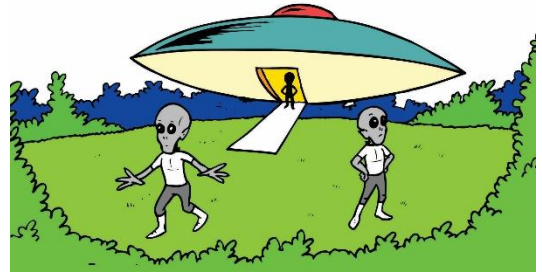




August 8, 2017

## *Flying Saucer Theology*



### Questions:

1. If we wake up tomorrow morning to the news that we've made contact with intelligent aliens, how will religion respond?

- Would there be a difference in the response of different religions? (How would you anticipate the responses of Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, etc.?)
- What about the divisions between different faiths? How would the discovery influence religious identity?

2. How would the discovery of intelligent aliens affect the Christian understanding of the doctrine of Incarnation?

- The Christian understanding is that God became flesh and dwelt among us as Jesus. Could Jesus have been incarnate on planets other than ours and saved races other than ours?
- Is salvation just an "earthly" concept? Might our star-siblings have attained a more perfect spiritual existence and not need redemption?

3. Do religious texts mention aliens or the possibility of alien life?

- Is the reference in the book of Ezekiel about the "wheel within a wheel" (see below) a reference to ancient visitors to the earth in "flying saucers"?

*14 And the living creatures darted to and fro, like a flash of lightning.*

*15 Now as I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel upon the earth beside the living creatures, one for each of the four of them. 16 As for the appearance of the wheels and their construction: their appearance was like the gleaming of a chrysolite; and the four had the same likeness, their construction being as it were a wheel within a wheel. 17 When they went, they went in any of their four directions[e] without turning as they went. 18 The four wheels had rims and they had spokes; and their rims were full of eyes round about. 19 And when the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures rose from the earth, the wheels rose.*

### Quotes:

"Meanwhile, elsewhere there are an infinite number of other universes each with its own God dreaming the cosmic dream. It is said that men may not be the dreams of the Gods, but rather that the Gods are the dreams of men." – *Carl Sagan*

"I firmly believe there are intelligent beings like us far away in space who worship God, but we would have nothing to fear from these people. Like us, they are God's creation." --*Billy Graham*