

YE SHALL BE AS GODS:
The Modern Search for Extraterrestrial Life

Summary

Evolution is linked with the New Age and Hinduism. These systems believe in extraterrestrial life (ET life). Evolutionists have long ridiculed claims that UFOs are real, but the New Age and Hinduism view them as alien space craft. Evolutionists are slowly shifting toward a kind of "New Age" evolution that may eventually share this perception of UFOs.

Besides the shared belief in ET life and UFOs, the New Age, Hinduism, and even evolutionism share another belief that is nothing less than a throwback to Satan's lie in Genesis chapter 3. **This lie is that man can become god.**

The search for ET life has become part of this godward search. It is hoped that some alien race will guide mankind into godhood. UFOs are therefore seen as evidence that ET life exists. Claims of planets outside the solar system are also driven by this agenda, since ET life needs a home.

Though such "extrasolar" planets may exist, none is known to be life-supporting. Some if not most of these planets may in fact be burned-out stars erroneously inferred to be planets from indirect observations. This inference rests on the expectation of evolution, the New Age, and Hinduism that life is evolving on planets everywhere, not just on earth.

Introduction

Since the 1830s evolution has dominated Western thought. **Then in the late 1800s, Hinduism was imported into the West under what came to be called the New Age movement.** The term "New Age" is many decades old but was not popular until the 1980s. This may be surprising, but "the mystery of iniquity doth already work" (2 Thessalonians 2:7), and evil plans and purposes may be in preparation for a time before being revealed to an unsuspecting public.

Man's potential for evolving into godhood is implicit in evolution. Indeed, "traditional" atheistic evolution, which professes no belief in God, is slowly giving way to pantheistic "New Age" evolution, in which all creatures are gods. **Godhood is also the goal of the New Age movement.**

This was Nimrod's philosophy at Babel, and it remains the philosophy of Oriental Hinduism dating back to the dispersion of mankind from Babel eastward. In turn, the New Age is Hinduism "repackaged" for the Western mind. **Both the New Age and Hinduism are evolutionistic, and the non-traditional evolution of these systems teaches that the "human animal" is becoming god.** Indeed, the roots of modern evolution are found in Hinduism, as we trace back through Darwin, to the earlier skeptics, then to the Renaissance philosophers, and finally to Greece, the source of Renaissance rationalism. Greece borrowed evolutionary ideas from the East via Egypt.

IT'S ALL HAPPENED BEFORE

Genesis chapter 10 tells us about Nimrod, the builder of the Tower of Babel. This Tower was one of the great monuments

of antiquity. **By Nebuchadnezzar's time (about 600 BC), the Tower was some 2000 years old.** Nebuchadnezzar is reputed to have restored the Tower and, according to some archeologists, mounted on it the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world.¹

Genesis chapters 10 and 11 say much about Nimrod besides his being the driving force behind the Tower project. Genesis 10:10 states that Babel was merely "the beginning" of Nimrod's kingdom. Not too far from Babel was a number of other cities named in Genesis 10:10-12. Some of these cities, such as the ruins at Accad, have been excavated

These excavations have revealed a fascinating pattern in the location of these cities. **They appear to have been more or less equidistant from Babel, forming a ring of "satellite cities" around Babel itself.**² The picture thus begins to emerge of Nimrod masterminding the construction of a central city, Babel, flanked by a bloc of protective outposts or gulags.

This picture comes into clearer focus when we examine Genesis 10:9. This verse describes Nimrod as a "mighty hunter before the Lord." Nimrod no doubt hunted and eliminated wild beasts and predators, thus establishing his reputation as a protector and leader. But the Hebrew wording in Genesis 10:9 carries a more sinister meaning implying that Nimrod was more than a hunter of beasts. **Nimrod was hunting men to force them into his growing empire.**

Nimrod may have used military force to support his drive for supreme control. However, Nimrod's actions were all done "before the Lord," which in the Hebrew signifies that Nimrod's actions were an offense to God. In Genesis 9:1-3, God had instructed Noah and his descendants to "replenish," or fill, the earth with humankind. **Contrary to God's command, Nimrod was coercing people to stay near Babel.** Leaving Nimrod's kingdom may have been as difficult as leaving the Soviet Union was a few years ago, and just as deadly.

With his empire shaping up, Nimrod set to work establishing a new religious system. What kind of religion was this? Genesis 11:4 says that Nimrod's Tower was built "unto heaven." **This phrase does not mean that the Tower reached the clouds.**

The ruins of the Tower -- or at least ruins thought possibly to remain from Nebuchadnezzar's restoration -- are near modern Baghdad. From these and other similar ruins, archeologists estimate that the Tower was as high as several hundred feet.³ The Tower was therefore an imposing monument, but not tall enough to pierce the clouds. **Building the Tower "unto heaven" means that it was built "unto the glory of the heavens."** In the same sense we might say that a church building has been erected "unto the glory of God." **In other words, the Tower was built to worship the heavens.** This worship survives as astrology, the false system in which the stars and the planets are "worshipped" as sources of revelation. In fact historians date the constellations of astrology as originating from the time Biblical chronology indicates for the Tower itself.⁴

It is no coincidence that Nimrod is recognized as the father of astrology. But he was also the father of all systems of false religion that worship created things instead of the Creator (Romans 1:25).⁵ In particular, man began to worship himself as god, and to see in the heavenly bodies all sorts of overblown

human attributes. This is why the pagan cultures of antiquity worshipped the sun, moon, and planets as supermen and superwomen. Man indeed had become god!

The ancient Jewish historian Josephus relates that Nimrod built the Tower of Babel on a foundation of lies.

He told the people that the Tower would be their place of refuge if ever God sent another Flood.⁶ But God had told Noah that He would never send another Flood (Genesis 8:21). Even as Nimrod was lying about God's care for mankind, Nimrod was devising his nature-based religion to turn men away from God forever.

It is sobering to realize that Nimrod's attempt to establish control over mankind was stopped only by divine intervention. **God Himself acknowledged that no mere mortal could stop Nimrod's devices.** God said, "Now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do" (Genesis 11:6). God therefore interrupted Nimrod's plans by confusing all languages. Ever since, linguistic barriers have made global rebellion against God virtually impossible.

IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN

Satan, the creature ultimately behind Nimrod's plans, has a consuming desire to displace God. "I will be like the most High" (Isaiah 14:14) has been Satan's cry of rebellion ever since he was cast from heaven and tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Satan's desire to displace God has not changed, and neither have his tactics. He enticed Adam and Eve with the promise, "Ye shall be as gods." False religions from cults to the New Age still make the same promise.

Satan's plan of using men for world control has not changed either. It is no coincidence that Nimrod's empire has likenesses with today's world system. We have seen that Nimrod built his kingdom, his world system, "before the Lord." He did not care what God wanted. The world system continues to say, "Do your own thing. If it feels good, do it."

Man therefore tends to displace God with the false gods of "self" and human opinion. These are gods that can lead to other forms of false worship -- and ultimately to the worship of man and the heavens as divine. **Just as Nimrod led the masses to worship the heavens, we are seeing a virtual worship of the heavens arising in our culture today.** It is not merely that evolutionism and other false systems place human opinions ahead of what God says. **The New Age, Hinduism, and evolutionism all promote a single theme which is supposed to lead man to higher development, and eventually to godhood.** That theme is -

THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE

As recently as the mid-1960s, the existence of life in outer space was believed to be highly questionable. Many scientists regarded such an idea as flatly unscientific. Then in 1966 a best seller appeared with the title *We Are Not Alone*.⁷ The authors wanted to believe in extraterrestrial life, but admitted that it might not be found.

In the last twenty years, however, a tremendous change in the attitude toward extraterrestrial life has shaken the

scientific world. Astrophysicist Carl Sagan was perhaps the single most potent catalyst for this change. His "Cosmos" series,⁸ airing in 1980 on the Public Broadcasting Service, forcefully insisted -- backed up by stunning pictography and Sagan's persuasive delivery -- that there was indeed extraterrestrial life. All scientists had to do was find it. Now the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) became fashionable. Scientists found that it was easy to get research grants to study extraterrestrial (ET) life. The existence of ET life was no longer questionable. It was a virtual certainty.

By the 1980s movies and headlines dogmatically repeated the certainty that ET life was "out there." There was, of course, the movie *ET* grossing one of the largest box office takes in history. Even the scientific magazines and journals got into the act. In May 1992 *Sky and Telescope* adorned its cover with large yellow print screaming, "NEW PLANETS DISCOVERED." After all, the ETs have to live on planets somewhere. And the art work on the cover of this issue made the planets look exceedingly real. If there are planets with other civilizations, then these planets must be organized into solar systems. Accordingly, *Astronomy* for April 1996 announced the existence of "Two New Solar Systems."

Meanwhile, the New Age movement was coming into its own. Shirley MacLaine, the high-priestess of the New Age movement, wrote the best-seller *Out On a Limb*.⁹ **She claimed that extraterrestrials had visited earth, and that untold numbers of people worldwide believed in extraterrestrial visits as absolute realities.**

Where did Christian faith fit into these developments? Shirley MacLaine and other "true believers" in ET life denounced Christians as dull-witted reactionaries who stupidly refused to see the truth about ET life. Some radical New Agers claimed that the Rapture would really be a snatching away of Christians by aliens. These sentiments were accompanied by a rising tide of Christian-bashing, as expressed by humanist John Dunphy: "The classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and the new -- the rotting corpse of Christianity, together with all its adjacent evils and misery, and the new faith of humanism."¹⁰

In all this confusion, the persistent fact remained that no observation of ET life had been made by anyone! **Compared with the incessant media claims for the reality of ET life, the complete absence of any hard evidence for it is nothing short of amazing.** We will later come back to this startling fact, but now let's examine the roots of the New Age movement and why it so desperately wants to find ET life. In the process, we will see that, sadly, Christians who are not vigilant have been aligning themselves with the New Age.

BACK TO NIMROD

Modern evolution is changing. Scientists are rejecting Darwinism -- evolution by mutations assisted by natural selection -- realizing that neither mutations nor natural selection can explain evolution. "Anti-Darwinians" are claiming that "design requires a designer." Biblical creationists

rejoice at this trend, but the rejoicing is premature. For instance, Michael Behe, in his otherwise excellent anti-Darwinian book *Darwin's Black Box*, refuses to say who the Designer is.¹¹ This leaves the role of Designer an empty one, to be filled possibly by a New Age Hindu-type of "force."¹²

The New Age and Hinduism are in fact connected.

The modern New Age was initiated by the Theosophical Society in the late 1800s. Through this movement "knowledge of Hinduism and Hindu influence has penetrated Western culture."¹³ Hindu integration into the West was also a major part of the program at one of the world's first ecumenical conferences in 1893, the "World's Parliament of Religions." Hindus, other Eastern mystics, and other faiths gathered to plan the building of a world religion. Significantly, Hinduism in turn traces back directly to Nimrod's evil system at Babel.¹⁴

Nowadays evolutionists, seeing the hopelessness of atheistic Darwinism, are converting to Hindu-style evolution, which has a designer "force", coexisting life-forms (e.g., dinosaurs living with man), and intelligent (not primitive) ancient man, and which agrees with Biblical creationists that data disagreeable to Darwinism have been suppressed.¹⁵ Unwary Christians see these positions as a return to Biblical creation and as uniquely Biblical, but they are not. Hinduism believes them all.¹⁶

But there is one belief unique to Biblical creation -- the teaching of "recent creation" and a young earth.¹⁷

Christian parents and educators need to teach the whole truth about Biblical creation, including young age. **Some Christians claim that the age of creation is irrelevant,¹⁸ but without young age, we have a version of creation compatible with Hinduism.¹⁹** Neither is it sufficient to teach merely "intelligent design" by an undefined "god" or "force." **Biblical creation means teaching (1) that the "intelligent designer" is the God of the Bible, and (2) that the creation was recent.** To teach less than this is to yield ground to the assertions of the New Age.

