

COME SAIL AWAY: UFO PHENOMENON and THE BIBLE

"I thought that they were angels, but to my surprise, We climbed aboard their starship and headed for the skies..."
--STYX - COME SAIL AWAY (Copyright Warner Brothers. Used by Permission.)

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Waking dream, December 25, 1994

I'm slowly walking out of a room totally filled with darkness. An intense light is pouring through an open door, and I head toward it. But as I approach the door, still about ten feet away, I pause, seeing one of them next to the doorway. Aliens ... creatures ... other-dimensional visitors? Yet there he is. For the first time in my life, one of them simply stands there, not moving, only looking at me, both inviting and somehow imploring me to choose to commune with him, rather than walk through the doorway and into the light. This is totally unprecedented, for one of them to offer himself for close examination to me in this way (usually it's the other way around). It's a last-ditch effort on his part though; the ironic symbolism lies in the fact that the only reason I can see him so clearly at this moment, is because of the light coming through the open doorway. Still, I can't help but study him for several long seconds as I continue walking ... the all too familiar big black eyes that go on forever, his unproportionately large head, the skinny pale body. From only about two feet away now, and I can actually make out the texture of his skin. It's almost leathery looking - not parched or scaly, but smooth, dry and powdery.

I so want to stretch out my hand and touch him, to prove that he's really there. I am aware that in this moment I am free to ask him anything and everything, and he will answer, if only I will stay there with him a little longer. An almost irresistible part of me wants to. He seems so helpless, so beautiful, and so alone. He wants me to believe that he loves me. It's the ultimate temptation, for there are so many unanswered questions still. And unlike any of the times from my childhood, now *I'm* the one in control. I actually have the power to choose, rather than being the victim of an encounter I never asked for. Finally the decision comes easier than I would imagine, for The Light is my home now, my friend. I don't stop, but I tremble as I start to pass by him. I'm still a little afraid that at any moment he's going to put his hand (?) on my shoulder, or that a dozen more of them will step out from of the darkness to grab me before I can get free. It wouldn't be the first time, but I was without The Light then... now they do not have that power.

As I walk through the door, The Light - The True Light - totally engulfs me, filling my every molecule to the point of bursting. There is no fear in me now, only peace. Peace, love, and joy. An impossibly loud, clear voice vibrates through whatever I am made of at this moment. It's the same words Jesus used in Revelations, addressing the church at Thyatira, "You have not learned Satan's so-called dark secrets..." (Revelation 2:24 NIV) Those words still echoing through me, His Light still filling me, three and a half years after my conversion, I wake up. It's Christmas.

From The One That Got Away

INTRODUCTION

Well, there can be little doubt these days that something is going on. We're not in Kansas anymore. For fifty years now reports from sources both reliable and not-so-reliable have been filing in from every part of the planet. Reports about strange lights in the skies, about beings that abduct people for reasons as yet undetermined, and reports of government cover-up continue to fill not only our newspapers and tabloids, but our "mysterious phenomenon" television shows, our radio call-in hours, and especially the internet. Polls show that over 50% of Americans believe that the U.S. government currently withholds evidence and information about these "sightings," and an almost equal number believe that they've personally seen a UFO.

Scientific inquiry, which once regulated such stories to the realm of fantasy, has recently geared up to an all-time high, as many credible researchers now add their names to the list of "believers," or at least as those who will now approach the subject with an open mind, to study an increasingly large amount of data. Something not yet fully explained is definitely happening to our society, and more and more people are telling their stories, with more and more acceptance. Furthermore, more and more otherwise unrelated people are telling the same story. Final proof notwithstanding, to a large portion of the American public, the verdict may as well be in.

The phrase "We are not alone in the universe..." has escaped the realms of science fiction, and while we may still be afraid to say it individually, collectively, we believe it. The enormous financial success of books, movies and television shows dealing with space travel and alien races bears testimony to this belief, as well as to the desperate longing in our hearts; we want a plausible explanation for the paranormal activity that surrounds us. If you belong to the group that still holds to the opinion that nothing is really happening out there, that it's all in the minds of a delusionally paranoid few, then you're a dinosaur - and you're fading fast. Like it or not, E.T. has come home. Their presence almost a settled issue, more pressing questions begin to emerge. "What is their origin?" and even more unsettling, "What is their purpose?"

Science has long held the upper hand in answering almost every question posed by modern man. For nearly every problem, disease, malady, and necessity of the human condition, we have for too long been able to find a solution in the

laboratory. Bubonic plague? Cured it. Dark in here? Invented it. Can't get there from here? Faxed it. No doubt the inventive, creative, problem-solving mind is one of the greatest gifts our race has been given. We have advanced scientifically in the past century of human history more than perhaps all the rest of our years put together, leaving many of the most mundane tasks and pressing problems of humanity in the memories of our grandparents, even buried with our ancestors. However, we have forgotten that for most of our time on this planet, we did not have the technology god to meet our needs, to solve our problems, to answer our prayers. We had a creator.

Modern civilization has become so adept at producing our own solutions, we forget that the gift of the creative mind is just that, a gift. The ultimate designs for all of our machinery were given to us, and released through us, to bless us, and to relieve pain and suffering. However, we have forgotten that "our" technology was never really ours to begin with. Rather than viewing science as a tool given to us by God, we have allowed our science to replace our God. Our mindset nowadays can be described as *deus ex machina* - "The god out of the machine" - rather than the other way around. So naturally, when faced with so great a mystery as the question of "visitors," we have all too easily allowed ourselves in this case to seek out a "scientific explanation." We now demand it of science to explain this to us, never imagining in this day and age that there are some things that science cannot, and will never be able to answer for us. Every new frontier of the planet now conquered and mapped, but with no answers to this question in sight, all science has left to offer is the "final" frontier. The best science has to offer us is science fiction, and I dare say that we are all too eager to believe it.

The crux of finding the origins and intentions of our "visitors" does not lie in scientific discovery as we know it. For that, I'm going to ask you to let me take you somewhere you probably don't want to go. The Bible. If you dared to make the jump to this paragraph, then I must warn you of a few things. A Christian with a Bible can be quite annoying to your comfortable state of unbelief. And a Christian with a brain cannot be as easily dismissed as you might be accustomed to. But a Christian with both can be downright dangerous. Also, to follow along, you'll need to know that I'm one of the earlier mentioned 50% - I do believe the government has been holding out on us, and I have seen a UFO.

PART 1: THE RAPTURE

Throughout the 2000-year history of the church, a certain doctrine has been with us. While the Bible is hard to understand concerning the exact timing of this event, most Christians have been taught that at some point in the future, sometime before the "end of the world as we know it," every born-again believer will be snatched off the face of the Earth. The New Testament makes many references to this occurrence: "We believe that Jesus died and rose again ... the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air..." *1 Thessalonians 5:14-17*

Some have believed that none of this could happen until after all the events from the Book of Revelation have fully transpired, but Paul plainly speaks of those who will still be living at the Lord's coming. It is clear from these passages that there will be a group, or generation, of Christians who will not see physical death.

"Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep (die - used often in NT scripture), but we will all be changed -- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed..." *1 Corinthians 15:35*

This will happen supernaturally at a specific moment in time; we will simply disappear from right in front of the eyes of many -- millions of us at once, gone. It seems that Jesus also made reference to this event in the following passage: "For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other "...It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed ... I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left..."

Luke 17:24, 30-36 also in Matthew 24:39-41

While many Christians study and debate as to exactly when this will happen (before, during or after the seven-year tribulation period of the Book of Revelation), the fact that it will happen is pretty universally agreed upon. In fact, we are actually discouraged in the scriptures from trying to pin down the timing precisely (1 Thess 5:1-3, Matthew 24:36, Acts 1:7). Besides, we have more important things to do in the meantime, anyway.

OK, so what's all this have to do with UFOs and little green men, anyway?

To get into that, I must first take a detour into "eschatology," or "end-times theology," if only to describe what (I believe) the Bible teaches the world will look like at the time of the rapture. I also believe that between now and then, the government will have released most of its information on UFOs to the general public, and by then the world will be just swarming with "alien visitors." Many UFO researchers believe this also, as well as believing that it's going to happen sooner than we may think. At present our world is undergoing a gradual, but definite change in regard to world politics, religion, and even currency. It would seem that we are on the way to having a "one-world" system of government. There are two distinct "camps," or points of view in regard to this happening - those that ask, is it a good thing or a bad thing? No doubt - it is a logical thing. The world is getting smaller, travel and communication have become ridiculously simple, our resources are dwindling, and governments do need to work together to ensure the mutual survival and peace of all the world's inhabitants. *A worldwide belief in life on other planets, whether they pose a*

threat or not, demands that we become a united world (a theme common in pulp fiction). Where this is all going sets the stage for the issue at hand - the role of UFOs in our present, and future, society.

Christians generally believe that the book of Revelation teaches that in the end-times (during the last seven years of history before the return of Jesus Christ), that we will have both a one-world leader, and system of government. The thirteenth chapter of Revelation mentions two "beasts" that will have power over the people the earth. When reading Revelation, note that in earlier Biblical writings, the kingdoms of the earth, and their political rulers, are described symbolically, as fictional wild beasts. Revelation owes much of its symbolism to the interpretation of a dream God had given Daniel (Old Testament, late 500s B.C.) about kingdoms yet to come.

"So he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things: The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth. But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever ... I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head, and about the other horn that came up ... He gave me this explanation: 'The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear upon the earth. *It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth...*'"

(It is possible that we who are alive today are witnessing the fulfillment of this 2500-year old prophecy, as a one-world government begins to evolve before our eyes, just as the Roman Empire once "devoured" the ancient world.)

"The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, *different from the earlier ones*; he will subdue three kings. He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints ... the saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time (a year, two years and half a year, or 3 1/2 years.)." *Daniel 7:15-25*

One would be hard-pressed today to find a well-grounded Christian who interprets Revelation as meaning that literal beasts and dragons will arise to destroy the earth. With the above key to interpretation, we can more clearly understand what is going on in the earth at the time of Revelation chapter thirteen.

