ALIEN LIFE, EXTRASOLAR PLANETS AND UNIVERSAL ATONEMENT : PT 1

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Allow me to ask you a few questions: Do you think that there is intelligent life in Outer Space? Do you believe that we are really alone here on Planet Earth? Have you ever stopped to consider the possibility that God may have also created sentient beings elsewhere in the Universe?

As I am sure you probably realize, whether or not there is life on other planets is a question which people have been asking themselves for a very long time; probably ever since man first looked up into the night sky thousands of years ago. Our ancient progenitors may not have known whether or not there were other planets, but that age-old question of "Are we alone?" must have entered their hearts at one time or another. I know that the idea of life on faraway planets is something which I have personally pondered for quite a few years now; in fact, ever since I was a curious, young, scientific-minded teenager many years ago. I still remember the times when my friend and I would gaze upon the glorious wonders of the night sky through his reflector telescope. One idea which I have personally considered in more recent years, is that the Creation Account that's found in the Book of Genesis may have been written from an Earth-centric point of view. If this is true, is it possible then, that if God did create intelligent beings on other planets, that those beings may likewise have their own Creation Account; but in their story, their planet plays a central role, while Earth is but a small point of light that is found in their night sky, if it is even visible at all? Even our Sun could just be a tiny speck of light that is lost in the myriad of stars which populate their sky. Is it even possible that due to their lack of the necessary technology, that they may even be totally ignorant of our existence, just as we are now ignorant of their existence as well? These are some deep thoughts to consider indeed!

Some people, such as more conservative-minded Christians, for example, argue that if God truly created intelligent life on other planets, then surely He would have told us about it in His Word; that is to say, in the Bible. My answer to such a perspective would have to be: "Not necessarily so". Why? Well because in my view, it is not our place to determine what God has to do, or doesn't have to do. Neither is the Almighty God under any obligation to tell us everything if He doesn't wish to. If He chooses to keep something to Himself, for whatever His reasons, that is His business. For us mere humans to try to understand everything that God does, or why He chooses to do it, is rather foolish. We simply cannot understand all of the thoughts and ways of the Almighty. As the Prophet Isaiah, King David, and the Apostle Paul once wrote:

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9, KJV

"Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it." Psalms 139:6, KJV

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?" Romans 11:33-34, KJV

So, I think that the attitude adopted by some of my fellow Christians, that is, that God would have surely told us if He had created intelligent life on other planets, is a bit shortsighted. To reiterate my point, God is really under no obligation to tell us everything that He does, or even why He chooses to do it, or doesn't do it; and for any of us to think otherwise is just a sign of foolish arrogance. While we can surely wonder about what God has done, because being curious is a part of our human nature, it is not for us to question His Ways. Please consider the wisdom found in the following verses:

"Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said, Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it. Then Job answered the LORD, and said, Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further. Then answered the LORD unto Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Gird up thy loins now like a man: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?" Job 40:1-8, KJV

"Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few." Ecclesiastes 5:2, KJV

"Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?" Romans 9:20, KJV

Some Christians have also proposed the idea that God had no need to create intelligent life elsewhere, because the Bible tells us that He was pleased with the life that He created here on Planet Earth, and He saw that it was good. Consider these verses found in the opening chapter of Genesis, as well as in the Book of Revelation:

"And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided

the light from the darkness . . . And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good . . . And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good . . . And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good . . . And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good . . . And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, KJV

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." Revelation 4:11, KJV

While it is indeed true that God was very happy with the way events originally turned out on our planet, I am not so sure that this is a valid argument for concluding that He didn't create life elsewhere. The Bible tells us that God rested on the Seventh Day; but how do we know that following that day, He didn't proceed to continue the process of Creation, by creating additional intelligent life in other parts of the Universe as well; particularly if what He had already made here had turned out so well? Of course, I can just imagine what God must be thinking now, after observing humanity for some six thousand years. I'm reminded of the following verse which occurs in the Book of Genesis, just prior to the time of the Flood:

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Genesis 6:5, KJV

If we are honest with ourselves, we must confess that the possibility of intelligent life on other planets is really an open-ended question, because none of us really knows the answer to it with one hundred per cent certainty. Now, while this may appear to be a funny question, allow me to ask you something: If God completed all of Creation in Six Days, and He rested on the Seventh Day, what has He been doing ever since then? If we take into consideration God's industrious, creative nature, I would think that He would be rather bored by now if He has been doing absolutely nothing. That sounds as monotonous as sitting on a cloud and playing a harp for all of Eternity. I think that God has a lot more in store for us, and that He Himself must keep rather busy even now. I am reminded of something that the Apostle Paul wrote in his first Epistle to the brethren at Corinth. He said:

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." 1 Corinthians 2:9, KJV

I think many of you reading this will agree with me when I say, that if a creator, designer or inventor happens to be successful with something, the normal desire or motivation is to want to try to do it again, in order to improve upon the original creation or design. That being the case, how do we know that God didn't feel the same way? How do we know that God didn't decide to take His, (excuse the expression), "experiment", that is to say, human life, elsewhere, and try it again? Why couldn't He have seeded human life elsewhere in the Universe as well? What prohibits Him from doing this? Is it possible that we've foolishly tried to place limitations on the very Creator of the Universe, due to our own hallowed traditions, preconceived ideas, shortsightedness and limited understanding?

While this may surprise or even offend some of my brethren in the Lord, let me tell you that just because something is not clearly stated in the Bible, does not necessarily mean that it hasn't happened, or couldn't happen. In fact, I will even say that there are some things which are hidden in the Bible, of which many people are not even aware, simply due to the fact that they only read it on the surface, if they even take the time to read it at all. As I have mentioned before, even Jesus spoke in Parables at times; because as He stated, some things simply were not meant for everyone to hear or to understand; particularly His enemies. Consider these verses:

"And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest

thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear . . . All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world."

Matthew 13:10-16, 34-35, KJV

"These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father." John 16:25, KJV

Allow me to clarify that I firmly believe that God does not contradict His Word; and as I have pointed out a number of times in other articles, I personally view the Bible as the only Standard by which we should judge all things. If I hear of something, or read something, which seems contrary to the Word of God, then I will hold it in reservation until I can form a more informed opinion about it. Ultimately, if what I have heard or read does not pass the test of the Scriptures, then I will outright reject it. The problem here, however, is that some Christians are too quick to adopt the attitude that if something is not clearly stated in God's Word, then it simply isn't so. They leave no room to even consider the possibility that the problem could be their own lack of understanding of certain portions of the Bible.

Let me say again that the Bible is a very profound Book. I

should know, because I've been reading it seriously for over thirty-five years, and there are still a lot of things which I do not fully understand. In other words, due to our own lack of understanding, we could inadvertently be putting God in a box; we could be limiting Him; and this isn't right.

Of course, as I have already stated, I do not know the Mind of God any more than the next person. As such, the proposal I have put forth concerning God seeding human life elsewhere in the Universe is purely speculative at best; however, this possibility does exist. Why is it that some rigid Christians find it so heretical to even suggest this possibility? What are they afraid of? In my view, discovering life, whether it is human life or not, on other planets, or being discovered by the same, would only further add to God's greatness; it would not detract from it by any means; and it would not, or should not, destroy our faith, as some people have been led to believe. If your faith were to be destroyed by such an Earth-shaking event, it would be your own fault, because you chose to limit God, as a result of your own narrow-minded understanding of His Word.

Now, before we can even begin to discuss intelligent life on other planets, we need to address another issue first; and that is whether or not other inhabitable planets even exist. In fact, we need to step back even further and ask ourselves this question first: Are there any other planets beyond our known Solar System? As is my custom, rather than address the issue from a purely scientific perspective, we need to stop and consider what God's Word has to say first. In the Bible, we do find a few verses which suggest, or lightly hint, that our Christian forefathers may have known things which have been sanitized from our faith since that time, by the powers that be. Consider the following verses:

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;" Hebrews 1:1-2, KJV

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Hebrews 11:3, KJV In the previous two verses, the word "worlds" is derived from the Greek word "aion". Consider what Thayer's Greek Lexicon has to say concerning this word:

----- Begin Quote -----

for ever, an unbroken age, perpetuity of time, eternity
 the worlds, universe
 period of time, age

----- End Quote -----

As you can see, one of the meanings of the word "aion", is a period of time, an age or eternity. Based upon this meaning, someone wrote to me and suggested that it is in this context that we should understand the previous two verses. However, if we carefully consider what Paul is writing about in those verses, it becomes obvious that this particular definition does not fit at all. Why? Because Paul is clearly talking about the physical creation of the Universe. He's discussing how the worlds were framed; that is to say, completed, built or made. Paul is talking about how God the Father, through Jesus Christ, His Son, made all things out of nothing. This understanding is clearly supported by other verses which describe the very same event. Consider the following:

"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." John 1:3-4, KJV

"And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:"

Acts 14:15, KJV

"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;" Acts 17:24, KJV

"But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him." 1 Corinthians 8:6, KJV

"And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:" Ephesians 3:9

"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist." Colossians 1:16-17, KJV

"For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings." Hebrews 2:10, KJV

"For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God." Hebrews 3:4, KJV

"For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:" 2 Peter 3:5, KJV

One of the reasons why the Apostles emphasized the physical Creation so much, is because, as Paul tells us quite plainly in his Epistle to the Roman brethren, the physical Universe offers clear, unquestionable proof of God's existence, as well as of the Power which He exerts over the same. Paul is so convinced of this fact, that he even tells them, and us, that as a result of this overwhelming evidence, we are all without excuse. None of us have any reason to not believe in God; and if we don't believe, it is only because of our own willful pride, stubbornness and arrogance. Paul wrote:

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:" Romans 1:20, KJV Returning to my previous thought concerning the worlds being framed by God, following are two more verses in which the word "framed" is used in the very same manner; meaning to physically create or construct something:

"Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?" Isaiah 29:16, KJV

"In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:" Ephesians 2:21, KJV

So, as you can hopefully see, if we are willing to open our minds and hearts a little more, and be a little more liberal in our understanding of the Scriptures, instead of being so dogmatic, the Bible does seem to offer the possibility of the existence of other planets within its pages. In fact, if you would take the time to read the series "The Fruits of Disobedience", as well as "Our Pagan World: The Easter Myth Exposed", you will discover that ancient cultures, including the backslidden Israelites, made the mistake of worshipping the Sun, Moon and stars, which brought the wrath of God down upon them time and time again. As I mentioned earlier, they may or may not have known that some of those stellar bodies were in fact planets; however, the fact that Paul does use the word "worlds", in my view, suggests the possibility that maybe they did know. Following are some verses which clearly show how the Israelites backslid against the Lord, and began to worship the heavenly bodies:

"Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the LORD spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire . . . And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven"

Deuteronomy 4:19, KJV

"If there be found among you, within any of thy gates which

the LORD thy God giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of the LORD thy God, in transgressing his covenant, And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded; And it be told thee, and thou hast heard of it, and enquired diligently, and, behold, it be true, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought in Israel: Then shalt thou bring forth that man or that woman, which have committed that wicked thing, unto thy gates, even that man or that woman, and shalt stone them with stones, till they die."

"And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal."

2 Kings 17:16, KJV

"And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel. For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD said, In Jerusalem will I put my name. And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD." 2 Kings 21:2-5, KJV

"And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel. And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven."

2 Kings 23:4-5, KJV

"At that time, saith the LORD, they shall bring out the bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of his princes, and the bones of the priests, and the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, out of their graves: And they shall spread them before the sun, and the moon, and all the host of heaven, whom they have loved, and whom they have served, and after whom they have walked, and whom they have sought, and whom they have worshipped: they shall not be gathered, nor be buried; they shall be for dung upon the face of the earth." Jeremiah 8:1-2, KJV

"And the houses of Jerusalem, and the houses of the kings of Judah, shall be defiled as the place of Tophet, because of all the houses upon whose roofs they have burned incense unto all the host of heaven, and have poured out drink offerings unto other gods." Jeremiah 19:13, KJV

"I will also stretch out mine hand upon Judah, and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, and the name of the Chemarims with the priests; And them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops; and them that worship and that swear by the LORD, and that swear by Malcham;" Zephaniah 1:4-5, KJV

"Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, 0 ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness? Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon." Acts 7:42-43, KJV

So as you can plainly see, while God has created the heavens as an indisputable sign and testimony of His very existence and awesome Power, and while we can indeed marvel at what He has done, (as even King David himself wrote), we are not to worship the same. As Paul stated, we are not to worship the creature, or the creation, above the Creator. Our duty is to worship God alone. Consider these two verses:

". . . The heavens declare the glory of God; and the

firmament sheweth his handywork." Psalms 19:1, KJV

"Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen." Romans 1:25, KJV

Returning to our main topic, one important question we need to ask ourselves, is whether the previous two verses found in the Book of Hebrews, are only talking about observable planets within our immediate Solar System, or if they can likewise be extended so as to include extrasolar planets as well. In other words, if God created our own Solar System, why couldn't He do the same elsewhere as well? Considering the massive volume of galaxies, stars, nebulae and other celestial phenomena which modern astronomy has revealed to us, in my view, it seems rather ludicrous, not to mention arrogant, for us to categorically assume that no other solar systems exist other than our own. Do I know for a fact that they exist? Of course not. This is really speculation on my part. Even my understanding of the Biblical word "worlds" is based upon personal speculation.

As I mentioned earlier, being as I am a Christian, I tend to follow the wise advice found in the Scriptures, and measure all things against God's Word. For this reason, when the mass media announces the "discovery" of another extrasolar planet, (also known as exoplanets -- there have been two hundred and forty-two alleged "discoveries" to date), I will gravitate towards the side of skepticism. I believe that whether we are Christians or non-Christians, we should approach the issue of extrasolar planets with some degree of caution; because one aspect of modern science, is that it has a clear propensity for wavering in its opinions from one day to the next. What may have been true yesterday, may not necessarily hold true tomorrow. Of course, science is a method of discovery; so if further research and analysis reveals that something is no longer true or valid, then it should rightly be discarded.

As we continue our talk on extraterrestrial life in part two we will be taking a look at such issues as the immutability of God's Word, astronomers Clyde Tombaugh and Percival Lowell and the discovery of Pluto; the Kuiper Disk and Kuiper Belt Objects; Pluto's demotion, scientific methodology; the theory of evolution and the public school system; Gliese 581 c, HD 202206 c and other extrasolar planets; visual verification versus secondary evidence; radial-velocity surveys and other methods of detection; pleasing God by our faith; the Creation as clear proof of God's existence; the double standard of science; and the 2004 The Planetary Society article regarding the extrasolar planet designated as 2M1207b. I trust that you will join me.

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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ALIEN LIFE, EXTRASOLAR PLANETS AND UNIVERSAL ATONEMENT : PT 2

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God And His Word Are Immutable, Clyde Tombaugh And Percival Lowell Discover Pluto, Kuiper Disk And Kuiper Belt Objects, Pluto Demoted To Dwarf Planet, Scientific Method, Theory Of Evolution, Peer Pressure In Public School System, Extrasolar Planets, Gliese 581 c And HD 202206 c, No Visual Observation, Only Secondary Evidence, Detection Methods And Radial-Velocity Survey, Faith To Believe, Faith Pleases God, Bible Is Proof, Proof In God's Creation, Ignorant By Choice, Double Standard Though One Were To Rise From The Dead, Endtime Lack Of Faith, 2004 Planetary Society Article And The 2M1207b Controversy

While due to its very nature, science requires flexibility, and can very often fluctuate in its opinions, by comparison, both God and His Word are immutable; that is to say, they're unchanging and constant. In the following verses, we're also told that God does not lie, and that His Word is established forever. If He says that something is true, then it is; and if He states that something will come to pass, then it most certainly will:

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" Numbers 23:19, KJV

"LAMED. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven." Psalms 119:89, KJV

"I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past." Ecclesiastes 3:14-15, KJV

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:" Isaiah 46:9-10, KJV

"God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged." Romans 3:4, KJV

"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;" Titus 1:2, KJV

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17, KJV

Please notice that in that last verse, in describing God as the "Father of Lights", James uses the phrase "with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning". In other words, just like the Sun, which is indeed the "father of lights", as well as the "greater light" mentioned in Genesis, which continuously pours its light upon the Earth, resulting in life on our planet, so too is our God. God is constant in His Ways; and He, as well as His Word, can be trusted; just like the morning Sun which never fails to rise day after day and year after year. God the Father, and Jesus Christ His Son, will always be there for us, regardless of how much time has passed, and regardless of how many troubles may come our way. As it is also written:

". . . lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:20b, KJV

" . . . for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5, KJV

On the other hand, the same cannot always be said concerning science; which has a propensity for wavering in it opinions and theories on a regular basis. This certainly holds true in the field of astronomy.

A clear case in point concerns the former outermost planet in our Solar System: Pluto. Since its discovery on February 18, 1930 by Clyde Tombaugh, Pluto was classified as a planet. As I point out in "The Nibiru Planet X Wormwood Controversy" series, both Percival Lowell and Clyde Tombaugh were looking for the mysterious Planet X in the vicinity of Neptune, when Pluto's discovery was made. However, since the early 1990's, with the discovery of over one thousand small icy objects in the outer region of our Solar System, in a disk-shaped cloud that astronomers refer to as the "Kuiper Disk", or "Kuiper Belt", Pluto's status as a major planet came into question.

These cold objects, which astronomers refer to as Kuiper Belt Objects, (KBO's), or Trans-Neptunian Objects, (TNO's), being as they cross the orbit of the planet Neptune, are irregular in shape, and the vast majority of them are much smaller in size than Pluto itself. However, a few KBO's are as large as, or even larger than Pluto, such as the KBO, Eris. Other KBO's possess such exotic names as Quaoar, Varuna and Sedna. It is theorized that over 70,000 objects populate the Kuiper Belt, and more are discovered with each passing year. Furthermore, the Kuiper Belt is believed to be the home of many periodic comets, or short-period comets; that is, those comets which have an orbital period of two hundred years or less.

