

Questions for Lesson 14: The Paranormal: Scientific Evidences

1. 1 John 4:1 tells Christians to test every spirit. How does science help us do this?

Answer: Being able to prove fraud or natural explanations for so-called paranormal events can eliminate many claims out of hand.

2. Why is it important to consider such subjects as this one?

Answer: The question of whether we can “work out our own salvation” or not is vital. Knowing we can control our destiny underlies the reason for our being. Our confidence that God is in control needs to be unshakable.

3. What are some of the devious reasons people promote UFO sightings and wild theories about extraterrestrial influences upon man?

Answer: a) As a substitute for religion--a way of obtaining immortality.
b) To make money.
c) To get attention.
d) To justify things they do.

4. What things influence the credibility of a witness in this area of concern?

Answer: What is the reputation, education, medical, and mental history of the witness? Does he or she stand to make money or get attention through the experience? In Von Daniken's case we have a bartender who has made a business out of making claims of alien visitation to the earth.

5. What biblical relationships do people sometimes cite to support beliefs in ancient astronauts as the origin of man and his culture?

Answer: “Let us create man in our image” (Gen 1:26). Some, like Von Daniken, say Jesus was an astronaut (Ezekiel 1). Many quote from Revelation, or the story of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19. (You might discuss the basic misunderstanding that causes these claims.)

6. What natural or man-made things can cause a person to sincerely believe they saw a UFO?

Answer: Eye fatigue--specially in colors; meteorites and boloids; searchlights; experimental aircraft; balloons; background problems; clouds; planets; comets; atmospheric changes; kites; etc.

7. Suppose someone claims they had an experience that proves they had contact with an alien. What things could you do to prove to yourself that their claim is valid or invalid as the case might be?

Answer: Investigate their credibility as a witness (see question 3); demand physical evidence; investigate the environment in which the sighting was made for a natural explanation; and consult an expert.

8. Why could the creator of human life not be an astronaut?

Answer: An astronaut, if he existed, had to be created. This does not answer the

question of creation. Only the Creator of all things, including time, can answer the question of the origin of matter. An astronaut would not have perfect wisdom and could not give us the perfection of the Bible.

9. Why do UFO reports continue to fill the pages of the media with no response from scientists?

Answer: Scientists do respond, but the newspapers either do not print the explanations or bury them so few people see them.

10. It is frequently suggested that aliens from other galaxies (millions of light-years away) or from distant stars in our galaxy (thousands of light-years away) are visiting the earth and returning captives, etc., to their worlds. What impossible situation does this pose?

Answer: If they traveled at the speed of light, it would take thousands or millions of years to get here. Even if they did not age everyone on their home planet would. Their planet and everyone on it would be thousands or millions of years older than they would be. There is no point in an E. T. "going home" because no one they knew would be still alive.