

Why would an #Anglican minister attend lectures at the #Roswell UFO Festival?

1. To listen to alternative explanations to the E.T. (extraterrestrial) hypothesis.

a. Christians and non-Christians presented their well-researched alternatives to the ET hypothesis.

b. Quick Worldview Review

- i. Natural* – Acknowledges the material and physical reality of the world in which we live that enables us to better understand and interact with our environment. It is essential and effective as we have seen it used in the scientific method, and it is the predominate approach attempting to understand UFO phenomena (called “ufology”). It is through the primary, if not sole, application of this naturalistic worldview that has given rise to the predominate “ET Hypothesis” today; however, it is not the ONLY worldview even though many who ascribe to naturalism or materialism will reject the other valid and necessary perspective for consideration.
- ii. Supernatural* – Acknowledges the spiritual and metaphysical reality of the world in which we live that enables us to draw logical conclusions about phenomena indescribable by a purely naturalistic approach.
- iii. Illustration:* Two individuals see unusual flashing orbs in the sky from which derives a mind-presence or voice that paralyses them and imparts information to them for a an indiscernible and unaccounted period. One with only the naturalistic worldview would likely hypothesize that this was an encounter with an extraterrestrial being from another galaxy visiting them in a technological advanced

spacecraft. One also open to the supernaturalistic worldview could additionally hypothesize that this could be an encounter with a malevolent spiritual being, such as a demon or a “watcher”, from the unseen realm attempting to deceive them.

- iv. Application: While the Roswell incident in 1947 may best be explained by a naturalistic perspective (i.e., the result of controversial secret government research on aircraft with human test subjects that went wrong and was covered up), that explanation would not deny other preternatural (beyond what is natural/normal) experiences of numerous individuals over the past 70 years who have reportedly seen UFOs and who genuinely believe they have been contacted or abducted by NHEs (non-human entities).
- v. “NHE” because what many would believe are “aliens”/ “extraterrestrial” beings could, with a supernatural worldview, be understood as “supernatural spiritual beings.”

1. Here, we have an **alternative** explanation to the predominate naturalistic “ET Hypothesis” based on the equally valid supernatural being hypothesis.

2. Supernatural Beings as an Alternative Hypothesis

- a. Christian and non-Christian (Agnostics/Atheists) investigators have engaged in a substantial amount of research behind the 70 year era of UFO phenomena that includes examinations of post-WWII research and uncovering covert, if not illegal, Cold War experiments to best the Russians in spying, interrogation, mind-control, rocket propulsion, and space exploration. Such investigations were possible largely because of the FOIA.

- b.** What has been uncovered, in addition to the use of human test subjects, was the US government’s willingness to employ researchers who utilized occult practices to support various projects in order to gain an advantage over the Russians. I was personally amazed at some of these connections, and, surprisingly, it was a non-Christian who reserved some of the strongest language for these occult practices and their effects; labeling them, as demonic, dangerous and deceptive.
- c.** My point is to highlight that, where occult practices were employed, there was, in fact, a supernatural hypothesis already being applied with the intention of better understanding our world and to facilitate our interaction with it. This supernatural worldview was employed by some researches during the Cold War era in our government’s history alongside the naturalistic scientific worldview. Therefore, any attempt to explain the repercussions and results of such experimentation in exclusively naturalistic scientific categories would be, at best, a failure to apply the same supernatural categories some researches themselves were applying.
- d.** Nevertheless, it is precisely the focus on naturalistic explanations, with the exclusion of supernatural considerations, that has lead to the prevalent modern understanding of UFO and “alien” phenomena as Extraterrestrial Beings from other galaxies visiting us in highly technologically advanced space craft. This has led to two unfortunate negative consequences.

 - i.** The refusal to listen to any alternative explanation to the ET hypothesis that could account for malevolent spiritual beings contacted through prior occult activities.
 - ii.** An aberrant approach to the Bible that replaces its inherent supernatural worldview with the predominate naturalistic worldview applied to modern-day ufology.

This, in turn, completely leads to Biblical misinterpretation, and it subversively destroys the true historical Jesus and key doctrines of the Christian Faith.

e. Here is where the rubber meets the road for us today.

- i. This 70-year-old ufology, misunderstood from the primarily scientific naturalistic perspective, has given rise to certain faith-based and religious dimensions to many of its adherents.
- ii. Additionally, this 70 year-old religious faith-based predominant view of ufology has infiltrated the worldview of many professing Christians, and this has resulted in widespread misuse and misunderstanding of the Bible, by both Christians and non-Christians alike, which has resulted in the redefinition of Jesus with unbiblical categories. In other words, rather than allowing the supernatural worldview of the Bible to help our understanding of UFO phenomena, modern naturalistic ufology with its ET hypothesis is used to try to understand the Bible.

3. Okay, so what if many people are experiencing supernatural beings rather than extraterrestrial beings? What is the point?

- a. Because the malevolent and deceptive nature of what is being communicated that can be attributed more logically to supernatural being than to extraterrestrial beings. This is evidenced in the messages of these NHEs that communicate misinformation contrary to both the Bible and to objective discernible facts.
 - i. Only the basic tenants of Christianity are systematically undermined in the messages of these NHEs and their adherents (NOT, Islam/Mohammad; Judaism/Moses).