For your information, Pluto is quite tiny in size, being six times smaller than our own planet Earth. Not only that, but this distant member of our Solar System is also smaller than seven of our Solar System's moons; those being our own Moon; as well as Jupiter's moons Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto; Saturn's moon Titan; and Neptune's moon Triton. Because of these facts, and others which I discuss in more detail in my series "The Nibiru Planet X Wormwood Controversy", in August of 2006, the International Astronomical Union announced a new definition for the word "planet". Being as it failed to meet the new criteria, Pluto was reclassified as a Dwarf Planet, and lost its status as the ninth member of our Solar System. It is now viewed as one of the larger members of the Kuiper Belt. Similarly-sized KBO's are thus referred to as Plutinos.

It is also interesting to note that until the Hubble Space Telescope was launched, images of Pluto and its small moon Charon were nothing more than blurry, irregular-shaped blobs of light. In fact, I possess one such image, being as it was included in a nine-piece set which I received as a gift from The Planetary Society some years ago, due to a contribution that I had made to that organization. It is only as a result of recent images taken by Hubble, that astronomers have been able to determine that Pluto does in fact possess a spherical shape similar to the eight planets in our Solar System; but its surface features still remain totally indistinguishable. Another factor which sets Pluto apart from the major bodies of our Solar System, is that it has never been visited by a manmade craft. There are plans, however, to change that within this decade, if all goes according to plan.

While this story concerning Pluto may not seem relevant to our current discussion on intelligent extraterrestrial life, other than the fact that it clearly demonstrates how modern science isn't always as perfect, or as constant in its views as one would like to think, there is one point that you need to remember as we proceed; and that is that the Pluto debate has revolved around visual observations of this Dwarf Planet by both men and machines.

Before proceeding to our next point of discussion, allow me to briefly address another issue. I realize that some of you who are reading this, who are more inclined to embrace the scientific perspective, may object to the fact that I have categorized science as being rather questionable in some of its positions. As I mentioned earlier, I recognize that this characteristic of science is the result of the very nature of the scientific approach to understanding things. That is to say, science demands that we first examine the evidence. It is then followed by speculation and experimentation, during which we offer various theories, and test those theories, in order to determine if they continue to be true. If not, then more examination is required, and additional experimentation is conducted, and the analytical process continues until the theories can either be substantiated by the results, or else discarded due to a lack of strong supporting evidence. At least they should be.

So, while I am not a scientist by profession, I do have a general understanding of how the scientific method operates. Nevertheless, as a Christian who has trusted in God for many years, and who is convinced of the immutable nature of His Word, I do not find this constant changing of opinion within the various scientific disciplines to be confidence-building.

This is particularly true when it results in such ludicrous conclusions as the theory of evolution, or Darwinism, (also referred to as macro-evolution); which, quite frankly, is a religion in its own right, because it does require a kind of blind faith in order to accept it as being true, due to the lack of concrete supporting evidence. In spite of all of the intensive searching which has been conducted over the years, the fact remains that no so-called "missing link" has ever been discovered, because, in my view, it doesn't exist. Now, if the "missing link" were to be found some day, I would be inclined to attribute it to the invention of unscrupulous men; (as has occurred in the past), or at the very least, to the incorrect interpretation of whatever data may possibly be presented at that time.

If evolution is the best that science, and the so-called "wisdom" and "logic" of man, can offer us, then to be quite frank, I'll gladly accept God's Word any day. At least God's Word gives us humans credit for being intelligent creatures from the very beginning. Not so with science, which falsely promotes the belief that it took mankind thousands, if not millions of years, just to figure out that by planting seeds in the ground, he wouldn't have to keep migrating from place to place every so often, in order to find food to eat. The Bible makes it very plain that Cain, the eldest son of Adam and Eve, was a tiller of the ground; he grew crops; as we see here:

"And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD." Genesis 4:1-3, KJV

Sadly, the utter nonsense of evolutionary theory is purposely shoved down the throats of impressionable, young, school-aged children on a regular basis; and they really have no choice but to accept it, regardless of whether or not they believe in it. If a student dares to resist this false teaching, not only is it possible that he or she will become the object of ridicule, due to the politically-correct environment which is so common in the public school system, which results in peer pressure from gullible classmates who may blindly accept the instructor's words as being true, but it also makes it more difficult for a Christian student to pass exams, when he or she is forced to provide answers which go against his or her beliefs. Thus, from a Christian perspective, the practice of teaching the theory of evolution in the public school system is nothing short of forced indoctrination of false, baseless scientific dogma.

Returning to our main topic, in part one, I mentioned that a total of two hundred and forty-two "extrasolar planets" have been discovered during the last several years. In accordance with the astronomical nomenclature convention of the I.A.U., these alleged extrasolar bodies are designated names which are usually a combination of their host star's name, plus a lower-case letter, (starting with the letter "b"), assigned to the body, such as the recently discovered body, "Gliese 581 c", which is the second "planet" of the red dwarf star, Gliese 581. This main-sequence star is located about twenty light years from the Earth.

According to online sources, it's been theorized that Gliese 581 c may possibly support liquid water. If this turns out to be true, this means that it may also support life. But, let me stress that this is only a theory, and that to date, no evidence of liquid water has been found on Gliese 581 c, even though it does appear to occupy a position within the "habitable zone" of its host star, Gliese 581. This body is believed to be about fifty per cent larger than our Earth, with a mass of about five times that of the Earth. At this current time, there is a debate going on regarding whether or not Gliese 581 c is truly habitable. Some scientists say that due to its specific location in the habitable zone, it may suffer from a runaway greenhouse effect, and thus could not support life. SETI astronomer, Seth Shostak, offered what appears to be a confirmation of this view, when he noted that Gliese 581 c had been twice examined as a potential candidate for having extraterrestrial intelligence, but no evidence was found to support that possibility.

In some cases, the host stars do not have regular alphabetic names. Instead, their names consist of a set of alphanumeric characters, such as "HD 202206". Thus, the second extrasolar planet of the star HD 202206, is known as HD 202206 c. It is located in the constellation of Capricornus. This host star is located one hundred and fifty light-years from our Earth. This "new planet" is said to be a gas giant which possesses a mass almost two and a half times that of Jupiter; and like other alleged extrasolar planets, astronomers believe that it is much too massive to support any form of life as we understand it. For one thing, it would be crushed by such tremendous gravitational force, even if other conditions were conducive to supporting life.

From the data I have looked at on the Internet, it appears that the mass of these alleged "planets" ranges from about one tenth that of the planet Jupiter, to about seventeen times that of Jupiter. The majority of these "planets" are said to be gaseous orbs, as big as, or larger than, Jupiter, with only a small handful being smaller than Saturn. Many of them are also located extremely close to their host star; in some cases only a few AU away from it, which makes them very hot, and unable to support any form of life. An Astronomical Unit, or AU, is equal to approximately ninety-three million miles, or the distance from the Sun to the Earth.

The biggest problem for me regarding these alleged "planets", is that due to the great distances involved, and our limited technology, except for one highly-debated case, there's been no verified visual observation of any of them as of yet. In other words, you cannot go outside, point your telescope up into the night sky, and say "Look; there's Gliese 581 c; and over there is HD 202206 c". Trust me; it's simply not going to happen, and never will happen, with any equipment that astronomy buffs may currently own. You won't see any of them, and you certainly won't be able to take any pictures of them to show to your friends. The fact of the matter is that the alleged discovery of these "extrasolar planets" requires the use of very specialized astronomical instruments, such as an imaging device referred to as a spectroscope. In short, the existence of these "planets" is based entirely on secondary evidence such as light fluctuation, gravitational distortion, stellar wobble, etc.

For those of you reading this series, who may not understand how these alleged "extrasolar planets" are discovered, allow me to offer you an explanation. Based upon my research, over the years, six different methods have been utilized to try to detect "extrasolar planets". These methods are, according to the Wikipedia website:

----- Begin Quote -----

* Astrometry: Astrometry consists of precisely measuring a star's position in the sky and observing the ways in which that position changes over time. If the star has a planet, then the gravitational influence of the planet will cause the star itself to move in a tiny circular or elliptical orbit about their common center of mass.

* Radial velocity: This is also known as the Doppler method. Variations in the speed with which the star moves towards or away from Earth; that is, variations in the radial velocity of the star with respect to Earth; can be deduced from the displacement in the parent star's spectral lines due to the Doppler effect. This has been by far the most productive technique used by planet hunters.

* Pulsar timing: A pulsar (the small, ultradense remnant of a star that has exploded as a supernova) emits radio waves extremely regularly as it rotates. Slight anomalies in the timing of its observed radio pulses can be used to track changes in the pulsar's motion caused by the presence of planets. * Transit method: If a planet crosses (or transits) in front of its parent star's disk, then the observed visual brightness of the star drops by a small amount. The amount by which the star dims depends on its size and on the size of the planet.

* Gravitational microlensing: Microlensing occurs when the gravitational field of a star acts like a lens, magnifying the light of a distant background star. If the foreground lensing star has a planet, then that planet's own gravitational field can make a detectable contribution to the lensing effect.

* Circumstellar disks: Disks of space dust surround many stars, and this dust can be detected because it absorbs ordinary starlight and re-emits it as infrared radiation. Features in dust disks sometimes suggest the presence of full-sized planets.

----- End Quote -----

As mentioned in the previous excerpts, the most productive technique which has been employed by astronomers to discover extrasolar planets, is "radial-velocity survey". By using a device called a spectrograph, or spectroscope, astronomers are able to capture images of a star's light spectrum; that is to say, they can take pictures of the lightwaves emitted by a star. By closely examining these photographic plates, they are able to observe variations in the fluctuations, or spectrum, of the star.

According to this theory, these perturbations result from the gravitational effect caused by an unseen body which must be orbiting the host star. By measuring the degree of these variations, astronomers claim that they are able to not only calculate the orbit of the theorized body, but also determine said body's minimal mass as well. These mysterious bodies are now known as "extrasolar planets"; that is to say, planetary bodies which are located outside of our own Solar System.

As I just explained to you, some astronomers are absolutely convinced that these spectral variations must result from the existence of a large unseen planet; in many cases, the size of Saturn, Jupiter, or larger, which is causing these effects to occur, as the planet orbits around its host star; but my view is that this kind of evidence should not be regarded as being conclusive. In fact, during the course of conducting my research, I discovered that some extrasolar planets were said to have been discovered, by very professional-minded people, only to be challenged later by other astronomers; that is, by their own peers. In the end, some of these alleged extrasolar planet discoveries were retracted by their authors. So as I stated earlier, modern science does possess this flexibility factor; but it can serve as both a weakness, and also as a strength. Premature scientific announcements can easily lead to confusion, and embarrassment later.

In the end, when all is said and done, it may very well turn out that these astronomers are right; but until we actually possess at least a few visual confirmations, that is to say, some real physical sightings, and not merely sightings, but real bona fide photographs, I counsel all of you to approach the issue of extrasolar planets with a great deal of caution, and healthy skepticism. What if it turns out that all these astronomers are wrong? Do you realize that this controversy has the potential for turning into one of the biggest hoaxes the world has ever known? There are already two hundred and forty-two alleged "extrasolar planets", which entirely owe their existence to unproven theories. How many more planets will there be even a few years from now?

As you will already know, some people ridicule us Christians because we dare to believe by blind faith alone. They think that we are crazy for believing in Someone whom we have never really seen. However, according to God's Word, that is what we are supposed to do. In fact, that is what God expects and demands of us. As Jesus Himself said to Thomas when Thomas doubted the Lord's Resurrection from the dead:

". . . blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." John 20:29b, KJV

As the Apostle Paul wrote in his famous chapter concerning the heroes of faith, which is found in his Epistle to the Hebrews, God is in fact displeased with us when we fail to demonstrate our faith in Him, as we see here:

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the

evidence of things not seen . . . But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:1, 6, KJV

Yet, at the same time, similar to the evolutionists, are not these astronomers doing the very same thing when they expect us to believe in their "planetary discoveries", even though they have not provided us with any solid, physical and visual proof? As I said a moment ago, all they've given us is their secondary evidence. I for one can't help but question why it is that secondary evidence is sufficient to convince them of the existence of these extrasolar planets, while at the same time, some of them refuse to believe in God, or accept that Jesus Christ is His Son, and most importantly, the Savior of the world. After all, there's plenty of secondary evidence, as well as eyewitness accounts, of Jesus' existence about two thousand years ago. All a person has to do is read their Bible in order to discover it.

If you happen to be an atheist, and if God's Word contained in the pages of the Bible is not sufficient evidence for you, then as I already pointed out in part one, there is also the preponderance of evidence found in the physical creation. If the physical world all around you is not sufficient proof to convince you that God is real, then I can only conclude that something is seriously wrong with you. You are spiritually blind and ignorant by your own stubborn choice.

I honestly cannot understand how anyone, be they scientist, atheist or astronomer, can look up at the night sky, and see all of the amazing beauty it contains, and still not realize that there is a Divine Designer and a Creator behind it all. God's Imprint is literally everywhere, and Creation cries out for you to believe; yet some of you stubbornly and foolishly refuse. It leaves me totally dumbfounded; and I wouldn't be the least bit surprised if God feels the same exact way. Some of you atheists claim that you find us Christians offensive. Well, I am going to tell you something: I have no doubt that God finds your stubbornness and unbelief equally offensive. Think about that!

These atheists ask, "Where is the body of proof to convince me that God is real, and that Jesus Christ is His resurrected Son?". Well, allow me to ask you something in return: "Where is the real physical body to convince us that your extrasolar planets exist? Show us some real, visual, physical evidence". If some of you atheists feel that you have the right to hold God, and us Christians, to such a demanding standard, before you will believe, then we likewise have the right to demand convincing evidence from you as well, before we will embrace your theories and speculations.

As I pointed out earlier, in the case of evolution, it is a lost cause for you from the start, because the missing link simply does not exist; and evolution, or Darwinism if you prefer, is totally contrary to the Creation Account found in the Book of Genesis. In the case of extrasolar planets, as I have also already explained, it remains an open question; at least for me personally. But if you really want to convince us that said bodies exist, then simply give us the physical, visual evidence that we desire. The point is, you can't very well hold us to a strict standard, while not applying that same rigid standard to yourselves as well; as otherwise, you are practicing a hypocritical double standard, and you know it. Let me also point out that God is absolutely under no obligation to provide any more evidence than that which He has already provided. As Jesus Himself taught in a Parable concerning those Jews who did not believe in Him:

". . . If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." Luke 16:31, KJV

What a sad example which clearly demonstrates how spiritually callous and hard-hearted some people can become. Those words remind me of something else which Jesus said on one occasion while briefly discussing what the spiritual condition of the world would be like just prior to His Return. The Lord said:

". . . Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:8b, KJV

Surely, Jesus' words have clearly come to pass in our modern day where skepticism and doubt are the rule, rather than the exception. The truth of the matter, is that it does require faith to believe as we Christians believe; we do not deny this; but what must also be recognized, is that it likewise requires faith to believe in what the astronomers tell us as well; because as of this date, they simply don't possess any real, solid, observable, physical, visual proof; at least not yet; to convince us of the existence of their extrasolar planets. All they have are their theories, speculations and secondary evidence; just like the die-hard evolutionists. In my view, that is not solid science. It has not passed all of the tests yet. Maybe it will some day soon, perhaps even in my lifetime; but it hasn't yet. If and when that day arrives, I will be just as thrilled as everyone else; believe me.

As I mentioned a few moments ago, there is one highly-debated case involving an alleged extrasolar planet, which supposedly has been visually observed, as well as photographed. In fact, this current series actually began with a discussion in which I was involved a few years ago on the SETI@home messageboard. Upon presenting some of my arguments, one of the participants pointed me to a September 2004 news article published on The Planetary Society website. The article, which deals with the case in question, that is, with the alleged extrasolar planet which the IAU has designated as 2M1207b, (referred to in the article as GPCC or "Giant Planetary Companion Candidate"), is called "The Image of a Distant World?", and can be found at the following URL, at least as of this current date:

https://www.planetary.org/news/2004/0916_The_Image_of_a_Distant_World.html

The reason why this particular person pointed me to the TPS article, was to try to convince me that, contrary to what I had stated, an extrasolar planetary body was on the verge of being visually observed. While this person recognized that the evidence was not sufficient to conclusively prove the existence of extrasolar planets, it was his hope that the information contained in the article would pull me towards his line of thinking. However, upon reading the article, I was, to say the least, less than impressed by its obvious "iffy" nature.

As I have already made clear, I tend to be a rather cautious, skeptical person. Aside from the fact that the Bible warns us to beware of the widespread deception which will occur during the Endtime, my personal experience of years of reading and listening to the news, whether it is political, scientific, economic or religious news, has caused me to read and filter everything very carefully. Not only do I view everything from a Bible-based perspective, but I read it with a critical and analytical eye as well. So when I read the science article in question, I did as I always do when reading material found on the Internet, and I stripped away all of the hype, in order to determine what the article was really saying concerning 2M1207b. Upon doing that, I was left with the following info from the article:

1. The article was entitled "The Image of a Distant World?". Please notice the question mark at the end of the title. It casts doubt on the piece from the very start. It shouts "We are not sure; maybe 2M1207b is an extrasolar planet, and maybe it isn't".

2. The article states that "no astronomer has actually seen an extrasolar planet". True indeed; which is precisely why I urge caution in just blindly accepting such matters as fact.

3. The article uses the phrase "its supposed planetary companion". Please notice the use of the word "supposed", which casts even more doubt on what is being stated.

4. The article continues by stating "There is a very high probability". Regardless of how high the probability may be, it still isn't sound fact. It is just speculation at best.

5. The article also uses the phrase "The imaging of the planet; if such it proves to be". Again we find a rather "iffy" statement, which doesn't promote confidence in what is being reported. Is 2M1207b a planet, or isn't it?

6. Following the same doubtful approach to the "discovery", the article then adds "If GPCC is indeed a planet". Once again it becomes clear that they really don't know yet.

7. The article then poses the question "Is GPCC a giant planet orbiting a young brown dwarf 230 light years away at twice the distance of Neptune from our Sun? The possibility is real and intriguing". The only thing that is real in this article, is the possibility. Nothing has yet been proven, and it is still not very convincing in my view.

8. The article uses the phrase ". . . there is still a possibility that GPCC is an unrelated front or background object . . . this possibility is very remote, but cannot yet

be completely ruled out". In other words, it may still turn out that 2M1207b is not a planet after all. GPCC could be something else which is light years away in the foreground, or else in the background. What they are seeing is very much like looking at a two-dimensional picture where everything appears to be at the same level. The "evidence" they now have, simply is not sufficient to conclusively prove that they have had the first visual observation of an extrasolar planet.