"And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads ... The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion (also in Daniel 7:1-14). *The dragon gave the beast his power* and his throne of great authority ... Men worshipped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshipped the beast ... The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months (3 1/2 years)... He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. *And (as ruler of the one-world government) he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.*" *Revelation 13:1-8*

One-world government is not a bad idea. It makes sense. However, the Bible teaches 2000 and 2500 years before it ever comes about that when it finally does happen, "the dragon" (Rev 13:4, above) will be in charge of it all. The authority behind the one-world system will be Satan himself, and all the kingdoms of the world will be demonically influenced at their highest levels. The only other time in history that all of the known world was posed to stand together under a one-world government was at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11). They also served under an ungodly ruler, Nimrod, great-grandson of Noah. The purpose of building the tower was to ascend into heaven; if God chose to flood the world again, He would have to flood heaven to get at them. They wanted to become equal to, or even replace God with their technology -- *dues ex machina*.

(Note: Satan is referred to as "the dragon" in Rev 20:2. If the existence of Satan and/or demons is something you doubt, *The Kingdom of Darkness* (appendix to this article), contains two excellent Biblical studies, from outside sources, on the origin of Satan, the demonic realm, and their ability and agenda of influencing the world. Don't discount the above without reading through it, if the concept is foreign, or ridiculous, to you.)

OK, OK! BUT WHERE DO THE UFOs COME IN?

Ask yourself a question - If at some point in the future, assuming you hadn't read this article, or had no training or belief in Christian doctrine, and millions of people instantly disappeared from the face of the earth, while driving, flying airplanes, from right in front of your eyes or from your bed, where would you think they all went? As a brand new believer (at age 23), I was introduced to the teaching, or doctrine, of the rapture a few years ago. I asked myself the same question. The whole concept seemed pretty hard to swallow. Yet there it was, spread all over my Bible (technically, the word "rapture" is not in the Bible. It comes from the Latin "rapturos," which means, "catching away;" found in 1 Thess 4.)

My life and way of thinking had changed a lot already in the past year. I'd spent most of the spiritual portion my life in the pursuit of knowledge of all sorts of supernatural phenomenon - astrology, Eastern religions, meditation, Native American sorcery, psychic powers, karma, reincarnation, astral projection, and of course UFO research. Anything New Age and I was into it. In fact after I became a Christian, one friend candidly said to me that Christianity was just my flavor of the month, and predicted I'd be onto something else in no time (Well B, six years later, and here I am!). You'd think I'd be pretty hard pressed to find something that startled me.

So what could I do? I either had to chuck the whole thing, or believe it. As I said, it was all over my Bible, and was a foundational belief of church history through the ages (go ahead, find any Christian you happen to know if and ask them if they believe in the rapture). I was definitely convinced that the Bible was true, that Jesus was, and is, God incarnate, and that most of the other Biblical teachings of the end times I'd heard and read made sense. Still, millions of people disappearing at once? And history continuing, for possibly years? It was a big pill. If you're reading about it here

for the first time and having trouble believing it, trust me, I understand! No, I wouldn't walk away from my belief in Jesus, nor could I dismiss a portion of the Bible just because I had trouble with it. I prayed for revelation, for understanding. Where would the world governments say all the people went? Then one day, it hit me. Standing outside of a grocery store, while running an errand with my older brother, God answered.

"They'll say the UFO people took them away..."

It was too obvious. I'm far from the only believer to have figured this one out. But to work, it would have to be the greatest deception ever pulled on the face of the earth...

PART 2: THE GREATEST DECEPTION EVER

"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by devils..." *1 Timothy 4:1*

The Bible clearly states that deceiving spirits are sent out into the world to lead people away from a knowledge of God, and to cause people to resist the preaching of the gospel.

"And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers*, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." *2 Corinthians 4:4*

Upon becoming a new believer, many people say, "My eyes have been opened for the first time." For example, the New Testament records the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, a Jew, who persecuted the early church. He even gave consent to the first recorded public murder of a Christian (Acts 8:1).

"Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes ... He got up and was baptized ... At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God." *Acts 9:18-20*

Saul became known as the Apostle Paul, Christianity's "greatest" missionary, as well as author of two-thirds of the New Testament. Indeed, even the well-known lyric from the song *Amazing Grace*, "I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see," bears witness that this opening of the eyes, this release from darkness, is a common testimony of those who now follow Jesus.

The existence of a deceiving demonic hierarchy, and "schemes" of Satan to keep people from embracing Christ, can be found all over scripture. Paul wrote to the new Christians and leaders of the churches at Ephesus and Corinth: "...take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the *rulers*, against the *authorities*, against the *powers* of this dark world, and against the *spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms*." *Ephesians 6:12*

And

"... we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish *strongholds*. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God." *2 Corinthians 10:4-5*

These "strongholds" of "evil in the heavenly realms" manifest themselves often as "rulers" over certain geographic areas, keeping populaces tied to a particular area of sin, bondage, addiction, or even a philosophy, which opposes the "knowledge of God". For example, what do you think of when you see or hear the words Las Vegas? or San Francisco? Sodom and Gomorra? In the book of Daniel, Chapter 10, a "power struggle" between an angel and such a demon is detailed. After three weeks of prayer and fasting, Daniel has this experience.

"His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches .. He said ... 'I have now been sent to you ... But *the prince of the Persian Kingdom* resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, *because I was detained with the king of Persia*. Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come.' " *Daniel 10:5-14*

In addition to geographic locations, these demonic spirits (such as greed, ambition, lust, racism, witchcraft, hatred, false doctrine) and their deceptive philosophies, can influence outlets to the public, such as the newspaper, music, or entertainment industry. Or perhaps even, an entire society *through* an industry...

Kirk to Enterprise

During recent years, aliens have graduated from their common portrayal as robots or monsters from the 1950s fantasy movie era. Today's audience views "your average extra-terrestrial" as being intelligent, capable of space travel, spiritual, peaceful, and beneficial to humanity. Since the 1970s release of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, television and movie viewers have been inundated with fascinating, plausible stories of aliens come to visit the earth, and maybe even lend a helping hand. A few months before beginning work on this article, I heard an interview on the Art Bell Show (talk radio), with Dr. Richard Boylan, noted researcher and author of many books on UFOs (he has also appeared on *Larry King Live*, and other respected media venues). He is a definite believer that our government has made "contact." It seems that he gets kicked off of the now well known "Area 51" more often than agents Scully and Mulder. There are also, he claims, times that he doesn't get kicked off, but remains undetected to observe whatever may be going on there at the time.

I mention him here because he is one of the most credible and scientific, not to mention high-profile, voices in the UFO community. He does not (I think, anyway) take a Biblical viewpoint on the UFO phenomenon, but made a statement on this one particular show that I took note of. His belief is that the U.S. government (specifically the CIA) has long been using the movie industry to promote a belief in, and general acceptance of, alien beings among the

American population. He cited instances of the same thing happening during World War II - the government at least influencing Hollywood's portrayal of the Japanese and Germans, thereby influencing the public toward patriotism, and to believe, and do, what the government then wanted. Propaganda, plain and simple (*we* labeled it entertainment, and paid good money to see it). He went on to say that he firmly believes that someone, some group, somewhere in the government is today influencing the television and movie industry. Skipping ahead, he also believes that sometime this year, at least one televised landing of a UFO on American soil, perhaps even near a military base, complete with President Clinton present, will occur.

For such a thing to happen out of the blue would most likely cause widespread panic. But in the past two decades, our society has become softened to the shock such a happening could produce. Boylan believes that our government has had a hand in movies like *E.T.*, *Star Trek: First Contact*, and countless others (you know the list as well as I do - *Contact*, *Men in Black*). The whole point being to prepare us (or brainwash us, if you like) for such an occurrence. Outside of the movie industry, we have been influenced by our popular culture in general. In music, twenty years ago, not only did the STYX hit, *Come Sail Away*, have a generation singing the UFO national anthem, but rock's BOSTON had us drawing flying saucers on our desks at school, even wearing the T-shirt. Anybody remember Billy Thorpe's *Children of the Sun*? (Do you notice the role drugs plays in this?) Sci-fi novels, television shows, even commercials too numerous to count have pounded us time and time again, sweeping us away to other worlds, or brought the other worlds home to Earth. And we love it! Whether or not our government has been involved, I submit to you that a spiritual plan to "help us believe" has been underway for some time. And whatever forces are propelling this "de-sensitization," it has worked incredibly well! We are not only prepared to believe in UFOs, and aliens in general, but as a whole, our society is becoming more and more eager to meet them...

And you're saying that's a bad thing?

"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God ... every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming *and even now is already in the world.*" *1 John 4:1-3*

Actually, the word *antichrist* is not quite as ominous as it sounds. Popular belief says that there is *an* antichrist who will ... I don't know... destroy the world or something like that. Most people (many Christians included) picture this antichrist person as a maniacal leader with a turban covering the 666 stamped on his head, breathing fire from his eyes and nostrils, and just generally wreaking all kinds of havoc upon mankind. Biblically, nothing could be farther from the truth.

The word is not even in the book of Revelation, anywhere. The word is used only in John's letters. It means simply "against Christ." The antichrist is *not* a particular person. It is described as a powerful spirit, which deludes multitudes. Would you care to know who "the" antichrist is? Straight from the Bible? "It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah). Such a man is the antichrist - - he denies the Father and the Son." *1 John 2:22*
The antichrist is any philosophy, any religion, or anybody, who denies Jesus. Anybody.

But it's a New Age

The technology of modern man makes almost every bit of stored data on the planet accessible to anybody who wants it - upon demand, at our fingertips, live and in color. Even before the advent of the home computer, East had met West, reviving "gods" and philosophies long dead. Just as world governments are slowly interweaving, so too are many of the religious philosophies of the ages mingling to form a "politically correct" worldview of spirituality. Everybody's right. Nobody's wrong. It all depends on how you look at it. All roads lead to the top of the mountain. I got my spirit guide, you get yours. The true issue at hand here is not whether UFO and "visitor" happenings are real or not. I believe that they are. The question is whether they really are extra-terrestrial life forms, here to help us, or demons, with the express purpose of deceiving multitudes.

So what's the test? Jesus taught that we could recognize a tree by the fruit it bears (Matt 7:15, Sermon on the Mount). Good fruit, good tree. Bad fruit, bad tree. The premise here so far is that there are, all over the Bible, descriptions of demonic forces that have the specific task of "blinding the minds of unbelievers (2 Cor 4:4, earlier)" so that they will not be able to believe the gospel when it is preached to them, because there are other, not-from-God philosophies, in their (your?) mind.

