



Good Morning America | World News | 20/20 | Primetime | Nightline | This Week | ABC News Now | i-Caught
September-16-08
Register | Sign In

Search GO

Home | World | U.S. | Investigative | Politics | Polls | Money | Health | Entertainment | ESPN Sports | **SciTech** | Law | Travel | On Campus

U.S. GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES \$85 BILLION BAILOUT OF AIG

[Home](#) > [Technology & Science](#)

Christian Theologians Prepare for Extraterrestrial Life

By **BRANDON KEIM**
June 15, 2008

WIRED
15 comments

Little green men might shock the secular public. But the Catholic Church would welcome them as brothers.

FONT SIZE A A A
EMAIL
PRINT
SHARE
RSS



(Getty Images)

That's what Vatican chief astronomer and papal science adviser Gabriel Funes explained in a recent article in L'Osservatore Romano, the newsletter of the Vatican Observatory ([translated here](#)). His conclusion might surprise nonbelievers. After all, isn't this the same church that imprisoned Galileo for saying that the Earth revolves around the sun? Doesn't the Bible say that God created man -- not little green men -- in his image?

Indeed, many observers assert that aliens would be bad for believers. Jill Tarter, director of the Center for SETI Research, once wrote that finding intelligent other-worldly life "will be inconsistent with the existence of God or at least organized religions." But such predictions tend to come from outside Christianity. From within, theologians have debated the implications of alien contact for centuries. And if one already believes in angels, no great leap of faith is required to accept the possibility of other extraterrestrial intelligences.

Related



Proof We're Not Alone? Judge for Yourself



WATCH: Alien Sighting in Colorado?

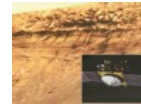


UFO Investigators Flock to Texas

Since God created the universe, theologians say, he would have created aliens, too. And far from being weakened by contact, Christianity would adapt. Its doctrines would be interpreted anew, the aliens greeted with open -- and not necessarily Bible-bearing -- arms.

"The main question is, 'Would religion survive this contact?'" said NASA chief historian Steven J. Dick, author of The Biological Universe. "Religion hasn't gone away after Copernican theory, after Darwin. They've found ways to adapt, and they'll find a way if this happens, too," Dick says.

Watch Video



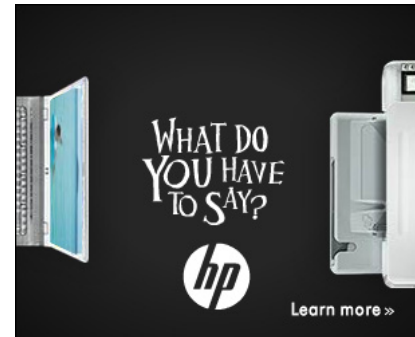
WATCH: University's Mission to Mars



WATCH: The Power of Niagara Falls



WATCH: Solar Kid's Bright Idea



Technology



Technology Could Have Averted L.A. Crash

In five years, new train control systems could prevent collisions.

[Technology Could Have Averted L.A. Crash](#)
[NASA Selects Mars Mission Proposal](#)
[HP Surprises With Size of EDS Job Cuts](#)
[Otherworldly: Planet Circling Distant Sun](#)
PHOTOS: [Japanese-Born Giant Panda Has Twins](#)

Slideshows



PHOTOS: Spiders & Celebs in Name Game



PHOTOS: Poof! Hollywood Disappears



PHOTOS: Hubble Captures Galaxy Shadows

Top Stories

Sponsored Links

"Murder Yellow Teeth" The Secrets Dentists don't want you to know about Teeth Whitening! www.best-teeth-whitening....

Artery Clearing Secret Hugh Downs reports on breakthrough from Nobel Prize Winning Doctor Healthsecrets.com

Buy a link here

The central conundrum posed to Christianity by alien contact would involve the Incarnation -- the arrival of Jesus Christ as God's representative on Earth, his crucifixion and the absolution of humanity's sins through his forgiveness.

"It would still be true -- but if there are other races and intelligences, then what is the meaning of this visit to our race at that time?" asked Vatican astronomer Guy Consolmagno, who in 2005 penned the booklet Intelligent Life in the Universe?



Bailout: Government Steps In, Gives \$85B Emergency

Streisand Headlines Obama Event

'Look & Leave' Policy a Logistical Nightmare

ABC News to Go

RSS Feeds Podcasts

E-mail Newsletters ABC News Mobile

1 | 2 | 3 NEXT >

Read 15 Comments and Post Your Own

Next Story: Technology Could Have Averted L.A. Crash

Sponsored Links

"Murder Yellow Teeth" The Secrets Dentists don't want you to know about Teeth Whitening! www.best-teeth-whitening.com

Artery Clearing Secret Hugh Downs reports on breakthrough from Nobel Prize Winning Doctor Healthsecrets.com

Top-Paid Fun Jobs Online Get paid to take online surveys, etc. Make \$25+/hr easy! Free to join. www.SurveyLot.com

Buy a link here

SHARE

- DIGG DELICIOUS FACEBOOK PRINT EMAIL RSS

UPLOAD



Most Popular

Viewed Commented Emailed

- Study: Water Bottles May Link to Diabetes Palin Impersonators Abound on TV, Web Lights Over Texas: UFO or Something Else? WATCH: Hillary Clinton on Economy, Palin WATCH: Hasselbeck Defends Obama?!? WATCH: Aged Tires: A Driving Hazard? PHOTOS: H'wood in Love: Wedding News PHOTOS: Hurricane Ike's Tremendous Toll PHOTOS: Damien Hirst Sale Breaks Records

More Popular News >

Comment & Contribute

If you would like to tell us more facts about this story, please click here to send the editors of ABC News a separate email with the information you have.

Empty text box for user comments

POST YOUR COMMENT

Member Comments (15)

annushka, it would be just like Fire Balloons from Ray Bradbury's book The Illustrated Man! TimTehOwnerer 7:51 PM

this is EPIC! Totally amazing! The CATHOLIC CHURCH. the people who are afraid of their own shadows... they'll accept beings from another planet? hah that's rich. TimTehOwnerer 7:38 PM

The vino flowing in the Vatican must be of excellent quality this time of year. Who makes this stuff up sober? soco2001 Jun-30

View All Comments (15)

More Coverage

- GALLERY: A Century of Automated Food Service GALLERY: Top 10 Wired Water Photos, Decided by Us GALLERY: The Drive-In Theater Turns 75 Proof We're Not Alone? Judge for Yourself WATCH: Alien Sighting in Colorado? UFO Investigators Flock to Texas WATCH: UFO Mystery Solved WATCH: Texas Residents See UFO



ADVERTISER LINK The New York Times Get home delivery of The New York Times for as low as \$3.15 a week.

[WATCH: Britain's UFO Secrets Revealed](#)

Must-Click Tech Features



PHOTOS: Spiders & Celebs in Name Game



PHOTOS: Poof! Hollywood Disappears



PHOTOS: Japanese-Born Giant Panda Has Twins



PHOTOS: Hubble Captures Galaxy Shadows



PHOTOS: Tiger and Pup: Friends Forever

[Feedback](#) | [Wireless](#) | [E-mails & News Alerts](#) | [Message Boards](#) | [RSS Headlines](#) | [Podcasts](#) | [ABC News Store](#)

[Contact Us](#) | [ABC.com](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Advertising Info](#) | [Terms of Use \(Updated 5/6/08\)](#) | [Privacy Policy/Your California Privacy Rights](#)

External links are provided for reference purposes. ABC News is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.

Copyright © 2008 ABCNews Internet Ventures