9. The article concludes with the phrase ". . . it may indeed be the first planetary system beyond our own ever imaged". So the article began with a doubt, (the question mark), it is interspersed with doubts, and it ends with a final doubt: "it may indeed be". Nowhere in the article are we conclusively told that 2M1207b is a true planet.

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

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ALIEN LIFE, EXTRASOLAR PLANETS AND UNIVERSAL ATONEMENT : PT 3

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2M1207b And The Public Rumor Mill, True Facts About 2M1207b, H. G. Wells And 1938 "War Of The Worlds", Era Of Modern Tech, Power Of Suggestion And Mass Manipulation, Fake Moon Landing? The Apollo Flights And Van Allen Radiation Belt Controversy, Capricorn One Movie, HAARP Project, Project Blue Beam, Modern Skepticism And False Messiah's Appearance, Conspiracy Theories, Safety Of God's Word, Are Odds In Favor Of Extrasolar Planets? 242 Planets But No Visual Evidence, Pseudo-Science And The Double Standard, mu Arae Extrasolar Planet Discovery Article The Power Of Images And Advertising, Satan's Subtle Tactics

As we concluded in part two, according to a news article that appeared on The Planetary Society website in 2004, a team of astronomers claim to have physically observed an extrasolar planet. Since that time, this object has been provisionally designated as "2M1207b". Please don't assume that I am just slamming the author, because I most certainly am not. To the contrary, I will give him credit. While he is a member of The Planetary Society, and thus could have been tempted to try to embellish the story, he hasn't done that. As far as we know, he has presented an honest, factual story. However, where the problem lies, is in what the insatiable mass media, as well as the general public, will do with a story such as this. The mass media has the propensity for hyping up such stories into even more amazing accounts, because it raises circulation or viewership, thus generating more profits. As sad as it may be, that is just the way of the materialistic, money-minded world in which we live.

For its part, the general public will pass the story from mouth to mouth, ignoring what the author is actually saying; so that in the long run, some people may have the impression that an extrasolar planet has really been visually observed, even though such has not been the case. In fact, if we really want to get preposterous, if left to itself, the story could even acquire a life of its own, and reach a point where some people will begin to believe that not only has an extrasolar planet been visually observed, but that it is also populated with intelligent beings similar to ourselves. That is just how the public rumor mill works; and the Internet is clear proof of this. Within a matter of a few hours, a hot story can stream across the Internet like wildfire, regardless of whether or not there is any truth to it.

But concerning 2M1207b, which is believed by some astronomers to revolve around its host star, 2M1207, a brown dwarf star that is located in the constellation Hydra, some two hundred light years from the Earth, as I continued my research for this current series, I discovered that 2M1207b actually has been photographed; by both the Hubble Space Telescope, and also by the VLT, or Very Large Telescope, which is a part of the Paranal Observatory that's located in northern Chile. The Very Large Telescope is a project that was organized by the European Southern Observatory. It actually consists of four telescopes that are arranged in an array, and which work in conjunction with each other. It was in fact astronomer Gael Chauvin and his team, who are a part of the European Southern Observatory, who actually discovered 2M1207b, and observed it by infrared imaging. If you are visiting our graphic website, you can see an image of 2M1207b and its companion star right below this paragraph. The alleged "extrasolar planet" is the red body located in the lower left corner of the image.

According to online sources, 2M1207b is what is known amongst astronomers as a gas giant, similar to the planet Jupiter. It is believed to have a mass between five to eight times that of Jupiter, and is calculated to be about forty-one to fifty-five Astronomical Units from its host star, 2M1207. This is about the same distance from our own Sun to the Dwarf Planet Pluto. 2M1207b's surface temperature is estimated to be about 976° C, or 1790° Fahrenheit. While its infrared spectrum suggests the presence of water molecules in its atmosphere, the consensus is that 2M1207b is not a likely candidate for supporting any form of life, either on its surface or on any satellites, if it has any. As I noted earlier, this appears to be the story with most of the alleged extrasolar planets that have been discovered to date. They are mostly very large, on the order of Saturn, Jupiter or considerably larger, hot and lifeless.

So the question now becomes, not whether or not 2M1207b has ever been photographed, but rather what are we really seeing in this photograph? Is it a bona fide "extrasolar planet", or is it something else, such as a companion star which is part of a binary system, or even a star which is in the foreground or background of the image of 2M1207? As I noted before, this is exactly the debate that has raged since its discovery. The view of the highly-regarded International Astronomical Union, is that 2M1207b may possibly be a planet. In short, the same caution that was exercised when 2M1207b was first discovered and reported in 2004, still exists three years later. As much as they may desire to do so, the IAU is not yet prepared to definitively state that 2M1207b is a real planet. Following are some excerpts from the Wikipedia website:

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"Although widely hailed as the first direct image of an extrasolar planet . . . some question whether 2M1207b is

actually a planet. Some astronomers doubt that the body formed in the same way as the planets in our solar system (formation in a planetary disk). Such objectors say the body likely formed in the same way stars are formed, from gravitational collapse of a gaseous nebula. If this interpretation is correct, the object would not be a planet, but would be another brown dwarf, and the system would then be a binary system consisting of two brown dwarfs."

"As of May 2005, the International Astronomical Union officially described 2M1207b as "a possible planetary-mass companion to a brown dwarf."

----- End Quotes -----

While these conclusions may dampen our expectation of finding evidence of intelligent extraterrestrial life, or any kind of life at all for that matter, allow me to remind you again that just because we have not yet been presented with conclusive photographic evidence that extrasolar planets exist, doesn't mean that they are not out there. To the contrary, there are many people, both scientists and layman alike, who believe that as our astronomical technology continues to advance, the day will eventually arrive when we will be able to photograph real extrasolar planets; perhaps even a few that do possess potential for hosting intelligent life.

The general attitude appears to be not if we will find them, but rather when we will find them. Let us not forget that in our own Solar System, Earth is the only planet out of eight which has been blessed with intelligent life, as far as we know; so it is logical to assume that we may have to observe a lot of planets before we discover one that harbors life similar to our own. And, as I stated earlier, we should not be too hasty to close our minds to what God may have done in other parts of our Galaxy, or in other areas of this great Universe.

The danger, as we have already discussed, is when we take questionable data, distort it, and blow it completely out of proportion, and fiction is suddenly and magically transformed into fact. Once the information hits the general public, such as via the Internet, there is no telling what it may lead to. Human emotions, expectations and imagination, are extremely powerful forces to deal with. I am reminded of the October 30, 1938 radio drama presented by the "Mercury Theater of the Air", which was directed by Orson Welles. That particular Sunday evening, they aired a dramatization of H. G. Wells' 1898 interplanetary science fiction novel called "The War Of The Worlds"; which, as many of you will already know, was eventually made into a movie in 1953. In 2005, noted movie director Steven Spielberg made a hi-tech version of the popular tale of alien invasion with even more amazing special effects. It starred Tom Cruise and Dakota Fanning, and was clearly the best version of the movie in my view.

The original 1938 radio version of "War Of The Worlds" was presented to the listening public as an emergency radio news bulletin; and different actors played the parts of reporters who were submitting live reports from the field in Grovers Mill, New Jersey, which was the alleged site of the alien invasion from the planet Mars. Perhaps some of you reading this are old enough to remember the startling words of the announcer who suddenly broke into the program and stated "Ladies and gentlemen, I have a grave announcement to make. Incredible as it may seem, strange beings who landed in New Jersey tonight are the vanguard of an invading army from Mars". Thus began the drama.

Because some people had tuned into the program after it had already started, and were not aware of the fact that it was just a fictional radio drama, they thought that Planet Earth was actually being invaded by evil beings from Outer Space. Not surprisingly, CBS, as well as many newspaper publishers, were flooded with phone calls. From what I have read, the New York Times alone received some 832 telephone calls. To prove a point I made earlier regarding the media doing anything for profit, the very next day, on October 31, 1938, which just so happened to be Halloween day, the very same newspaper's front page headline shouted "Fake War On Radio Spreads Panic Over U.S.". With no regard for the truth, the paper irresponsibly reported "waves of mass hysteria", which, according to their story, had supposedly resulted in the mass evacuation of Americans from various places.

Not to be outdone, the Associated Press wire service took the bogus story even further, and declared "Tidal Wave Of Terror Sweeps Nation". By this time, the fictional story had indeed acquired a life of its own, and sadly, some newspapers were reporting attempted suicides, traffic collisions and heart attacks, as mass exoduses supposedly occurred all across the United States. The defunct "Life" magazine even went as far as publishing an image of a farmer bravely holding his rifle as he readied himself for battle against the evil "Martian invaders". So much for responsible journalism!

While some of you reading this series may shake your heads in utter amazement, and wonder how people could have been so gullible so as to have believed such a concocted story, if nothing else, what I have just shared with you demonstrates the power of the mass media, and of mass suggestion. It also reveals how facts can quickly become distorted, and perhaps even invented out of thin air, if certain parties put their minds to it. Given the technological advances which we have witnessed in the audio and video recording industry during the past seventy years, not to mention the current state of computer technology, laser technology, satellite technology and other fields, one can only wonder what a government, or perhaps a group of governments, might do, if it suited their purposes. If you would like to know, please consider reading my in-depth series "Nature Of The Alien: ET's, Demons Or Gov't Plot?".

Even now, there are many tales circulating on the Internet, the great promoter of rumors and conspiracy theories. It may surprise some of you to know that there are some individuals who still remain convinced that man never landed on the Moon. I have read a few commentaries where critics mention the fact that in some of the photographs which were taken, the shadows appear to be at the wrong angles on certain objects; the idea being that artificial lights, such as stage lights, were used at the time of the filming. Others claim that numbers can be seen on certain of the stage props which were used during the filming of the alleged bogus Moon landing; and there are some other anomalies as well, according to the critics.

Other more scientific reasons are offered as well, to try to prove that the Apollo astronauts never went to the Moon. One argument in particular, is that no matter how shielded they may have been, the astronauts simply could not have traveled safely through the Van Allen Radiation Belt without suffering some adverse effects. In similar fashion, modern electronic equipment, such as that which is commonly incorporated into space vehicles and satellites, is also prone to malfunction due to the same electromagnetic radiation.

In rebuttal, scientists, including Professor James Van Allen himself, say that it is for this very reason that electronic equipment that is used in Outer Space is "hardened", so that there is less chance of it malfunctioning. Sometimes, certain equipment, such as the Hubble Space Telescope, will even be turned off when it is passing through an area of particularly high radiation. These same NASA scientists also insist that the Apollo launches were meticulously timed, and the lunar orbits carefully calculated, so that the Apollo astronauts spent a minimal amount of time in or near the Van Allen Belt; thus greatly reducing their chances of getting cancer, and other radiation related maladies during their lifetimes.

Some of you may likewise be familiar with the 1978 conspiracy movie "Capricorn One", in which the U.S. Government covers up a failed manned mission to Mars, by creating a fake one with props and television cameras, just as we described with the alleged bogus Apollo Moon landings. Of course, to add to the suspenseful story line of the "Capricorn One" movie, the U.S. Government decides that the astronauts who participated in the mission, have to be eliminated, lest they tell the world the awful truth regarding the fact that they never actually went to Mars.

Some people have proposed that the "Capricorn One" movie may have been the American Government's way of finally telling the people the truth regarding the Apollo missions, but in an indirect way. In other words, as I explain in the "Nature Of The Alien" series, they will reveal a particular truth, but they will present it in a fictitious manner, so that there is still room for deniability. They will tell people the truth, but then laugh at them, and ridicule them, for believing it.

Other conspiracy theorists, and they are many, point to the controversial High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program, commonly known as the "HAARP Project". Located not far from Gakona, Alaska, just to the west of the Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park, the HAARP Project is what is referred to as an ionospheric heater. The key components of the project consist of an Ionospheric Research Instrument, plus an array of about one hundred and eighty dipole antennas. Together, they create a high frequency transmitter system which projects either a continuous signal or short pulses into the ionosphere, which is the uppermost region of the Earth's atmosphere. The stated purpose of the HAARP Project is "to understand, simulate and control ionospheric processes that might alter the performance of communication and surveillance systems".

While the HAARP Project facility is open on some days to the general public, and is openly involved with quite a number of universities, nevertheless, due to its association with DARPA, (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency - an agency of the United States Department of Defense), over the years, rumors have persisted that it is being used for nefarious purposes. Some people, including certain American scientists, accused the US Government of possibly trying to use the HAARP Project as a weapon to destroy or disable incoming enemy missiles, or to knock out enemy satellite communications. In fact, in 2002 the Russian Parliament presented a critical report, signed by ninety deputies of the Duma, to President Vladimir Putin, in which they aired some of these same concerns.

A few years earlier, in September 1995, former teacher turned author, Nick Begich Jr., published a very controversial book entitled "Angels Don't Play This HAARP: Advances In Tesla Technology", in which he suggested that HAARP's ionospheric heater could potentially be used in conducting "geophysical warfare".

Other concerns have been expressed as well, whether they are real or fiction. Some people worry that regardless of whether it is intentional or accidental, the HAARP Project may create a permanent hole in the Earth's atmosphere, which could have negative effects for the Earth, being as it would result in a steady stream of ultraviolet rays striking our planet. This fear results from the fact that when the ionospheric heater is in use, short powerful energy bursts temporarily heat up and distort or expand the ionosphere. Scientists attempt to allay this concern, by explaining that within a short period after each experiment is conducted, the upper regions of the atmosphere naturally return to their normal state.

According to some of the wilder rumors that have persisted on the Internet for more than a decade, the HAARP Project is also supposedly used to control weather patterns, (such as causing droughts in specific areas of the world), as well as to induce earthquakes. Some conspiracy theorists also claim that HAARP can utilize ELF, (Extremely Low Frequency), waves to alter how people are feeling, as well as to control their thoughts. In other words, mind control. As I noted earlier, the scientists associated with the HAARP Project insist that such accusations are entirely baseless. Personally, I honestly don't know what to believe regarding the HAARP Project; however, I don't trust the U.S. Government to tell us the truth regarding its real purpose. It seems that the American Government finds secondary military applications for a lot of its so-called "scientific projects".

Now if you find HAARP rumors difficult to accept, (and I can certainly understand why you might), directly related to the HAARP Project, is another alleged secret government project referred to as "Project Blue Beam". According to information found on the Internet, "Project Blue Beam" will supposedly be used some day to technologically create the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, by projecting huge holographic images into the upper regions of Earth's atmosphere. In other words, Earth's atmosphere will be used as a sort of projection screen. Using this very same technology, it is claimed that people will be able to hear the "voice of God" in their heads, while all of these fantastic images are appearing in the sky. Even people who are blind will supposedly be able to see these holograms, and the "voice" will not be an audible one, but will only be heard within one's own head. I find this rather alarming.

I will be the first to admit that the entire "Project Blue Beam" story sounds quite wild; yet some people are convinced that it may very well be this type of technology which will be used to herald the arrival of the false messiah mentioned in Paul's second Epistle to the Thessalonians. I'm really not sure what to think about this.

As I mention in the "Nature of the Alien" series, taking into consideration the rather high level of doubt and skepticism which characterizes our modern society, which is due in part to the prominent role that science has achieved in our lives, not to mention the many charlatans who have discredited our faith due to their own selfish fame-seeking or money-making schemes, I do wonder how the Son of Perdition, or Antichrist, is going to convince people that he is "God" once he arrives. This deception is obviously going to require an Earth-shaking "feat of magic", which will either be the result of satanic power, or else some form of advanced technology. I just don't
see how our skeptical society will be fooled into accepting this demon-filled leader otherwise.

There are many other such crazy rumors and theories which literally abound on the Internet; such as those concerning the supposed identities of the Beast, the False Prophet and the Antichrist; world domination theories which involve the Freemasons, the Illuminati and other secret societies; and much more. While I sometimes lightly broach a few of these topics in my articles, as I've just done here, for the most part, I do try to maintain a safe distance from them; due to the simple fact that a lot of this information simply cannot be soundly proven or verified. Unlike God's Word, it is just not trustworthy. Not only that, but it can lead to a lot of needless confusion for those who may be young in the faith, who may not yet possess a firm foundation in God's Word, and who may have very little Spiritual Discernment. My primary job here is to feed God's sheep with the truth of His Word, and to not delve too deeply into these other questionable areas.

So the point is, some people can be easily fooled; and they are gullible enough to believe anything, regardless of how insane it may appear to the rest of us. But, lest we delve too deeply into conspiracy theory here, let us return to the main topic at hand; that is, extrasolar planets. Allow me to clarify again that I'm not saying that extrasolar planets do not exist, because I honestly don't know that to be true. In fact, if the Universe is as big as astronomers claim that it is; and if there are as many galaxies as scientists say that there are; and if those distant galaxies are populated by as many suns as modern science teaches us, then I would have to concur with many others in stating that from a logical and scientific point of view, there probably are many other host stars and planetary systems out there. If this is true, then the big questions to ask are: Are any of those distant worlds habitable; and if they are habitable, do any of them really possess intelligent life?

This is the scientific perspective; but as a Christian, the bottom line for me still remains that I don't know the Mind of God. I don't know what God may have done, or what He may not have done. It's His Business. If it turns out that we do eventually verify the existence of extrasolar planets through conclusive visual observation and photographic imaging, and if enough time remains for our race so that someday we might even make contact with an intelligent extraterrestrial race, great! Such a development wouldn't negatively affect my faith in any way; because as I pointed out earlier in this series, unlike certain other Christians, I haven't closed my mind to this possibility; and neither am I absolutely certain that the Bible completely closes the door on this possibility either.

What I have been doing throughout this series, is presenting a few arguments in order to expose the double standard which is used by some people who place a lot of faith in science, yet who reject the Word of God as being true. These people, such as some astronomers who are involved in the search for extrasolar planets, for example, squabble over the status of something which they have seen, that is to say, the planet Pluto, and yet, they turn around and expect us Christians to just blindly accept something which, to date, they have not yet physically or visually observed; in other words, these so-called two hundred and forty-two "extrasolar planets". There's something wrong with that kind of logic in my view.