Since the World's Parliament of Religions in 1893, the Hindu/New Age influence the West has grown. Hindu words like guru, karma, mantra, and nirvana have permeated everyday speech.²⁰ **There is a connection between this shift toward New Age Hinduism and the growing acceptance of ET life as real.** The New Age is Western-style Hinduism, and Hinduism has always believed in ET life and visitations from space. Serious believers in ET life see in the "alien" life forms higher levels of godhood to which man may aspire, concepts also taught by the New Age and Hinduism.

This connection is not new. In the 1970s, for example, Erich von Daniken wrote *Chariots of the Gods?*, in which he claimed that the earth had experienced many visitations from space. He even said that the Biblical prophet Ezekiel had seen, not heavenly beings as the Bible describes, but extraterrestrials coming to the earth in UFOs. His main "evidence" for these claims? Ancient documents venerated by Hindus and New Agers alike.²¹ In fact, the founder of the New Age movement and first head of the Theosophical Society, Helena Blavatsky, got many of her ideas from the same Hindu documents revered by the New Age and modern Hinduism.²²

Despite the antiquity of the Hindu belief in ET life, there is no more supporting evidence for it than there is for the

modern belief. Belief in ET life is not based on scientific data, as we will now see. Yet empty as this belief is, it not harmless. **Guided by his belief in ET life, modern man is searching for spiritual insight from the heavens, thereby repeating the events that transpired at the Tower of Babel.**

ARE THERE PLANETS IN OTHER SOLAR SYSTEMS?

To many believers in evolution, life should be arising in many places throughout the universe. They believe there should be other solar systems with inhabited planets. Sometimes this desire to find other planets and solar systems leads to misleading newspaper and magazine headlines. As we have seen, *Sky and Telescope*, for instance, published an issue with the cover story, "New Planets Discovered,"²³ and *Astronomy* magazine published an article entitled, "Two New Solar Systems."²⁴ Titles like these give the impression that astronomers have indeed made new planetary discoveries.²⁵ The question we must ask when we see such headlines is, What did the astronomers really observe? **With current technology, it is not possible for astronomers to see planets outside the solar system directly.** Because planets shine only by reflected light, any such planets would be too dim to see. Stars are the only directly observable objects outside the solar system.

Claims of planets outside the solar system -- "extrasolar planets" -- are based on observing stars with certain characteristics. Some astronomers then assume that these characteristics are signs of new planets. **Most stars, for example, are members of close-knit systems in which most of the stars are dim and therefore not easily visible.** Alpha-Centauri is such a system. Alpha-Centauri used to be thought of as a single star. Then Alpha-Centauri was found to have a companion star, making it a "double" or "binary" star system. Eventually astronomers discovered another star in the Alpha-Centauri system. Now we know that this system has at least three stars, but two of them are relatively dim.

In a star system like Alpha-Centauri, the gravitational force of the dimmer stars tugs on the brighter one, making it "wobble." The stellar companions of Alpha-Centauri were suspected to exist long before they were seen, because astronomers could see Alpha-Centauri wobble. Observations of the dim companions came later. Astronomers have carefully studied these dim companions and have found them to be stars, not planets.

Since most stars are in star systems, most stars wobble, being pulled by unseen stars too dim to observe. If the unseen companions orbit a star preferably (but not necessarily) somewhat like the sun, astronomers sometimes assume that the dim companions must be planets in a kind of solar system. This was the case in the *Sky and Telescope* and *Astronomy* articles mentioned earlier. Both of these articles acknowledged that the alleged planets might be dim stars. *Sky and Telescope* even acknowledged that all previous claims of new planets had been "debunked," including the earlier "New Planets Discovered" headline.²⁶

A second property of some stars is that they are surrounded by clouds of gas. These stars are quite unstable and throw off gases explosively from time to time. **Evolutionists think of such a gas cloud as a solar system in formation.** According to this idea, our own solar system evolved over billions of years from a cloud of gas, so why should the same thing not be happening elsewhere?

But the solar system did not evolve, and what's more, laboratory tests have confirmed that it's impossible for small particles of debris somehow to stick together and begin forming a planet.²⁷ **The debris surrounding some stars really means that the cosmos is self-destructing.** It is dying, because it is "groaning" under the curse of sin (Romans 8:20-22).

AN EXAMINATION OF SPECIFIC "PLANET" CLAIMS

It is possible to confuse belief in what we want to see with direct observation. Evolutionary scientists want to verify their faith in extraterrestrial life evolving over all the cosmos, and to them there must be planets harboring this life. Their faith in the existence of life-supporting extrasolar planets has become a virtual observation. Sometimes the "scientific observations" set forth as proven facts in the media are nothing more than ideas which the investigator wishes he could observe today and hopes he will observe tomorrow. This is the current state of theorizing about extra-solar planets. The previously mentioned *Astronomy* article²⁸ confirms this.

On page 50 of this article, we read, "In 1992, astronomers discovered the first planetary system beyond our own." But this was *not* the first time new planetary system discovery had been announced only to be discredited later. The 1992 "discovery," first reported in 1991 in the English journal *Nature*,²⁹ was only one more claim in a long line of earlier failed claims: "Over the years, Barnard's star, 61 Cygni, VB8B, and several other stars showed wobbles that were heralded as planet-caused. **Each planet report was later debunked.**"³⁰

Will the current discoveries also be "debunked"? Even now there is no consensus on the planetary status of the 1992 discovery: "Variation in the light signal was later embarrassingly shown to be caused by the earth's own orbital motion instead of by a new planet."³¹ In view of the failed planetary status of the 1992 object, why did *Astronomy* magazine tout it as the "first planetary system beyond our own"? Evolutionary wishful thinking . . . ?

Significantly, one more failed "discovery" is mentioned in the *Astronomy* article on page 55, an "object orbiting the dwarf star HD 114762 ... discovered a decade ago." Initially hailed as a new planet, the object was found to have a surface temperature of approximately 2000 degrees celsius (3600°F), **making it too hot for a planet, but about right for a star.** The *Astronomy* article describes it as "a low-mass star masquerading as a planet" (page 55). **Thus the dwarf star HD 114762 turned out to have a stellar companion, making it one of the majority of stars which is bound to other nearby stars in its own star system. ...**

The *Astronomy* article mentions three other purported "planets," one near 51 Pegasi (discovered in 1995), then one

near 70 Virginis and another near 47 Ursae Majoris (these last two being the "solar systems" in the title of the article). On closer examination, these newer claims were no more solid than the older discredited claims.

