

UFOs/UAPs

By Daniel Ray

Concept Attribution: UFO - Kenneth Arnold, W.W. “Mac” Brazel. UAP - Office of the Director of National Intelligence; NASA.

Date: UFO (unidentified flying object) 1947. UAP (unidentified anomalous/arial phenomena) 2021.

INTRODUCTION

For as long as man has been contemplatively gazing heavenward in admiration and wonder of the stars, we have endlessly wondered about the possible existence of “extraterrestrial”¹ life in the cosmos. The argument goes that since Earth is filled with such wondrous biological diversity, and given that the universe is so enormously vast, why would there not be other planets, other worlds, or even other dimensions, which could also host life? Many Christians reason that God certainly could have created life elsewhere. But if one does not believe in God and instead embraces an evolutionary understanding of life, the possibility remains that life could have likewise arose elsewhere in the cosmos.

There are consequential extrapolations from such assumptions, namely that *if* life exists elsewhere in the cosmos then perhaps such life is intellectually, spiritually, morally, and even technologically superior to human beings. This is not just a naturalistic assumption, as the late medieval literary scholar and Christian apologist C.S. Lewis wrote a science fiction trilogy about the possibility of an unfallen race of beings who inhabit the planet Perelandra.

Many further speculate that these advanced cosmic civilizations might possess the technical knowledge and ability to contact us, by means of radio signals, telepathy,² automatic writing,³ or through intergalactic-interstellar travel in spacecraft. From the alleged discovery of “helicopters” engraved on ancient Egyptian sarcophagi to strange alien craft crash landing across the acreage of a New Mexico ranch, the idea of alien spacecraft from another world or dimension continues to captivate our collective cultural imagination.

In the summer of 1897, H.G. Wells first published *The War of the Worlds* as a series in *Cosmopolitan* magazine. Published in book form the following year, the haunting tale of an alien invasion of Earth by giant war machines from Mars eventually became a dramatic radio play narrated by Orson Wells in October of 1938. The broadcast engendered hysteria and panic from many listeners on the East Coast who believed the Martian invasion was real.

The 20th century witnessed an explosion of the genre of science fiction, from novels, to radio, television, and film. Aliens depicted by writers and filmmakers varied between degrees of benevolence (*E.T.*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, and *Contact*) and malevolence (*Aliens*, *Independence Day*, *The Fourth Kind*). For over a century, we have been conditioned by our own storytelling to accept the possibility of extraterrestrial life. If advanced extraterrestrial beings do exist, it seems based on the testimonies of those who claim to have been abducted by alien beings, that their intentions are quite malevolent.

What continues to fuel this fascination with aliens and their craft is that there has become a burgeoning interest from the scientific community and from the government in investigating existing UFO and UAP testimonies and all the alleged evidence.

Dr. Frank Drake, for example, pioneer astronomer in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI) proposed an “equation” of sorts in 1961, now famously known simply as the Drake Equation, to flesh out the possible existence of advanced alien civilizations within our own Milky Way galaxy. While the subjectivity of the numbers assigned to the variables within the equation have been debated over the decades, Drake claims that his calculations yield somewhere between ten and twenty thousand advanced civilizations in our galaxy alone.⁴

So where are they? Drake was determined to find out. He is one of the founding members of the SETI Institute headquartered in Mountain View, California. Established in 1984, the mission of the SETI Institute is to “lead humanity’s quest to understand the origins and prevalence of life and intelligence in the universe and share that knowledge with the world.”⁵ And here in the 21st century, NASA has recently created a team of 16 astrophysicists and other specialists specifically for the task of investigating unidentified aerial/anomalous phenomena.⁶ But again, where are the aliens? Do we have any conclusive evidence of the existence of even one advanced civilization within our own galaxy? Have people really been abducted by an evil race of extraterrestrials? Are there pieces of alien craft in government hangars somewhere?