Almost all the books on UFOs are found in the New Age section of your local bookstore. Examine the fruit of the UFO culture. Does it lead people to Jesus? Do you know of any strong adherents to the UFO culture, who believe aliens are among us, that are also strong, well-grounded, church-going, Bible-believing Christians? How about yourself? If you have a strong interest in UFOs, (or memories of), are you a Christian? What is your attitude toward Christians? Toward Jesus? Generally, those who have a strong "faith" in UFOs, also have a non-Christian belief system that would be described as New Age. Is this you? Is there a voice in your head or an attitude of your heart that says, "Christianity is an archaic, extinct religion! It's a New Age!" More accurately, it's an old age recycled.

As King Solomon declared almost 3000 years ago, "What has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which one can say, 'Look! This is something new'? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time. (Ecclesiastes 1:9-10)" Does anybody besides me remember when bell-bottomed pants were stupid looking? Yet here they are again, all the rage. "New Age" religion works on the same principal - 'they went for it once, just give 'em time to forget about it and they'll probably buy it again!' We fail to see that these ideas of

reincarnation and karma and spirit guides died out once already. They died out because the "glorious light of the gospel of Christ" spread to so much of the known world. They died out because of their lack of ability to truly fulfill the longing in our hearts to know, and be known by, God.

They died out because all their followers got saved. They died out because they were false. But the deceptive forces behind them - those "*spiritual forces of evil; powers, principalities and rulers in the heavenly realms*" - now exorcised, lived on. But because of the wide-scale success of the gospel, they had to wait over a thousand years to influence society again. They had to wait until everybody had forgotten about them. They had to wait for a New Age.

Ladies and gentlemen ... Whitley Strieber

If while reading this, you're very skeptical about this whole rapture/UFO/demonic deception hypothesis, perhaps the following line of thought has occurred to you (it did to me, anyway): If the doctrine of the rapture has been with the Church throughout the ages, and UFO phenomenon is fairly a recent occurrence, what if "the end had come" 100 years ago? Or 500 years ago? Or a thousand? Wouldn't that blow the demonic deception theory right out of the water? After all, there were no space people around to blame the disappearance on, *right?*

Well, yes and no. And I have another well-known UFO person to thank for help on this one. Certainly there have been many times in church history when many Christians believed that certain signs had been fulfilled, that the rapture was imminent, and that a particular world leader was indeed "the" antichrist. During the 1930s and 40s, Hitler was thought by many to be the antichrist, as was Napoleon to some, and Russia's Peter the Great before them. In fact, many first-century Christians were certain that Jesus was returning before their lifetime was over; the letters Paul wrote to them (containing the scriptures quoted earlier about both the "dead in Christ" and those still alive) were to assure them that their departed brethren would take part in the Resurrection. One would be fair in saying that a certain paranoia about the end of days has accompanied the church over the centuries. Many zealous people have quit their jobs, moved, sold land, *and even gotten saved* due to a misinterpretation of "current" events and their relation to Biblical prophecy. In fact, today may be no different. I'd bet that over 90% of the Christians one might ask believe that the Second Coming will occur in their lifetime. Myself, I hope there's another thousand years left. Honestly though, I kind of doubt it.

But again, what if? Actually, that one can be answered without the Bible. In the late 80s Whitley Strieber topped the New York Times best-seller list with his book, *Communion: A True Story*. He told what was, at the time, the most widely believed and accepted account of "visitor" abduction to date. In many ways, his work broke tremendous ground for UFO researchers and casual tabloid followers alike, bringing a new degree of credibility, as well as scientific, spiritual and philosophical insight to the subject. Additionally, he included transcripts of himself and his wife recounting their "visitor" experiences while under hypnosis. Score one for the New Age! He is absolutely one of the fathers of the modern UFO culture, and I respect both his work, and willingness to come forth to share his experiences (which I do believe happened), and putting them to the scrutiny of the public at large. But did you know he wrote a sequel?

In *Transformation*, Strieber hypothesized (correctly, to my mind) that the "visitor" phenomenon has been with us for much longer than man has been airborne, only they looked a little different in ages past. His belief was that they have always had a place in our mythology, progressively "revealing their presence" to us. Several hundred years ago, the popular folklore (pulp fiction) of European medieval times was full of stories of "the fairie people," little people with big black eyes that spirited unsuspecting loners away to caves, poking them with magic wands, and returning them to society with mad tales of "visitor abduction." Longer ago, seafaring travelers told of the "sirens of the sea," mystical beings who seduced sailors with their magickal song (*Come Sail Away* perhaps?), leaving episodes of "missing time" in their journals.

Yes, Whitley, they've always been with us. And like us, they've changed with the times, too. They've changed from being the undisputed masters of sorcery, to that of science and technology. If the church had been snatched away, if "the end" had come by now, there would have been another group of supernatural visitors from the fringes of our fantasy realms, a different face on the same old recycled demons, to accept credit for the work of God, persuading us to believe in, and to trust and follow them. And we would have, golden calf and all. Despite our science, we really haven't gotten any smarter.

"In the past, God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent..."
Acts 17:30

These words were spoken by the Apostle Paul in the city of Athens. At the time, Athens was the religious and intellectual center of the known world - the "place to be" to worship at the very best temples, to see every idol to every god known, or to catch up on the absolutely freshest philosophies ("All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas." Acts 17:21). Every guru, philosophy or teaching from every age known to man had a home in Athens. It was the "New Age" capital of the "Old World."

In this setting, to this crowd of spiritual and intellectual giants, Paul preached a new message: "... all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead (Acts 17:31)." Two thousand years ago, the world was turned upside down by twelve men with one message: the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Much of the world believed, and turned from spiritual practices that had been common to them for generations. They repented.

Anybody associated with the current, trendy New Age movement would claim that we are only now "re-discovering" the wisdom of the ages. I submit to you that you are simply believing today the same ideas your ancestors rejected when they first heard the gospel. And I'd also be willing to bet that you've never really heard the gospel, only a watered-down version of what once changed the world, and forced demonic powers and principalities to have to wait centuries before they could be *en vogue* again. As Hitler once said, "People swallow lies easily, provided they're big enough."

PART 3: THE GRAND DELUSION

"For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie" 2 *Thessalonians* 2:12

Hey, thanks for hanging with me this long! In the years before I was a Christian and people would try to influence me from the Bible, I would not sit still for more than a scripture or two at any given time. I commend your patience and open-mindedness for sitting through this lengthy dissertation as long as you have. I doubt that I would have made it this far into reading this article several years ago; I was simply predisposed to reject the Bible. Up 'till now, maybe you have been also, and I appreciate your patience in allowing me to build to my conclusion. ~ Assuming you're not a Christian, I'm painfully aware, and sympathetic, that simply being willing to read this far has really stretched the limits of your believability, as the viewpoints stressed here are not only new, but maybe even ridiculous to you. If you've made it this far, even if you've been rolling your eyes along the way, I call you far more open-minded than the average person for being willing to consider my words today. ~ I know from my experiences on both sides of the fence, that people who are not Christians are more likely to read the Bible accounts about Satan, and things about the end-times, than they are about Jesus; this last part has lots of that. As I wind this down, stick around for meaty references to Revelation, the beast, The New World Order, 666, and the "end of the world as we know it!" But first, back to the beginning of history, and those neat scriptures UFO researchers like to use a lot. Thanks; may God richly bless you as you continue to seek truth. Guy Malone Nashville, TN July 14, 1997

Genesis 6 to "666"

There is a reference to another perhaps non-human race (the Nephilim) mentioned in the Bible. In Genesis, the "sons of god" are mentioned in a context that definitely portrays them as spirit beings. Some UFO researchers believe that the Bible already supports the existence of our "visitors" in question, and that Christians should be eager to learn more about them, and even learn from them, instead of calling them evil spirits. In all fairness, I wish to explore this reference in this final part. Obviously, my conclusions will differ from those who believe that these passages support the benign intentions of the ETs, but they are interesting, and must be addressed in any work of this nature. (The Bible "mentions" Satan and numerous evil men, too - but just because they're in there does not alone make them "good.")

In the beginning, when the serpent approached Eve, he used a deception to convince Eve that it was okay to eat from the tree God had said not to. The Bible states that this act (referred to as The Fall of Man) separated Adam, Eve, and subsequently all of mankind from the close union God had originally set up. The exact same lies "the serpent" used then, are still being used with great effectiveness today, and can be found in some fashion in every - *yes, every* - fundamental principal of New Age doctrine (detailed in depth in Appendix B - *New Age, Ancient Lies*).

The Fall results in a downward spiral of morality, as all humans are born into this "fallen" state. The Flood of the ancient world is the result of God's decision to wipe out all of mankind, except the family of Noah, because of the great wickedness on the Earth. Just before this, we see the reference to the Nephilim. As the human family begins to increase in number, Genesis 6 reads... " ... the Sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose ... The Nephilim were on the earth in those days - *and also afterward* - when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown." *Genesis 6:1-4*

It should be noted first, that these "Sons of God" mentioned were not doing the will of God - they were sinning - by joining with human females. They were fallen angels, and are not "at large" in the world today, but are bound awaiting final judgment. Peter mentions them twice in the New Testament, first: "... *God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment ... he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people... (2 Peter 2:4-5)*" and again in Jude: "*And the angels who did not keep their position of authority but abandoned their own home - these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. (Jude 6).*" What we see in the Bible as demons, are not *these* fallen angels. Many Bible scholars believe that 1/3 of the angels fell from heaven with Lucifer, and that *those "angels" remaining are* active today (Appendix C). Some believe that what we call demons are the disembodied spirits of the Nephilim who died in The Flood, or at other points in history.

But in short, there are those who speculate that the "visitors" many of us label as extra-terrestrial, are really from Earth - either the "Sons of God" - or the children from their union with early humans - the Nephilim. These people maintain that Christianity is ignorant of the reality of their modern existence. It is possible that the Nephilim did escape the earth before The Flood. Perhaps they have even returned from time to time, to keep tabs, and even "help us" technologically. Perhaps they built the Pyramids. Or Stonehenge. Or the "face" on Mars. Who can say? Regardless of one's religious beliefs (and this is where far too many of my fellow Christians fall short in relating to thinking non-Christians), one cannot deny that these things *do exist*, and that there is no known explanation for the technology that inspired them. The church needs to wake up to the fact that there really is some amazing and unexplainable stuff out there, and the world is fascinated past the point of obsession with it!

