



ALIEN LIFE AND UFO'S

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INTRODUCTION

Although science is comprised of many aspects of knowledge and areas of study, there are also two primary subjects that have long been at the forefront of interest by Hollywood, science and the public at large. The perception of extraterrestrial alien life (ET) and unidentified flying objects (UFO's) has long held the imagination of mankind since the dawn of recorded history as virtually every civilization and/or major culture on earth has entertained some speculation that some type of intelligent – human and/or nonhuman beings – might exist somewhere in the universe. This perception comes from the basic concept of *where is everybody* that is known as "*Fermi Paradox*" and is in addition to the current popular secular viewpoint that life originated in outer space and was then transferred to earth (*directed panspermia*). In summary, secular science and many people are eager to believe in any idea concerning the origin of life (mankind) as long as they exclude the Creator God and the truth of His Word. With these thoughts in mind, let's first look at Secular Considerations and then a Biblical Perspective to evaluate the probability of ET life and UFO's.

SECULAR CONSIDERATIONS

The perception of ET life goes back over five thousand years ago to the Sumerian civilization that believed science, social behavior, codes of law, art, and

other civilized essentials were provided to humans by amphibian type alien teachers. Stories of unidentified celestial visions also go back into antiquity with the earliest written account on Egyptian papyrus during the reign of Thutmose III who reigned from 1479 to 1425 B.C.

Today, the term UFO's became popular in 1948 when the United States government officially began a search for UFO's after an amateur pilot claimed he saw nine crescent-shaped objects in the sky while flying near Mount Rainer in Washington. This alleged sighting ultimately led to an official 1952-1969 U.S. Air Force program termed Project Blue Book designed to investigate ET sightings. Since the mid-20th century, there has been an ongoing search for evidence of ET intelligence that has ranged from the search for extrasolar planets (Kepler telescope) to robotic exploration of our solar system (Mars Exploration Rovers, Phoenix Lander, etc).

Some predominant examples of the current high interest in ET and UFO's are:

SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE (SETI)

SETI is a collective term for the scientific search for intelligent ET life in the universe and began shortly after the advent of radio in the early 1900's and has expanded into international efforts around the globe (Figure 1). The SETI



Figure 1. The SETI Allen Telescope Array

program is based on the premise of monitoring electromagnetic radiation for signs of transmissions from intelligent civilizations on other worlds. The SETI Institute website states – *“We believe we are conducting the most profound search in human history to know our beginnings and our place among the stars.”*

PANSPERMIA AND DIRECTED PANSPERMIA

This is a common name that was coined in 1908 and is given to the concept that life originated in outer space and then migrated to earth. In 1973, Francis Crick (co-discoverer of DNA) expanded the term to Directed Panspermia that currently stands for the concept that aliens brought life to earth. This concept is still advocated by many scientists today. As an example, in the movie *Expelled*, Ben Stein asked the prominent evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins the question, *“What do you think is the possibility that intelligent design might turn out to be the answer to some issues in genetics or in evolution?”* Dawkins answer – *“Well it could come about in the following way: it could be that at some earlier time somewhere in the universe a civilization evolved by, probably by, some kind of Darwinian means to a very, very high level of technology and designed a form of life that they seeded onto perhaps this planet. Now that is a possibility and an intriguing possibility”*

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)

Currently, The National Aeronautics and Space Administration says nothing in their approach to space exploration has changed. But the reality is – it has. Previously, NASA used to engage in projects that captured the public’s imagination, such as the Apollo moon missions with an emphasis on God as the Creator as evidenced by the U.S. postage stamps in Figure 2. However, in recent years NASA has shifted its focus and launched the *Origins Program*, the purpose



Figure 2. The goal of NASA has dramatically changed from Apollo 8

of which is to explore the universe and search for life. The NASA website proclaims that its goals are to determine “*Where did we come from?*” and “*Are we alone?*”

CARL SAGAN

Carl Sagan was an American astronomer and science communicator who is best remembered for his contributions to the scientific research of extraterrestrial life and the 1980 television series *Cosmos*. Sagan also assembled the first physical messages that were sent into space on Pioneer and Voyager missions and pioneered the field of exobiology (a branch of biology that deals with the search for ET life).