DEFINING UFOs AND UAPs

The term UFO (unidentified flying object) first appeared in summer of 1947, shortly after Idaho businessman Kenneth Arnold, while piloting his small plane near Mt. Rainer in Washington state, reported on June 24th his startling observation of a fleet of nine luminous aircraft flying near 10,000 feet at over 900 miles per hour. Just over a week later, on July 4th, New Mexican rancher W.W. “Mac” Brazel reported that an alien “disc” had crashed on his property near Roswell, scattering bits and pieces of foil, wood, paper, and rubber over hundreds of feet, as local news agencies reported. Brazel contacted local authorities and said he thought it was remnants of a crashed disc. A local military official came to recover the debris and reiterated Brazel’s “disc” description but later claimed what they had recovered were merely pieces from a crashed weather balloon. These two separate incidents are cited by many UFO enthusiasts of the genesis of the UFO-UAP phenomena.

From 1952 through 1969, the Air Force undertook Project Blue Book, a detailed series of investigations of UFO reports in the U.S. and abroad where United States interests were involved. Most of the information in Project Blue Book has since been declassified and is available through the National Archives in Washington, D.C.⁷

The term UAP (unidentified aerial or anomalous phenomena), is identical to that of “UFO” but has since come into vogue due largely to the often cultish, conspiratorial, cartoonish, even somewhat “crazy” connotations that have associated with the term UFO since the Roswell incident. Most recently the U.S. government and NASA have implemented the use of UAP to give their investigative efforts a more respectable light. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence released a preliminary report on UAPs in June of 2021. The report noted in bold that “The limited amount of high-quality reporting on unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP) hampers our ability to draw firm conclusions about the nature or intent of UAP.”⁸ This “limited amount of high-quality” evidence continues to be a central issue for UFO and UAP reports. To date, despite the proliferation of countless videos and pictures, there has not been a single physical piece of evidence of otherworldly technology of alleged crashed alien craft.

Government interest in UAP incidents in the last decade have been due in part to several videos declassified by the Pentagon. These videos, now ubiquitous in social media, feature Naval fighter-jet pilots and Navy aircraft carrier radar personnel capturing otherworldly, seemingly physics-defying aircraft of some on radar. The Pentagon has stopped short of definitively explaining what these entities could be, but such reticence has only fueled more intense cultural speculation from UFO-UAP enthusiasts about the existence of highly intelligent beings from other dimensions or worlds.

Perhaps what has generated the most recent resurgence of interest in UFOs and UAPs is the testimony of former military intelligence officer retired Major David Grusch. Grusch openly testified before a congressional committee on July 26, 2023, that he was told and believes that the U.S. government is housing wreckage of alien spacecraft and the “non-human biologics” of the “pilots” of those craft. Like the Naval radar videos, clips of Grusch’s testimony likewise permeate social media.⁹

There remains an additional compelling component to UFO and UAP reports; that of alien “abduction” stories, the most famous of which came to light in 1961, the same year Frank Drake published his equation. It is the story of Betty and Barney Hill who saw a UFO on their way home along a dark highway in northern New Hampshire. Shortly after the sighting, Betty recounted a series of dreams in which she and her husband were allegedly experimented upon by mysterious and rather grotesque humanoid-like beings. She believed these beings were associated with their initial encounter with the anomalous craft.

Abduction reports have since abounded, with abductees experiencing nightmares, physical pain, intense fear and anxiety as well as usual marks on their bodies. These stories all have common themes of being captured, examined, interrogated, shown around the ship, and some include having a theophany of some kind, an encounter with the “divine” or hearing the voice of

“God.”¹⁰ Many abductees speak of their experiences, however, as terrifying and replete with the presence of evil.

In addition, some UFO-UAP experiences and encounters have included abductees put into a trance and engage in a behavior known as “automatic” or “spirit” writing where the abductee is used by the alien beings as a medium of communication. One of the most prevalent and widely known artifacts of such “writing” is *The Urantia Book*.

The Urantia Book, a tome supposedly communicated to humans by spirit dictation from “superuniverse rulers,” spends the first two-thirds of its 2,097 pages describing a “universe of universes” that is not subject to space and time and the laws of physics. The last third of this UFO bible denies the full deity of Jesus Christ and humanity’s need for salvation from its sinful condition.¹¹

UFO-UAP encounters have inspired a number of cults over the years, often based on similar messages given to an individual by alleged alien beings.¹²

CRITIQUE OF UFOs AND UAPs

As ufologist Gary Bates observes in his critical analysis of UFO phenomena *Alien Intrusion – UFOs and the Evolution Connection* much UFO phenomena has a direct tie to the occult. Many of those who have reported abduction experiences or encounters with UFOs “had pre-existing new-age beliefs – they were into bio-energetic therapies, past lives, astral projection,¹³ tarot cards,¹⁴ and so on.”¹⁵ On the other hand, many who are committed, Bible-believing Christians who accept Jesus as Lord, simply do not have alien abduction experiences. In fact, many attest to calling on the name of Jesus in delivering them from evil abduction phenomena.

