DO EXTRATERRESTRIALS EXIST ON OTHER PLANETS?

(A Theological Perspective)

by John Anning — Revised 01-27-26

Introduction

The idea of intelligent "Aliens" existing on other planets is a very popular idea that has existed in the imaginations of mankind for a long time. This idea has inspired much literature on the subject as well as movie and TV serial productions. There is a certain comfort in believing that we are not alone in the cosmos and that perhaps other beings share in the same aspirations and struggles that we do here on earth. Some even fantasize that maybe someday, aliens might make contact with us and share their technology and wisdom with us regarding the survival of the human race.

A Common Philosophical Argument for the Existence of Extraterrestrial Life

It is commonly reasoned that the cosmos is so vast and old that surely there must be other life out there somewhere. After all, we exist, so why couldn't others exist as well? The assumed premise is that life evolved randomly and similarly throughout the universe through naturalistic processes. It is also commonly argued that to believe that we are alone in the cosmos would be an arrogant assumption that we are special in our exclusive existence. So it is assumed, therefore, that alien life MUST exist elsewhere.

Major Disagreements about the Age and Source of the Universe and Life

When considering life on other planets, we need to consider the source of life. There is much scientific debate and major disagreement regarding the age, source of the universe, and of life itself, depending on philosophical presuppositions held by both secular and Christian scientists. Most secular scientists insist that the age of the observable universe is about 13.8 billion years. Many Christian scientists, on the other hand, insist that the age of the observable universe is only about 6,000 years. Quite a difference! Additionally, secular scientists presuppose that there is no God and that life appeared accidentally and spontaneously, while Christian scientists presuppose that there must be a God and that life is the result of His special creation. This is a rather complex and lengthy philosophical debate that I will not deal with here because of the extensive nature of the subject. I have already hammered out this topic on my website for those who are interested in reading it. https://www.johnanning.com/origins.html

I will be using a theological approach in my examination of extraterrestrial life and not attempting to persuade anyone who rejects the (1) existence of God, (2) the inerrancy and authority of the Bible and (3) the literal interpretation of the Genesis creation account.

A Theological Argument for Mankind's Exclusive Existence in the Universe

Assuming that those reading this accept the idea that God exists and is the Author and Creator of the universe, that the Bible is the inerrant and authoritative *Word of God*, and that the book of Genesis specifically is taken seriously and literally, (all requirements of the Christian faith) I would like to apply some Biblically based scrutiny of the notion that we are not alone in the universe.

Theological Argument #1

According to the *Genesis 1:1-31* account of God's creation timeline, the earth was created on the first day. It existed before the sun, moon, or stars that were later created on the fourth day of creation. This is significant because God deals with forming and shaping the earth before dealing with the rest of the universe. It suggests that God has a special interest in planet Earth and the creatures that He placed on it during days 5 and 6. From this point in time on, the entire Bible then deals with the redemption of mankind here on earth. There is never a mention of any other humanoid creatures ever created beyond the 6-day creation timeline or of anything else anywhere after this time. According to *Genesis 2:1-3 (NIV)*, God rested on the 7th day, having finished with all of His creative processes.

Yes, the creation week in Genesis flies in the face of established and widely accepted scientific models and has been scrutinized by many as not fitting into their worldview of the cosmos. The Creation week was supernatural and therefore beyond our understanding. God had His own reasons for the order of Creation events. We are in no position to question them or to offer suggestions for improvement. I believe that the days of Creation were literal 24-hour time periods. Biblical scholars have shown that this is the intended meaning of the text. The week of seven, 24-hour days, so familiar to us, had its beginning at the Creation. God could have made everything in six microseconds or in six trillion years, but He chose literal days as a general pattern for mankind.

Theological Argument #2

The Bible tells us that the purpose of the creation of the stars in Genesis 1:14-19 (NIV) was *for signs and seasons and days and years and to give light on earth*.
Additionally, David tells us in the book of Psalms that *the heavens tell of the glory of God; And their expanse declares the work of His hands.* There is no other mention or inference in the Bible that the stars were created for any other reasons or created to support additional intelligent beings in the universe.

Theological Argument #3

There are many Biblical references indicating that Christ died "once, for all". Since Christ was physically here on earth when He died, those on earth are therefore the "all"! If there are other beings present on other planets, wouldn't Christ also have to die again for them? The Bible is clear about Christ dying only once. Therefore, since Christ's sacrificial death on the cross was a one-time event, never to be repeated, and since He was here on earth when He died for "all", we here on earth are the "all" represented by Christ's one-time sacrifice. Also, when God sent His Son, Jesus, into our world to become flesh, Jesus' human attributes came by way of His earthly human mother, Mary. Jesus was fully God and a fully human man as the perfect sacrifice for a fallen human race. When Christ was resurrected and then ascended into Heaven, *He sat at the right hand of the Father*, which suggests in Scripture that He was "finished" with what the Father sent Him to do. I find it highly unlikely that God would send His Son to any other planets to be born all over again to an alien race of beings to die yet again to be their indigenous sacrifice. At this point, in desperation, someone may argue that perhaps intelligent beings on other worlds did not require a Savior because they did not fall into sin as we did here. If that were so, and humans here on earth were the only creatures in the universe that fell into sin, then we would be left with yet another difficult theological question to answer: What went wrong with God's creation of humans here on earth that didn't go wrong anywhere else in the universe? Also, remember that in the Bible, even one-third of the angels fell into sin when they rebelled against God in Heaven. So theologically, it just would not make any sense that there are other intelligent beings in the universe to be accounted for who are somehow sinless.