HOLLYWOOD

Since 1951, the primary emphasis that has been responsible for enhancing the awareness of the general public on ET life and UFO's has been actors, radio, television and Tinseltown. Common examples are:

Actors

Dan Aykroyd was a consultant for the Mutual UFO Network.

Radio

George Noory hosts the popular program *Coast To Coast AM* and typically focuses on the paranormal.

Television

The X-Files, The Twilight Zone, Star Trek, Dark Matter, Bounty Hunter and the SyFy channel are a few of popular past and present SyFy programming.

Tinseltown

The emphasis on ET/UFO movies arguably began in 1951 with the release of *The Day The Earth Stood Still*. Since that time, the number of ET/UFO movies has become quite numerous with examples such as *The War Of The Worlds* (1953), *Close Encounters Of the Third Kind* (1977), *ET* (1982), *Cocoon* (1985), *Fire In The Sky* (1993), *Independence Day* (1996), and don't forget the blockbuster *Star Wars* (1977-2005) that is set to debut episode 7 on December 18, 2015.

From a secular perspective, the possibility of life somewhere in space – in addition to human life on earth – has been a tantalizing perspective that remains a public fascination in modern times. However, before we look at a biblical perspective, is there any *tangible evidence* of ET life? The clear answer is no, based on the following evidence:

- For many years, the global SETI program has been searching the heavens with radio telescopes in an effort to detect radio signals from space (Figure 3). Today, new hardware and software are able to process a hundred million



Figure 3. The SETI search for ET life

channels of cosmic static faster than ever before. However, there still has never been any confirmed signal (or signals) from any other world or life forms

- The aforementioned U.S. Air Force Project Blue Book program – designed to investigate ET sightings and operated from 1952 until 1969 – examined more than 12,000 reports. These reports were compiled and either categorized as “*identified*” (explained by astronomical, atmospheric or artificial phenomenon) or “*unidentified*” which made up just 6% of the accounts. Although the low percentage of unidentified sightings still remains unidentified, the low percentage led to the closure of the program and ended further research
- UFO sightings have been officially recorded in Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Greece, Australia and the United States. Four examples of famous sightings in the United States are (1) The Roswell Incident in 1947 – classified as a weather balloon, (2) Washington D.C. Sightings in 1952 – classified as temperature inversions, (3) Swamp Gas Sightings in Michigan in 1966 – classified as “swamp gas,” and (4) Phoenix Lights in 1997 – classified as flares dropped from an A-10 Warthog aircraft. Additionally, thousands of people have

reported over the years that they have seen and/or been abducted by UFO's. As an example, Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter reported seeing a UFO in Georgia. In summary, the credibility of UFO sightings are solely dependent on the credibility and evidence presented by each individual/organization which have yet to present credible scientific evidence

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

Not surprisingly, the Bible does not address the question of some form(s) of life elsewhere in the universe. However, it is possible to use biblical scripture and principles to reach a conclusion about ET's and UFO's. As a basic starting point, let's briefly state why there is a noteworthy emphasis on ET life and UFO's from two perspectives and then consider five biblical principles regarding this discussion.

First, the secular answer to the idea of ET life outside of this planet is fundamentally based on a belief in evolution instead of God's Word. This ideology is derived from the premise that if life accidentally started here on earth (evolution) then it is not unreasonable to assume that life could also have accidentally evolved somewhere else in the far reaches of space, given the size of the universe, the millions of planets and the right conditions that might be present on other planets. Therefore, ET life is almost inevitable in an evolutionary worldview. Secondly, there is another possible viewpoint to explain the small percentage UFO's that cannot be explained and that is the possibility of a supernatural origin – albeit evil. This viewpoint is derived from scripture that clearly delineates the ruler of this world is Satan and is found in verses such as John 16:11, Matthew 4:8-9, Luke 4:6-7, Ephesians 2:2 and 6:12.