Many UFO and UAP incidents can be explained by either natural or man-made causes; meteors, meteorites, aircraft lights, satellites, the brightness of the planet Venus, comets, or simply hoaxes. But there are a smaller percentage of UFO-UAP anomalies that cannot be explained by such things. If these phenomena are best explained by advanced alien intelligence, from where would they come? Another part of the universe? A nearby star? Another dimension?

There are several mitigating factors against these possibilities.¹⁶ One is that traveling through the universe at even a small fraction of the speed of light subjects any physical object to inevitable destruction. The greater the velocity, the more damage is done even from encountering particles as small as a sand grain. The second difficulty rests with the number of factors required in having a planet like Earth that could support extraterrestrial life. Just to name a few, the requirements include just the right sort of star (including its mass, luminosity, activity, and temperature), the right distance from the star, the right mass of the planet, the right admixture of gas in the atmosphere, the right spot in the galaxy, even the right sort of galaxy. These and many other variables make the odds against such a life-supporting planet highly unlikely.

In addition, if there is a government conspiracy which attempts to hide existence of advanced alien craft, it is good to keep in mind that at least one former U.S. President had a very difficult time hiding a single cassette tape from the American public.

BIBLICAL RESPONSE

Some advocates of the UFO-UAP paradigm suggest that the existence of advanced intelligent aliens would undermine traditional biblical Christianity. Nothing could be further from the truth. For naturalistic worldviews cannot explain how UFOs or UAPs could possibly defy the laws of physics or from where they might emanate. Christianity remains the only worldview which offers the best explanation for everything about these phenomena, from mysterious laws-of-physics defying lights in the sky to the sinister, nocturnal abductors who torment their victims.

Consider what the Bible says about angelic beings. The Greek term for “angel” in the New Testament (ἄγγελος - *aggelos*) means “messenger.” Consider the angel Gabriel. Luke tells us he was “sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth.” He came to announce to Mary that she would be with a child, the Child of promise, the Lord Jesus Christ, who would “be great and will be called the Son of the Most High” (see Luke 1:26-38). Angels can travel from place to place on Earth. They are sent by God and convey a message to human beings. They do appear to “transcend” our known laws of physics. They can appear in a dazzling, otherworldly luminescence (Luke 24:2). They can appear suddenly (Luke 1:11), in a multitude, shining forth the glory of the Lord, as they did to the shepherds the night of Jesus’s birth (Luke 2:8-14). Their sudden appearance and their appearance in general can cause astonishment, wonder, and fear (Luke 1:11, 29).

But the Bible also reveals that an unknown number of angels, including Lucifer, the most glorious of all the created angelic host, rebelled against God (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28; Revelation 12). These fallen angels can communicate with human beings. But their messages include deceiving, tormenting, tempting, harassing, and wreaking havoc on human beings (Gen. 3; Job 1-2; Matt. 4; Luke 22:31; Acts 19:13-17; 2 Cor. 12:7; Eph. 6; 1 Peter 5:8; Jude 8; Rev. 12). In 2 Corinthians 4:11, Paul tells us that Satan “masquerades” as an angel of light. The Greek term, *metaschématizó*, means “to change in fashion or appearance.”¹⁷ Paul also warns us (Galatians 1:8-9) that angels can indeed be messengers of false doctrines.

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, even now I say again: if anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

These fallen angels can and do inhabit human beings who have given themselves over to their power. Jesus encounters a man possessed by a host of demons. He asks them, “What is your name?” “Legion” comes the response, “for we are many” (Luke 8:30). Many who were demon possessed were brought to Jesus for the demons to be cast out (Mark 1:32). Jude describes men who were given over to diabolical behaviour, using the Greek term “*planeti*” to describe them. The English translation of Jude 8 is rendered “wandering stars”. For these “the black darkness has been reserved forever.”