It just really bothers me that nobody can show us any regular photographic images of these alleged extrasolar planets; not one single one of them. As we saw earlier, yes, they do have an image of 2M1207b, which is really an infrared image of the alleged planet's heat signature, and not a true photograph as most people expect to see; but since it was discovered a few years ago, 2M1207b has been surrounded by controversy. Is it really a planet, or just another brown dwarf star, or perhaps something else? Even the astronomers themselves aren't sure; yet the mass media is awash with the excitement of extrasolar planets, as if they are popping up everywhere.

Doesn't the controversy surrounding the 2M1207b image raise your suspicion just a little, as it does mine? Aren't these astronomers really asking us to stretch our scientific faith quite a bit? Science is supposed to operate more along the lines of the old proverb "seeing is believing", but in this case, it seems that they have taken a clear one hundred and eighty degree turn, and are preaching to us "Believe now, and see later"; and they are asking us to do it two hundred and forty-two times, so far. How many times will it be in a year from now? Allow me to ask you something: Based upon the obvious absence of indisputable, concrete, visual evidence, doesn't it appear that what these astronomers are proposing, goes a bit beyond the bounds of normal science? Doesn't it even border on being pseudo-science? I think that it does. Of course, in one sense perhaps we should be thankful that some of them have arrived at the point where they are at least willing to believe in something which they haven't seen with their own eyes yet. It is, after all, what true faith is about. I mean, if they are willing to believe in extrasolar planets based upon secondary evidence alone, would it require much more of a leap of faith in order for them to believe in God and His Word as well?

Okay; I confess; there is a bit of sarcasm in my words. From my experiences on the SETI@home messageboard a few years ago, I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that some of these atheists and scientists have absolutely no intentions of accepting that God is real, ever. They are religiously anti-religious, you might say.

Some of you atheists who may possibly be reading this series, will probably argue that my challenge to provide visual proof in order to verify the existence of these extrasolar planets, is not fair. You may even try to justify the lack of visual evidence, simply by pointing to the fact that the technology which is required in order to photograph these faint objects does not exist yet. Be that as it may, the bottom line still remains that these astronomers expect people to accept their word by blind faith alone, you might say, while quite a few of them refuse to demonstrate that same kind of faith in God and His Word. Allow me to reiterate one more time, that it is not fair for non-believers to apply such a strict standard to us Christians, while you hypocritically apply a less rigorous standard to yourselves, and to scientific methodology; and in the case of extrasolar planets, you are guilty of doing this very thing. You are practicing a double standard.

Allow me to share with you another clear example of how the mass media purposely hypes up the truth, and manipulates the public, concerning these alleged "discoveries" of extrasolar planets, for the sake of presenting a good story. I was just reading another one of these "discovery" stories on the CNN website. Please note that altered versions of this very same story, as well as related stories concerning the discoveries of other so-called "extrasolar planets", can be found on many other sites as well. I cannot guarantee that the link below will still be active whenever you read this series, but if it is, you can access this particular story at the following URL:

https://www.cnn.com/2004/TECH/space/08/26/new.planet/

Dated August 26th of 2004, this particular article appears to have actually been written by someone associated with the SPACE.com website. This amazing story tells of the alleged "discovery" of an extrasolar planet which is said to revolve around the star "mu Arae". This star is believed to be quite similar to our own Sun, and is calculated to be about fifty light-years away from us in the southern constellation called Ara, meaning "the altar". To help you to more easily grasp the tremendous distances which are being discussed here, let me inform you that a light-year is the distance that light travels during the course of one year. In other words, we're talking about six trillion miles per light-year; which means that mu Arae is approximately three hundred trillion miles away from us; assuming of course, that what astronomers tell us is true. Clearly, such vast distances utterly boggle the human mind, and are really beyond our finite comprehension.

What makes the mu Arae "discovery" exciting to astronomers, is the fact that most of the extrasolar planets which have been "discovered" to date, are located at least hundreds, if not thousands, of light-years away from us; so the mu Arae "discovery" is an oddity, whether it is real or not. Another article I read, also states that this is actually the third alleged "planet" which has been discovered to be in orbit around mu Arae. The other two bodies are claimed to be two Jupiter-sized planets which likewise cannot support life as we know it.

The story is obviously written in such a way, so as to excite the reader, and capture his or her imagination. In fact, the alleged "planet" is described as theoretically possessing a rocky core, which makes it similar to our own inner planets. It's mass, surface conditions, atmospheric conditions, etc., are also described. In fact, the news article is accompanied by an artist's impression of what the planet may look like as it revolves around its host star, mu Arae; and the planet is even referred to as a "super-Earth" in the article. Just so you the reader understand, this term "super-Earth" is a hot buzz word in the astronomy field right now, particularly as it relates to this issue of extrasolar planets. Everyone is now hot on the trail, and hoping to find smaller extrasolar planets, which will more closely match the size of our own Earth; the theory being that the closer the match that can be made, the more likelihood there will be that the planet may support some form of life as we understand it.

At any rate, it is rather obvious to me, that the author of the article in question, as well as the artist who provided the accompanying drawing, have gone to considerable lengths in order to make this "discovery" appear as realistic as possible; even comparing the "planet" to the Earth in some ways; although they do note significant differences between the two as well. When you arrive at the web page, the image captures your attention right away; and I believe that this is precisely what it is supposed to do. It plants a thought in your brain, even before you have read the contents of the story itself. It subtly raises your level of anticipation, excitement, and curiosity, and it prepares you for what the article says. It increases your level of believability.

Now, I would like to ask you to stop and think for a moment, and seriously ponder how the casual reader is probably going to react to this article. If they are not even familiar with the concept of extrasolar planets, and much less understand how they are determined to even exist, in their mind, they are obviously going to believe that what is being described here, is a real, physical planet, which has actually been visually observed. The fact that the article is accompanied by an artist's impression of what the planet may look like, will further leave the reader with the impression that this is a genuine, visually-observed planet.

In other words, the image serves to augment the deception in a powerful way; because we're all greatly affected by images; perhaps even more than we realize. It is precisely for this same reason, that commercial advertising is so successful. As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words. Images appeal directly to our senses, as well as to our imaginations and to our inner lusts. In fact, as I have shared a number of times before, these are the same tactics which are used by Satan himself, who the Scriptures plainly tell us is the false god of this world, and the king of sin and lust. When it comes to appealing to, and enticing, our physical senses, the Devil is a professional advertiser, because he has had a long time to perfect his skills; in fact, ever since the Garden of Eden. Please consider these verses:

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." 1 John 2:15-17, KJV

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." Genesis 3:6, KJV

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." 2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

Please go to part four for the continuation of this series.

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ALIEN LIFE, EXTRASOLAR PLANETS AND UNIVERSAL ATONEMENT : PT 4

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Mass Saturation Leads To Mass Belief, Political Correctness And Peer Pressure, No Visual Observations Of mu Arae Planet, Are There Ulterior Motives?, Astronomers And Paleontologists, My Views On Scientists News Media And Government Spokespeople, Alien Invasion From A Super-Earth?, Ronald Reagan's Remarks, Dragon Beast False Prophet And Son Of Perdition, Satan Cast To The Earth, A Time Of Wrath, Bottomless Pit, Deceived Into Fighting Against Jesus At Armageddon, Alien-Related TV Shows And Movies, UFO Subculture, The Militarization Of Outer Space, Extrasolar Planets And Alien Invaders, George Bush's WMD Lie, Bush Administration's Fear And Paranoia Tactics, The Growing Popularity Of Pre-Emptive Strike, Satan's Pre-Emptive Strikes

Returning to the news article concerning the star "mu Arae", in my view, while you may not agree with me, and may even think that I am being overly harsh, this story appears to be an intentional attempt to deceive those who are not educated enough to truly understand these things. As I pointed out in part three, unless they read this article carefully, and read it in full, they could very well be left with a completely wrong impression. To make matters worse, as I mentioned only moments ago, stories concerning this "discovery", as well as all of the other two hundred plus extrasolar "planets" which have been "discovered" to date, are spread all over the web. The Internet is literally saturated with them. Just conduct an Internet search for the term "extrasolar planets" or else "extra-solar planets", and you will see exactly what I mean.

Why is this point so important? Quite simply, because there is an unspoken law you might say, that mass saturation leads to mass belief. Whether or not such a saying really exists, I honestly don't know. Maybe I just invented it myself; but regardless, what I have just said is indeed true. Isn't this exactly what happened with the 1938 "War Of The Worlds" radio drama? The story was like an uncontrolled brushfire, and the mass media did its part to fan the flames of belief.

So the point is, if enough people are sufficiently bombarded with a certain belief or idea, from enough different angles, pretty soon, a lot of them will actually start believing it, regardless of whether or not there is an ounce of truth to it. I am no psychologist, but simple observation will reveal that it is human nature for people to yield to peer pressure. Most of us want to fit in. We don't want to be ostracized or singled out. So, if a sufficient number of people around us are saying or believing in something, we just might end up doing it too. Today, this kind of "herd mentality" behavior is referred to as "political correctness". Nobody wants to step on anyone else's toes, so a spirit of liberalism has begun to flourish in many areas of our lives, where it most certainly did not exist even forty years ago. If you doubt my word, just look at the progress that abortion rights and gay and lesbian rights have made over the years.

So because news articles concerning mu Arae, and information regarding other so-called "extrasolar planets" is spread all over the web, people begin to erroneously accept it as being the de facto truth; whereas, if they would take the time to delve more deeply into this matter, they would discover that in absence of verifiable visual proof, they are really being taken for what may only amount to a "science fiction ride". In the case of mu Arae, it isn't until one arrives almost at the very end of the article, that he or she encounters the following sentence, which, in my view, just knocks the wind right out of the entire story:

----- Begin Quote -----

"There are no conventional pictures of the object, as it was detected by noting its gravitational effect on the star."

----- End Quote -----

What?! They haven't really seen this "planet"; and they don't even have any real images of it; and yet they're able to tell us so much about it just by its gravitational effect on its host star? As I have already said, this is the situation with all of these alleged "extrasolar planets". None of them have ever been visually observed by anyone. They are theorized to exist, based merely upon this secondary evidence which these astronomers have interpreted for us, after conducting their "radial-velocity surveys", and other forms of detection. To reiterate my point, I find this entire process suspect, and I question what the real motivations are behind some of these alleged "discoveries". Acquiring government grants for some of their pet projects perhaps? The fact that these extrasolar planets are all so far away, making it physically impossible to photograph them, raises my suspicions even more.

What these astronomers are doing is just as bad, in my view, as paleontologists who tell us exactly what certain dinosaurs looked like, including the color and texture of their skin, what their diet consisted of, how they walked, ran or swam, etc., all based upon fossilized bone samples, some of which are nothing more than a few fragments. In both cases, it is evident that a lot of personal conjecture, imagination and creativity comes into play here. That may offend some of my readers, particularly scientists, but it is nevertheless the truth.

At this point in our series, we are going to take a temporary detour from our main discussion regarding extrasolar planets, and further examine a few issues we talked about earlier. Let me advise you right now, that some of this material is rather wild, and that I am providing it for informational purposes only. As with everything I write, you are free to accept it, or else to reject it, based upon your own feelings concerning it.

In part three, we discussed various conspiracy theories which revolve around certain alleged secret government projects such as "Project Blue Beam". While I informed you that some people are convinced that this technology, if it really exists, will be used to create a false Second Coming of Jesus Christ, what I did not tell you, is that there are also those individuals who are convinced that this type of technology may be used to create a false invasion from Outer Space. I discuss this same topic in other articles as well, such as the aforementioned series "Nature Of The Alien: ET's, Demons Or Gov't Plot?". I again encourage you to read it.

At any rate, the motivation that these conspiracy theorists offer, is that the coming world leader will need to unify and militarize the planet; and what better way to accomplish this than by creating a common enemy; that is, an extraterrestrial enemy? As bizarre and crazy as this theory may appear, such a plan does offer one plausible reason for the announcement of all of these alleged "extrasolar planets", which have yet to be visually verified. If you are going to create a fictitious enemy from Outer Space, one of the first things you have to do is to convince people that other planets exist. After all, said alien invaders have to come from somewhere, right?

Now, please don't get the erroneous impression that I believe that all scientists, (particularly astronomers), are involved in a deep, dark conspiracy to take over the world, as I don't believe that for a minute. I have no doubt that many of these people are serious-minded, professional individuals who are trying their best to unravel the mysteries of the Universe in a sincere, honest manner which will enlighten the world. Yet, at the same time, I realize that knowledge is power; and that there are certain unscrupulous governments in the world which will use their favorite propaganda organ, that is, the mass media, to manipulate information, even against the wishes of these scientists, in order to achieve their own selfish goals.

My confidence in the mass media isn't quite as strong. While I recognize that some reporters embrace the highest standards in their profession, and are dedicated to sharing the truth with their readers and viewers, without partiality, we simply can't ignore the fact that news agencies rely upon publishing stories which will guarantee their survival in an extremely competitive industry. As a result of this tough environment, while adhering to high editorial standards would be the ideal in a perfect world, we all know that we live in a dog-eat-dog world, where only the strongest and most savvy survive; and news agencies will sometimes, perhaps often, bend the truth, if it results in greater viewership and earning more profits.

Government spokespeople are probably the worst. The spin that they put on the facts is one of the sad truths of this era of modern government. All of that to say that if someday we hear of the discovery of a "super-Earth" extrasolar planet, which possesses conditions very similar to our own, how much more would an invasion story seem plausible to the gullible masses who for the most part don't possess a great deal of Spiritual Discernment? So is it possible that a slow, gradual process of psychological manipulation has already begun which will at some point in the future result in just such an announcement? Before you outright dismiss this scenario as merely being the rants of conspiracy theorists, allow me to share with you a few quotes attributed to former US President, Ronald Reagan, which I also discuss in the "Nature Of The Alien" series:

----- Begin Quotes -----

"I couldn't but - one point in our discussions with General Secretary Gorbachev - when you stop to think that we're all God's children, wherever we may live in the world, I couldn't help but say to him, just think how easy his task and mine might be in these meetings that we held if suddenly there was a threat to this world from some other species from another planet outside in the universe. We'd forget all the little local differences that we have between our countries and we would find out once and for all that we really are all human beings on this earth together."

"Well, I don't suppose we can wait for some alien race to come down and threaten us . . ."

-- U.S. President Ronald Reagan, to the students of Fallston High School in Fallston, Maryland, on December 4, 1985.

"In our obsession with antagonisms of the moment, we often forget how much unites all the members of humanity. Perhaps we need some outside, universal threat to make us recognize this common bond. I occasionally think, how quickly our differences worldwide would vanish if we were facing an alien threat from outside this world. And yet, I ask is not an alien force already among us? What could be more alien to the universal aspirations of our peoples than war and the threat of war?"

-- U.S. President Ronald Reagan, to the 42nd General Assembly of the United Nations on September 21, 1987.

"But I've often wondered, what if all of us in the world discovered that we were threatened by an outer - a power from outer space, from another planet . . . Wouldn't we all of a sudden find that we didn't have any differences between us at all, we were all human beings, citizens of the world, and wouldn't we come together to fight that particular threat?"

-- U.S. President Ronald Reagan, in a question-and-answer session in Chicago, on May 5, 1988, after a speech concerning human rights and the Soviet Union.

---- End Quotes -----

As I explain in the aforementioned series, I am not sure what motivated Ronald Reagan to make those remarks, but I do offer some possible reasons which you might find interesting. These remarks by the former president are a matter of public record and aren't just the invention of UFO fanatics. Whether or not there is any truth to this bogus alien invasion scenario is up to you to determine; however, there is something troubling about all of this which you should consider. As I explain in the "Nature of the Alien" series, and in its companion series "The Nibiru Planet X Wormwood Controversy", in a way, some of these theories could possibly fit into what some Christians refer to as "Endtime Prophecy".

The reason why I say "some Christians", is because not all Christians embrace what has become known as the "Futurist" theological perspective. Stated another way, contrary to popular belief, not all Christians believe that certain prophetic events -- such as those which are mentioned in the Book of Revelation -- are yet to occur in our future. They -- the "Preterists" -- embrace the view that certain prophetic events actually occurred in the distant past sometime during the First Century.

However, for the sake of argument, let us assume that the "Futurist" interpretation of Bible prophecy is the correct one, as opposed to the "Preterist" interpretation which places some events in the past. If we adopt the "Futurist" theological perspective, then the commonly held belief is that in a spiritual sense, we are soon to enter a rather dark, evil period in Earth's history. In fact, to be quite honest, this wave of evil and rebellion against God has been in progress for a number of years now. It is really hard to miss seeing it, unless one is an ungodly liberal.

At any rate, based on the "Futurist" understanding, God's Word goes into considerable detail concerning the arrival of the demonic trio consisting of the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet. As I mentioned briefly in part three, in his Epistle, the Apostle Paul discusses the "Man of Sin", or the "Son of Perdition", who sits in the temple in East Jerusalem, and literally declare himself "God". As I said, this is if we look at these prophecies as future events, and not as past events, as Preterists do.

Being as I amply discuss these topics in a number of other articles, there is really no need to go into more detail here concerning these individuals, other than to say that the Bible informs us that this pair -- the Beast and the False Prophet -- are empowered by Satan himself, and control the entire planet. Currently, I am convinced that the Bible is not just speaking figuratively concerning these vile individuals. Whether we look at it as a future event or a past event, I believe that they are real human beings, and not just symbols.

Having established the previous points, allow me to explain something else to you. For Christians who lean towards a "Futurist" interpretation of Bible prophecy, discussing "Endtime Events", and more specifically, the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, is like second nature. There is nothing odd about it. But have you ever stopped to consider how those people who don't believe in God, and who reject His Word, the Bible, might be led or manipulated to interpret such events? As I have pointed out before, Satan knows the Word. As such, it only stands to reason that he also knows the future. More specifically, he knows his own future, as well as the future of those people who are foolish enough to follow him. Thus, we are told in the Book of Revelation that he comes down to the Earth having great wrath, as we see by this verse:

"Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Revelation 12:12, KJV

Why is it that the Devil comes down to the Earth having great wrath? Because he already knows that he has but a short time. In other words, he knows that when Jesus Christ returns with the Angelic Host at the Battle of Armageddon, his time is up! As Paul tells us:

"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:" 2 Thessalonians 2:8, KJV

That won't be the full end of Satan quite yet, because he'll be temporarily imprisoned in the Bottomless Pit for a period of one thousand years, but his main time of ruling the Earth will be over, as we see here:

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season." Revelation 20:1-3, KJV

But the main point that I wish for you to consider here is that if we look at these prophecies as near-future events -- meaning sometime during our lifetimes -- instead of as events which pertain to the distant past, then when this ungodly trio takes control of the Earth, one of their big tasks will be to somehow prepare the ungodly world to fight against Jesus Christ and the Angelic Host, when the Lord returns for the Battle of Armageddon.