How often have we heard that life on other planets might disprove the Bible? Like the apologetics of old, we must be prepared for this issue if we are to impact today's culture. An ancient earth race that left (or another race from the stars) truly is the best logical explanation for these structures. Many people groups from all over the world have similar ancient beliefs in "star people," who at one time "visited" their ancestors, and believe that these same beings will one day return. And the Bible does mention that the Nephilim (*giants* - KJV) were on the earth before The Flood, "... *and also afterward*" (Genesis 6:4). Since there is no historical account, in or outside of the Bible, that tells of their extinction, it really may not too be far-fetched to imagine that they could still be around somewhere.

Noah spent 120 years building the ark. What do you suppose the Nephilim might have spent their spare time building? However, realize, if one is to refer to Genesis 6 to support the existence of the visitors, one must note also, that like all of mankind at the time, they were so evil that God chose to wipe them out, *and to not replenish the earth with more of their kind* (he chose Noah's family to replenish humanity, and to keep land dwelling species alive). This cannot be ignored or understated. The Nephilim, these fallen angels, and their frequent visitations of humankind, were a major cause of the evil state mankind was in, resulting in the judgment of destruction from God.

If indeed, the visitors of today's UFO culture are mentioned in the early pages of the Bible, before any speculation as to the intentions of the Nephilim, or the "offspring," and especially their current relation to humans can be made, it must be noted that *the only reason they might still exist today is that they escaped the judgment of God ...* So far.

Just because they are mentioned in the Bible does not alone make them good. If, the Nephilim from Genesis 6 are the visitors of today, I am submitting to you that their agenda for "helping" us is merely an effort to deceive us into thinking that we, too, can escape God's final judgment of the earth. Whether or not Genesis 6 provides their ancient origins, *today's visitors are intent in offering* the false hope that, through technology (*deus ex machina*), we can build an escape route to the heavenlies where God can't get to us. Except that we tried that one already, remember?

The Tower of Babel never made it to its destination, but those who inspired its building have been waiting an awful long time to get us to try it again. Only this time they're offering passenger service - complete with *one heck* of an advance marketing campaign. (At this point, getting into the idea that Ezekiel chapter 1 mentions a UFO would weary the average reader. If this is important to you, you know who you are. The first verse of that passage points out that it was a vision into the heavenly realm, the throne of God, not the night desert sky of highway 51. The creatures mentioned had four faces (man, ox, lion, and eagle - a common messianic description of Jesus), four wings and feet like a calf. Remember the visions from Daniel and Revelation from earlier? Ezekiel also later had a vision of skeletons coming together into an army. IT'S SYMBOLIC! To the staunch believers that the Bible might at least, maybe, possibly, point out extra-terrestrials, isn't it really stretching logic to put so much stock into those few passages, but not believe any of the rest of the whole book? Especially the constantly recurring themes - like God, and sin, and judgment? 'Nuff said. [E-mail](#), or write me, if you want to discuss it.)

There is "buzz" among the UFO community that much of our most modern technology comes from the "wreckage" recovered from the 1947 Roswell, New Mexico incident, and perhaps other such finds. *Many among the UFO community*, Streiber included, *hypothesize that the visitors have been intentionally active in the development of our technology*, guiding us for perhaps even many centuries. The numerous "sightings" of UFOs this century have always been of aircraft styles just ahead of what man was capable of at the time (that the general public knew of, that is). Balloons and cigar-shaped blimps were reported around the turn of the century in numerous newspapers, and since World War II the unidentifiable craft reported have been exceptionally fast and maneuverable, compared to the norm for the time period. There is much speculation that our government has either captured or recovered "alien" craft, perhaps even been in communication with their pilots, and has been involved in secret research and development for some time. Many sightings occur curiously near to military bases, suggesting either that the visitors are purposely helping the government to develop more advanced aircraft, or simply that the newest "space-age" technology, including anti-gravity, and "warp-drive" ships, are tested frequently at these locations. Some believe the government may even hoax some sightings, in keeping with the agenda of preparing us for some future announcement. If this agenda truly is demonic, even I'll admit that it's ridiculously elaborate...

But come on! Aside from the possibility of demonic influence in the construction of the Tower of Babel, am I really stretching this thing too far in suggesting that demons could have a role, or a purpose, for guiding our technology? For somehow influencing our government and scientists? In other words, *does the Bible* make any mention of any such demonic use of technology? You know me by now - would I have brought it up if it didn't?

The Mark of the Beast

As mentioned earlier, the governments and religions of the world are on a fast track to merging into a one-world system. To be workable, of course, necessity will demand a common economic unit, such as has been introduced to the European market. It has already been stated that scripture predicts the rise of this one-world government, and that it will be run under satanic rulership. Furthermore, Revelation also mentions *even the system* of monetary exchange that will prevail during this brief time period (less than three and one-half years), and modern technology will play the most crucial role in bringing it about.

Shortly after the beast assumes his place of "... authority over every tribe, people, language and nation (Rev 13:7)," he is mortally wounded, and a second "beast" arises. "Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but spoke like a dragon. He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the

earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men ... " *Revelation 13:11-13*

At this time, the second beast institutes a worldwide financial system which one must be part of in order to conduct any type of business, including, presumably, grocery shopping. "He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, *so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark*, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name ... His number is 666." *Revelation 13:16-18*

To understand how the world's entire economy could be tied into a mark on one's flesh would be a completely unimaginable miracle - a near impossibility - inconceivable to most Christians throughout the ages. This has left some events of the book of Revelation a little hard to piece together into a believable probability, much less an immediate future.

In order to accomplish such an incredible thing, you'd have to have some way to access a person's bank account from anywhere in the known world; all financial institutions would have to have some way of talking to each other through some sort of, of, machinated "net," or a "web," or something; you'd have to come up with some sort of mark, or magnetic strip, or some "barred code" that some futuristic "scanner" could read; surgical or laser-tattoo technology capable of implanting it, and a "personal secret code" so that no one could ever rob you in this "cashless society." Any-time machinery, for financial transactions, would have to be everywhere. Everyone would have to be assigned a separate number at birth. These "scanner devices" would have to be in every grocery, hardware, department and convenience store, and every product would have to be marked with this computerized bar-code... Yup, you'd need all that...

Get that in place and you're ready to go. Now, I'm not saying that the devil invented the computer, or the bar-code, or anything like that. I love technology! And I believe that it is a gift from God. However, scripture points out that Satan will, in this case, *use* these or similar devices for his purposes - *that a demonic influence to the application of our inventions is certain*. As Jeff Goldblum, somewhat prophetically, points out in the enormously successful movie *Independence Day*, while describing the invaders' relaying of *their* countdown with *our* communication satellites...

"They're using our own technology against us."

Crescendo

Just before the end of the cold war era, in the mid-eighties, DC Comics published one of their best-selling (and thereby, culture influencing) series ever. Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons' *Watchmen* depicted a retired crime-fighter and multi-millionaire, and his plan to "save the world" from self-destruction. The master stroke to his plan was to attack New York City, kill millions of people, and trick the world into thinking that we were under alien attack! In a departure from your typical last-minute rescue scenario, the other heroes failed to stop him in time, and he did it.

It was the greatest deception ever, but guess what? *It worked*. In the story's concluding chapter, Russia and America cease their hostilities toward one another, and world leaders begin to agree to finally cooperate. The reader is treated to scenes of flags joined together, and a new dawning for mankind as we approach the millennium. A New Age. In *Independence Day*, we saw the same scenario repeated, but this time, with "real" alien invaders. World leaders joined forces, uniting the planet, giving us the feel-good ending we all really wanted (again, despite the massive death toll). As mentioned earlier, a worldwide belief in life on other planets, whether they pose a threat or not, demands that we become a united world. *Every form of popular fiction that we enjoy has become saturated with this message*, with increasing popularity and financial success. We want to believe there's a happy ending, and if it requires aliens to give it to us, then so be it.

To our collective unconscious, it seems that our world stands on the brink of destruction. But through our popular fiction, and the New Age movement in general, there is an audible whispering to our souls, to our collective mind, that that the current path of the human family has us on a collision course with a brave new world - one that involves the death of unprecedented millions to bring about, one that involves our entire planet joining as one, one that involves ancient karma and a New Age upon the earth - one that will finally achieve world peace, a utopia, for those who will make the jump.

If you are an adherent to the UFO culture, you probably believe much of the following (even if you're not, subconsciously, you've been exposed to much of this from popular culture, and might already believe most of it as well): They are obviously more advanced technologically. They are highly evolved spiritually, as well. They have achieved peace on their home-world(s). They are here to help us. They are greatly concerned about stopping the certain ecological destruction of the planet, which we have callously unleashed. They will unite us. They will save us from nuclear holocaust. They will lead us into the 'next step' of our species' evolution. They are perhaps even 'old souls,' some maybe even from Earth who have 'moved on.' They love us. They will show us the way. They will give us the secrets of space travel technology, and possibly allow us to join them. If it's too late for our planet, they will invite us to come sail away...

Here and now, the line gets drawn...

For those who will receive it, this is what The Bible has to say about the end of this age, and the beginning of the new one. "Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him ... Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction (the beast, the one-world ruler) ... the secret power of lawlessness *is already at work* ... the

lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. *They perish because they refuse to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth...* 2 *Thessalonians 2:1-12*

One might be tempted (especially Christians) to believe that God would not send a delusion. However, the following example from the Old Testament illustrates this principal, as well as depicts God's sovereign use of even evil spirits. "Micaiah continued... the Lord said, 'Who will entice Ahab into attacking Ramoth Gilead and going to his death there?' ... a spirit came forward, stood before the Lord and said, 'I will entice him.' 'By what means?' the Lord asked. 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets,' he said. 'You will succeed in enticing him,' said the Lord. 'Go and do it.' *So now the Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours. The Lord has decreed disaster for you.*" 1 *Kings 22:19-23*

I believe this passage illustrates the nature of the delusion God will release upon the earth in the final days. For all those who refuse to love the truth, "and so be saved," a greatly convincing falsehood will permeate the whole of society. Chief among the "prophets with lying spirits in their mouths," in our time, will be those telling us to trust in visitor intervention to solve our problems... Of course, we are no doubt concerned about the rise of natural disasters, global warming, tectonic activity, the holes in the ozone layer, and rightly so. The rain forests and oceans are becoming polluted and destroyed by our own hands. Any of this alone could result in our planet becoming uninhabitable. But can it be averted? The Bible predicts that at the end of this age, and before the new one begins, natural disasters and ecological collapse will be widespread.

