

The Implications of Life on Mars

If scientists find that life ever existed on Mars, would it disturb your belief in God?

The idea that life spontaneously generated seems to excite many news journalists and scientists. They think such a finding would indicate that life has occurred at other places in the universe. They apparently imagine that it would put God's specific creation of the universe into a deep, black hole. What would it do to your faith?

Some Christians plunge themselves into chasms by accepting what certain spokesmen conclude about the creation. A Catholic bishop named James Ussher computed in the 1600s that God created everything in 4004 BC. Many people still accept that as the date of creation. Bishop Ussher didn't consider all the evidence. Other biblical statements suggest that God used eons to create the universe. We just don't know.

Would the discovery of life on Mars mean that God didn't originate the universe?

People who resent authority like to think so. They dislike the idea of the Lord making moral demands on them. They refuse to believe in a super-being, who calls them to account for their behavior.

But why would God start life on Mars and then let it end? I can only surmise. Possibly in the same way we currently heat our homes and drive our vehicles powered by fossil fuels apparently formed long before 4004 BC, there may be uses for what scientists are currently finding on Mars. Scientists and journalists must account to God for their conclusions. We believers must reckon with whether we have accepted the Word of God or have dangled precipitously on the words of mere mortals: **"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth," Genesis 1:1.**