

The background of the slide is a composite image. The upper portion shows the curved horizon of a planet, likely Earth, with a thin layer of atmosphere and a dark, starry space background. The lower portion features a vibrant, multi-colored spiral galaxy with a bright central core, set against a dark blue and black background.

What Does the Bible Teach About Life on Other Planets?

Thursday (11/5/20) Indepth Bible Class
of the Trilacoochee church of Christ

What Does the Bible Teach About Life on Other Planets?

- In April 1997, thirty-nine members of a UFO cult called Heaven's Gate cult led by Marshall Applewhite, killed themselves believing after their deaths they would join an alien race they said was riding on a comet. This event brought to the forefront just how many people actually believe in UFOs and aliens.
- We live on a very small planet circling a modest and ordinary star in a sparse neighborhood of a small galaxy that is barely noticeable in a unimaginably vast universe populated by more than one septillion (1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000) stars. Folks reason that if God created this enormous and awesome universe, it seems either supremely arrogant or provincially foolish to believe that He placed life only on this tiny planet in an insignificant galaxy.

Why So Vast A Universe With So Many Stars?

- Light, time-keeping, and navigation
 - Gen. 1:14-15 - “Then God said, ‘Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; 15 and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth’; and it was so.”

Why So Vast A Universe With So Many Stars?

- Glorifying the Creator
 - Psalm 19:1 - “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.”
 - Psalm 8:1, 3, 9 - “O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens! ... 3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained... 9 O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!”

Why So Vast A Universe With So Many Stars?

- The large scale of the universe has nothing to do with its complexity. The overwhelming intricacy of the human body is much more awesome than the cosmos of stars. The large scale of the universe is about the same as the small scale of the micro cosmos of the atom (An atom is about 99.999999999999996% empty space), gloriously complex and incredibly overbuilt, all of which testifies to the infinite power and unlimited wisdom of God.

Why So Vast A Universe With So Many Stars?

- Psalm 19:2-4 - “Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. 4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world.”
- Psalm 148:3-5 - “Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all you stars of light! 4 Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, And you waters above the heavens! 5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created.”

Why So Vast A Universe With So Many Stars?

- Psalm 8:4 - “What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?”
- Psalm 139:14 - “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.”
- Rom. 1:18-21 - “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

Why So Vast A Universe With So Many Stars?

- But from God's point of view, the earth, far from being insignificant, is the central focus of His creative, sustaining, and redemptive activity.
 - Gen. 1:10, 14 - “And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good... 14 Then God said, ‘Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years’”

Why So Vast A Universe With So Many Stars?

- There is no scientific reason for assuming life on other planets, or even for insisting on the existence of a planet outside our solar system uniquely suited to sustaining life as is earth.
- The reason why many want to believe that life on other planets is reasonable is the result of evolutionary speculation. If the evolution of life can happen once, by chance, then it could have happened elsewhere with so many stars which could have planets.

Answering Claims Of Extraterrestrial Encounters

- Crop circles
- Cattle mutilations
- Flying saucer sightings
- Weather anomalies
- Conspiracy theories

Has Anyone Noticed...

- How much alien and UFO genre permeates our culture?
- How that faithful members of the Lord's church do not see UFOs and are never abducted by aliens?
- How that just as there is a link between sound Christians and the absence of UFO activity, so there is a link between those who experiment in the occult and the presence of UFO activity?
 - “People who report UFO contact, even only close encounters of the first kind (UFO sightings), immediately begin to experience poltergeist-like activity and out of body experiences. UFO sightings seem to parallel poltergeist activity.” (Michael Mannion, Project: Mindshift)

Has Anyone Noticed...

- How that aliens seem especially hostile to Christianity, except when it's seen as just an alternative path to the divine.
- How those UFO activities occur mostly at night?
- How woefully backward aliens are in medical technology?
- How that there is a common thread that runs through nearly all encounter stories?
- How that aliens sometimes are described in the form of various animals or insects: reptiles, birds, preying mantises, etc.?

What Does The Bible Teach About It?

- The heavens, the earth, and everything therein were created in six days, and humankind is the crowning glory of creation; all creation is to be subject to him
 - Ex. 20:11 - “For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day.”

What Does The Bible Teach About It?

- Gen. 1:26-27 - “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”
- Psalms 8:5-6 - “For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet”
- Deut. 4:19 - “And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.”

What Does The Bible Teach About It?

- Because of Adam's sin, all creation is cursed and subject to futility and in "bondage to decay."
 - Civilizations on other planets, presumably sinless, would then have to share in the effects of this cursed cosmos.
 - Rom 8:19-21 - "For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."

What Does The Bible Teach About It?

- Eve is described in the scriptures as the mother of all living.
 - Gen. 3:20 - “And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.”
 - “All living” is an absolute. Any intelligent, self-determinant life must come from her.

What Does The Bible Teach About It?

- 2Peter 3:10 - “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”
- Gen. 18:25 - “Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”
- Persons who believe in extraterrestrial life must also believe that God would destroy another race of potentially innocent beings in His efforts to destroy the world of men.