"There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains..." *Jesus, quoted in Matthew 24:7-8*

Even before their mass "arrival," human society is becoming all too willing to believe that the space people will be able to help fix these things for us, with their advanced technology. *We will believe the lie*, and put our faith in evil spirits. The "presence" of aliens and UFOs is *intended* to capture the hearts and attentions of those who refuse the gospel's message, to so completely draw them away from the Lord Jesus that there will be no "gray area" as to where their hearts are at the time of the final Judgment. The Bible emphatically says though, that this world *will* pass away, and its ecology will be ruined.

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea..." *Revelation 21:1*

During the final years before this happens, the world will seem to fall to pieces anyway, as judgments worse than The Flood are progressively unleashed. Nothing will stop or "fix" them.

"I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power *over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague ...*" *Revelation 6:8*

"There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black ... the moon turned blood red ... and every mountain and island was removed from its place." *Revelation 6: 12-14*

"Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth: and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake..." *Revelations 8:5*

"... hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth. *A third of the earth was burned up, and all the green grass was burned up ... something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed ... a great star fell, blazing like a torch, from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water --- the name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died...*" *Revelation 8:7-11*

Realize that these disasters happen over a period of time, perhaps years, not all at once. We will be desperate for any solution - we will be prone to swallow any lie, provided it's big enough. "At that time if anyone says to you 'Look, here is the Christ (or Messiah)! or 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. For many false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform *signs and miracles to deceive the elect - if that were possible*. So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time." Jesus quoted in *Matthew 24* also in *Mark 13:21-23*

"If that were possible," he said. To those who are unlearned of what Jesus taught, it will be very possible, easy even, to deceive through false signs and miracles. Demonically inspired technology, producing alien craft, landing on the White House lawn (complete with fallen angels smiling for the cameras) would fit this bill. The ultimate message of the visitors is, and will be "... that we are here to help your people in these times of troubles."

It's a trick we've fallen for before. We now look at human history as an almost embarrassing mix of primitive and pagan societies, praying and dancing to the "spirits of the air" (*Eph 6:12*, earlier). Time was, we used to just ask them to make it rain; very soon we'll be asking to them to fix earthquakes, tornadoes, volcanoes, famines, plagues, and all kinds of disasters. But they won't be able to, and our planet's ecological condition will continue to worsen.

"During those days men will seek death, but will not find it: they will long to die, but death will elude them." *Revelation 9:6*

Death notwithstanding, during those days, men will also be longing to hitch a ride off-planet. If one assumes the events of the book of Revelation to occur in chronological order of the chapters, history still continues after this first series of plagues, and God sends two true prophets with miraculous powers (*Rev 11:1-13*). After their deaths the one-world ruler emerges, forcing everyone to receive "the mark." Christians, however, are specifically warned not to receive this mark - not to be associated with Satan's one-world political and religious dictatorship, no matter the cost.

"If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed : 'If anyone worships the beast and his image and *receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand*, he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury ... He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises forever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, *or for anyone who receives the mark of his name.*' This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus." *Revelation 13:10 and 14:9-12*

At this point, the world as a whole will be turned against Christians, in a violent way. Not only will we refuse to comply with "the system," but there will be "false prophets," New Age teachers claiming that it's the "dogmatic refusal" of Christians to unite with everyone else that's holding our species back from evolving - from "moving on" to the next "higher plane." They may even say that it is *precisely this refusal* of so many, to join with the whole *that is causing the disasters*. You'll want us gone, and dead will work. And the death toll for utopia has already been deemed acceptable... It's a deal. But somewhere in the midst of this great social intolerance, resulting in the jailing (captivity) and death (sword) (*Rev 13:10*) of untold numbers of Christians worldwide - our ride shows up.

At some unknown point - before, during or after these *first* judgments - Jesus will intervene to take his people, those who have "born again," away from the Earth. The Rapture will occur. Millions of Christians will disappear, leaving a stunned world to wonder, where to? But the answer you will believe, is the one you've been prepared to believe for some time - we got beamed up. "For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie" *2 Thessalonians 2:12*

"They'll say the UFO people took them away..."

And you'll believe it. You already do. The question now is, are you going to continue to believe it? "The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshipping demons ... Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts." *Revelation 9:20-21*

After the Rapture of the Church, mixing with the signs, wonders and light shows of the false prophet(s), there will be mass sightings and landings of UFOs. Expect actual, physical craft - some even made in the U.S.A.! - by well-meaning, but sadly deceived, government employees. *Humans will commune openly with the visitors*, exactly as described in Genesis 6, when the Nephilim were society's darlings ("heroes of old ... men of renown"), and the first batch of fallen angels were having children by human females.

"As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be at the coming of the Son of Man ... " Jesus, from MAT 24

(The Noah/Nephilim thoughtline concludes in Appendix B, but for now I'll leave it by noting that some "ufologists" have speculated that the visitors have been genetically altering mankind for a long time, "for our own good." There is also much speculation among the UFO community that there are many "hybrid humans" walking the earth today. This fits with the Genesis 6 passage, as well as the many reports of sexual "experiments" connected with modern abduction stories. Actually when you get right down to it, the alien abduction stories of today's culture boil down to kidnapping and rape. And we're actually willing to grant them diplomatic immunity, just because they claim to not be from around here?)

At this point, with fully half the world's population wiped out, those remaining are lulled, or forced, into compliance with the one-world system. False prophets will teach that the aliens' removal of the Christians signifies the end of the old era, and the "official" beginning of the New Age. Spurred on by false Christs and New Age gurus, working amazing miracles, the remainder of the population will be called to firmly unite as one world (and to ignore, by the way, that one lone angel preaching the gospel to the whole earth - *Revelation 14:6*). "The worst is over," they will say - the necessary death toll has now been taken, and the final vestiges of Christianity have been "cleansed" from the earth. Now that our alien "spirit guides" are here to show us the way, our race is finally ready to "evolve," to make the jump, into the next phase of peace and prosperity, into our utopia... Oh well, they had their chance.

" ... for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, 'Peace and safety,' destruction will come on them suddenly..." *1 Thessalonians 5:2-3*

" ... you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come ... They will say, 'Where is this 'coming' he promised?' The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. *He is patient with you*, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare." *1 Peter 3:3-10*

God's final judgment is loosed. Revelation chapter 16 details seven more plagues to come - ugly sores break out on all of those with the mark; the sea turns to blood and everything in it dies; the rivers and springs also; the sun scorches and sears people with fire; the beast's kingdom is plunged into darkness; the Euphrates River dries up; and the most severe earthquake in world history occurs.

Since they received credit for The Rapture - that is, for getting so many people off the earth once already - the visitors will generously offer, for those who want to go, the chance to escape the end of the world, the chance to sail away. They'll offer the Tower of Babel all over again - a technological marvel designed to ascend to the sky, pretending to be able to escape God's judgment.

And the response will be phenomenal. You'd get on board. Seating may become limited, however, but for those truly "advanced souls," there will surely be a more "spiritual" way out provided - such as killing yourself and boarding the next available comet (hey, it worked once already, and that was just a trial run!). But they can only take you to where they came from. And that's been the whole point of this mass deception in the first place, for Satan to take as many people to hell with him as possible... Misery loves company.

"And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented forever, day and night : Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." *Revelation 20:10 and 14-15*

Friend, I hope reading this has made some difference in your way of thinking about the UFO phenomenon. Do you realize how completely duped we've been? The belief that the visitors are gods, or aliens, or angels, or spirit guides, has deceived mankind, in one form or another, for *all* of human history. They have led age after age of society away from the true and living God, and will continue to deceive multitudes into following them, *wherever* they propose to take us, and ultimately, where they themselves are going...

The Styx lyric quoted at the beginning of this writing, from the song *Come Sail Away*, more accurately portrays the truest nature of this deception better perhaps than this entire article does. (No, I don't think they're "in on it." As popular artists though, their words are an apt expression of the age, and of what our society already believes.) "*I thought that they were angels ...*"

"And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." 2CO 11:14

It's practically a confession. But it's a grand delusion, the greatest deception ever! It's as old as the three lies the original serpent spoke to Eve (see Appendix B). The same lie was continued at the Tower of Babel, then in medieval Europe, and is today propagated by a new reign of demonic powers - extremely popular, and user-friendly demons! Warm, fuzzy, and oh-so lovable movie-star demons! This ancient lie has been played out on our movie and television screens more often than anybody can count anymore, and we're all so used to it, so desensitized to the idea now, that we like it. We love it. And we pay top dollar for it.

Time was, we used to just ask them to make it rain. We used to just chant their songs ... "*Come sail away, Come sail away...*"

But that was just for starters. That was just the warm-up band. The songs, the people, the movies and books mentioned here barely qualify as stage-props and promotional posters for what's about to be unleashed upon our planet. But as of now, consider the stage set and the audience primed, and your belief in benevolent alien spirit- guides has won you a front-row seat. So go ahead, fire one up, then look up in the sky... The killer light show should be starting any minute now... Are you ready to rock?

THE END

unless it's the beginning...

TAKEMETOYOURLEADER...

Mankind was created to inhabit the stars, I believe... The prophet Isaiah said that Jesus' kingdom would know no end, but would continue to increase (Isaiah 9:7). A one thousand-year reign with Christ *on earth* is promised before even the final judgment (Rev 20:4-6); who can know what is to follow? Jesus' resurrection body was capable of walking through walls (John 20:19), eating, even appearing and disappearing at will (Luke 24:30-49). Resurrected believers are promised a body like His (1 John 3:2; 1 Cor 15:42-44, 51-54). Where will we go, and what will we do with bodies and powers like that in eternity? With a "new heaven and a new earth" (Rev 21:1)? The "heavenly realms," now occupied by demonic powers (Eph 6:12), will be open for the taking, to expand the kingdom of God forever and ever.