On page 50, the "planet" near 51 Pegasi is described in misleading terms as "a Jupiter-mass world orbiting at only 1/100 the Jupiter-Sun distance." This object was first described in 1995.³² It is actually 22 times closer to its star than the earth is to the sun. As a result, the surface temperature of this object probably exceeds 1300 degrees celsius (2400°F), **making it a low temperature star, not a planet.** Even the *Astronomy* article admits that "astronomers wonder if it has any relationship to the planets in our solar system" (page 50).

The object near 70 Virginis appears to be 25 times heavier than the earth and is twice as close to its star as the earth is to the sun.³³ This object was publicized as having liquid water, a requirement for life³⁴, but this was only speculation. Hailed as the Goldilocks planet because its temperature was "just right" for liquid water, the *Astronomy* article nonetheless admitted that it is "probably a lifeless ball of gas . . . a stormy, violent world with winds that top 300 miles per hour" (page 51). Having eight times the mass of Jupiter, some astronomers say it is not a planet at all.³⁵ **It may be a brown dwarf, a burned out star now too dim to shine but retaining some of the primordial heat imparted to it during the Creation Week.** Accordingly, the *Astronomy* article said that "its large mass and eccentric orbit have fueled speculation that it might be a 'failed star,' known as a brown dwarf, rather than a planet" (page 55).

Finally, the object near 47 Ursae Majoris is 1000 times heavier than earth and is twice the distance from its star that the earth is from the sun, resulting in a temperature of -100 degrees celsius (-150°F).³⁶ **Like the object near 70 Virginis, it seems to be a burned out star.**

None of these objects has actually been seen, only inferred from the wobbling of the visible stars 51 Pegasi, 70 Virginis, and 47 Ursae Majoris. The *Astronomy* article acknowledges, "Astronomers don't know much about the planets because they don't yet have the capability to take pictures of them" (page 53). Little is known about their diameters, chemical composition, or surface features, if any, so the fact is that, "Astronomers know virtually nothing about the new planets" (page 52).

Despite the extremely dubious claim to planetary status of objects like the one orbiting 51 Pegasi, this object continues to be touted as one of the *first* and more certain proofs of planets outside the solar system.³⁷ If this object is supposed to be one of the best evidences for such planets, how certain are the other claims being publicized? Evidently, not very certain at all.

As mentioned, the hope of finding ET life evolving motivates the inference that extrasolar planets exist. The *Astronomy* article continuously leaps from inferences about planets to speculations about the evolution of ET life (speculative words are italicized):

"how prevalent life *might* be in the universe" (p. 50);
 "*might* be just right to support life" (p. 51);
 "the building blocks of life *could* form" (p. 52);
 "it's *conceivable* they have moons with atmospheres . . .
 making life possible" (p. 52);
 "it's *possible* that one or both systems have ... Earth-sized
 planets in Earth-like orbits" (p. 53);
 "*could* have terrestrial planets" (p. 53);
 "*suggests* ... many ... planets (p. 53).

A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO THE SEARCH FOR ET

The wish for extra-solar planets with evolving life is part of the larger struggle of fallen man to avoid God at all costs -- including the cost of sacrificing the body of scientific data on the altar of evolutionary speculation. Scientific data can lead men to Christ ("for the invisible things of Him through the creation ... are clearly seen," Romans 1:20). However, evolutionary speculation leads people away from God and can lead to a rejection of Christ, spiritual death and damnation.

In contrast to worldly thinking, the Bible teaches that "we have a High Priest Who can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities" (paraphrasing Hebrews 4:15). **The Christian's High Priest is not a fearful alien.** Those involved in the "Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence" (SETI) have a schizophrenic desire to find extraterrestrial life even while they are fearful of what the aliens might do once they are found.

Christians would do well to avoid the "Star Trek" mentality of being enamored with imaginary alien life forms and planets to harbor them. The Christian needs to focus his thoughts, time, and fellowship on the real High Priest of the creation, with the purpose of glorifying Him. To accomplish this purpose, we must be "bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5). In the sciences, this means we must examine the inferences and data generated by the secular community, "hold fast that which is good" (I Thessalonians 5:21), and use legitimate observations to point to the Bible as the only valid source of spiritual truth.

Christians may need to minimize the world's goals and desires (e.g., the goal of SETI; the wish to find extraterrestrial life) to maximize Jesus' command to find abundant life in Him. Christians need also to be teaching that "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30). **To the extent that we magnify the ideas and opinions of fallen man, He decreases in our lives and in the lives of those we touch.** He is exalted as we teach what His Word sets forth as the purposes for the earth, the planets, and stars, the cosmos, and for life itself. **The ultimate purpose for life and the cosmos is to glorify the Creator.**³⁸ This conclusion diverges totally from the conventional humanistic assumption of a purposeless cosmos.

One of the most sobering facts about ET life is that it has never been detected. Some scientists used to think that ET life might exist on the moon. The Apollo 11 astronauts were even kept in quarantine for a time after returning to earth because of the fear they might have been infected by harmful lunar microbes. Later lunar missions discontinued this practice as scientists came to realize that the moon is absolutely lifeless.

Some astronomers have proposed that strange forms of life might exist on other moons, such as Io and Europa (moons of Jupiter), or Saturn's moon Titan. However, there is absolutely no evidence of life on these moons.³⁹ Nevertheless, some scientists have coined the term "exobiology" to refer to the study of extraterrestrial life. Theodosius Dobzhansky, an evolutionist known worldwide in academic circles, noted that exobiology is the only scientific discipline whose "subject matter has never been observed and may not exist."⁴⁰

Despite the popularity of SETI, the Bible makes no mention of any life living outside the earth except God and the angels. This is significant, because the Bible was not written to apply only to the earth. **The Bible applies universally.** It begins with Genesis chapter 1 making sweeping statements of purpose for the heavenly bodies throughout the entire cosmos (Genesis 1:14-18).