Lastly, the apostle Paul exhorts us to don “the full armour of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil” (Eph. 6:11). Intelligent non-human beings *do indeed exist*. Christianity is the only worldview capable of offering a relevant analysis of what these otherworldly beings really are. As Paul observes, “our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places” (Eph. 6:12).

In summary, UFO-UAP and alien encounters are best explained as nothing more than “the schemes of the devil” which are intent on destroying human beings, waging war with God’s elect, and denying the person, work, teaching, and divine nature of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ. The head of the great dragon, the serpent of old, the devil and Satan can only be crushed by the power of Jesus. Only through abiding in Jesus’ love and truth, can we hope to extinguish the devil’s fiery and deceptive arrows and be delivered from evil.¹⁸

Notes

- 1 Extraterrestrial – outside of or beyond Earth.
- 2 A separate 4-page Profile has been published related to this subject: James K. Walker, “The Occult,” *Profile Notebook* (Arlington, Texas: Watchman Fellowship, Inc. 1994-2008). A complete collection of Profiles (over 500 pages) is available at www.watchman.org/notebook. This Profile is available at: <https://www.watchman.org/profiles/pdf/occultprofile.pdf>.
- 3 Automatic writing is another form of channeling. A separate 4-page Profile has been published related to this subject: Rick Branch, “Channeling,” *Profile Notebook* (Arlington, Texas: Watchman Fellowship, Inc. 1994-2017). This Profile is available at: <http://www.watchman.org/profiles/pdf/channelingprofile.pdf>.
- 4 Seth Shostack, *Confessions of an Alien Hunter – A Scientist’s Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence* (Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2009), 107.
- 5 “About,” SETI.org, accessed September 2, 2023, <https://www.seti.org/about>.
- 6 Emily Furfaro, “NASA Announces Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena Study Team Members,” NASA.gov, October 21, 2022, accessed September 2, 2023 <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/nasa-announces-unidentified-aerial-phenomena-study-team-members/>.
- 7 Ronald D. Story, editor, *The Mammoth Encyclopedia of Extraterrestrial Encounters* (London: Constable & Robinson, LTD, 2001), 537.
- 8 “Preliminary Assessment: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena,” Office of The Director of National Intelligence, accessed September 2, 2023, <https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/Preliminary-Assessment-UAP-20210625.pdf>.
- 9 A simple search example “David Grusch” from YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=David+Grusch.
- 10 Hugh Ross, Kenneth Samples, Mark Clark, *Lights in the Sky and Little Green Men – A Rational Christian Look at UFOs and Extraterrestrials* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2001), 131-132.
- 11 *Ibid.*, 122.
- 12 See Watchman *Profiles on The Urantia Book* (<https://www.watchman.org/profiles/pdf/urantiaprofile.pdf>), Heaven’s Gate (<https://www.watchman.org/profiles/pdf/heavensgateprofile.pdf>), & Raelian cults. (<https://www.watchman.org/profiles/pdf/raelianprofile.pdf>)
- 13 Ron J. Bigalke Jr., “Eckankar,” *Profile Notebook*, 2006, available at: <https://www.watchman.org/profiles/pdf/eckankarprofile.pdf>.
- 14 Brady Blevins, “Tarot Cards,” *Profile Notebook*, 2021, available at: <https://www.watchman.org/ProfileTarot.pdf>.
- 15 Gary Bates, *Alien Intrusion – UFOs and the Evolution Connection* (Green Forest: Master Books, 2006), 255.
- 16 See Ross, Samples, and Clark, *Lights in the Sky and Little Green Men*, pages 43-64.
- 17 “3345. *Metaschématizó*,” Bible Hub, accessed September 2, 2023 <https://biblehub.com/greek/3345.htm>.
- 18 For more information related to the Cosmos and how it relates to knowing the existence of God read: *The Story of the Cosmos – How the Heavens Declare the Glory of God* (Eugene: Harvest House, 2019), and checkout Watchman’s podcast: Apologetics Profile and Watchman’s astronomy and faith podcast Good Heavens! Watchman.org/alienpod.



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