We are born with a God-given longing for the stars. The wide popularity of movies and television shows about space travel bears testimony to this. I believe that Satan has played on that missing part of our destiny for eons, tempting us with space travel before the proper time. Just like the tree in the garden, he tricks us into going after something we want, but without going to God to get it. *This is the truest root of all 'sin.'* God was never opposed to our having knowledge, or wisdom - the Bible says that he gives it to all who ask! - but the temptation common to us all is to be self-reliant, and "grab" for something ourselves, without asking, and trusting, God to give it to us. *But God is actually pleased to give us the entire kingdom!* (Luke 13:32) *Do you want it?*

If you're through with the deception, and realize that for all your searching, you're still not complete, it's because you've been trying to find fulfillment outside of Jesus. There is none. The "fixes" can be nice, but if you want to know truth, and lasting peace and joy, start here... "By this gospel you are saved ... For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve ... " *1Corinthians 15:2-6*

"... that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." *Philippians 2:10-11*

"That if you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." *Romans 10:9*

If the faith to believe the gospel has grown in your heart for the first time, call to Him now, and you will be *born again* - destined to live forever, to rule the universe and reign with Christ for all eternity ...

"Dear Almighty God - I realize that I've been deceived. Your Word has convinced me. It rings too true to walk away from. I believe that the Bible is your true word to man, that Jesus truly is Lord of all, and *I do believe* with my heart that Jesus died in my place, on a cross, for my sins, and rose again after three days. By your Spirit in me, I now turn from my old life of following the evil one, and choose to follow Jesus as my Lord. I pray to you now for eternal life, and I thank you for it... "...in Jesus' name! Amen."

It really is that simple. Just because you finally asked, with a pure intention, Jesus will reveal Himself more and more fully to you in the days ahead. You will begin to meet true Christians, *and you'll even like them*, and the Bible will be easier than you ever thought possible to understand. His Spirit will teach you, and lead you into all truth. Eternity begins for you today.

Feel free to contact me with any questions about salvation, seekye1@earthlink.net, or write me at P.O. Box 291926 Nashville, TN 37229-1926. Yours because His, Peace, **Guy Malone**

I know what you may be thinking: "Yeh, yeh, interesting theory, but I'm far from sold..." or something like that. I had to present the Biblical info first, because only The Word of God bears eternal fruit (and to live up to my title!). So far, this writing has only potentially affected your spirit, in a way that you are likely to not be consciously aware of, and perhaps entertained your mind, somewhat. Thanks for indulging me, and the logical approach is soon to come. But my next trick is to steal your heart.

The One That Got Away

PG-13

"...Three and a half years after my conversion, I wake up.It's Christmas..." December 25, 1994

It's another day in my new life. Occasionally I still forget that I'm a Christian now, and a dream like that one is a sure way to take me back. Outside, in keeping with normal Nashville "mild winters," we are given just a show of flurries to mark the day, to answer the prayer of many hearts for a white Christmas. My waking dream still in the forefront of my mind, a surreal reminder of what I was, I'm especially joyful today to be able to celebrate the *true* meaning of Christmas... I went so long without knowing. This is the day that we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, Messiah. This is the day the whole world remembers that God became flesh, and dwelt among us. It's because of this day that I was called out of darkness into his marvelous light. And it's because of this day, that I finally know peace.

But despite my waking joy, there's also this stirring in my soul this morning that won't leave me alone. It's the Lord, reminding me of my calling; he's reminding me that I still have a story to tell... Of all the great things that could be said about my life as a Christian up to this point, I'm still not quite complete. I haven't broken the silence. I haven't told anyone about the dreams that still come every now and then, or the memories that remain plain as day. Now, you may find this hard to believe, but *my* experience has been that there's just something about being abducted by aliens that makes your friends not want to hang out with you anymore. It's the kind of thing you tend to want to keep to yourself. At least, you learn to. Actually, you *want* to talk about it more than anything, but just try it sometime, and you'll know what I mean.

You see, I'm happy now. I like my life, a lot. I don't want to risk that by telling people any "mad tales of visitor abduction." And yes, every now and then there'll be some goofy show on TV about a ufo sighting, and I'm reminded that I've got the perspective that no one else does. I've got the answer. And once every blue moon someone at work actually asks me, as a Christian, what's my opinion about ufos. And I so want to tell them, but I can't. So yes, I know ... I've still got a book to write, a story to tell. But not today, Lord. I'm still not ready yet, okay?

June 22, 1997 Earlier this year, thirty-nine intelligent people committed suicide in order to rendezvous with aliens. Could I have made a difference? Two weeks ago, USA TODAY, ABC, CBS, NBC, and CNN reported, three months after the fact, that a mile-wide ufo was observed over Phoenix, Arizona*, and video-taped for two hours, with thousands of witnesses. The movies are coming out quicker, the public is more and more fascinated with "them" than even I would have thought possible, and a public "landing" or announcement could be only weeks away. The gates of hell *are* prevailing. Okay. I'm sorry. No more hiding. Damn the torpedoes. Gotta go be Noah, now. Gotta go be a lunatic, and tell the world what's coming ... see who wants in. Full speed ahead.

(*USA TODAY article reprinted at www.qtm.net/~geibdan/newse/june/arizona.html)

August 16, 1997 Out of the closet

So for the last two months, that's all I did. I got me a webpage (www.mindspring.com/~seekye1) and started writing. Once the first page, the "waking dream" portion, was out in the open, apart from finding the time the rest came easily. I'd been writing it in my head for years. Now it gets a little hard again, but I'm more sure of my calling now, as

well. "There is no fear in me now, only peace. Peace, love, and joy." I write now in the hope that there are those out there deep in the ufo culture, perhaps even those struggling to make sense of memories, who are searching for truth. This part is for you who need to hear from another who's been there, and who knows the way out - who knows the way home. Guy Malone, BC

For the first time, I wish to write down the memories, dreams and perceptions that have, as an adult, caused me to believe that, as a child, I experienced what the world calls a "close encounter." And probably more than once. If you've read *Come Sail Away*, by now you know that I believe the experience in general is real, but demonic in origin. (The purpose of these demons dressing up and playing E.T. is but one way to keep people from embracing the gospel of Jesus Christ, by attracting our spiritual attentions elsewhere. Let me be very plain here, and downright offensive: if one does not receive Jesus Christ in a personal way, as Lord and Saviour, "one" will spend eternity in hell. That is why they do it. "Misery loves company.")

And they certainly had my attention. In one sense, I'd rather just find out that I am insane after all, or that I was simply abused, in a more "normal" way early on, and just made up a lot of cover fantasies to escape the trauma (a theory popular among certain ufo "debunkers"). However, it's only in contemplating the sheer number of these memories, that I come to the conclusion that I have; that perhaps the imaginary friends of my childhood weren't quite so imaginary after all. And not nearly as friendly as they'd made themselves out to be, either.

Random and free memories

I believe that probably the chronologically first incident happened when I was four or five, and it was nighttime. I was crying, and running through my house, being chased by (what I later described as) big cats. Not just one or two, but it seemed the house was full of them. Every room that I would run into would bring me face-to-face with another set of these giant eyes that were after me. I would run from one, and straight toward, or into, another one. They were trying to hold me down so they could eat me. I was terrified and it went on and on. In the morning, I told my grandmother, who lived with us then, about the "cats" in the house, and I remember being furious with her, full of that five-year old sort of righteous anger, for telling me that it was just a bad dream. I hated being dismissed, because I was still scared and she didn't believe me. (I suppose I could tell a joke here about always wanting a dog from then on, but we had two.) Yes, maybe it was a dream, but it was a dream that I would have again.

Sometimes in dreams we see ourselves from a slight distance, as if in the third-person (a case for astral projection, to some). This one is like that. I hate to admit it, but from somewhere in my childhood, a dream perhaps, there's an image, or memory, of seeing myself standing in my front yard at nighttime bathed in a light coming from "above." My grandmother is standing in the front doorway, unable to move. There's this impression that she's very proud of me, except that she's also very scared. But this time, I'm doing okay. Things seem to be going pretty well actually. I'm the center of attention, standing out there wearing what seems to be some kind of white pullover robe, open only at the neck, sleeves and feet. The kids from next door are also in the picture, as well as other "people." They're taller than the kids, but not grown-ups either, and all in the peripheral. The visual image-memory-whatever, of the neighborhood kids and other figures is also from my own eyes, not only a third-person view. The two images are almost transposed - I'm seeing both at the same time, or very close to the same time. I'm around seven or eight now.

Probably the most vivid memory (or "lucid" dream) was simply me having a conversation with a praying mantis. That's just the best way to describe it. I say praying mantis because that's what it looked like - these big, black eyes, it's insect-like quick, short movements, and matter-of-factness while talking to me. Make that communicating; I really can't say for sure whether its mouth moved. This one happened in broad daylight, outside in my driveway (I'm about the same age as above; we moved a lot then, and I can pin down my age by which house we were living in). There's no conscience memory of what was said between us, or for how long we spoke, but I was definitely being taught something. I was its pupil, sitting somewhat impatiently still for my lesson. There's no other memories of real, or normal, life that associate with this event; what I mean is that I don't remember what I was doing before our little talk, and nothing special that happened afterward. This could suggest that it was a dream, since there's no chronology to fit with it, but the overall feeling is that it was simply so normal to me that the memory just doesn't stand out. I didn't run crying to anyone, and there's no feeling of fear or trauma. Once it left, I most likely went back to playing by myself in the front yard. While I do know that I didn't particularly care for them, it's as if I was just used to it by then.

The above memories stand out to me as being the most "real." Even allowing for the possibility that they were "just dreams," those are the memories that *feel* as if they really happened, on some level, or dimension, if you like (only the "cats" dream was scary or traumatic). This next incident was definitely a dream - at least definitely in the sense that I remember thinking about it the next day as dream. It was one of those long, goes on for hours type of dreams. It seemed allegorical, and I eventually forgot about it (along with all of the others above) until I was twenty years old.

At the beginning of the dream, many of the neighborhood kids (the same ones) and I are running through the woods that bordered our back yards, just playing. We come out into an open area that leads us into a futuristic looking city. The people in the city are both human and non-human (that is, they're four to five feet tall or so, skinny, big white heads with big, black eyes; you know, those guys) and their presence was no big deal to the human inhabitants of the city.