Of course, nobody would believe them if they were to say "Oh, and by the way; Jesus is coming back and we need to get rid of Him." I really can't imagine any current world politician making such an idiotic statement, can you? I think that he'd be quietly escorted out of office, and placed safely in the closest insane asylum. On the other hand, if this evil trio were to try to convince the world that an invasion from Outer Space was imminent, I suspect that many people would be more inclined to believe them. Why is that? Because even now, even though they may not be aware of it, the world's population is being psychologically manipulated for exactly such an event.

Need I remind you of the popularity of movies where "space aliens" attacking Planet Earth is the theme? Movies such as "Independence Day" have been blockbusters. People laugh at such movies, and naturally take them with a grain of salt; but how many times have you patriotically cheered the hero as he blows away the evil "alien"? Then there are the "cute" alien movies like Steven Spielberg's very popular "E.T. The Extraterrestrial"; as well as the serious alien movies like "Close Encounters Of A Third Kind"; not to mention the more spiritually-inclined alien movies such as the two "Cocoon" movies; as well as the space horror flicks like the "Alien" movies; and in between there are a zillion others which go from being utterly ridiculous, to those which cause us to pause and wonder.

There are also a number of cult favorites such as the "Star Wars" trilogy and the movies which have followed it; as well as the various "Star Trek" movies. Everyone knows that such movies are nothing more than fictional accounts, but they do leave a subtle psychological impression on us.

And of course, let us not forget the many television shows which have filled the airwaves for many decades now. When I was growing up, the original "Star Trek" series, as well as "Lost In Space" and "The Invaders" were popular. Since that time, there have been shows such as "Battlestar Galactica", "Invasion", "Roswell", "First Wave" "Farscape", "Stargate", and quite a few others.

Before television was invented, radio played a central role in our daily entertainment, and Outer Space shows had their place amongst them as well. We've already discussed the 1938 "The War Of The Worlds" radio drama, and "Buck Rogers" was a staple form of entertainment for many children of that era as well. For many decades now, books and magazines, as well as school and university curriculums, have also played a central role in shaping our perspective concerning the exploration of space, and the possibility of encountering alien life, be it microbial, intelligent or otherwise.

During the past almost sixty years, since the famous Roswell incident of 1947, we've also witnessed the birth and growth of the UFO subculture; which consists of a bizarre mixture of fringe groups led by "wannabe prophets"; as well as some New Age adherents of various persuasions; and some serious UFO researchers as well. Some of them view "aliens" as our so-called "Space Brothers", who promise to help us to usher in an era of peace and spiritual enlightenment on the Earth; while to others, these same "aliens" are viewed as merciless monsters who conduct gruesome cattle mutilations, engage in human abductions, impregnate human women with human-alien hybrids, operate underground bases in conjunction with secret government agencies, and more. I discuss all of these topics in the aforementioned series.

So, depending on who you talk to, and believe, if anyone, you'll be filled with either peace and hope, or else with horror and fear. Given the current state of the world, and all of the fear and paranoia which has been generated, as well as sustained, since 9/11, I suspect that more people would be inclined to react with fear and mistrust, if some kind of an alien presence were suddenly announced by the current powers-that-be, or by any future world government. So you see, in a very subtle way, the people of Earth are in fact being psyched up and mentally prepared for what could possibly be the reality of the future; except that the unbelievers, because of their rejection of God's Word, will be led to interpret the events in a totally different way than the Christians. If the Lord's Return is a future event as "Futurists" believe, Christians will know that Jesus Christ is returning for His own, while nonbelievers will be convinced that it is an invasion from Outer Space; which, in a sense, it will be. How else can we explain the fact that the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet are successfully able to marshall all of their Earthly forces at the Battle of Armageddon, as we see here:

"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

Revelation 16:13-16, KJV

It is a given that the militarization of the immediate space around the Earth has already begun, and that it has been in progress for a number of years now. I don't doubt that there are technologies in existence right now, of which you and I are not aware. Exactly what is the purpose of all of these deadly weapons, such as satellite-based lasers? Are they to protect us from a threat which will originate on the Earth, or will they be used to protect us from a perceived threat which will arrive from the depths of Outer Space? Now, if the "Futurists" are correct, might such a threat even come from the very Throne of God? If it is the latter, then it won't really be a threat to God's children. It will only be a threat to those people who have foolishly received the Mark of the Beast, and who will fight his war for him against the Heavenly Host. That Host, or army, will be led by none other than Jesus Christ Himself. Of course, we already know the fate that awaits those who dare to fight against the King of Kings and Lord

of Lords; for as it is written:

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh." Revelation 19:11-21, KJV

Having shared the previous points with you, perhaps you can better understand the significance of the alleged "discovery" of these extrasolar planets. Whether or not they really exist is not important. The fact that a lot of people have been led to believe that extrasolar planets exist is all that really matters; because as I stated earlier, the mere belief in the existence of such bodies provides a potential place of origin for alien invaders. As I mentioned earlier, mass saturation leads to mass belief.

To help you to understand this point more clearly, allow me

to remind you of a recent event in world history. Whether or not WMD were ever really found in Iraq, the fact that many American citizens believed the lies and the deception of the Bush administration, was all that was necessary in order for George Bush to gain the necessary support which was required for him to wage his seemingly legitimate war against Saddam Hussein. The fact is, that for the first time in the recent history of the world, a nation initiated a pre-emptive, and illegal, strike against another nation, without ever really providing any solid proof of imminent danger; a danger which has since been proven to be totally fabricated and baseless.

Besides the trumped up charges of "imminent danger", which would, according to Bush, result in a "mushroom cloud" over America, as I point out in my political series "Capture Of Saddam Hussein And The New Babylon", Bush and his fellow war hawks repeatedly relied upon the age-old tactic of fear and paranoia, time and time again, with their alarming security warnings, in order to purposely keep the American people in a state of uncertainty. All of these tactics were purposely employed, in order to maintain the fear, which was initially generated by 9/11, pulsating through the public bloodstream. So to reiterate my point, whether or not something is true is really not that important to such people. As long as they are able to convince the general public that it's real, that is all that matters. Mass saturation leads to mass belief.

Sadly, as others have also candidly stated, including the President of France, as well as Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, Bush's foolish and unprovoked meddling in Iraq has indeed made the world a much more dangerous place. Not only has Iraq become a literal hellhole from which America will not escape for some years to come, but Iraq has also now become a magnet, and a fertile recruiting ground, for young Islamic radicals pouring in from all over the Middle East. They have seen what has happened there, and they are fearful that those crazy, warmongering Americans may attack their nation next, as Bush goes about trying to fulfill his "divine mission". Having gotten his way in Iraq, Mr. Bush and his cronies are now using the very same psychological tactics to demonize both North Korea and Iran; and Syria is on their list of targets as well. It may only be a matter of time before President Bush reveals his next move.

Perhaps one of the more alarming, as well as one of the more

dangerous developments, which has resulted from Bush's Iraq folly, is the fact that since the illegal invasion occurred, more nations have been showing a willingness to consider the option of resorting to pre-emptive strikes against perceived enemies. If you have been watching and reading the news, then you may already know that the following countries, which have all pointed to the disgraceful example of the USA and Great Britain and their invasion of Iraq to justify their position, have either already engaged in pre-emptive strikes, or else they have made public remarks, stating that they are willing to do so, if the need warrants it; or else they are at least pondering this very dangerous option right now, in order to determine if it should be integrated into their country's national policy; and this list may not even be complete:

Australia France India Iran Israel Japan North Korea Russia

Who will be next to join this group who say "If they can do it, then so can we!"? It is indeed frightening to ponder the possibility that a major war could erupt as a result of poor intelligence, paranoia, greed, or even baseless, fabricated charges; yet that is precisely where we now stand, thanks to the U.S.A. and Great Britain. They have indeed set a very dangerous precedent.

The tactic of pre-emptive strikes isn't really anything new. If one carefully studies the Bible, it becomes apparent that even Satan himself has resorted to this very same tactic a number of times throughout Biblical history. For example, in the Book of Genesis, Satan attempts to defeat God by inducing Adam and Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit. But, as we learn later, God foresaw this attack, and had already implemented a strategic plan by which humanity could be restored to favor with Him. Thus, in discussing the Resurrection of the Dead, the Apostle Paul tells us that Jesus became the "Last Adam", as we see here:

"So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in

corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." 1 Corinthians 15:42-54, KJV

Please go to part five for the continuation of this series.

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ALIEN LIFE, EXTRASOLAR PLANETS AND UNIVERSAL ATONEMENT : PT 5

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Satan's Pre-Emptive Strike Against Moses' Birth, King Herod's

Wrath, Murderous Plotting Scribes And Pharisees, The Greater Guilt, Victory Over Sting Of Death, Satan's Throne On Earth, Man Of Sin - Son Of Perdition - False Prophet - Antichrist, Two Possible Invasions From Outer Space, Deceived To Fight Again Invading Army Led By Jesus Christ, Spiritual Power And Knowledge, Modern Technology And Bible Prophecy, Fire From Heaven, Destruction Of Babylon The Great, Nuclear Radiation, Judah And Tamar, Identity Of Babylon, Grace Or "Good Works", Significance Of The 666 - Mark Of The Beast, VeriChip, GPS, DARPA, Prof. Kevin Warwick And BMI And MMEA Chip Technology

Continuing with our discussion regarding Satan's pre-emptive strikes, in the opening chapters of the Book of Exodus, the Devil was again foolish enough to think that he could defeat God. So, that demon apparently tried to prevent the birth of the coming deliverer of the children of Israel, by inspiring Pharaoh to kill all of the Hebrew newborns. Nevertheless, he failed again, because Moses was born; and when Moses came of age, he fulfilled his mission for the Lord; and the Hebrews were delivered out of Egyptian bondage. Following are some of the key verses from the story:

"And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah: And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live. But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive. And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive? And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them. Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty. And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses. And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive. And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. And when

she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink. And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him. And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children. Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it. And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water." Exodus 1:15-2:10, KJV

"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned." Hebrews 11:24-29, KJV

Citing another example, and undoubtedly the most important one of all, having failed in his mission throughout the Old Testament period, Satan was determined to prevent the birth of the Savior. Thus, power-hungry, evil King Herod plotted the deaths of all of the newborns in Bethlehem, in order to prevent the coming King from threatening his position on the Judean throne. But, as we've seen in the previous examples, Satan failed again, and Joseph and Mary safely escaped with the young child Jesus to the country of Egypt, until it was safe to return to Israel again. In fact, Herod's murderous plot was even prophesied in the Old Testament, as we see by these verses:

"Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not." Jeremiah 31:15, KJV

"Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel." Matthew 2:16-21, KJV

By this time, Satan was getting desperate. Perhaps he knew that he was running out of time. But, like Pharaoh, perhaps what he didn't realize, was that by plotting Jesus' death on the Cross, he would bring about his own defeat instead. You may recall that it was after Pharaoh had told Moses that he would kill him if he saw Moses' face again, that the Lord smote all of the firstborn in Egypt, as we see here:

"And Pharaoh said unto him, Get thee from me, take heed to thyself, see my face no more; for in that day thou seest my face thou shalt die. And Moses said, Thou hast spoken well, I will see thy face again no more. And the LORD said unto Moses, Yet will I bring one plague more upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt; afterwards he will let you go hence: when he shall let you go, he shall surely thrust you out hence altogether . . . And Moses said, Thus saith the LORD, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts. And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more. But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel." Exodus 10:28-11:1, 4-7, KJV

In similar fashion, in the New Testament, the hypocritical, self-righteous Scribes and Pharisees, motivated by their own jealousy of Jesus, were likewise the pawns of Satan; and as I point out in other articles, contrary to popular belief, it was they -- the unbelieving Jews -- and not the Romans, who God held most accountable for the Crucifixion of His Son. As Jesus Himself said to Pilate on the morning of His trial, as we see here:

". . . Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin." John 19:11, KJV

It was Judas, the pawn of the Scribes and the Pharisees, who had done this evil deed, even if it was by God's Design. So, even though those children of Satan -- as Jesus Himself called the unbelieving Jewish leadership -- achieved their goal, and by their own choice murdered their own Savior in cold blood, we know that they, and Satan, defeated themselves; because as it had been prophesied and foreordained, not only did Jesus pay the Ransom Price for our sins, and thus open the way so that we can all be reconciled to the Father, but Jesus also overcame the sting of death for us all. Thus He said:

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33, KJV

And as the Apostle Paul would later exclaim in his second Epistle to the brethren at Corinth concerning Jesus's clear victory over death and the grave:

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:55-57, KJV

In spite of the fact that Satan was soundly defeated about two thousand years ago, the question we need to ask is if he truly ever surrendered. If we again accept the "Futurist's" interpretation of Bible prophecy, we are told that some time in the not-too-distant future, the Devil will launch one more pre-emptive strike. Having failed to destroy Jesus almost two millennia ago, and having failed to take over the Throne of Heaven -- as per the prophecy which is found in Isaiah 14, he -- Satan -- will apparently settle for second best. Thus, for a short period of time -- according to "Futurist" theology -he will physically establish his demonic throne and Kingdom of Darkness here upon the Planet Earth, as the false god of this world.

As I briefly mentioned in parts three and four, I don't know exactly how Satan is going to achieve his objectives. But in some way, apparently through the person of the False Messiah, who the Apostle Paul refers to as the "Man of Sin", and also as the "Son of Perdition", he is going to convince a certain percentage of the world's population, that he is "God" upon Earth. There is also the possibility that this False Messiah mentioned by Paul, may be synonymous with the False Prophet described in the Book of Revelation. In writing about this evil leader's satanic deception and awe-inspiring power, Paul states the following in his second Epistle to the brethren in Thessalonika:

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day [Christ's Second Coming] shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God . . . 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:" 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, 9-11, KJV

In other words, what I have really been describing for you here, are two possible invasions from Outer Space. At least that is how these events may possibly be perceived by the unbelieving people of the world, who have rejected the Word of God. The first invasion -- if that is indeed how Satan's plan will be orchestrated before the world -- will be by the False Messiah. That is to say, the "Son of Perdition", or the "Man of Sin", who I have also stated may be synonymous with the False Prophet of the Book of Revelation. In fact, as you may know, "Antichrist" is another term which might possibly be referring to this very same individual. As I point out in other articles, such as "Who Is Who: Defining Endtime Terms", it is not my view that this is the same as the first Beast mentioned in Revelation chapter thirteen. The first Beast is a political and military leader, while the second Beast appears to be the false spiritual leader. They are a deceptive pair who work together in order to achieve their satanic agenda.

So, the first invasion -- assuming again that this is how the Devil will orchestrate his arrival -- will herald the arrival of the False Messiah, who will deceive the world, and reign for perhaps three and a half years. While the Second Invasion will be the actual Second Coming of Jesus Christ, God's true Messiah, who will soundly defeat the "Ungodly Trio". That is, the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet, at the Battle of Armageddon, and then rightfully sit upon His Earthly throne, which has been foreordained by His Father. I discuss these events in more detail in articles such as "From Armageddon to the New Earth", as well as in "The Triumphant Touchdown of Jesus Christ". Please consider reading them.

Similar to corrupt world leaders of our current day, the two Beasts of Revelation chapter thirteen -- that is to say, the Beast and the False Prophet -- may possibly resort to using the very same tactics of fear, paranoia, and the demonization of their enemies, as a way to deceive the world into fighting against Jesus Christ and the Armies of Heaven, at the Battle of Armageddon. As I noted in part three, they may claim that an invasion from Outer Space is about to occur; and because so many people have already been conditioned for precisely such an event, they will swallow these lies, hook, line and sinker, to their own damnation. To reiterate a point I made earlier, if this deception is already in progress, then the acceptance of the existence of extrasolar planets would fit right into such a scenario, as these alleged "aliens" will have to originate from somewhere.

I honestly don't know if this is exactly how future events will play out here on Planet Earth -- assuming that these really are future events as "Futurists" believe -- but I do believe, as I have already stated in other articles, that in order for us to understand Bible prophecy, we do need to try to make a connection between what the Bible says, and current world developments. That includes developments in areas of modern technology as well. There is the distinct possibility that what may have appeared as "magic" or even as great spiritual power to the ancient Prophets, may in actuality be easily explained by technological advances in our modern day.

In a sense, being as knowledge can be inspired by both good and evil spiritual forces, precisely as I point out in the article "Science and Technology: The Forbidden Knowledge?", it can be correctly stated that modern developments are the result of spiritual power; because as they say, knowledge is power. So while these demonic leaders will use modern tech to their advantage, the ancient Prophets may have looked at it from the perspective of where this knowledge was acquired from in order to create such technology. Thus, they rightly described it as being Satanic power. Of course, there is also a more simpler explanation; and that is that being as what they saw in their visions was so far beyond their human comprehension, they could think of no other way to describe it, other than to attribute it to spiritual power; that is, to Satanic power.

Allow me to give you a few examples. In Revelation, we are told that the mysterious wicked city known as Babylon the Great is in some way destroyed by fire. We are told six times that her destruction is so complete, that she will be found no more at all. Consider these verses:

"And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled." Revelation 17:16-17, KJV

"Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her . . . And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all . . . And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived." Revelation 18:8, 14, 21-23, KJV

We are also informed that the Second Beast -- that is to say, the False Prophet -- calls fire down from heaven in the sight of men, as we see here:

"And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men," Revelation 13:13, KJV

Keeping in mind that we are looking at these prophecies as having not been fulfilled yet -- according to the "Futurist" theological perspective -- and considering the scientific developments of our current day, is it possible that the Prophet John may have witnessed some kind of modern tech, such as satellite-based laser weapons, or possibly even a nuclear device? While regular fires can in fact result in a lot of destruction, the description of the destruction of Babylon the Great seems to imply something much more complete.

