE HEART. Somewhere I read about a minister who asked his congregation if they knew of anyone who was suffering. A little girl, raised her hand and said, "My father is, but he won't tell anyone." The girl then hugged her father tightly.

The father, already embarrassed, said,

"Stop hugging me. You're hugging me to death."

"Oh, no, Daddy," she cried, "I'm hugging you to life." Many people now need love more than anything else. They need someone to hug them to life.

When we listen to God and obey Him, he hugs us firmly.



He wants us to feel secure enough in Christ to “hug” the unlovable

At the heart of this universe is God our Creator's love.

I pray that you experience His love today and listen to Him.

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I obtained this pic using the Clip Art feature on my Microsoft Word program. Interestingly when I typed the subject “little girl hugging father,” of the 30 pics available, this photo and 3 or 4 others were of a girl and her father. Most pics were of little girls hugging their mothers, stuffed toys, or other kids. Whether this reflects lack of available photos or a decision by Microsoft, I do not know.