Is There Life on Other Planets?

How big is the Universe? The galaxy we are in, the Milky Way, is believed to measure 100,000 light-years across and to contain over 200 billion stars. A light-year is the distance that light can travel in one year. Light travels at over 186,000 miles, per second.

Human rockets and other forms of space craft, such as the Space shuttle, travel at around 17,000 miles per hour. So a journey to Mars takes about 9 - 10 months. But even at light speed, it would take 100,000 years just to get across our galaxy.

Yet our galaxy is relatively small compared with the estimate that there are 100 billion galaxies throughout the universe. Because the universe is so huge, many believe there must be life on other planets, and some think such extraterrestrials travel through space. However there is no reliable, physical evidence for this belief: no UFO has ever been displayed publicly, nor have any extraterrestrial beings officially presented themselves to the general public.

How do scientists explain UFO's? Doctor Donald Menzel, an astronomer, and Philip Klass, a senior editor have studied the subject of UFO sightings. They insist that UFO's are actually IFO's (identified flying objects). They have shown that time and again, experts have been able to expose so-called UFO sightings. Often they have turned out to be identifiable things such as weather balloons, airplanes, helicopters, or even meteorites, planets, comets or other celestial bodies.

For life to exist elsewhere, it would have to be on another planet orbiting a star. Alpha Centauri is the closest star to our Solar System, but this is over 25 trillion miles away from the earth. At the speed of light (186,000 mile per second) it would take nearly 4½ years to get there. Yet no planets have been detected nearby.

Although astronomers can easily see many billions of miles into outer space with telescopes and radio telescopes, so far (Oct 2009) only 403 planets have been discovered. NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope, along with ground-based observatories, has provided evidence for the existence of the nearest planet to our solar system. The Jupiter-sized planet orbits around the star Epsilon Eridani, which is 10½ light-years away (63 trillion miles - travelling at 186,000 miles per second).

But for a planet to be able to sustain life it has to have a set of strict conditions. It need water, an atmosphere made up of the right gases, besides other physical properties. Our nearest planet, Mars, did not have the correct conditions.

Yet, even if any planet exists that meets all the requirements, the question remains, ‘How would life arise on those worlds in the first place’?

To many scientists, it seems logical to believe that life evolved from nonliving matter on this planet, and so that could be true on others as well. One writer stated: "The general thinking among biologists is that life will begin, whenever it is given an environment where it can originate." But that is where evolution faces an overwhelming obstacle. Evolutionists can’t even explain how life began on this planet.

Renowned scientists Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe estimate that the odds against life's elementary proteins and chemicals forming by chance are one in 10^40,000 (1 with 40,000 zeros after it). Scientists Feinberg and Shapiro go still further. In their book "Life Beyond Earth", they put the odds against the material in an organic soup ever taking the first basic steps toward life at one in 10^1,000,000.

So evolution can’t be credited as the cause of life on other planets.

UFO reports sometimes revolve around actual human contact. These contacts are sometimes said to be with "aliens" who allegedly abduct humans. The accounts suggest that the intent of the "aliens" at times involves biological or genetic experiments on humans. Those who claim to have seen UFO's or extraterrestrials include seemingly normal, trustworthy people; in fact, those who believe in these visitors from other planets include well-educated professors and scientists. They are convinced that extraterrestrials are observing humans and, at times, communicating with them.
When analysing the paranormal experiences of some who have reported contacts with extraterrestrials, there are strong similarities with incidents of spiritism.

Who do you think would use supernatural experiences try to convince people to believe in aliens, and so divert mankind's attention away from Jehovah, the supreme extraterrestrial being? Ed Conroy, in his book Report on Communion, states that "serious UFO researchers with training in the psychological and social sciences, have concluded that night-time visitations and apparitions, are very similar to what religious people regard as demons."

Would Jehovah act in such a mysterious way towards his human creation?

Prov 8: 31 B; John 3:16

Some of those who claim they have encountered extraterrestrials, or even that they themselves are extraterrestrials, state that they are led by God and that they speak freely with him. Is God somehow responsible for visitors from other planets?

Early in man's history, God communicated with humans. The Bible describes divine conversations with Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, and others. Dreams, voices, and visions were used to communicate God's will and to produce the Bible. However, after the Bible was completed, there was no need for direct communication from heaven. The Bible states that the Holy Scriptures make "the man of God . . . fully competent, completely equipped for every good work." (2 Tim 3:17)

Therefore there is no reason to believe that we would receive communication or special instructions directly from a supposed extraterrestrial spokesman from God. The apostle Paul stated: "but even if we or a messenger out of heaven may proclaim good news to you different from what we did proclaim to you - [cursed] let him be"—Gal 1:8 (Young's translation)

The Bible does speak of extraterrestrial creatures - spirit creatures, such as obedient angels and disobedient, rebellious angels who became demons. Down through Bible history, God on many occasions used faithful angels to interact with mankind.

How many angels do you think Jehovah has? Dan 7:10

How powerful are the angels? 2 Kings 19:35

Satan still uses his demon followers to mislead mankind with all kinds of philosophies, messages, and cults that distract from the message of good news that Jehovah wants preached to all mankind. 2 Cor 11:14, 15; John 8:44

The apostle Paul gave a warning about demon influence in the last days. 1 Timothy 4:1

So any supposed visits from such beings should be rejected, whatever form they may take. Those who would rather follow the advice of "extraterrestrials" than God's Word are bound to be misled—a terrible mistake to make in these critical times.

What are all the other stars and planets for? We can't say for sure? Will we ever inhabit other planets? Mans activity seems to be limited to the earth according to his original purpose, shown at Genesis 1:28

There is no scriptural evidence that man may migrate to other planets in the future, however, we will have to wait and see.