But what about all of the UFO and UAP sightings—What or Who are they?

There certainly have been many reports of *Unidentified Flying Objects*, otherwise known as *Unidentified Aerial Phenomena,* over the years. Even NASA and the U.S. government have joined in the conversation and research on the matter, so there must be something mysterious going on out there. These sightings can categorically be broken down into five sub-groups. I will consider each one...

- Pranks and Hoaxes
- Scientific/Government/Military Projects
- Natural Phenomena
- Supernatural Phenomena
- More Supernatural Phenomena—Non-Human Biologics (if present)

Pranks and Hoaxes

Mankind has a rather devious sense of humor sometimes and has been guilty of spoofing the gullible public into believing that aliens are present. Some pranks have been quite elaborate and convincing, for a while at least, but eventually get exposed for what they are. Also, given the computer technology that exists, it's easy to produce videos that are convincingly real. Any fifth grader these days with access to A.I. can easily produce UFO footage. Additionally, some people with psychiatric conditions believe in their minds that they have made contact with alien creatures and are quick to step into the limelight to share their imaginary experiences.

Scientific/Government/Military Projects

Technology has been evolving quite rapidly in the last fifty years or so and has produced some rather interesting experiments and projects. For security reasons, scientists, the government, and the military always get the first crack at playing with these technologies years before the general public ever knows anything about them.

Natural Phenomena

Nature (God's creation) has provided us with spectacular phenomena since the beginning of time! I wonder how many times in history the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) convinced people that the world was ending, or that the Lord was bursting into our world to rapture the Church. While the Aurora Borealis is now better understood, there are several odd and mysterious natural phenomena witnessed that are not!

Supernatural Phenomena

Supernatural Phenomena are a very interesting and rather disturbing possibility. There is no doubt in my mind that this could very well be what is going on. This could explain the strange aerial apparitions and sightings that don't seem to obey the laws of physics the way that we understand them. We know that Biblically, angels and demons are present here on earth doing their work. While angels are serving God's purpose in the affairs of man, demons are not serving God but rather hard at work trying to foil God's plan of salvation for mankind. They are very deceitful creatures that would love nothing more than distracting mankind from the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ. If demons can convince mankind that there is intelligent life on other planets, it would cause significant doubts regarding the authority and inerrancy of the Bible—the cornerstone of Christianity. Additionally, demons may be trying to coerce mankind into looking to aliens for salvation rather than to God's Son. Satan and his demons hate mankind and will try to distract mankind away from Jesus Christ in any way that they can!

More Supernatural Phenomena—Non-Human Biologics (if present)

There have been some reports (real or fake) that extraterrestrial biological creatures are currently present here on Earth that have been captured, studied, and exploited. I am very skeptical about this. However, even if there are truly strange non-human biological beings present here on earth, I would not just assume that their origin is some other planet or galaxy, but would reason rather that they are manifestations of a demonic origin. There are a few passages in the Bible that refer to demons conjugating with human females producing some perverted form of demonic creature, but they were wiped out in the great flood. There is also mention of "giants" in the Bible called the *Nephilim*, but they and their descendants were also eliminated by King David and his armies. These current creatures, whatever they are, if real, will confuse a lot of people into believing the subsequent "aliens from another planet" narrative. This is exactly what the demonic forces would like to have us believe—as long as it's not belief in Jesus Christ.

Summary and Conclusions

It is important to understand, from a Biblical perspective at least, that intelligent extraterrestrial life on other planets is not consistent with the book of Genesis or with the theological truth claims outlined in the rest of the Scriptures. Biblical genealogy, from the time of Adam to the current time, would suggest that the age of the universe is extremely young, on the order of only about six thousand years old and does not support any "billions of years" evolutionary processes that would have resulted in anything present here on earth or on any other planets in the cosmos. The Bible tells us that God "rested on the seventh day" and finished creating everything. Also, the vastness of the cosmos has nothing to do with the potential of other beings existing, but rather with displaying God's glory. We are indeed special, exclusive creatures, created on the sixth day of creation, created in the "image of God". The only other intelligent creatures ever mentioned in the Bible are angels and demons. It is evident to me that both of these creatures are real and currently covertly active in the affairs of mankind as God sovereignly allows them to be, but that is another subject.