

ALIENS AND EXTRATERRESTRIALS

Is there intelligent life in outer space?

Although this question intrigues scientists, the Bible can give us the answer.

But if we don't believe in aliens flying around in UFOs, does that mean we reject the idea that intelligent life could exist in outer space? As someone once said, "Looking at the mess people get themselves into in this world, sometimes I wonder if there's intelligent life on earth, let alone outer space."

1. Dr. Clifford Wilson, author of the million-copy bestseller *Crash Go the Chariots*, did a lot of research on UFOs. He concluded that, by far, the majority were either misunderstood natural phenomena or misinterpreted manmade objects. However, he did conclude there was a very small percentage that couldn't be explained, and he allowed the possibility of some supernatural origin—albeit evil. But regardless, he does not believe in intelligent physical beings on planets other than our earth.
2. A number of leading evolutionists, like the late Dr. Carl Sagan, have popularized the idea that there must be intelligent life in outer space. From an **evolutionary** perspective, it would make sense to suggest such a possibility. People who believe this possibility contend that, if life evolved on earth by natural processes, intelligent life must exist somewhere else in the far reaches of space, given the size of the universe and the millions of possible planets.
3. One can consider the possibilities of intelligent life in outer space, but **a Christian worldview built on the Bible rejects such a possibility**. From Scripture it would seem that the earth is very special.
 - a. Everything else was made for purposes relating to the earth. For instance, the sun, moon, and stars were made "**for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years**" (Genesis 1:14).
 - b. During the six days of creation in Genesis 1, we learn that God created the earth first. On day four, He made the sun and the moon for the earth, and then "**he made the stars also**" (Genesis 1:16).
 - c. Throughout the Old Testament, many passages distinguish between the heavens and the earth. Psalm 115:16 states, "**The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth has he given to the children of men.**"

- d. Many other passages single out the earth as being special, made for humans to dwell on, and a focus of God's attention, such as Isaiah 66:1: "Thus says the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool."
4. Such verses certainly imply that the earth is to be considered separate and special when compared with the rest of the universe, so they suggest that the earth alone was created for life. So far, based on man's limited exploration of space and the solar system, this certainly holds true.
5. The Bible makes it clear in Romans 8:22 that the "whole creation groans" because of Adam's sin. When Adam fell, the entire universe was affected. Not only this, but one day in the future, there will be "a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away" (Revelation 21:1).

Aliens and the Fall

1. Now here is the problem. If there are intelligent beings on other planets, then they would have been affected by the fall of Adam because the whole creation was affected. So these beings would have to die because death was the penalty for sin. They would not have access to salvation because that blessing is given only to humans.
2. When Jesus Christ stepped into history, He became the God-man. The Bible calls Him "the last Adam" and the "second man" (1 Corinthians 15:45, 47). He became the second perfect man (Adam was perfect before he sinned), and He took the place of the first Adam by dying for the human race.
3. As the first Adam was the representative head of the human race, so Jesus became the new head, the last Adam. So there can be no other Savior, only Christ.

What should Christians think about UFO accounts?

1. Science

a. *Never a single contact with an 'extraterrestrial'.*

- i. A great number of astronomers think that, since life evolved here on earth, it must have evolved near one of the many stars out there. In America SETI

(Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence) researchers have scanned the sky, looking in vain for signals from intelligent beings.

b. *Conditions must be 'just right'*

- i. Life on any planet can only survive in the presence of a great number of very stringent requirements. For example, it must be at the right distance from its sun, so as to be neither too hot nor too cold.
- ii. Although one cannot rule out the possibility that planets around other stars may be confirmed at some future point, it is at least extremely improbable that any of them would fulfil all the requirements needed for life.

c. *Life cannot form spontaneously anyway.*

- i. Without intelligent, creative input, lifeless chemicals cannot form themselves into living things.

d. *Vast distances*

- i. Even if one assumed the existence of life somewhere else in the universe, a visit by extraterrestrials to earth, such as is claimed in UFO reports, seems completely impracticable, if not impossible. The distances (and therefore the likely travel times) are unimaginably vast.
- ii. The closest star (apart from the sun) to earth, Proxima Centauri, is already 25 million miles away. The Apollo flights took three days to get to the moon. At the same speed one would need 870,000 years to get to this nearest star. At the incredible speed of one-tenth of the speed of light, the trip would still take 43 years.

2. The Bible

- a. The Bible, teaches that **life is only possible through a process of creation**. Even if there were other galaxies with planets very similar to earth, life could only be there if the Creator had fashioned it. If God had done that, and if these beings were going to visit us one day, then He would surely not have left us unenlightened about this.

- b. **God has given us rather specific details of the future**—for example, the return of Jesus, and some details about the end of the world.
- c. **The purpose of the stars**.
 - i. The reasons stars were made are given to us in several places in the Bible, such as Psalm 19 and especially in the Creation account. In Genesis 1:14 we read: ‘**And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.**’
 - ii. We see from this that stars are there *for mankind on earth*. Add to this the sequence of creation (on the first day the earth, and only on the fourth day all of the stars), and it is easy to see the thrust of the biblical testimony, that the purpose of creation is uniquely centered on this earth.

3. So what about UFOs?

- a. How, then, should one understand the UFO phenomena and all the associated ‘hype’? In the German magazine *Focus*, it was recently stated ‘90% of UFO reports turn out to be nonsense, but there is a residual 10% which are not easy to dismiss.’ ‘Nonsense’ refers to natural phenomena such as heavenly bodies, clouds, lightning, and man-made objects such as glowing blimps.
 - i. The article quoted sociologist Gerald Eberlein as saying: ‘research has shown that people who are not affiliated with any church, but who claim that they are religious, are particularly susceptible to the possible existence of extraterrestrials. For them, belief in UFO’s is a substitute religion.’
- b. The Bible goes somewhat deeper in this matter, identifying a supplementary cause and effect—2 Thessalonians 2:9–11:

‘**Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.**’

- c. The Bible gives a description of reality concerning all living things. The living God reveals himself as the Triune One, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In heaven there are the angels, who also serve mankind on the earth.
- d. There is another reality—that of the devil and the demons. Ephesians 2:2 talks about the ‘prince of the power of the air’, whose reign is on earth.
 - i. The devil has his own repertoire of deception in the form of various occult practices and a multitude of religious rites. Could it be that, behind those unexplainable reports, is the work of the arch-deceiver?
 - ii. UFO reports, by definition, remain nebulous and not identifiable. For Christians there is Jesus’ warning in Matthew 24:4 to ‘Take heed that no man deceive you.’
 - iii. The best antidote to deception? Paul exhorts us, in 2 Timothy 2:15, to *study* the Scripture, so we might be ‘rightly dividing the word of truth’.