An urbanized area can obviously be rebuilt following a fire, no matter how great the damage may be. But sadly, as we have clearly witnessed in such cases as Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Bikini atoll nuclear tests, the 1979 Three Mile Island partial meltdown, the devastating 1986 Chernobyl incident, and the even more recent Fukushima meltdown, in addition to the massive physical damage which can result from a nuclear reactor or explosive device, deadly radiation levels can leave an area completely uninhabitable for many decades to come, not to mention curse people with afflictions which can not only incapacitate them and their offspring, but which may eventually kill them as well.

Before leaving this example behind, I would like to share one more observation I have made while discussing the destruction of Babylon the Great. While the Lord could destroy Babylon by a variety of means, why is it that He specifically chooses some type of fire? As I pondered this thought, a clear answer came to me: In the Old Testament, according to the Levitical Law which existed before the time of Moses, burning one with fire was apparently the punishment which was prescribed for a woman who was found guilty of committing whoredoms. This becomes clear in the example of the story of Judah and Tamar. We are told that after Judah had unknowingly impregnated his daughter-in-law, Tamar, with his child, upon learning of the development, the following occurred:

"And it came to pass about three months after, that it was told Judah, saying, Tamar thy daughter in law hath played the harlot; and also, behold, she is with child by whoredom. And Judah said, Bring her forth, and let her be burnt. When she was brought forth, she sent to her father in law, saying, By the man, whose these are, am I with child: and she said, Discern, I pray thee, whose are these, the signet, and bracelets, and staff. And Judah acknowledged them, and said, She hath been more righteous than I; because that I gave her not to Shelah my son. And he knew her again no more."

Genesis 38:24-26, KJV

I honestly don't know exactly what it meant to be burned in this fashion, as the Bible doesn't make it clear; and to be quite frank, just thinking about it kind of sickens me. But what we do know from the Scriptures, is that Judah was at fault here, because he had refused to fulfill his obligation to Tamar, by giving her his youngest son, Shelah, after the older two sons had died. In the end, Tamar bore twin sons by Judah; Pharez and Zarah; and Pharez was an ancestor of Jesus Christ; which is why Jesus is called "the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David" in the Book of Revelation. Here is the end of the story, as it is found in the thirty-eighth chapter of the Book of Genesis:

"And it came to pass in the time of her travail, that, behold, twins were in her womb. And it came to pass, when she travailed, that the one put out his hand: and the midwife took and bound upon his hand a scarlet thread, saying, This came out first. And it came to pass, as he drew back his hand, that, behold, his brother came out: and she said, How hast thou broken forth? this breach be upon thee: therefore his name was called Pharez. And afterward came out his brother, that had the scarlet thread upon his hand: and his name was called Zarah." Genesis 38:27-30, KJV

While I discuss Babylon the Great in much more detail in my article "Revelation's Babylon the Great", let me just mention here that what these verses from Revelation may be indicating, is that in some way, Babylon represents a false religion. Or perhaps she is a city where false religion is practiced. While she is supposed to be married to Jesus Christ, she has betrayed her spiritual husband through her unfaithfulness, and she has gone whoring after the pleasures of this world. As a result of her sins against Him, she is burned with fire. So, perhaps if we view these verses in this context, we can begin to obtain a better idea of which city might possibly represent Babylon the Great. Two other Scriptures which add support to this speculation are the following, and you will find more of them discussed in the aforementioned article:

"Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God." Romans 7:4, KJV

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." James 4:4, KJV

One final hint I would like to offer here before moving on,

is that the first verse above seems to imply, that whereas our Salvation is supposed to be based solely upon our faith in the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ alone, maybe the mysterious Babylon depended upon her own "good works", such as through her observance of the Mosaic Law to save her. However, this simply will not do. As it is clearly written:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9, KJV

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;" Titus 3:5, KJV

"And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work." Romans 11:6, KJV

But let us return now to our earlier discussion concerning how the fulfillment of certain ancient Bible prophecies could possibly be explained by technological developments in our modern day. The infamous Mark of the Beast system could very well be explained by the current developments in banking and computer technology. While some Bible teachers have endeavored to totally spiritualize the meaning of the "666", personally, I think it is foolish to do so, because buying and selling -- in other words, world commerce -- is very much a real, physical part of our modern world, as it always has been. While it is indeed true that there is spiritual significance to one's decision either to accept or to reject the Mark of the Beast system, nevertheless, what is being described in Revelation chapter thirteen, seems very much to me like a literal occurrence, and a technologically-based development at that. I ask you to please consider exactly what the Bible says about this:

"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six." Revelation 13:16-18, KJV

Aside from the fact that what John wrote seems quite literal to me, it is also as a result of the many technology articles which I have read and archived over the years, that I remain convinced at this current time, that if it is indeed a future development, and not something which pertains to the distant past, then the final 666, or Mark of the Beast system, will be a "technological marriage" of such technologies as biochip implants -- such as ADS's VeriChip for example -- RFID chips -- Radio Frequency ID chips -- biometric scanners -- such as facial and retinal scans -- invisible RFID ink -- now being used with livestock -- and Global Positioning Satellites, or GPS.

As you may already know, and as I also discuss in some of my other 666-related articles, such as the series "Precursors to the 666 and the Mark of the Beast", and also "666: More Proof of the Coming System", in some countries, including the USA, these kinds of technologies are already being implemented by certain government agencies, as well as by manufacturers and large retail outlets, such as Walmart. In fact, several years ago, a family in Florida became the first private citizens to receive the ADS VeriChip implant, and the popularity of these chips has since expanded to other nations, as the promoters of these technologies continue to paint their products in a positive light.

While you may have already been aware of the VeriChip device, what you may not know, is that while everyone's attention has been diverted by ADS's implant, DARPA has been engaged in the development of another technology called BMI and MMEA. As I explain in "Precursors to the 666 and the Mark of the Beast", MMEA is another implantable biochip which is said to be more advanced than the VeriChip. MMEA was created by Kevin Warwick who occupies the position of Professor of Cybernetics at the University of Reading in Great Britain. Professor Warwick is involved with research dealing with artificial intelligence and robotics.

In fact, Warwick has written a paperback book called "In the Mind of the Machines", in which he warns of a future in which machines are more intelligent than human beings. I have read some literature where certain scientists express the view that this point might be reached in approximately thirty-five years. As you may know, even Elon Musk, who is the CEO of Tesla, Inc., SpaceX and Neuralink, as well as a co-founder of PayPal, has warned of the dangers of runaway AI, or Artificial Intelligence.

Back in 1998, Warwick shocked the international scientific community when he had a microchip surgically implanted in his upper left arm for a short period of time. With the implanted device, Warwick was able to control various appliances in his home. What I find even more alarming, is the fact that since March of 2002, Warwick has conducted additional implants and experiments with his wife, which have allowed him to actually link his nervous system to a computer. These new experiments are part of "Project Cyborg".

MMEA stands for Multiple Micro Electrode Array. This biochip, which is a bi-directional device, meaning that it is capable of receiving and transmitting electrical impulses to and from the human body, is controlled by a software package called BMI. BMI is an acronym for Brain Machine Interfaces. Warwick uses this hardware, (MMEA), and software, (BMI), to intercept and decipher nerve pulses from the human brain. The goal is to decode these signals, so that a computer program can be written, which will allow the user of BMI to transmit signals back to a person who has the MMEA biochip implant; and thus affect how they think, what they are feeling emotionally, as well as physically, etc.

This is not just a fabricated tale from some science fiction novel. They are making progress with this technology. When I first began writing this series in 2004, Warwick was already attempting experiments whereby he would touch his arm; the nerve impulses would then be transmitted to a computer, and then relayed to his wife; who I assume also had her own MMEA implant. The result is that when he touched his arm, she would feel the very same sensation, as if she had touched her own arm, even though she had really done no such thing. As a result of the publicity that Mr. Warwick's work received, and the negative feedback that resulted from it, for a few years, Professor Warwick remained low, and out of the public eye. However, I recently read that he has by no means desisted in his work. In fact, he continues to make progress with it. Can you begin to see what kind of demonic developments this kind of experimentation could possibly lead to, were it to fall into the wrong hands? When mass biochip implants become popular -- and they eventually will -- this kind of technology could theoretically be used to affect how people both think and feel. Maybe it will even be used by certain governments and law enforcement agencies to cause people to experience pain when they get out of control. Can you begin to see why DARPA has such a big interest in Professor Warwick's work, and why it is in fact helping to fund BMI and MMEA?

It might also interest you to know, that according to what I have read, biochip implants were also used during Operation Desert Storm in Iraq. Given, the chaos which continued in Iraq for years after that, and the escalating number of American casualties which followed there, I would not be the least surprised to learn that said biochips were still being used, in order to keep track of both soldiers and equipment. In fact, this is a common theme in a lot of movies now. That is, chipping soldiers before they go on combat missions.

Bringing this issue to a more personal level, in this current age of fear, paranoia, uncertainty, kidnapping and dangerous terrorism, wouldn't you appreciate the safety level you could achieve, by having one of these wonderful biochips implanted under your skin, so that your all-seeing, protective, caring government would be able to quickly assist you in your time of need? Please excuse my sarcasm!

Please go to part six for the continuation of this series.

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ALIEN LIFE, EXTRASOLAR PLANETS AND UNIVERSAL ATONEMENT : PT 6

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Ron Paul On Dangers Of Global Banking System, Human History And God's Timetable, Free Choice And God's Will, Our Transparency Before The Lord, No Evil Plot By Astronomers, Manipulation Of Information, If Alien Life Forms Do Exist, Our Sinful Nature, Wages Of Sin Is Death, Atonement Through Christ, Theological Questions, Christ's Final Sacrifice, Jesus' Triumphant Reign, Universal Atonement And Reconciliation, Bought With A Price, Scope Of Christ's Atonement, Brass Serpent, Freed From Sting Of Death, Defining Greek Word "Kosmos" In The New Testament

All of these modern technologies -- VeriChip, RFID, GPS, BMI and MMEA -- will eventually morph together into one, and will be integrated into a global banking network. At some point, this system will enslave the entire world. In fact, if the truth be told, we are already well on our way to achieving this. If certain Bible prophecies are yet to be fulfilled as the "Futurists" claim, then such a global system could very well be the Mark of the Beast. That is, the 666 system. Many people have been warning about the coming system. One such voice is former Texas Congressman and economic analyst, Ron Paul. For almost two decades, Paul has been writing about the dangers posed by the formation of the European Union and where such developments may eventually lead. For example, in October 1988, Paul warned in "The Free Market" -- a journal that is published by the Ludwig von Mises Institute where Ron Paul was a counsellor -- that the ongoing developments in Europe would "produce a monster", and then Mr. Paul added:

----- Begin Quote -----

"International statists have long dreamed of a world currency and a world central bank . . . Now it looks as if their dream may come true."

----- End Quote -----

"Statism" is an authoritarian political system in which the state, or in this particular case, a global government, has the power to impose stiff centralized control over economic and social affairs. In another 1988 commentary entitled "The Coming World Central Bank," Doctor Ron Paul more specifically warned of the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

"European governments have targeted 1992 for abolishing individual European currencies and replacing them with the European Currency Unit, the Ecu. Next they plan to set up a European central bank. The next step is the merger of the Federal Reserve, the European central bank and the Bank of Japan into one world central bank."

"The European central bank (ECB) will be modeled after the Federal Reserve. Like the Fed in 1913, it will have the institutional appearance of decentralization, but also like the Fed it will be run by a cartel of big bankers in collusion with politicians at the expense of the public."

----- End Quote -----

It is evident from current events in Europe, that these plans are in fact being implemented. I don't know exactly how soon they'll be completed, but it seems to me that the final steps will be taken to activate the full 666 system, following some kind of an international economic crisis. I suspect that the catalyst which will precipitate these events, may possibly be the destruction of the USA, or at the very least, the sudden collapse of America's worldwide financial empire; which, as you should know, is based upon nothing but fiat money. That is to say, the worthless American dollar.

At the time that I wrote the original version of this series, the dollar was doing very poorly against the Euro, and other major world currencies. While it has rebounded since then, the fact of the matter remains that the United States of America has a deficit in the trillions of dollars, which grows worse with each passing year, as gluttonous America continues to live lavishly, while she borrows more and more from other nations, and wastes the world's limited resources. Perhaps these globalists will use the American economy to complete there plans of creating a world central bank, and then they will knock out one of its three legs --the American dollar -- in order to intentionally create a global crisis, so that they can then usher in the final 666 Mark of the Beast system. Time will certainly tell.
But as I was saying, between the aforementioned technologies, the alleged capabilities of the HAARP Project, the economic system which could result from using VeriChip technology, and the use of cameras and other surveillance equipment in every major city around the world, it certainly paints an alarming picture of a potentially totalitarian, oppressive future for humankind.

Returning once again to the topic of extrasolar planets, as I noted earlier, regardless of how all of these developments eventually transpire, we should not be too quick to dismiss the possibility that the alleged "discovery" of all of these extrasolar planets may play a role in the overall scenario of future events. I believe that God is in absolute control of history and human development, and that He allows, and even causes, certain events to occur at very specific times, in accordance with His Divine Timetable. Is it possible that the announcement of the discovery of these extrasolar planets is one such event?

While some people live under the illusion that they are in absolute control of their lives, this isn't necessarily true. While we each retain the freedom of personal choice to do as we please with our lives, being as God exists outside of the constraints of space and time, He knows what we will do, and when we will do it, even before we actually do it, or maybe even think about it. As a result, He possesses the power to alter the events in our lives, and thus the outcome, if He so sees fit. The Scriptures confirm that absolutely nothing is hidden from God's Eyes, that He can see the end from the beginning, and that He can manipulate history according to His Divine Will, as we see by the following group of verses:

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:" Isaiah 46:9-10, KJV

"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." Proverbs 15:3, KJV

"For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his

goings." Job 34:21, KJV

"Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." Hebrews 4:13, KJV

Having said that, it's possible that the announcement of the discovery of these extrasolar planets -- or exoplanets -- over the past several decades is one such development which has been specifically reserved for this current time. As we discussed earlier, it is possible that their discovery may be a part of the deception. It may interest you to know that according to The Extrasolar Planets Encyclopedia which can be found at exoplanet.eu, as of November 2018, a total of 3,891 exoplanets have allegedly been discovered. But again, let me remind you that to date, none of them have been visually observed or physically imaged. The discovery of these distant bodies is based purely upon circumstantial evidence.

Before continuing, allow me to reiterate again, that in making such a statement, I am by no means accusing the world's astronomers of being involved in a sinister, satanic plot to take over the world, through some kind of bogus alien invasion scheme. Such wild speculations are what you might hear on the popular "Coast To Coast" radio show, or see in a lot of outlandish YouTube videos where so many people shoot off their mouths without really knowing what they are even talking about.

I am sure that there are many well-meaning men and women of science, who are involved in the field of astronomy, who like myself, are simply amazed by the beauty of the heavens. They are curious, as we are all curious; and they simply want to know what is out there. Who can possibly blame them? I most certainly can't. As I've already said plainly several times in this series, where the possible danger lies, is in what other people, such as unscrupulous individuals who may be involved with certain government and military institutions, may do with the information that these astronomers release. The manipulation of information to suit one's purposes is a very powerful tool in our modern world, and it's often been used, such as during times of war, during election seasons, etc. It is a fact of life, whether people realize that it is happening or not.

Let me repeat again that whether or not extrasolar planets really exist is irrelevant. All that matters, is whether or not people believe that they exist. As I explained earlier, only God knows what He has done, as well as what He has not done; and He is under no obligation to reveal everything to us if He doesn't wish to. Furthermore, as I explained to you in part one, based upon the Biblical evidence which I have uncovered -- that is, Paul's usage of the word "worlds" in two verses -- there does appear to be some room, at least in my view, for the possible existence of extrasolar planets. It remains a question mark in my mind, because the Scriptures simply do not make it clear enough; at least not in the way that I currently understand them. So again, I view this as just a possibility, and I am still waiting for real visual confirmation that these extrasolar planets exist.

But, for the sake of argument, let us adopt the scientific, logical view, and assume that extrasolar planets do exist. Let's even go so far as to assume -- even though all of the evidence to date suggests otherwise -- that an undefined number of said bodies possess a planetary environment which is hospitable to intelligent life -- even human life -because they exist in their star's "Goldilocks Zone". While in a technological sense, we are still many years away from actually discovering that life, and even further away from communicating with that life, let's take one more leap of faith and assume that we've discovered unmistakable evidence which conclusively confirms that an intelligent race does exist in some far corner of the Universe. Perhaps a wandering space probe from that distant world has been caught in the orbit of our planet; so we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that they are there. Then what?

If there is intelligent life elsewhere in the Universe -- and that is a big "if" at this current time -- then theologically speaking, it does present some rather interesting questions for us Christians. Exactly what might they be? As many of you reading this will already know, we Christians believe that everyone is stained with sin from birth. In other words, sin is universal. The Bible also teaches us that the wages of sin, that is to say, the transgression or violation of God's Universal Laws, results in condemnation and death. We also

believe that there must therefore be some form of Universal Atonement; and that this Atonement comes through faith in Jesus Christ, who died for the sins of all mankind. Consider the following verses which clearly establish this belief: "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." Psalms 51:5, KJV "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Romans 3:23, KJV "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" Romans 5:12, KJV "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." 1 John 3:4, KJV "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8, KJV "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)" Ephesians 2:5, KJV "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23, KJV "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;" 1 Timothy 2:5, KJV "Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come . . . I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." John 8:21, 24, KJV

So, the important questions that arise in my mind are these:

If intelligent extraterrestrial life really does exist, are there civilizations out there which didn't commit the grave error that we did, and thus have never fallen from Grace? If so, wouldn't this negate their need for a Savior? Could they still be living in paradise worlds similar to the Garden of Eden before the Fall? Is it possible that God's archenemy, Satan, never had an opportunity to corrupt their societies with his lies and deception?

On the other hand, if, like us, these theoretical societies sinned and did in fact fall from Grace, does this mean that, being as Jesus' Sacrifice on the Cross is the only Universal Atonement accepted by His Father, that Jesus has to hop from planet to planet, being born again, living, preaching, being killed and resurrecting, in order to atone for their sins as well? Or did Jesus' Death here on Earth atone for the sins of all creatures throughout the entire Universe?