The group of us either wanders, or are led, into a room where we all sit down in a semi-circle to watch a TV set. It seems like we watched it for several hours. When whatever we were watching was over, we were allowed to leave, and run back into the woods. I don't remember where it fits into the action of the dream, but there was a strong impression

that water was very important in this "city of the future." It was rare (possible reference to Revelation 8:11?), and had to be protected. In fact, water was almost a religious object and the society seemed to be preoccupied with finding more - not in a war-like way though, very communal.

The circumstances that caused me to finally remember this dream are strange in themselves. During the time that I was eighteen to twenty years old, I lived in Knoxville, Tennessee. For part of that time I had a roommate, and great friend, named Darrin. Make no mistake about it, we were new-agers, not to mention heavy partiers. We worked in the same restaurant together, lived together, and got high twenty-six hours a day together. One day, he brought home the hard-backed edition of Whitley Strieber's "new" book, *Communion : A True Story*. I believe it was the *Times' #1 best seller* at the time. The cover portrayed the now familiar "artist's rendition of the alien" drawing. I'd gone through my teenage years without any conscience memory of what I've written here, but having that book in the house made me very uneasy, and I didn't know why. I would look at the cover drawing sometimes, and chills would crawl up and down me. "Now I wasn't scared or anything..." but I did wish he'd hurry up and give it back to his girlfriend and get it out of the house.

Around that same time a group of us party-all-night people from the restaurant rented a movie to watch together. Soon into the movie, I was sure that I'd seen it before, years ago. They said that there was no way I could have, as it had just come out on video; but I'd never even heard of it when it was playing at the theaters. To my friends' annoyance though, I was able to describe what was going to happen in many of the scenes, to the point that I had to quit because I was ruining the story for everybody else. I sort of thought that I'd seen it as a child, perhaps watching it from down the hallway when my parents thought I was asleep. I was totally perplexed when the end of the movie came and the copyright date revealed that the movie was only a year old, and rated "R" to boot. It had never been on television. But I *knew* that I'd seen it on television at some point in my childhood.

A week later, it happened again - a new movie that I'd seen on television years before. I knew what was happening before it happened, and since we were alone at home, Darrin let me talk about it some, although it made him a little uneasy. I had the same "forbidden knowledge" feeling, as though I wasn't really supposed to be watching the movie as a child. I said it made him uneasy; it downright freaked me out, not to mention frustrated me to no end. You can guess where this is going. A few days later in a Pizza Hut, stoned and talking about who- knows-what, I stopped myself in the middle of a sentence and drifted out of the conversation. Staring into space, I silently began to remember the details of a dream I'd forgotten well over ten years ago. It was a dream about a viewing room, a city, the kids, the woods, and water. Not to mention aliens - just like the one on the book I hadn't read yet, but soon would.

It was as if I'd viewed the movies as a kid in the dream(s), and seeing them in real time, perhaps along with the book cover, triggered the memory. I thought then that it was almost like some weird post-hypnotic suggestion, such as "When you see these images, you will remember..." And remember I did. Within a few short days, the three incidences detailed above came to the forefront of my memory, in addition to the memory of the long dream. Were these *real memories* of mine? Where did they come from, and could they possibly mean what they seemed to? It was a great mystery, and Darrin was there as I began putting it together. Usually, I was more thinking outloud than anything. That was how I got my first lesson in the "distancing effect" telling one's alien abduction stories can have on a relationship. Despite this, I had to know. Other miscellaneous facts about myself began to fall into an eerie synchronicity. When I was a small child, between the ages of five and ten, what I most wanted to be when I grew up was an astronaut. My reports at school were always about the solar system and the planets. I was a walking elementary school encyclopedia of raw data, such as the temperature on Venus (it's got both a hot side and a cold side, you know?), and the number of moons each planet has. I was always drawing pictures of rocketships, and myself in a spacesuit as the first man to walk on Mars.

And in my fantasies, I was there to make contact. In my drawings, there was always a little green man behind the rock waiting for me to come say hi. I once even wrote a story, complete with pictures, about an alien invasion of gigantic robot animals that finally got beaten when the world united as one to fight them (now that's spooky, that I would have that idea in my head in the second grade). Somewhere along the line a certain teacher mentioned, trying to help guide me, that I would have to join the Air Force to get to go to space, to be an astronaut. Whatever my fifth grade reasoning was, it didn't require a boy genius to know that a military career was not for me (besides, that would clash with my later career as a pothead). So that was the end of that. However, my interest in things not of this world continued, and I think that I was the only kid in my high school to have a subscription to *Omni* magazine.

Probably the oddest single fact that came to mind for me during that time was remembering my reaction to the movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. The first thing that was odd was that, as a child, I was specifically forbidden to see it. Now, without going into great detail, we were not your stereotypical Christian home. To date, I'm the only one in the family who even goes to church (I'm sort of the black sheep), and I can count on my hands the number of times I went as a child. The point is, I was never, before or after, forbidden to see *any* movie. But I was told then that it might be too scary, my mother didn't want me to see it, and my dad sure as hell didn't care to go see it (*he hates that stuff* - anything science-fictioney, but my older brother and I were hounds for it). Nevermind that we saw *Jaws*, that wasn't "too scary" for us, and my dad would even take us to see rated "R" movies sometimes, while I was still in elementary school, as long as they had Burt Reynolds or Clint Eastwood in them, anyway. Nevermind all that, I was not allowed to see *Close Encounters*. Peculiar in itself.

Now I wasn't the kind of kid who went out of my way to do things just because I was forbidden to, so the anti-climactic end to that story is that I never saw it - until my senior year of high school, that is. In 1985 or 86, it came on TV, and I watched it with what I thought was a normal level of interest ... nothing else to do, never seen it, gotta watch it in my bedroom in black and white because, out in the living room, my dad would rather watch a blank screen than a space alien movie. Frankly, it bored me, and I couldn't see what the big deal had been, either in my home or society in general. But then, the last half-hour and ... hey this is getting good, can't wait to see how it ends. Now "dear reader," I hope I haven't built this up too much because what I'm about to reveal is not all that exciting (but "*Hey, thanks for hanging with me this long...*"). I only tell you this whole story to share with you my one thought at the ending of the movie, when the aliens get out of their ship to meet with us officially, for the first time. Once again, I was hugely disappointed. In fact, I was extremely frustrated because I'd expected better from the puppet-masters of Hollywood. The one thought that went through my head was, "That's not what they look like."

I was absolutely disgusted. They weren't that stiff when they moved! They weren't that skinny, either! They seemed a little tall, too. Geez, where were these guys getting their information? Everybody knows that's not what they look like... well, sort of, but they've got it all wrong! I was actually offended for the aliens. I never once thought that it was odd that I would think that I knew what they looked like. I thought everybody knew. Seriously, I did.

So these were among the thoughts and memories that I was now processing, and trying to put together into a conclusion that would still allow me to be a normal human being. You can probably imagine that I wasn't having much luck, though. Of course I read *Communion*, and that sort of made things worse. Everything I knew about myself was pointing to a conclusion that I wasn't sure I wanted to be true. Finally, I had to face up to what was at least a distinct possibility. I'd been visited. It's not that I was totally opposed to the idea, new age kinda guy that I was. In many ways it was quite exciting - but I was opposed to the idea of being insane. If I was wrong, but believed it anyway, then that would definitely qualify me. But if I was right, and *Whitley was also right*, then to accept this automatically allowed for another distinct possibility. Eventually, I would be visited again.

While the implications and possibilities of life on other planets is one of the most exciting topics of our age, it's really only exciting as long as it's happening to someone else. When it's you who have to wonder if tonight's the night you're going to be dragged from your bed, when it's you who have to think about getting married and settling down, only to know that at any time your serene family existence could be shattered by beings of unknown origin and purpose, then come tell me how exciting it is. The excitement wears off rather quickly, and for a twenty-year-old single guy who was trying desperately to have a ball with his life, I was too young to become a paranoid.

So I did what your average abduction victim does. I forgot about it, and tried to get on with my life. Just a few months later, I finally moved back to Nashville to start over. I was constantly on the move, keeping as busy as I could. I worked two jobs, drank a lot, and stayed stoned (not to mention wrecked one car). In between all of this fun, I attempted my first crack at "fulfilling my calling," by self-publishing a book of my poetry and artwork from over the years, entitled *I'm Not Sure How I Got Here, But I Think I Flew*.

Only nine months after arriving in Nashville, I moved all the way to Florida to start again, becoming a spring break bartender in Daytona Beach. That only lasted a few months, too, and before I knew it, I was back in Nashville. All the while, my past was chasing me, and I was doing everything I could to keep one step ahead of it. Only in Florida, it finally did catch up with me, and I had the first two visitor dreams of my adult life. Except now, someone else was chasing me, too. God. Honestly, I think I preferred the aliens.

Spring Break, 1990 For a now twenty-one year-old single guy who was trying desperately to have a ball with his life, I made one big mistake; I fell in love. And with a Christian, no doubt. Actually, one would say that she was a back-slidden Christian, a believer who was not living the Christian lifestyle. I don't say this as a judgment against her; it's just that I knew it for a fact. I was there, helping her *not live* the Christian life. While I was still in Nashville, just before moving to Florida, we worked together at the same restaurant, slowly falling for each other over a period of several months. We actually repelled each other when we first met - her with her shiny, happy countenance, and me at the absolute height of my sarcastic, cynical New-Age paganhood. I read Carlos Castaneda novels during my breaks, carried crystals with various "properties" around my neck and in my pocket, and would often show up at the restaurant to go out with others in ripped-up blue jeans (before they were mainstream) and a big peace-sign on my T-shirt. You could say that I went out of my way to offend.

But as we worked together and got to know each other, "safe" in the knowledge that we would never go out together, our strong attraction became more and more apparent, both to us and to those around us. The long story short of it is that she dumped her fiancée just in time for me to tell her that I'd just made arrangements to move to Daytona Beach. We really shouldn't have, but we made the most of the month we had together. The one part of our whirlwind relationship that was less than blissful would be the times that we would discuss religion. I would always criticize how someone as intelligent as her (she had a degree from Vanderbilt University!) could believe that only Christianity was "right," and eventually she became fed-up with trying to intellectually convince me of it. I've long forgotten most of what was actually said in those arguments, except for one thing that has remained with me to this day. She put the Word on me.