What Does The Bible Teach About It?

- Christ died once for all. He is not going to be crucified and resurrected again on other planets.
 - Rom. 6:10 - “For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all...”
 - 1Peter 3:18 - “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God...”
 - Heb. 9:26 - “He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”

What Does The Bible Teach About It?

- The Bible makes no provision for God to redeem any other beings, any more than it does to redeem fallen angels.
 - Heb. 2:16 - “For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.”

What Does The Bible Teach About It?

- To choose to believe that God created life elsewhere after implying to us that we are alone the crown of His creation suggests that God lied by omission, and therefore His word cannot be trusted. It brings all of revelation into question.

What Does The Bible Teach About It?

- Since God is the one who made the universe, it can scarcely be big to Him. Size and time are only relative to us as inhabitants of this universe. God is infinite; regardless of how large this universe is, it is still finite.
 - Psalm 147:4-5 - “He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. 5 Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.”

What Does The Bible Teach About It?

- Psalm 145:3 - “Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable.”
- Isa. 40:12, 28 - “Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance? ... 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.”
- Isa. 57:15 - “For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: ‘I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.’”

Answering Mistaken Objections

- Heb. 11:3 - “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.”
 - Even if it is referring to other planets, it is unwarranted to presume that intelligent life exists on them.
- John 10:16 - “I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd.”
 - In this context, these “other sheep” are a reference to the Gentiles, not extraterrestrials.

What Can We Do?

- Be calm and rational about this.
 - This is just another error that has cloaked itself in a subjectively scientific costume
 - 2Tim. 2:24-26 - “And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.”

What Can We Do?

- Teach the truth.
 - The word of God will remain absolute truth regardless of whatever cultural beliefs are currently in fashion.
 - 2Tim. 4:2-5 - “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

What Can We Do?

- 1Tim. 6:3-5 - “If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, 4 he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, 5 useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.”

What Can We Do?

- Pray for discernment. Pray for Jesus' return to bring to an end the nonsense of this fallen, deluded world. Pray for your own spiritual well-being in the interim.
 - 1John 5:13-15 - “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. 14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”

Remember The Absolute And Unchangeable Facts:

- God is
- God created all things
- God created humankind in His image
- God has spoken
- God sent His Son to save humankind
- God will destroy this universe in the end
- If any story, speculation, testimony, or belief is in conflict with any of those facts, then the story is in error. The facts are objective and always will be. The beliefs and testimonies of men are subjective and always will be.



They Said It Very Well

“This country has a UFO problem, after all. You might not have been aware we have one, or thought about it in these terms, but we do have a UFO problem: namely, we don't seem to understand what UFO really means. So here it is: a UFO is an unidentified flying object. So any time we see some object flying in the sky that we can't positively identify, we've seen a UFO. But in the same way the words paranormal and supernatural have been conflated, we now equate UFO with alien spacecraft. How this came to be is easily understandable. If we've learned one thing already, people don't like the unknown very much. And so, if we believe we're being visited by other civilizations, we've read the piles of books and articles on unexplained lights in the sky, then we fill in the massive gaps with wild tales of alien races, interstellar technology, and government conspiracies.” (Steve Volk, Fringe-ology)



They Said It Very Well

“There’s a fascinating frailty of the human mind that psychologists know all about, called “argument from ignorance.” This is how it goes. Remember what the “U” stands for in “UFO”? You see lights flashing in the sky. You’ve never seen anything like this before and don’t understand what it is. You say, “It’s a UFO!” The “U” stands for “unidentified.” But then you say, “I don’t know what it is; it must be aliens from outer space, visiting from another planet.” The issue here is that if you don’t know what something is, your interpretation of it should stop immediately. You don’t then say it must be X or Y or Z. That’s argument from ignorance. It’s common. I’m not blaming anybody; it may relate to our burning need to manufacture answers because we feel uncomfortable about being steeped in ignorance.” (Neil deGrasse Tyson, Space Chronicles)

They Said It Very Well

“They were once fairies and elves. And people saw fairies and elves, but now no one sees them. Now they see creatures from beyond the stars, because they no longer believe in anything but humans. The UFOs were nothing more than the collective fantasies of a stressed out society... The world into which UFOs had appeared was one of under-the-desk siren drills against nuclear annihilation. Society had made a new myth, a communal idea of something outside of a species apparently intent on dooming itself. The first UFOs reported in modern times, just before the crash at Roswell, were boomerang shaped and were reported as 'flying saucers' to describe the motion of their flight, like a saucer skipping over water. Yet immediately after, people saw and photographed saucer-shaped objects. Boomerang-shaped objects were rarely seen. Now people mostly report seeing large triangles instead of discs or boomerangs, because that is what they are told to expect to see.” (Thomm Quackenbush, Artificial Gods)

Solomon Said It Best

Prov. 2:2-9 - “So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; 3 Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, 4 If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; 5 Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God. 6 For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; 7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; 8 He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints. 9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path.”