Now, knowing the Scriptures as I do, I must tell you that the idea of the Lord traveling from planet to planet, in order to be crucified again and again, is totally contrary to what the Bible teaches us. God's Word plainly states that Christ died once, and only once, for all men, and that He is not going to do it again. Please consider the following verses:

"But this man, [Jesus] because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself." Hebrews 7:24-27, KJV

"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

Hebrews 9:11-12, KJV

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with

hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself . . . So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." Hebrews 9:24-26, 28, KJV

"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." Hebrews 10:10, KJV

So as you can see, Paul makes it very plain that Jesus was the Final Offering. That is to say, the Final Sacrifice for sin. As such, there is no longer any need for any additional blood offerings. The price for sin was paid in full on that one day, almost two thousand years ago. As Bible-believing Christians, we firmly believe that Jesus is no longer just a Sacrificial Lamb. Rather, He is now a very powerful ruler who puts down His Father's enemies, and put things in order. But, this is really a topic for another discussion. In fact, I have already written several articles regarding this very subject, which you might find interesting. They include the aforementioned articles "From Armageddon to the New Earth", and "The Triumphant Touchdown of Jesus Christ". Let me just share one set of verses on this topic, before we continue our talk on extraterrestrial life. I have added a few words in brackets for the sake of clarification:

"Then cometh the end, when he [Jesus] shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he [Jesus] shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he [Jesus] must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, [unto Jesus] then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him [meaning unto God] that put all things under him, that God may be all in all." 1 Corinthians 15:24-28, KJV So returning to the topic of Universal Atonement, if Jesus Christ died for the sins of all men, exactly how should we interpret the phrase "all men"? Is it referring to just all Earthlings; or does it mean all Earthlings and all aliens as well? Given that the Bible was written from an Earth-centric perspective, we could easily argue that "all men" is simply referring to all of the inhabitants who have ever lived here on the Planet Earth. But what if this really isn't the case? Is there any evidence in the Scriptures which might indicate otherwise, and thus support an alternative view?

While the phrases "Universal Reconciliation" and "Universal Atonement" have become popular with some Bible teachers and students in our modern day, it is interesting to note that neither phrase is actually found in either the Old Testament or in the New Testament. In the New Testament, "atonement", "reconciliation", as well as their variations, are derived from two Greek words. The first of these, "katallage", is pronounced kat-al-lag-ay', and the second, "katallasso", is pronounced kat-al-las'-so. The Greek lexicon defines these words as follows:

----- Begin Quote -----

katallage:

1) exchange

1a) of the business of money changers, exchanging equivalent values

2) adjustment of a difference, reconciliation, restoration to favour

2a) in the NT of the restoration of the favour of God to sinners that repent and put their trust in the explatory death of Christ

katallasso:

1) to change, exchange, as coins for others of equivalent value

1a) to reconcile (those who are at variance)

1b) return to favour with, be reconciled to one

1c) to receive one into favour

----- End Quote -----

So, as the previous definitions demonstrate, reconciliation, or atonement, in the Christian context, refers to the fact that we have been restored to favor with God, through Jesus Christ; because Jesus offered up Himself; He made the Great Sacrifice, as an exchange, or ransom price, for our sins. As I explain in other articles, such as in "Is Jesus The Only Begotten Son Of God?", Jesus met the requirements of the Law, and has thus become our Eternal High Priest in the Heavens. Allow me again to share some verses with you which show how we have been bought with a price, that is, with the Blood of Christ, and thus can be restored to our fellowship with the Father:

"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28, KJV

"Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men." 1 Corinthians 7:23, KJV

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." 1 Timothy 2:5-6, KJV

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, KJV

We also find the words "atonement", "reconciliation", and several of their derivations, in the following verses in the New Testament, which again clearly show how Jesus Christ has indeed reconciled us to His Father through His own Blood:

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement." Romans 5:8-11, KJV

"For if the casting away of them [the Jews] be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?" Romans 11:15, KJV

"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 5:18-20, KJV

"And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:" Ephesians 2:16, KJV

"And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight:" Colossians 1:20-22, KJV

"Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted. Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;" Hebrews 2:17-3:1, KJV If you would like to learn more about Christ's Atonement on the Cross, please refer to my article "The Blood Atonement: In Jesus' Own Words", as well as "Message to the World". So through the previous verses, we've established exactly what is meant by "atonement", or if you prefer, "reconciliation", with the Father. Quite simply, it means that Jesus exchanged His Earthly life, as a ransom for our sins, in order that we might receive Eternal Life, through our belief in His loving Sacrifice. The next issue we need to address, is the exact scope of His Atonement. Is Christ's Reconciliation confined to only the Earth, or does it expand beyond that? One set of verses which immediately comes to my mind is the following, which will be familiar to many of you:

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

John 3:14-17, KJV

In the previous set of verses, we see another foreshadow from the Old Testament which finds its ultimate fulfillment in the Sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. Just as Moses was instructed by God to fashion a brazen serpent, and to elevate it upon a pole, in order that those people who would gaze upon it might be healed of the poisonous bite of the desert vipers, so too, Jesus was lifted up on the Cross, that we might be freed from the sting of death, as I mentioned in part five. Please also consider these additional verses which are found in the New Testament, which confirm this thought:

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32, KJV

"So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law." 1 Corinthians 15:54-56, KJV

"And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen." Romans 16:20, KJV

So through His loving Sacrifice upon the Cross, Jesus Christ has indeed bruised Satan under our heel, and He has opened the way to Eternal Life. Even though we may experience the sting of death, we shall not remain so; we shall rise again, as we see here:

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

1 Corinthians 15:51-52, KJV

But do all of these verses only apply to people here on the Planet Earth, or do they extend beyond that? In the previous verses from the Gospel of John, the word "world" is derived from the Greek word "kosmos", which, in English, is spelled "cosmos". It is interesting to note that when most people hear this word, they automatically think of Outer Space. In fact, we think of the vastness of the entire Universe. Thus, it comes as no surprise that a Russian astronaut is referred to as a "cosmonaut". Yet, at the same time, as the previous verses from the Gospel of John demonstrate, the word "kosmos" also refers to things of the world. Thus, those things which pertain to the entire world are said to be "cosmopolitan" in nature; and a citizen of the world is a "cosmopolite".

Based upon what is being stated in John, it does appear that translating "kosmos" as "world" is the correct application of the word; after all, God the Father did in fact send His Son Jesus to the Planet Earth. Following are some additional verses found in the Gospel of John where "kosmos" is used in this same manner:

"He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not." John 1:10, KJV "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." John 9:5, KJV

"Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end." John 13:1, KJV

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33, KJV

"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." John 17:9-16, KJV

Clearly then, the previous verses are referring to all of the people of Planet Earth. However, is this how "kosmos" should be understood in all of the instances where we find it in the New Testament?

Please go to part seven for the continuation of this series.

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ALIEN LIFE, EXTRASOLAR PLANETS AND UNIVERSAL ATONEMENT : PT 7

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Greek Word "Kosmos" Refers To Both The World And The Universe, True Extent Of Universal Reconciliation, Sinful Human Nature, Spiritual Rebellion From The Beginning, War Of The Mind, God Is A Man Of War, War In Heaven And On Earth, Spiritual Nature Of Our Warfare, Sin And Free Choice In Heaven, Fallen Angels, Scope Of Universal Reconciliation, What Has God Been Doing Since Creation?, Is There Life Between Heaven And Earth?, God Is Not Wasteful, It Is Not Our Place To Judge God, All Things Were Created For God's Pleasure And Glory, We Humans Are The Lord's Most Cherished Creation, No Visual Observation Yet Of Extrasolar Planets, What Conditions Are Necessary For Life?, Alternative Biochemistry And Non-Carbon-Based Life Form Theory, Why Do Vast Distances Separate Theoretical Inhabited Planets, We're Accountable For Our Actions, Judgment Seat Of Christ

I am not sure that "kosmos" refers just to the Earth; because in the original Greek it pertains to those things that belong to the entire world, or to the entire Universe. Consider some of the definitions which are found in Thayer's Greek English Lexicon:

----- Begin Quote -----

kosmos:

- 1) an apt and harmonious arrangement or constitution, order, government
- 2) ornament, decoration, adornment, i.e. the arrangement of the stars, 'the heavenly hosts', as the ornament of the heavens. 1Pe 3:3

3) the world, the universe

4) the circle of the earth, the earth

5) the inhabitants of the earth, men, the human family

----- End Quote -----

It becomes clear then, that "kosmos" does indeed have a dual application. It can be used to refer to those things which pertain to the Earth, or it can apply to the entire Universe and those things that it contains, which, as we saw in part one, are often referred to as the "host of heaven"; that is to say, the Sun, Moon, planets, stars, and whatever else is out there just waiting to be discovered by man's prying eyes via modern technology, such as the Hubble Space Telescope, radio telescopes, inter-planetary probes, etc.

In light of this dual meaning of the word "kosmos", we need to re-address the issue of Universal Reconciliation. Are we correct to assume that it only applies to the Planet Earth; or might it be possible that Universal Reconciliation really should be understood as meaning restoration to a harmonious relationship with God throughout the entire Universe? To say it in another way, is the Sacrifice of Christ only the Price of Redemption for the citizens of Planet Earth, or should His Sacrifice be understood as being the Universal Atonement for all manner of sin everywhere, including on other planets where intelligent life may also possibly exist? This would certainly solve the problem I discussed earlier concerning Jesus having to hop from one planet to another in order to atone for the sins of each planetary civilization.

As we saw in part one, the word "worlds" is derived from the Greek word "aion"; and its definition does lightly suggest that this word could possibly be used to refer to extrasolar planets; that is, those planets which are located outside of our own Solar System. You will recall that I stated that our ancient spiritual forefathers may have even known something about such things, even though the science did not exist at the time to prove them. Spiritual revelation is not limited by the knowledge and science available at any given time.

Perhaps one way we can resolve this question of Universal

Atonement, would be by working in reverse. In other words, we already understand why Jesus' Sacrifice was so necessary. We already comprehend that due to the breach which was made as a result of the Original Sin committed by Adam and Eve, we must each be reconciled to the Father, because the sinful nature, and its consequences, death, have been passed to all men. So to understand the scope of the Atonement, maybe all that we need to do is to first understand the full scope of the necessity for Reconciliation.

Having said that, allow me to ask you a rhetorical question. Is the need for Reconciliation only limited to the citizens of Planet Earth? Did the breach only occur on our planet; or did it extend beyond the Earth? In my view, the Scriptures seem to offer the idea that God's Plan of Restoration goes well beyond the Earth; in fact, all the way to the Halls of Heaven. This idea is clearly supported by a number of verses found within the pages of the Bible.

For example, in "Nephilim: The Giants of Genesis", I explain that as far back as the Book of Genesis, we learn that Satan has rebelled against God. We likewise have the clear account of the Fallen Angels in chapter six of that same book. The Prophet Isaiah also writes about Lucifer's fall, due to his pride, which Jesus also briefly mentioned in the Gospel of Luke. We also find spiritual battles occurring in the Book of Daniel. Finally, Revelation chapter twelve explains how Satan and his cohorts -- the dragon and a third of the stars of heaven -- are cast out of Heaven after their sound defeat by the Archangel Michael and his Angelic Warriors.

So exactly what are these Scriptural examples telling us? In my view, they make it rather clear that spiritual rebellion has existed since man was first placed upon this planet, and perhaps even before that. The previous examples, which I more amply discuss in a number of other articles, reveal that all is not well on Planet Earth, or in the Spirit Realm. In fact, I would dare say that what occurred here on Earth thousands of years ago in Eden, was quite possibly a direct result of what had already happened in the Spirit Realm.

In other words, I suspect that the rebellion that occurred in the Spirit Realm, ultimately resulted in a physical rebellion here on our own planet; because whether we realize it or not, each of us are influenced by spiritual forces; and as I point out in other articles, these forces wage a constant battle in our minds and with our thoughts. These evil forces attempt to entice us to rebel against the Will of God and to sin against Him. Thus it is, that the Apostles Peter and Paul warned us to control our thoughts and to gird up our minds; in fact, to be renewed in our minds, and to obey Christ. Consider these verses:

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Genesis 6:5, KJV

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:2, KJV

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." 1 Corinthians 2:16, KJV

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" 2 Corinthians 10:5, KJV

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." 2 Corinthians 11:3, KJV

"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;" Ephesians 4:23, KJV

"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled" Colossians 1:21, KJV

"For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." Hebrews 12:3, KJV

"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and

hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;" 1 Peter 1:13, KJV

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" 1 Peter 5:8, KJV

If one carefully studies the Bible, he discovers that from the very beginning, in the Book of Genesis, to the very end, in the Book of Revelation, God is a man of war; and that war has been waged in Heaven and on Earth, for the hearts, minds and souls of men. God has engaged in a relentless multi-level war against rebellion and unbelief for thousands of years in Earth time, and we humans are in fact the prize of that war. This war is centered on saving our souls, and winning us to God's Kingdom. Please consider these verses:

"The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name." Exodus 15:3, KJV

"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." Matthew 11:12, KJV

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:12, KJV

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels," Revelation 12:7, KJV

"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful." Revelation 17:14, KJV

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a

flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh." Revelation 19:11-21, KJV

As God's children, and His chosen and faithful, we too are an important part of His Army of Salvation here on Earth. We are soldiers, and warriors of the Spirit, whom God has called and entrusted to fight "the good fight of faith". We are to wage relentless warfare against the lies and deceptions of Satan, which that Evil One has used to ensnare the hearts, minds and souls of men.

We are also told in the Scriptures that our primary weapon in this great spiritual battle, is the Sword of the Spirit; that is, the very Word of God; because our battle, in large part, is a war of words and of ideas; just as it was in the days of the Prophets; just as it was in Jesus' day with the Scribes and the Pharisees; and just as it was in the days of the men and women who followed in His footsteps; so we must learn to use our Sword well. Please read the following verses which confirm these points:

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, KJV

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses." 1 Timothy 6:12, KJV

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." 2 Timothy 2:3-4, KJV

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:" 2 Timothy 4:7, KJV

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Ephesians 6:10-11, KJV

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12, KJV

The fact that there is war in Heaven, clearly demonstrates that there is room for sin, rebellion and free choice there. God does not preside over a world full of robots. The fact that the Fallen Angels were able to make the choice to leave their Heavenly Abode, as Jude tells us, and come down to our planet, in order to engage in illicit sexual relations with human women, is another clear example that free will exists there. Jude had this to say: "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." Jude 1:6, KJV

Obviously, God does not tolerate rebellion; and He does deal with it quickly; but nevertheless, it does occur; or at least it did occur in the past, depending on your understanding of the Scriptures. In short, what seems apparent to me, is that Reconciliation must occur on both a physical level, here on Planet Earth, as well as on a spiritual level, in the Halls of Heaven. In part six, I shared some verses with you which seem to add Scriptural weight to my current understanding of what Universal Reconciliation may really mean. Allow me to refresh your memory by sharing those verses with you again:

"And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight:" Colossians 1:20-22, KJV

As you can see, it is obvious that Paul is clearly discussing Universal Reconciliation; and he clearly defines the scope of Reconciliation. He specifically says "reconcile all things", "things in earth", and "things in heaven". Exactly how does this Reconciliation of all things in Heaven and Earth occur? You probably realize that "him" is referring to Jesus Christ. So again, we see that Jesus is undeniably the only Universal Atonement which God the Father recognizes; and the Sacrifice of Christ results in Universal Reconciliation in Heaven, and on Earth. It is all-encompassing. That's why Paul also wrote:

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, [Jesus] and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;" Philippians 2:9-10, KJV

Notice that Paul even includes "things under the earth". As I explain in some of my Apocrypha-related articles, as well

as in the article "Hell, the Lake of Fire and Universalism", I hold to the view that Paul is referring to the rebellious spirits which are currently imprisoned in the bowels of the Earth, as per the accounts found in the Book of Enoch, Peter's writings, the Epistle of Jude, and the Book of Revelation. Please see these other articles for more details concerning this issue.

Now, with the question of Universal Atonement and Universal Reconciliation answered, this brings us back to one of the key points we discussed earlier in this series: extrasolar planets and other planetary societies. In part one, I asked the question: If God completed all of Creation in Six Days, and He rested on the Seventh Day, exactly what has He been doing since then? Has He just been abiding His time ruling the Universe; or is it possible that He has been engaged in other Works of Creation, possibly including the creation of other intelligent beings in other parts of the Universe? Do you know the Mind of God? I most certainly don't. Can you or I dictate what He must or must not do?

If Reconciliation is required both on Planet Earth, as well as in the Halls of Heaven, what does that suggest concerning all of the other inhabitable planets which may possibly exist between our own Solar System and God's Throne? It is rather obvious that life abounds here on the Earth. It is likewise obvious from the Scriptures that life also abounds in Heaven; although, of course, it is of a very different nature. If we take into consideration our current understanding regarding the vastness of the Universe, is it logical to assume that everything found between these two points is just lifeless, cold, uninhabited space? In spite of its awesome beauty, is Outer Space really dead?

If we Earthlings are truly the only intelligent beings in the entire Universe, then based upon my current understanding of how God operates, it would seem rather wasteful to create so many galaxies, star systems, planets, etc., and yet leave all of them unpopulated. The Scriptures teach us by example, that God is not wasteful; so in my mind, an empty Universe devoid of other planets is a problem in that regard. You may recall that even Jesus had His Disciples collect the leftover bread after He had fed the five thousand.

Yet, at the same time, as I have noted several times now, we

must remain mindful of the fact that it is by no means our place to judge God. Neither is it our place to tell Him what He must do, or even what He must not do; because as we saw in part one, God's Ways are past finding out. Whether or not He populated other planets, assuming that they exist, is God's decision alone, and not ours.