With a foundation of why there is a strong emphasis on the potential of alien life forms outside of this earth, let's look at five biblical principles that are contrary to the concept of alien life:

REASON

A belief in ET is a secular replacement for God with evolutionary processes. Consider the following two verses:

"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created them"

Genesis 1:27

"All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made"

John 1:3

These two verses clearly indicate that humans did not evolve as a result of secular evolutionary processes and life was not transported to earth from space (directed panspermia).

IMPORTANCE OF EARTH

The earth is unique and God designed it for life as follows:

"For thus says the Lord, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited"

Isaiah 45:18

The other planets have an entirely different purpose than earth as outlined in Genesis as follows:

"Then God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth;" and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also"

Genesis 1:14-16

The heavenly bodies are designed differently than earth and serve a different purpose. Nowhere does scripture discuss the creation of life on the "lights in the firmament (expanse) of the heavens." Additionally, God gave the care of the earth to man, but the heavens belong to the Lord (Psalm 115:16).

REDEMPTION OF MANKIND

Scripture indicates that although the first man was created perfect, he rebelled against God (Genesis 3). As a result, sin and death entered the world/universe:

"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned"

Romans 5:12

All of humankind are descended from Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:20) and have inherited their sin nature. As a result, sin is a barrier between God and us. However, the blood of Christ can pay the penalty for our sin, and since He is a blood relative of ours and is descended from Adam as we are, Jesus Christ can pay the penalty for our sin – if we accept it:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"

John 3:16

REDEMPTION OF ET

From the preceding overview of the Redemption Of Mankind, numerous verses such as John 3:16 state the gift of salvation is free for the asking. However, if we consider how this free gift might apply to any hypothetical ET life, we are presented with a significant problem as stated in Romans:

“For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now”

Romans 8:20-22

This verse states that the sin of Adam and Eve has tainted the entire universe. So, if there were ET life (similar to man) on other planets in this universe, then those beings would then be subjected to the affects of the sin of Adam and Eve and be fallen creatures just as humans on earth are. If so, and since these alleged beings are not blood descendants of Adam and Jesus Christ, the shed blood of Jesus Christ cannot pay for their sin and there would not be a way of God’s redemptive plan for them. Therefore, ET beings cannot be redeemed. However, it is possible to suppose that Christ visited their world at some point in time and lived there and died as well. This concept is antibiblical as Christ died *“once for all”* as stated in numerous verses such as Hebrews 10:10, Hebrews 9:27-28, and:

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit”

I Peter 3:18

God’s plan of redemption is for human beings – those descended from Adam. Theologically it does not make sense that there are other intelligent, physical beings that will suffer because of Adam’s sin but cannot be saved. Remember, the central theme of the Bible is saved by grace!

FINALITY

“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of god the Father”

Philippians 2:10-11

The second chapter of Philippians stresses the fact that the entire intelligent universe will someday be called to worship Jesus Christ as Lord. Confess means to *“acknowledge, affirm, or agree”* which is what everyone will

eventually do in response to the lordship of Christ, willingly and blessedly or unwillingly and painfully. This mandate specifically defines *every knee* as the angels in heaven, the spirits of the redeemed, obedient believers on earth, the disobedient rebels on earth, and the demons and lost humanity in hell. Alien life is not mentioned.

CONCLUSION

Could God have created life on other planets other than earth? Obviously, the answer is yes but the remaining question is why? According to Genesis, everything God created was for the benefit and enjoyment of man who was the focus and centerpiece of God's creation. However, a more significant consideration is the fact that because aliens are not the descendants of Adam and are subjected to the universal curse of sin from Adam and Eve, they would have to die because death was the penalty for sin. In the final destruction of this universe by God that is outlined in II Peter 3:10-13, they and their planet would be destroyed by fire because they cannot have salvation, as that gift is given only to humans (descendants of Adam). Additionally, if there are no ET aliens, then there can be no UFO's that are piloted by them other than a potential consideration of the possibility of a supernatural origin – albeit evil.

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