1. E.g., not only are these NHEs reported to be our creators; but Jesus was an alien/ET himself; Jesus is not different from Buddha or other religious figures; that these NHEs are here to help us advance and be enlightened (meaning that salvation is not through Jesus); etc.
- b. Science Fiction books, comics and movies widely yet subliminally infiltrate our worldview with further grounding in the unfounded ET hypothesis (ref. Heiser's presentation on "Evaluating the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis: *Where's the Data*" and the problems with the Drake Equation <http://www.sitchiniswrong.com/ROSWELL/>).
 - i. The most recent example of this I experienced was in the newest "Transformers" movie this past week. Even within the movie, they quoted the British Science Fiction writer, Arthur C. Clarke, whose third adage states, "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." What is being communicated here is that alien, or extraterrestrial experiences, are encounters with advanced civilizations from other galaxies with highly evolved technology. This is presumed to be the more logical hypothesis; because, it embraces that predominant scientific naturalistic worldview rather than a spiritual supernatural worldview. Therefore, the Transformers are still ETs, they just are not biological; rather, they are self aware sophisticated and technologically advanced robots from another planet.
- c. There is also entertainment pseudo-science conglomeration of loosely defined social sciences engaging in the reinterpretation or misinterpretation of various ancient historical, cultural and archeological findings. We see this in the highly watched and

influential TV series called “Ancient Aliens” which distorts scientific and historical facts to give the misleading impression that there is evidence for extraterrestrial life visiting earth, and that the Bible contains some of this evidence (<http://www.sitchiniswrong.com/> and <https://youtu.be/j9w-i5oZqaQ>).

d. *Ezekiel 1 and 10*

- i. NOT a description of an alien spacecraft (contra “Ancient Aliens”)
- ii. IS a description of the chariot-throne of Yahweh who reigns over the entire cosmos (as demonstrated by biblical scholar Mike Heiser).
- iii. (<http://michaelsheiser.com/PaleoBabble/2008/08/ezekiels-vision-part-2/>)

e. *Ezekiel 1* – This describes a vision that Ezekiel experienced while exiled in Babylon. The language Ezekiel used to describe his experience (“what looked like”, “the appearance of”, “what appeared to be”, “like that of”) all demonstrate his use of metaphor and analogy to communicate this indescribable theophany (which simply means “manifestation of God”). Ezekiel deliberately avoids assigning concrete, materialistic descriptions of his experience of God in this vision that involves both sight and sound. Being in the presence of God in this manner is beyond description, and we see much of this imagery again in Revelation 4. This vision reveals the all-powerful majestic reign of Yahweh over all things; space, time, spiritual, material. This is symbolically depicted in the imagery of the eagle, human, lion and bull/cherub, which may represent the four cardinal points of the Babylonian Zodiac and the eyes representing all the other stars and constellations over which Yahweh rules and has authority.

- i. *Ezekiel 1:25-28* This is not an ET. This is a pre-incarnate vision of Jesus; the Second Person of the Trinity, Yahweh Who Saves. That is Who Ezekiel sees, and he worships HIM.
- f. *Ezekiel 10* “Creatures” in chapter 1 are explicitly described as cherubim in this other vision of Yahweh Who is now departing from His temple in Jerusalem to leave the remaining wicked people to Babylonian destruction. Yahweh, the Creator God of all things, is not geographically restricted like other lesser national deities, nor is Yahweh defeated by any of these lesser national deities; like the Marduk or Nebo gods of the Babylonians. Rather, Yahweh sovereignly left His holy temple because Israel defiled it by their repeated unfaithfulness to God’s gracious covenant with them.
 - i. This is not a description of a departing alien spacecraft. This is God riding upon His guarded chariot throne over all things as the sovereign God of gods, Lord of lords and King of kings He is.

4. Why must Christians be open to a spiritual supernatural worldview?

- a. It is the worldview of the Bible.
 - i. It is how God describes for us the cosmos and our world He created.
- b. We confess, according to the Nicene Creed, that we believe in “all things visible and invisible.” This implies an unseen supernatural spiritual realm that parallels and interacts with our visible natural material world.
- c. Supernaturalism is crucial to the truth of the Gospel.
 - i. Incarnation – the infinite, eternal, spiritual, all-powerful and all knowing God (re-/con-)strained Himself in the Person of Jesus to suffer and die as a human to redeem us

from our fallen rebellious condition. We are saved from: Sin, Death, and Satan who is an intelligent spiritual supernatural being that deceives. While the Devil cannot threaten our salvation, he can: 1). diminish, distort, and desecrate the genuine supernatural biblical revelation of God, and 2). rob us of our joyful assurance in the salvation we have because of Jesus'...

- ii. Resurrection – Jesus was raised from the dead. Now that is supernatural evidence, which is contrary to natural scientific laws, vindicating Jesus' claim He is the righteous and sinless God-man who died for our sins, so we may be reconciled to God and have eternal life in Him. This eternal life begins now through faith in this supernatural reality by the power of the Holy Spirit, and it involves a future resurrection of our own physical bodies in eternal glory to reign with Jesus when He Returns; at which time we, with Jesus, will even judge the angels (aka: supernatural beings).
- d. If we reject supernatural hypotheses across the board as potential explanations for events and messages that distort Jesus, the Bible, and the essence of the Christian faith; because, such a worldview does not fit within a limited naturalistic or materialistic worldview, then we must also, logically, have problems with these key supernatural elements about the Gospel of Jesus. And, if we deny these aspects of the Gospel because of their supernatural elements (e.g., the virgin birth, miracles of healing, and resurrection from the dead) well, then, it's really no Gospel at all, and we remain dead in our sins and Christ is of no consequence.
- e. ***Galatians 1:3-9 and Ephesians 6:10-12*** AMEN