What are these purposes revealed in Genesis 1:14-18? The heavenly bodies are to provide light and serve as time-tellers by marking off intervals of time - seasons, days, and years - *for the earth's life*. **As Creator, God has the right to tell us why He made the heavenly bodies, and we have the responsibility to accept what He says as sufficient.** We do not have the right to insist that God must have or should have created the stars to support life of their own. Neither do we have the right to insist that the stars must have spiritual purposes the Creator has left unrevealed. This is the error of astrology, the pseudo-science that insists that stars must have purposes besides the ones revealed by the Creator.

WHAT IS LIFE?

The secular community believes that detection of biological systems on extrasolar planets would satisfy the goals of SETI, but real life is spiritual, not merely physical. **The Author of all life would be dead according to the standard biological definition of life, for He does not change, metabolize, grow, or reproduce.** Thus the biological definition of life is not the ultimate definition of life. **"Life" is ultimately not the same as being biologically viable.**

A system may be biologically viable and yet may not be truly "living" in the Biblical sense. Many entities included in biology do not have the "breath of life" mentioned in Genesis chapter 1 which an organism must possess to be "living." **Loosely speaking, the "breath of life" corresponds to the soul and spirit.** Entities such as viruses, bacteria, or even plants are thus arguably not genuinely alive, though they are classed as biological organisms.⁴¹ Maybe botany should be thought of as a physical science, not a life science! 😊

Though it is hardly likely that the domain of botany will be redefined, this means that the search for ET life cannot be confined to the detection of viruses or bacteria (though even these have not been found anywhere except earth). **SETI must ultimately involve a search for spiritual life.** Hebrews 4:15 tells us about genuine "ET life," our Creator God who is the Author of all life. This verse tells us that He is not a fearful alien. He can "be touched with the feeling of our infirmities." **We are not alone.**

Many evolutionary scientists have realized that SETI is really a search for *spiritual intelligence*.⁴² But instead of searching for extraterrestrial intelligence, each of us must find spiritual life in the Lord Jesus Christ, trusting Him alone for personal salvation. Those who have found true life in Christ can anticipate an eternity with Him, a future far more wonderful than the most imaginative science fiction.

WHAT IS THE FUTURE FOR THE REDEEMED?

Revelation chapters 21 and 22 describe the future of those alive in Christ. The redeemed will live in the new Jerusalem, going in and out without hindrance or physical constraint. The laws of gravity and inertia will no longer apply to the redeemed, for their bodies will be like Christ's glorified resurrection body (Philippians 3:20-21).

The new Jerusalem will be the focal point of the new heaven and the new earth. With bodies unconstrained by gravity or inertia, the redeemed will be able to explore the new heavens to an extent science fiction cannot even begin to visualize.

All of this wonderful activity will be only for the glory of God, for there will be no sin in the new creation. There will be no cosmic evolution, astrology, or other false philosophy opposing the truth. All the products of sin -- tiredness, sorrow, decay and death -- will be gone forever. This is why we can say that the redeemed have a future life that makes the most spectacular science fiction pale by comparison.

WHAT ARE UFO'S?

UFO stands for "unidentified flying object." Many UFO sightings turn out to be clouds, ordinary planes, weather balloons, or artificial satellites high in the sky that have been misidentified as something strange. **Of the small remaining number of UFO sightings, most probably involve military technology not yet made known to the public.** Flight tests of this technology seem strange and unfamiliar to anyone who happens to see it from a distance.

The stealth technology developed to shield military aircraft from radar detection has been tested since at least the 1950s, but was not shown to the public until the 1980s. For many years, some people who thought they were seeing flying saucers from outer space may have been seeing stealth aircraft being tested in flight. One Air Force officer has reportedly claimed that the military has technology that is "so far beyond the comprehension" of the average person as to seem "alien."⁴³

The "Area 51" military base in Nevada is known among UFO enthusiasts as a site of alleged UFO activity. In fact, Area 51 is nothing more than a launching and storage base for advanced military aircraft, some still classified.

Many unidentified flying objects may be classified military craft, but there is also the possibility of demonic influence in at least some UFO phenomena. Possible associations of UFO sightings with demonism and spiritism have been documented.⁴⁴ How can we put this possibility in perspective?

Astronomy has been an especially fertile ground for satanic deception. Cosmic evolution and astrology trap

many people in systems of belief preventing them from ever coming to Christ for salvation. An obsession with UFOs is one more possible trap.

For some, a belief in UFO intelligence may be another way of avoiding their personal accountability to God. For instance, the so-called "Roswell incident" of 1947, in which extraterrestrial beings allegedly landed near Roswell, New Mexico, has become an obsession for perhaps millions of people. Whatever happened at Roswell, the Roswell incident has convinced many people that wisdom and intelligence are to be found, not in God's Word, but somewhere out in space. Satan, the god of this world, is pleased to use any tactic that will keep a person from looking to the God of Creation for true salvation and intelligence.

Furthermore, like SETI and the belief in ET life, UFOs feed into the belief system of the New Age and Hinduism, with "alien abductions" being characterized as "out of body experiences" and reincarnation, both of which are central tenets of these pagan systems.⁴⁵

MODERN MAN'S SPIRITUAL HUNGER

The New Age and Hinduism are two popular efforts of fallen man to find God. **The ultimate motivation for SETI is also a quest for spiritual satisfaction apart from God in Christ.** Thus the New Age, Hinduism and SETI are all compatible and reinforce each other in their message to modern man. That message is very clear: There are other ways to God and salvation than the gospel of Christ. The Bible is obsolete!

But it is really the claims of SETI that are bankrupt. Even more, the spiritual quest of SETI researchers comes through clearly in what they say. **The alleged "scientific" basis for ET life is often nothing more than a cover for spiritual concerns.** As one writer has said: "The rationale for SETI is straightforward, yet awesome: If life exists elsewhere ... in the Milky Way galaxy, and if other civilizations have arisen on distant planets, they may have been broadcasting radio messages to call attention to their presence. The earth has the means to receive these messages, in the form of giant radio telescopes being used for astronomy, and for communicating with spacecraft. By enlisting them in a systematic listening program, **man may finally be able to answer those age-old questions: Is anyone out there? Are we alone in the universe?**"⁴⁶

The tragedy of these questions is that God answered them thousands of years ago in His Word. Yet modern man without God has little choice but to evolve into godhood himself. As we have seen, man evolving into godhood is a central tenet of the New Age and Hinduism. Man becoming god is also the ultimate goal of both an increasing number of evolutionists and SETI scientists.