While I have expressed the view that lifeless space might be considered wasted space, other Christians reason that this is not so. They claim that if God created all things for His own pleasure, in order to reveal His Power and Glory, as His Word does indeed indicate, then whether or not other planets exist which are populated with intelligent life, is really a moot point. As I mentioned in part one, the Book of Revelation, as well as King David, tell us the following:

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." Revelation 4:11, KJV

". . . The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." Psalms 19:1, KJV

While it is indeed true that God's Glory is clearly revealed through the awe-inspiring, magnificent tapestry of the night sky, nevertheless, I still hold to the view that, as much as the physical Universe gives Him a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction, it was, and is, in God's creation of mankind, where He has found the most pleasure -- and heartache -- due to the fact that we humans were created in God's very own image. I believe that God cherishes us more than anything else that He has created; so much so, that He even sent His own dear Son to die for us, once we had fallen into sin. As the Bible also tells us:

"Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust." Psalms 103:13-14, KJV

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16, KJV

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he [Jesus] laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." 1 John 3:16, KJV

While the word "pitieth" is used in the King James Version of the Bible, the actual Hebrew word which is used in those first two verses, that is "racham", actually means to love, to love deeply, to have mercy, to be compassionate, to have tender affection, to have compassion. This is the very same Hebrew word which is used in the following popular verses:

"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23, KJV

So, in my mind, while God could find pleasure in an empty Universe devoid of life, other than that which is found on our own planet, I propose that He would find significantly more pleasure in a Universe which is populated with human life from one end to the other. After all, the Scriptures do tell us that we are the object of His affection; we are the apple of His eye. He jealously guards and protects us, just as a person will also quickly raise their hand to protect their eyes when something threatens them.

Of course, you must realize that to even suggest the idea of intelligent extraterrestrial life, is based entirely on the assumption that there are truly other inhabitable planets in the Universe. As I have stressed repeatedly, to date, nobody has ever visually observed or photographed any planet beyond our immediate Solar System; and of those extrasolar planets which, according to news reports and scientific papers, have allegedly been discovered by various means of detection other than visual observation, to date, none of them have offered any data to suggest that they harbor life of any kind, as we know it. Based upon their proximity to their host star, their size and other factors determined by their spectral analysis, most of them possess environments which are inhospitable to life. While a small number of theoretical planets have been found within the so-called "Goldilocks Zone", we simply do not possess the scientific means at this current time to

determine whether or not they harbor any form of life.

Of course, in all fairness, and considering God's greatness, we should consider the possibility that if some form of alien life does exist elsewhere in the Universe, it may do so under conditions which we may currently consider to be totally nonconducive to life. As a Christian, I currently lean towards the belief that if intelligent life does thrive elsewhere in the Universe, following the pattern that God laid here on our own planet -- that being that we were made in God's image -it too may be of humanoid form. However, this is simply my personal assumption, and I could be mistaken.

Perhaps due in part to our own arrogance, we naturally assume that any form of intelligent extraterrestrial life must look like us; that it must require atmospheric conditions similar to our own, that is, an atmosphere that consists primarily of a nitrogen-oxygen base; that it must require a certain amount of light; that the planetary pressure and temperature range must be within limits we find on our own planet, etc. But is this the absolute law? Is God limited by these laws? Perhaps not. Even our own science has revealed that life can find a way to exist in some of the most inhospitable environments.

In director James Cameron's amazing 2005 film, "Aliens of the Deep", we learn that life has been found to thrive thousands of feet beneath the surface of the ocean, where it is daily subjected to astounding pressure; just as it might be on some of the alleged extrasolar planets, many of which are as large as the planet Jupiter, or larger. This same ocean environment is totally devoid of sunlight; yet in spite of this fact, a plethora of life flourishes there; which negates the commonly held belief that all life forms require sunlight in order to survive.

This documentary also challenges our beliefs concerning the acceptable temperature ranges where life might exist, and in fact, proves them wrong. To my personal amazement, Cameron's film shows certain varieties of shrimp, crabs and tube worms which apparently experience no difficulty existing within the sulfur-laden water currents that are super-heated to hundreds of degrees by deep-ocean hydrothermal vents, also known as submarine volcanic fissures. At the same time, the point was made that the crews of the "Deep Rover" submersibles who were filming the documentary, had to maintain a safe distance from the super-heated water, lest the acrylic glass, (Polymethyl methacrylate), of their biospheres melted due to the extreme water temperatures.

While many people assume that oxygen is a necessary component in order for life to exist, this also is not true. There are, in fact, certain organisms, such as "oxygen-hating" bacteria, known as "obligate anaerobes", which not only strive to avoid oxygen, but will die in its presence. If you are an aquarium hobbyist, you may be familiar with the nitrification process. When water flow through an undergravel filter is insufficient, this condition can result in an anaerobic environment, whereby the oxygen level in that area of the gravel is low, or oxygen is altogether absent. In the latter case, anaerobic bacteria may begin to thrive there. This is a dangerous condition for the aquarist, as it may result in high levels of ammonia and nitrite collecting in the water, which can lead to sickness, or even the death of one's livestock.

While, due to our observations on Earth, we assume that all organic life must be carbon-based and water-based, how do we know with absolute certainty that this applies to the entire Universe? Within the field of alternative biochemistry, it has been proposed that rather than the hydrocarbon molecule -- hydrogen atoms bonded to carbon atoms -- being the building block of life, silicon bonded to oxygen -- or silicones -- may possibly serve the same function in some alien environments, although it is recognized that there are some serious flaws to this theory. Current studies indicate that carbon atoms outnumber silicon atoms in the Universe by a ratio of about ten to one.

In addition to silicon, certain scientists have speculated that nitrogen, phosphorus and a few other elements, may form the basis for biochemical molecules on alien worlds, instead of the hydrocarbon bond. They likewise suggest that ammonia, hydrogen fluoride, or perhaps another compound, may possibly replace the function of water on alien worlds. Of course, all of these ideas are merely theories, and cannot possibly be verified, or disproved, because to date, we have not found a single planet, whether within our own Solar System, or in an extrasolar system, which harbors any form of life, regardless of how simple it may be. Yet the point remains that it is not wise on our part to assume what conditions must automatically be present in order for life to thrive on other planets. What may be deadly or poisonous to us, may be absolutely essential somewhere else. Only God knows all of the rules to the game, including whether or not extrasolar planets truly exist.

But assuming that at least some of these alleged planets not only do exist, but are also populated with intelligent life, even human life, as a Christian, it motivates me to question why God would place such great distances between our worlds, so that with our current technology, we haven't been able to communicate with them, nor they with us, if that is truly the case. A number of years ago, I arrived at the conclusion that one has only to look at the current state of our own planet, and witness the destructive, violent nature of our so-called intelligent human society, in order to find the answer. We're plagued by prejudice, corruption, hatred, greed, dishonesty, selfishness, immorality and other serious social ills.

Taking these points into consideration, it becomes easier to understand why, in His Superior Wisdom, God might purposely place such insurmountable distances between inhabited worlds. These great distances may possibly serve as buffer zones, to prevent one corrupt, war-prone civilization from infecting another. Perhaps God wishes for each planetary civilization to develop on its own, at its own pace, and by its own merit. If we stop to consider the penalty for breaking His Laws, it becomes easier to see the Justice, as well as the Wisdom, in His decision to create such isolated planetary societies. In other words, due to our isolated condition, we cannot point our finger at each other and make the accusation "It's their fault. They corrupted us. Don't blame us. Don't punish us". As I have mentioned before, that is exactly what happened in the Garden of Eden. Adam blamed Eve, and then Eve blamed the serpent. But, as the Bible makes clear, we must each answer for, and be held accountable for, our own actions, as we see here:

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." 2 Corinthians 5:10, KJV

Please go to part eight for the conclusion of this series.

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ALIEN LIFE, EXTRASOLAR PLANETS AND UNIVERSAL ATONEMENT : PT 8

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What If We Truly Are Alone?, Uniqueness Of Human Life, Count Your Blessings And Thank God, What If We Discover Alien Life?, Alien Life And Human Desire For Companionship, Believe By Faith, Do Extrasolar Planets Prove The Existence Of Alien Life?, Are UFOs Real Proof That Extrasolar Planets And Alien Life Exist?, Belief In UFOs Is Shared By Many Smart People In High Places, The Assumption That Aliens Desire To Be Found, A Prime Directive For Alien Visitors?, Invisible Alien Observers And Angels Unawares, Mary's Encounter, Are Angelic Beings Able to Shapeshift?, Following Science And Logic, A Final Challenge, Closing Remarks, Suggested Reading List

Before concluding this series, let us swing to the opposite end of the spectrum for a moment. What if, after a number of years, and in spite of all of our searching, such as through the SETI Project, radio telescopy, the Hubble Space Telescope and other avenues of discovery, we eventually come to realize that we truly are alone in this vast Universe? How would it affect you? Would it sadden you or disappoint you?

From my perspective as a Christian, while I am sure that I'd feel some sadness and disappointment, I also think that such a realization would help me to further appreciate how unique we humans really are. Not only that, but it would emphasize God's Love for us as well. To realize that God created this special jewel of a planet, which He has carefully designed to perfectly meet our biological needs, in the midst of so many uninhabitable planets, is a profound thought to consider; and I would hope that it would turn some people's hearts towards faith in God as well. It seems that we are always so quick to complain about things; but perhaps we need to stop, count our blessings, and give Him thanks for this wonderful planet He has given us. As it is written:

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." 1 Thessalonians 5:18, KJV

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Philippians 4:11, KJV

With this series, I have really just touched the tip of the ice berg. I have tried to answer some of the basic questions from a Christian perspective; and more specifically, from my current understanding of the Scriptures. What I have stated here is in large part personal speculation, and it shouldn't be viewed as anything other than that. In other words, it is not "Thus saith the Lord". Be that as it may, the possibility of someday discovering intelligent extraterrestrial life, is a much deeper issue than some people may realize. If such a discovery were to indeed occur some day, I have no doubt that it would have a profound effect on human society; from our politics, to our global economy, to our belief systems, and to our perception of ourselves. Basically, it would affect our entire way of life.

While I obviously don't know the future, based on the amount of time, money, energy, hardware, software, and manpower and computer power that has thus far been invested in the search for extrasolar planets, and signs of intelligent alien life, as well as the huge amounts of data which have already been analyzed, and which thus far have failed to provide evidence which even remotely suggests the existence of alien life of any kind, I suspect that when all is said and done, mankind may eventually arrive at the startling conclusion that, for whatever His reasons, God may have designed us to be alone in this great Universe.

While in my heart, I hope that this is not the final outcome of our long quest, at the same time, I wonder if this longing for companionship and fellowship with something greater than ourselves, might possibly be a special mechanism that God has built into each and every one of us, in order to draw us much closer to Him. In reaching out to the stars, is it possible that some people are in fact subconsciously reaching out to God, and seeking some tangible proof of His existence, while His Word demands that we believe in Him by faith alone? As I shared with you earlier, the Bible states:

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6, KJV

Faith is believing that He is, regardless of whether or not we ever have any physical proof of His existence.

In this series, we have based our determination of whether or not intelligent alien life exists, upon the reality, or lack thereof, of the existence of extrasolar planets. In short, we have adopted the position that until the existence of these planets can be conclusively proven by visual observation and photographic images; the search for intelligent alien life is really an exercise in futility. As we have already seen, even if we do obtain solid visual confirmation of some extrasolar planets in the years ahead, this still isn't sufficient proof that intelligent alien life exists; because according to the data which has been analyzed thus far, most of these alleged extrasolar planets are not capable of supporting any form of life whatsoever.

In fact, the current word from the science community is that if there is any form of life out there, it may possibly be found in the subterranean oceans which are believed to exist on some of the moons in our own Solar System.

So does this lack of clear evidence regarding the existence of extrasolar planets mean that alien life, in whatever its form, does not exist? Perhaps, but not necessarily so. This is because for some people, the controversy surrounding the existence of extrasolar planets is really a moot point when it comes to proving the existence of intelligent alien life. Why? Because many people already possess the proof that they need to convince them that alien civilizations are real, and it hasn't required visually observing extrasolar planets. As I amply explain in the in-depth series "Nature of the Alien: ET's, Demons Or Government Plot?", according to these people, this proof is found in the many UFO sightings, and other alleged alien-related phenomena, which have occurred during the past seventy plus years.

If you read the series, you will discover through some rather solid testimonies, that the belief in flying saucers visiting the Earth, in the past, as well as in our present time, isn't something which is just embraced by superstitious people. It is in fact believed, and promoted, by quite a few people who occupy important positions in the world of politics, science, the military, and religion, all over the globe. These people are convinced that some UFOs are of extraterrestrial origin. In other words, for many of these people, the fact that UFOs have visited the Earth for so many years, is clear proof that not only do extrasolar planets exist, but also, that at least some of them obviously support intelligent alien life forms. But do these beings truly originate from extrasolar planets? I encourage you to read the series in order to form your own conclusions.

There is one important aspect concerning the search for alien life that we've neglected to mention until now. In our search for intelligent alien life, such as through the SETI Project, we have proceeded under the assumption that this life -- if it really exists -- desires to be found; but how do we know with any degree of certainty that this is actually the case? While after many years of searching, the SETI Project has apparently come up empty-handed, at least as far as we've been told, is this really a conclusive confirmation that intelligent alien life doesn't exist? Not necessarily so.

It may be that we simply haven't invested enough time in the project yet. It may also be that we are looking in the wrong places, or examining the wrong frequencies. There also exists the possibility that alien language and communication systems are so different from our own, that we have simply failed to recognize their signals as a sign of intelligence. But there is also the possibility that these civilizations simply don't want to be found. If, as many people have speculated, these alien cultures are technologically superior to ourselves, it is possible that they possess techniques to both shield their own transmissions from foreign detection -- meaning from other planetary systems -- and to block incoming signals which may originate from areas of the galaxy, or Universe, which are beyond their sphere of influence.

Why might an alien civilization adopt this position? While we may not be aware of their existence, they may already be more than aware of our presence in this galaxy. And, as I mentioned earlier in this series, one look at the sad tragedy which we call human history would be enough to convince any advanced, peace-loving alien civilization to steer clear of the Planet Earth; at least until such time when we've reached a level of spiritual and social maturity, where we would be a positive addition to the Galactic Society. In the mean time, perhaps they embrace a philosophy that is similar to what we find in the very popular "Star Trek" television series. That is, the "Prime Directive", whereby they may silently observe us from near, or afar, but they will not directly involve themselves in our human affairs or interact with us.

As a Christian, this idea doesn't seem that strange to me. I am reminded of something the Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Hebrew brethren. He said:

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Hebrews 13:2, KJV

How could an Angel walk among us and yet remain unnoticed, or "unawares", as Paul writes? It may be that they simply remain invisible, but I am not so sure that this is really the case, because the above verse, and other verses that we find in the Bible, do seem to suggest otherwise. In the verse that I just shared with you, the Angels obviously were not invisible, as otherwise, how could humans possibly "entertain" them? So it seems that Paul is describing Spiritual Beings who can easily pose as other human beings. They can look like us, act like us, and talk like us, and we obviously wouldn't even know the difference. In the twentieth chapter of the Gospel of John, we find the following events which occurred shortly after the Lord had risen from the dead:

"Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him. And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her." John 20:10-18, KJV

Personally, I don't think that Mary immediately realized that the two beings in the sepulchre were Angels. Her reaction to them seems very natural, and not the least bit alarmed, as if she supposed that she was talking to two people who worked at the tomb site. While they wore white clothing, this was, and still is, a common way to dress in many regions of the world. White apparel, as you may know, better reflects sunlight and heat, than darker colors.

Furthermore, even though Mary was quite familiar with Jesus, when she saw Him at the tomb site after He had risen from the dead, nevertheless, she was unable to recognize Him. Mary in fact assumed that Jesus was the gardener. How could this be? Was Jesus simply too far away for her to be able to recognize Him? Did she initially have her back turned away from Him, or He from her?

These are all plausible possibilities, but based upon similar stories we find in other areas of the Bible, which I discuss elsewhere, I propose that these beings possess the ability to alter their appearance in some way so that they look just as human as you and I. Call it shapeshifting, or whatever you will, but when it becomes necessary, they can disguise their appearance, and pass for any other human being walking on the street. I don't know if this unique ability actually involves physically changing their bodies as we see in a lot of sci-fi movies, or if perhaps they can simply alter our perception of reality, so that we are unable to see them as they truly are. I lean towards the latter possibility.

From the previous Biblical account, we can draw a conclusion

which agrees with something that I mentioned earlier in this series. Following His Resurrection from the dead, Jesus looked just as human as He ever did. The two Angels likewise appeared very human in form. Logic also dictates that the Fallen Angels which are mentioned in Genesis chapter six must have likewise possessed human forms. Otherwise, how could they possibly have engaged in intercourse with human women? The Angelic Messenger who appeared to the Apostle John in the Book of Revelation was also quite human in form. In my mind, these few examples, and others, add weight to my belief that God seems to prefer the humanoid form when it comes to creating intelligent beings. If we are made in His image, does this indicate that the Divine Form is also humanoid? What do you think?

Continuing with this line of thought, and assuming that God has created intelligent beings on other worlds, doesn't this suggest that they too may very well possess humanoid form? If this is indeed the case, stop and think how easy it would be for an alien culture to walk among us, observing us, studying us, and perhaps even interacting with us, without our ever realizing who they really are. A bit unsettling, isn't it?

Let me leave you with a final comment concerning exoplanets. For the skeptics among us, following the path of science and logic is obviously the route to take. This demands that real, verifiable evidence be provided, that conclusively proves the existence of extrasolar planets. Such proof should begin with visual observations and photographic imagery, and not merely rely upon secondary evidence and guesswork, which claims that these bodies exist. Once we've obtained some images of a few extrasolar planets, the next step would obviously be to find those bodies which actually support some form of life. Due to the vast distances which separate us, this would require many years of patience, waiting and research, and would involve sending probes to the targeted planets. Lastly, we would have to find an inhabitable extrasolar planet which is populated by intelligent life forms. Do that, and I have no doubt that you will capture the attention of the entire world!

With those remarks, I'll bring this series to a close. I pray that it has been informative, challenging and a blessing to many.

If you happen to have a user account with Facebook, Twitter, Google+, or with any other social networks, I would also very much appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, I encourage you to study the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which are related to this series, and which are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server:

Nature of the Alien: ETs, Demons or a Government Plot? Alien Intervention, Raelians, Pyramids and Nazca Geoglyphs Billy Meier and the Pleiadian UFO Encounter Comet Hale-Bopp, Chernobyl and Deathstar Wormwood Heaven's Gate, Suicide and Other Death Cults Heaven's Gate: A Subliminal Message Concealed In Their Logo? The Nibiru, Planet X, Wormwood Controversy Under the Cloud: UFOs and the Holy Bible Chariots of Fire: A Voluntary Voyage to Heaven? "Aliens to God or Aliens to the World" KJV Bible Verse List

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