



UFOs and Alien Sightings by Sellers S. Crain, Jr., D. Min

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

Does extraterrestrial life exist? The recent explosion of sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects has fueled the fire to search for life somewhere out there. Nick Pope, a former employee of and UAP investigator of the British Ministry of Defense said the term UAP was adopted at the MoD in the 1990s "as part of rebranding the phenomenon to shed the pop culture baggage that goes with UFO." Release of a blockbusting report was made in June of 2021.

Some UFO, or UAP (Unidentified Arial Phenomenon) have been recently reported; even as recent as April 15, 2021 one was seen in the Space Station Cam where it appears to be hiding in a cloud. It is reported as being over a mile wide. Luis Elizondo, the former head of the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program, resigned from the Pentagon in 2017. In a recent speech he said UFOs "have qualities nothing less than otherworldly." Among other things, he says they can fly 11,000 miles an hour and turn instantly, fly 50ft above the earth or 80,000 feet in the sky, and submerge under water without compromising their performance. He added, "When you see that, you recognize you are dealing with a technology more advanced than ours." I would question that if these reports are true, why have more people not seen these UAP? I do not question the existence of UAP, but I do question what they actually are. There is so much floating out there in space today put there by many different nations and other objects that we do not know about that are unknown to us.

Dr. Michio Kata, a theoretical physicist and futurist, believes because of the increasing number of UFO that we will have contact with aliens before the end of this century. He also said that because of their advanced technology, "We will be like squirrels to them." Dr. Kata has written many books on this subject which sound more like science fiction rather than science. There is no evidence that aliens from outer space have ever set foot on earth, and thought that they may one day is purely speculative.

Mark West, a leading voice of the group asserting UFOs, said, "All can be explained." His explanations are that they are likely technology we already understand, or they could result from mis-calculated instruments, or various camera distortions. He further concluded, "I don't see any convincing evidence of alien spacecraft, but as a curious scientist, I hope the subject of UFO sightings that are unexplained gets closer study."

Many who claim to be Christians have bought into the idea of extraterrestrial life. How should Bible believing people react to such reports? It seems to me that much of this speculation about life on other planets comes from those who do not believe in God, or in His creation of this universe. They also approach it from the hypothesis of Evolution. While it is called a "theory", it has never advanced beyond the hypothesis stage in the scientific process. It has not, nor can it be scientifically

replicated, or proven. These other world advocates say that since life evolved on this planet, it could also have evolved on other planets. If they find water or evidence that water has existed on other planets in our solar system, they immediately conclude that life could have existed there. The ultimate goal of NASA's Exoplanet Survey Satellite is to find unmistakable evidence of current life on a planet beyond earth.

Earth is the only planet in the known universe confirmed to host life.

Exoplanets, sometimes called Goldilocks planets, are those believed to orbit around a star (sun). 582 are said to exist. The existence of such planets is determined primarily by Doppler Spectroscopy which measures the wobble of a star caused by the gravitational effects of orbiting planets. The illumination of the star (sun) reveals when it falls into the orbit of a planet. Whether that planet would fall into what is called "a habitable zone" is determined by how much radiation the star emits. Earth lies within the habitable zone of our sun. Beyond the habitable zone a planet would be too cold and frozen for life to exist. A planet laying between a star and the habitable zone would likely be too hot and steamy for life to exist.

The search is on to find a "Super Earth." One that contains conditions similar to our earth to decide if life could exist there. They look for chemical combinations similar to earth existing of carbon, nitrogen, oxygen phosphors, sulfur and hydrogen. They also want to find the right chemical elements for an atmosphere, the protective layer around a planet, to exist. The Kepler Mission, a space observatory launched on March 7, 2009, they say has discovered more than 2,300 Planets. Due to losing part of its ability to survey its intended area in our Milky Way, with all other assets functioning, it contoured its explorations in a larger area and was named Mission K2. Only one of these planets, called K22b. is said to be within the habitable zone. Kepler was retired after running out of fuel on December 20, 2018. The search for intelligent life on other planets will require larger imaging telescopes. Plans are already in the works for other planet searchers to be sent out in 2030's and 2040s. **But so far in our planet explorations no evidence has been found that life exists anywhere else.**

Dr. Kenneth R. Lang, a professor in Astronomy and Astrophysics, while believing in the possibility of life elsewhere in our universe wrote, "There is no reason why we should expect to discover life as we know it orbiting a star many light years away from our solar system. There's just too much we don't know that we are severely limited in our ability to even think about such a question."

The long-anticipated US Senate UFO report provides the following information.

"Of the 144 reported encounters with so-called UFOs from 2004 to 2021, we are officially able to identify just one with high confidence," determining the object as a deflating balloon. The Pentagon task force said, "Officials currently lack sufficient information to classify the other incidents with certainty." Officials have identified five categories that are likely to explain the incidents once they are resolved: airborne clutter, natural atmospheric phenomena, classified US technological development efforts, foreign adversary systems and a catch-all "other" category.

Do modern observations support the secular world view that the universe is teeming with life, or the biblical world view that the earth is unique? In spite of efforts to find life on other planets, or to hear from them (SETI), neither effort has been successful. If such intelligent life were to exist, it would be seen as vindication of evolution from a naturalistic world view – a secular replacement for God. The evidence in our real world is a biblical world. A universe designed by God with the earth at the spiritual focal point, not an evolutionary universe teeming with life on other worlds not designed for life.

If we approach the subject as a believer in God and in His word, there are conclusions we can make. God created the world and all things in it (**Genesis 1:1-31**). Earth was uniquely designed for life to exist (**Isaiah 45:18**) He created it and sustains it by His word. Peter told us that the heavens and the earth were created by "the word of God," and added,

But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. (**2 Peter 3:5, 7**)

May you be blessed by the Lord, who made heaven and the earth. The heaven, even the heavens are the Lord's; But the earth He has given to the children of men. (**Psalms 115:15-16**)

When the writer of **Hebrews** says He created the "worlds," it more literally refers to the universe. (**11:2**) The celestial world with its inhabitants, the angels; the starry and ethereal worlds with all that is in them, the sun, moon, stars, planets, and the terrestrial world, our earth, with all that exist on it.

All human life on earth descended from Adam and Eve (**Genesis 2:21-25**), and we inherited a fallen world from them because of their sin.

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men. Because all sinned. (**Romans 5:12**)

All creation suffers from the bondage of corruption. (**Romans 8:20-22**) Are we to believe that God created other beings on other planets that were perfect and could not fall? If such beings did exist on other planets, being imperfect would they not have fallen also? Would this not have required Christ to also go to those planets and die for them to receive salvation? The distinct position of human beings on this planet in our solar system is that earth is the only one God visited through His Son. Christ did not visit other worlds and die for them. He died once for all of us living on this planet.

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. (**Hebrews 9:27-28**)

By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (**Hebrews 10:10**)

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit. (**1 Peter 3:18**)

—-- Sellers S. Crain, Jr., D. Min.