Evolutionism and SETI are tightly intertwined, with each belief serving as a rationale for the other. **If man has evolved, alien races must have evolved, too. And if other races have evolved, maybe they can show us our future:** "It would be encouraging, SETI scientists say, to learn that other races survived the perils of nuclear technology, genetic

engineering, and pollution, and continued to progress.

Knowledge of very advanced races might give mankind a clue to the future of its own evolution."⁴⁷

This quotation illustrates the confusion into which man can fall unless he gets wisdom from his Creator. Man can find knowledge of the future in God's Word, evolution has not happened, and fears about the "perils of nuclear technology, genetic engineering, and pollution" are overblown.⁴⁸

Christians must not confuse claims for ET life with "science." Since the Creator has told us why He made the heavenly bodies, Christians must also be careful not to impose on Him the idea that He must have made the universe to support ET life forms. When we support the false messages of the world system, we are buttressing -- unintentionally or not -- the belief that man's opinions are higher than God's thoughts. **Man thus becomes his own god.**⁴⁹

Christians need to be faithful in proclaiming the Biblical message that revealed truth is to be found only in God's Word and that salvation is to be found only in Christ alone. **As we approach the end of the age, the Christian message -- evangelistically and scientifically -- should diverge increasingly from worldly wisdom, for the world will be moving ever farther from the Bible.** Christians dare not frame a "new" message accommodating the world's increasingly anti-biblical ecclesiastical and "scientific" claims.

Billions of people enmeshed in evolutionism, the New Age, and Hinduism are on spiritual journeys doomed to end in eternal disaster. Yet the Bible tells us that those who have come to Jesus Christ alone for personal salvation can have wisdom and intelligence simply by asking Him for it (James 1:5). **Why search anywhere else?**

Notes. Bolding in quotation is added.

- 1 C.W. Ceram, *Gods, Graves, and Scholars*, Vintage, 1986, pp. 316-321; J. Henry, "Do Ruins of the Tower of Babel Exist?," <creation concepts.org>, 2000, makes the case that the Hanging Gardens were not on the restored Tower of Babel, but on another nearby ziggurat.
- 2 H.M. Morris, *The Genesis Record*, Master Books, 1976, pp. 252-253.
- 3 J. Henry, op. cit.
- 4 J. Jeans, *The Story of Physical Science*, Cambridge University, 1951, p. 8: "The earth wobbles as it rotates ... so that the portion of the sky which can be seen from any portion of the earth's surface is continually changing; that part in which the constellations bear ancient names is the part which could be seen from about latitude 40° N., in about the year 2750 B.C., and this is thought to suggest that these constellations were grouped and named by the Babylonians of some such date. They are practically identical with our present-day constellations of the northern sky."
- 5 A. Hislop, *The Two Babylons*, Loizeaux, 1959; reprint of 1916 edition, pp. 14-19, 289-290; R.E. Woodrow, *Babylon Mystery Religion*, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1993, pp. 1-6.
- 6 F. Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews in Josephus: Complete Works*, Kregel, 1976; written about 100 AD and translated by William Whiston in 1737. Josephus writes (p. 30): "Now it was Nimrod who excited [the people] to ... contempt of God. ... He also gradually changed the government into tyranny, -- seeing no other way of turning men from the fear of God, but to bring them into a constant dependence upon his power. He also said he would be revenged on God, if [God] should have a mind to drown the world again; for that he [Nimrod] would build a tower too high for the waters to be able to reach! and that he would avenge himself on God for destroying their forefathers!"
- 7 W. Sullivan, *We Are Not Alone*, New American Library, 1966, pp. 37, 284.
- 8 Sagan published the PBS "Cosmos" series as the book *Cosmos* (Random House, 1980). He was an atheistic evolutionist who denied the existence of

the supernatural, saying: "The neurochemistry of the brain is astonishingly busy, the circuitry of a machine more wonderful than any devised by humans. But there is no evidence that its functioning is due to anything more than the ... neural connections that build an elegant architecture of consciousness" (p. 278). Sagan condemned metaphysical beliefs in ET life and UFOs, but believed that many physical life-forms inhabit the universe.

Sagan also publicized the connection between Hinduism and cosmic evolution in the "Cosmos" series, which showed "a close comparison ... between Hindu beliefs and concepts of the Big Bang" (J.K. Beatty, "Carl Sagan's 'Cosmos': Prime-Time Astronomy," *Sky and Telescope*, Vol. 60 no. 3, September 1980, p. 194).

- 9 S. MacLaine, *Out on a Limb*, Bantam, 1984, pp. 308-309, 352-354.
- 10 J.J. Dunphy, "A Religion for a New Age," *The Humanist*, Vol. 43 no. 1, January/February 1983, p. 28. Others have voiced similar sentiments: "Christianity has fought, still fights, and will fight science to the desperate end over evolution, because evolution destroys utterly and finally the very reason Jesus' earthly life was supposedly made necessary. Destroy Adam and Eve and the original sin, and in the rubble you will find the sorry remains of the son of God. ... If Jesus was not the redeemer who died for our sins, and this is what evolution means, then Christianity is nothing" (G.R. Bozarth, "The Meaning of Evolution," *American Atheist*, September 1978, p. 30).
- 11 M. Behe, *Darwin's Black Box*, Free Press, 1996. Behe states on p. 196: "Inferences to design do not require that we have a candidate for the role of designer." On p. 197, he says again, "The conclusion that something was designed can be made quite independently of knowledge of the designer. ... The inference to design can be held with all the firmness that is possible in this world, without knowing anything about the designer."

Such statements contain an element of truth, but **Biblical creation requires that we affirm with the apostle John that the God of the Bible is the Designer (John 1:1-3)**. Behe claims that belief in a designer does not require any other belief consistent with Biblical creation, such as recent creation (p. 227): "The belief that the designer had to have made life recently ... is not a part of intelligent-design theory" [emphasis his].

There is a linkage between evolution with a non-God designer, and the belief in ET life. Commentator Marvin Olasky has observed, "The movement among some to replace the evolutionary paradigm with a belief in 'intelligent design' does not necessarily mean an increase in belief in God. One new line of defense for materialists is that the designer of life on earth came from a more advanced planet in another star system" (M. Olasky, "Outside the Beltway," *World*, Vol. 11, October 12, 1996, p. 30).

Ironically, in this same issue of *World* on page 5 is an article praising Behe entitled "You Just Have to Sing." Christians can be thankful for the good things Behe says, there is a need for caution in assessing Behe's position.

- 12 In addition to Behe, others have written anti-Darwinian books in recent decades. A sampling includes Michael Denton (*Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*, Adler & Adler, 1985); William R. Fix (*The Bone Peddlers: Selling Evolution*, Macmillan, 1984); and Michael A. Cremo and Richard L. Thompson (*Forbidden Archeology*, Bhaktivedanta Institute, 1993). These authors span a wide spectrum of religious beliefs. Behe is a Catholic, Denton is an agnostic, Fix is a pantheist, and Cremo and Thompson are converts to Hinduism. **All of them say that Darwinism is wrong, but none of them gives credit to the true God for designing His creation.** Henry Morris, President Emeritus of the Institute for Creation Research in San Diego, observed that **intelligent-design theory without a return to God is not Biblical creation** (H.M. Morris, "Neocreationism," *Acts & Facts*, February 1998, pp. 1-4).
- 13 C.S. Braden, "Theosophy," *Grolier Encyclopedia*, Grolier, 1970, Vol. 18, p. 80. See also J.O. Fuller, *Blavatsky and Her Teachers*, East-West Publications, 1988, pp. 44-45. The dust jacket of this book notes that "Blavatsky's main work *The Secret Doctrine* (1888) ... offered a profound spiritual interpretation of evolution, in contrast to Darwinism, and brought a new dimension into western thought." Blavatsky would thus appear to have been the first to propose "New Age" evolution.
- 14 J.H. Barrows (ed.), *Proceedings of the World's Parliament of Religions*, Parliament Publishing, 1893, pp. 6-8, 18, 38, 57, 74, 158. This conference was held alongside the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Some 10,000 letters of invitation and 40,000 documents were mailed worldwide to prepare for this conference (p. 44); more than 7,000 attended the closing session (p. 157).

The ultimate goal of ecumenism has never been merely the unification of Western religions, but the gathering of all faiths into a globalist Hindu-style world church. This is evident from the *Proceedings* referenced above (pp. 78, 87, 96, 192-193, 331, 456-457). It is in this light that we can understand the Pope's recent universalist claims that people of all faiths, including Hinduism, can be saved apart from Christ (A. Dager, "New Gospel Emerging" *Media Spotlight*, October 1997, p. 24). The Pope and other ecclesiastical leaders are increasingly making such statements as Hinduism is "mainstreamed" into the ecumenical movement. Furthermore, New Age evolution is only one aspect of the emerging global religion, along with other components such as radical environmentalism and earth worship. The connection of environmentalism and earth worship with Hindu-style paganism is discussed in M. Coffman and B. Alexander, "Eco-Religion and Cultural Change," *Spiritual Counterfeits Project Journal*, Vol. 17 no. 3, July-September 1992, pp. 15-23. The roots of Hinduism at Babel are documented in A. Hislop, op. cit., pp. 14-16, 19-20.

- 15 Geologist Virginia Steen-McIntyre, in a letter to Michael A. Cremo (the co-author of *Forbidden archeology* mentioned in Note 12): "Somewhere down the line the god of the Vedas [Hinduism] and the God of the Bible will clash ... but until then the servants of both can agree on one thing – human evolution [Darwinism] is for the birds ..." (M.A. Cremo, *Forbidden Archeology's Impact*, Bhaktivedanta Book Publishing, 1998, p. 32).
- 16 Hindu beliefs about origins often sound like Biblical creation, as Cremo notes in *Forbidden Archeology's Impact*: (1) On the coexistence of life-forms, p. 463: "What we see is a pattern of co-existence, rather than evolution ... just as today we see that human beings of various levels of civilization and culture co-exist with apes and monkeys." (2) On the high intelligence of ancient man, pp. 464-465: "If you were to predict what archaeologists might find ... they would tend to find a ... mixture of anatomically modern human fossils ... crude stone tools, [and] articles indicative of a higher level of culture ..." (3) On the suppression of data disagreeable to Darwinism, p. 51: "Orthodox scientists have often employed silence as the most effective way of responding to evidence that challenges an established doctrine."

An end sheet in *Forbidden Archeology's Impact* advertising another book published by the Bhaktivedanta Institute says, "It documents hundreds of anomalies found in the archeological record that contradict the prevailing theory and shows how this massive amount of evidence was systematically 'filtered' out. ... You can then judge for yourself how objective the scientific community is in its pursuit of knowledge!"

Biblical creationists would find much to agree with here. Yet Cremo says of himself (pp. 22, 23) that "I am an agent of Gaudiya Vaishnavism [a large Hindu sect with centers worldwide] ... with an assigned project of [challenging] some fundamental concepts of Western science." Later (p. 122) he reveals that "*Forbidden Archeology* is designed to demolish the case for [conventional] biological and cultural evolution and to advance the cause of a Vedic alternative" [New Age evolution].

- 17 Hinduism believes in billions of years (ibid., pp. 5, 148). Cremo notes that the Hindu time scale is compatible with that of traditional Darwinism (ibid., p. 6).
- 18 Widely-acclaimed Christian author Philip Johnson has made the disclaimer that age is unimportant: "Many people assume that anyone who advocates 'creation' endorses the 'young earth' position and attributes the existence of fossils to Noah's flood. ... Persons who believe that the earth is billions of years old, and that simple forms of life evolved gradually to become more complex forms including humans, are 'creationists' if they believe that a supernatural Creator not only initiated this process but in some meaningful sense *controls* it in furtherance of a purpose" (P.E. Johnson, *Darwin On Trial*, InterVarsity, 1991, p. 4).

Johnson unwittingly made a concise statement of key Hindu beliefs about origins, except that in Hinduism, the Creator is not the God of the Bible. This statement does *not* fit Biblical creation. A long line of Christian academic thought preceded Johnson in belittling Biblical claims of recent creation. For example, scholar Edward J. Young in his otherwise excellent book, *Thy Word Is Truth* (Eerdmans, 1957, pp. 169-170), says, "The long ages of geology may indeed have occurred ... We incline toward the view that the days [of creation] were periods of time longer than twenty-four hours. We do this ... upon exegetical grounds." He does not say what these "exegetical grounds" might be.

However, Edward J. Young held a high view of Scripture compared to influential scholars such as Bernard Ramm (*The Christian View of Science and Scripture*, Eerdmans, 1954) and Russell L. Mixer

(*Evolution and Christian Thought Today*, Eerdmans, 1959). Ramm and Mixer placed the modern views of "science" (i.e., evolution) before the Bible and no doubt shaped the views of many.

- 19 This Hindu version of creation has been dubbed "Krishna creationism" in a sympathetic review of *Forbidden Archeology* by K.L. Feder in *Geoarcheology*, Vol. 9, pp. 337-340; in M.A. Cremo, op. cit., p. 101.
- 20 In 1997, a new sitcom was called "Dharma & Jane." Dharma is the Hindu word for "fate." How significant is this first explicitly Hindu-oriented program? Consider that in 1965, the sitcom "Bewitched" introduced a seemingly harmless version of the occult into the Western mainstream. Now the occult permeates our culture via items such as the Harry Potter children's books, one of the highest selling children's series of all time.
- Journals such as *American Anthropologist* are noting the New Age trend: "New Age titles in bookstores ... now occupy whole sections of their own -- the shamanism, goddess worship, and New Age sections. These shifts reflect social and cultural developments that are well under way not only in this country but all over the world ..." (cited in M.A. Cremo, op. cit., p. 52). **Cremo acknowledges that multiculturalism is part of the agenda to continue forcing Hinduism into the mainstream** (p. 27): "Transnationalism and multiculturalism are not merely concepts entertained by department chairs and university administrators; they are brute objective realities" -- i.e., they are part of an agenda which is unfolding.
- 21 E. von Daniken, *Chariots of the Gods?*, Bantam, 1974, pp. 38-40, 56-59. See also J. Henry, "Believing in ET Life: Old and New Motives," <creationconcepts.org>, 2007. 22 J.O. Fuller, op. cit., pp. 48, 197.
- 23 *Sky and Telescope* cover, Vol. 88 no. 5, May 1992; accompanying article: R.T. Feinberg, "Pulsars, Planets, and Pathos," pp. 493-495.
- 24 R. Naeye, "Two New Solar Systems," *Astronomy*, Vol. 24 no. 4, April 1996, pp. 50-55.
- 25 J. Henry, "Questing for Extrasolar Planets," <creationconcepts.org>, 2007.
- 26 A.M. MacRobert and J. Rother, "The Planet of 51 Pegasi," *Sky and Telescope*, Vol. 91 no. 1, January 1995, p. 38.
- 27 J. Henry, "Planetary System Formation by Accretion Is Not Happening," <creationconcepts.org>, 2007. 28 R. Naeye, op. cit., pp. 50-55.
- 29 M. Bales et al., "A Planet Orbiting the Neutron Star PSR1329-10," *Nature*, Vol. 352, 1991, pp. 311-313.
- 30 A.M. MacRobert and J. Rother, op. cit., pp. 38-40. 31 *ibid.*
- 32 M. Mayor and D. Queloz, "A Jupiter-Mass Companion to a Solar-Type Star," *Nature*, Vol. 378, 1995, pp. 355-359.
- 33 R. Cowen, "Two Extrasolar Planets May Hold Water," *Science News*, Vol. 149 no. 4, 1996, p. 52.
- 34 *ibid.*; M.D. Lemonick, "Searching for Other Worlds," *Time*, Vol. 147 no. 6, February 5, 1996, pp. 52-57.
- 35 R. Cowen, op. cit., p. 52. 36 *ibid.*
- 37 R. Jayawardhana, "Wobble Worlds," *Scientific American*, Vol. 281 no. 3, September 2000, p. 62. **Cite also the web site listing all the current planet claims and see if these objects are among them.**
- 38 J. Henry, "Cosmic Purpose," <creationconcepts.org>, 2007.
- 39 T.P. Snow, *Essentials of the Dynamic Universe*, West, 1987, p. 485; J. Henry, "Searching for ET Life," <creationconcepts.org>, 2007.
- 40 T. Grigorievich Dobzhansky, F.A. Ayala, G.L. Stebbins, and J.W. Valentine, *Evolution*, Freeman, 1977, p. 366.
- 41 J. Henry, "Did Death Occur Before the Fall," *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, Vol. 43 no.3, December 2006, pp. 163-164.
- 42 J.F. Baugher, *On Civilized Stars*, Prentice-Hall, 1985, pp. x-xi; D. Overbye, "Is Anyone Out There?," *Discover*, Vol. 3 no. 3, March 1982, p. 22; T.P. Snow, op. cit., p. 499.
- 43 G.M. Kanon, *The Great UFO Hoax*, Galde Press, 1997, p. 31.
- 44 J.A. Keel, *Operation Trojan Horse*, IllumiNet, 1996, pp. 192-222.
- 45 J. Henry, "UFOs, Crop Circles, and New Age Dreams," <creationconcepts.org>, 2007.
- 46 D. Overbye, op. cit., p. 22. 47 *ibid.*, p. 23.
- 48 J. Henry, "Environmental Collapse Is Not Happening," <creationconcepts.org>, 2006; J. Simon, *The Ultimate Resource 2*, Princeton, 1997; S. Moore and J. Simon, *It's Getting Better All the Time*, Cato, 2000.
- 49 J. Henry, "Ye Shall Be As Gods: The Modern Search for Extraterrestrial Life," in H. Morris, editor, *When Christians Roamed the Earth: Is the Bible Believing Church Headed for Extinction?*, Master Books, 2002, pp. 160-192.