One night, some four in the morning in a Krystal's parking lot, I pulled the old "... if that works for you great, but there are many paths to the top of the mountain..." At that, her eyes lit up, she turned to me, and said with a

determination not her own, *"I am the way! I am the way, the truth and the life; no man comes to the Father except through me."* After that, she was almost embarrassed by her own boldness, and explained to me that that was what Jesus had said about himself in the book of John (14:6). I blew it off at the time as meaningless, but months later I would be up late nights in my bed in Florida, rolling around, the phrase still bouncing through my mind, not letting me sleep.

Was Jesus really the "only way?"

The last time we saw each other before I left, she asked if she could pray for me. I said of course she could. It couldn't hurt to have someone praying for me while I was gone, right? Well, she did something that I didn't expect. She prayed for me, right then and there. She put both hands on my stomach, and started asking God to keep me safe, to protect me on the drive down, to provide for me, and to reveal himself to me. Now some Christians may have trouble with the theology of what happened next, especially considering her back-slidden state, but I can only report what I experienced. The car we were in began to fill with some sort of presence, a mild electricity passed through my body, and my stomach felt as if someone had turned on a cuisinart inside of me. I could only tell her that "something happened" to me as she prayed, and was curious as to "... what had she done to me?" None of this surprised her in the least. She prayed in faith and God showed up. No big deal.

Once in Florida, finances were tough, as it turned out that I was not the only bartender who had the idea to move down there during the busy season. Miraculously, I did find work eventually, but it was a day shift that I didn't make a lot of money at. This is significant because it meant that I simply could not afford to support the drinking and dope-smoking habits that I'd maintained for years now. Somehow, that was okay. Sure, I'd drink or get high whenever the opportunity arose, but overall, I enjoyed my times of being sober. I spent a lot of time walking alone on the beach, clear-headed, experiencing the glory of God as revealed in nature, and remembering with more clarity than ever the "visitor" experiences that I'd tried to forget, struggling to make sense of them...

I wanted to confront the visitors now, and would sometimes stand outside at night, looking to the stars, telling them that I was "ready" now. I would call to them, asking them to come back, and visit me again, so that I could know for sure if they were real. Whether I wanted to fight them or join them I can't say, but I would not live in fear of them. I wanted to meet them on my terms, with an open and adult mind, to explore their mysteries, to get to the truth, and to decide for myself whether they were good guys or bad guys. I wanted communion... During that same time, on a totally different track, I would occasionally read a page from the Bible at random, to see if God cared to reveal himself to me either. Whoever showed up first would have probably won my loyalties. But the closest God came to revealing himself to me at that time was a passage I came across that seemed to reference a certain spiritual practice that I'd been "working on" for about a year (you wouldn't catch it to read it now; it was just something that spoke to me at the time). The passage said that people like me were an enemy to the cross of Christ, and would be destroyed. Now that hurt my feelings.

True, I was not a follower of Jesus', but I thought he was probably a pretty cool guy overall, and meant the man no ill will. But his own book said that I was his enemy, and I can't explain it fully, but you've no idea of the sadness that overtook me at knowing that. Something else began to gnaw at me also. In the time that I was "of age" before remembering any of my visitor experiences, I had what would probably be considered a normal sex-drive. During my non-Christian, late teenage and young adult years, I'd had my share of experiences with the complimentary sex, and was eager enough to continue on that path. I didn't make the connection then, but after I began to remember these things (or become delusional, if you prefer), the act of sex began to hold an unknown fear for me. My girlfriend from Nashville and I met once in Atlanta to spend the night together, and it did not go well. While my desire was unaffected, the actual moment of intimacy scared me, and actually brought me to tears once. I wanted to, but was afraid to. By then, she didn't even want to. But we were friends, nonetheless, and again, without making the connection, I decided to tell her what I believed about my visitor experiences that next morning.

That was my second lesson in keeping these things to myself. She said that she worried that I was not sane, and should get help. And she was right on both counts. But I was not born that way; something had happened to me, and I wanted to know what. So I sought help from the only source I trusted. I remembered her once telling me that she had had certain problems herself sexually, and as a teenager, she'd asked God to show her what was wrong with her in that area. She told me that later that week, while eating in the very restaurant we'd later meet in, a "movie" about her childhood began to play right in front of her eyes. As a child, she was sexually abused and had forgotten about it. She asked, and God had revealed to her the details of the event.

It worked for her, so I decided that I would give it a try. Back in Daytona, walking along the beach, I asked God if he would tell me what was wrong with me. Later that week, I had two dreams. In the first, I was in a white room sitting on a table, unable to move, undergoing some sort of medical examination. I was a boy. The nurse was a very odd looking woman, with extremely short blonde hair, pale skin, dark oval eyes, and a mask over her mouth and nose. She said nothing, only poked and prodded. When the examination was over, she had sex with me. I awoke very afraid, and I knew what the dream had meant.

A second dream followed the next night. It involved being on a plane or train-ride, and I remember watching buildings and cities flying by the window at an incredible speed. At one point, another woman came into the room I was in. This was no nurse, just a very short woman with the same features, who had sex with me against my will. Again I awoke very afraid, crying this time. I was still saying, "Stop it. Go away," as I awoke. It was awful, but now I knew. I'd

wanted to know, and God showed me. It was real and it was horrible, but at least now I was certain; there was no reason to doubt myself anymore. I'd been visited. Damn them.

Spring break was over in Daytona. With the season gone, there were not enough shifts to keep me employed where I'd been bartending. I did a few other things to get by, down to selling my plasma, but soon the friend who had been gracious enough to let me live in her garage all that time "advised me" that it would be best if I moved back to Nashville. I arrived home broke, depressed, with a story that I was determined that I would never tell anyone again, and my old girlfriend was now sleeping with someone else - *not* a great way to start over in life. But at least I had a good tan.

Back in the high life

Some people are just hard-headed. You'd think this would be the part in the story where I give my life to Jesus. Nope. If anything, I got worse. And though emotionally, I wanted to forget all about ufos and visitor phenomenon, in time, my certainty that it had happened to me would arouse my intellectual bent enough to continue to seek out the meaning of it all. But for now, my will to live was pretty much sapped, and for my first six months back in Nashville, I was a textbook case of depression. All I did was sleep. For six weeks I washed windows with a friend of a friend, just so I wouldn't have to be around people. But it just didn't pay enough, and I had to get a real job finally. Once I started back to work in yet another restaurant, I went out of my way to not make friends - to simply wait on my tables, go home, and go back to sleep until I was scheduled to work again. I didn't go out, and even though I tried to "go straight" for awhile, the sheer availability of marijuana back on my home turf got me back into that habit. So I worked, got high, and slept as much as possible.

I read a lot, too. I read the first four books of the New Testament, but my life didn't change much as a result. I also re-read all three books of Anne Rice's *Vampire Chronicles* during that time, so you can see I wasn't getting anywhere fast. Eventually I started to snap out of my depression, once a bar position opened up where I was working. It was more money, and I just felt better about myself by then. I was ready to live again, so naturally I started drinking again and going out with "the crowd." I was miserable, but at least I wasn't bored. Over the next year, my pagan ways took on new heights, as I delved into practicing astrology "for fun and profit," and took out a loan on a camera, to start photographing some of the hardest rocking no-name trash bands in the city. If Jesus wanted me, he would have a long way to travel to come and get me.

Now I didn't tell you this, and I'm not even sure at what point it happened, but sometime during my time in Florida (before the dreams), I prayed for the first time in my adult life. As I'd said, I was very sad about being counted as an enemy of Jesus', and I wanted to set things right on that count. I said outloud, "Jesus Christ. Of The Bible..." (I was sure there were many fakers, so I'd better be specific) "*If you're real, and if you're really God... then you can hear me now... and if that's true... then... and then only, then I invite you to come into my life, to prove yourself to me. If you're God, then I confess my need to know you. But if you're not, then I don't want to hear from you.*" It was far from a declaration of faith, and nowhere near a conversion, and I still had a long time to go before any of that would happen, but that's how it started for me.

It continued with a guy named Leon, who worked at the same restaurant I'd landed at. He was a Christian, which normally would have disqualified him from being in my circle of friends, except that he was more like me than any other Christian I'd ever met. He was recently saved before I came to know him, and from what I'd heard, he was a big rock and roll, druggie party animal only months earlier. And while he hadn't read the book, he'd seen *Communion*, the movie. This was a guy I could talk to.

Pardon me, but I need to make a quick detour

(I'm having trouble fitting these next bits of information into the flow of telling my life story, but they have significance, so bear with me for awhile. Thanks.) There's one other odd memory from my early childhood that may not necessarily involve visitor phenomenon, and really only fits into this recounting of experiences because of something Whitley Streiber claimed from his second book. He described a time when the visitors were teaching him how to astrally project his spirit body.

Once when I was very young (four, five?), I was horribly sick with a flu or something similar. The pain in my body was unbearable. I wanted out, and so I left. I remember looking down at myself, and probably wondered if this were a good thing to be doing or not. Contrary to most other people's experiences, I was not "at peace with myself," when I left my body; I was still crying and breathing hard as I looked at myself, but falling asleep. The fact that I was not dead, but still moving, most likely gave me whatever assurance I needed to float around my room for a few minutes, and try to get used to what was happening to me. Finally, I floated toward my ceiling, and was holding my hand up to it, wondering if it would hurt to pass through, when my grandmother walked in to check on me, and turned on the light. Busted! And this was not quite the same as being caught with my hand in the cookie jar. I slammed back into my body to avoid being "seen" (I didn't know I was invisible), and man, it hurt! The crying started louder than ever, and she came in to hold me and wait for my crying to settle down. By then I knew better than to tell her what I'd been doing. She wouldn't believe me.

Later, during my childhood and teenage years, many of my dreams were of flying to distant places, or sometimes just arriving, wondering how I'd gotten there. I have many memories of such dreams that seem to last for hours, and I got progressively better at it as I grew older. It's a skill, and my "aim" and "control" improved over time. One of these

dreams involved me flying over a crowd, picking people up by the hand, and then they could fly, too. Many people had told me in my late teenage and early twenties years that they'd had "the wildest dream" about me. Usually, I would show up and do something bizarre and supernatural, then leave. I usually had no memory of the dream, but there are three times in my early twenties that someone that I was close to and I "dreamed together" - that is, we were both in the same dream and talked about it together later.

Whether or not any of these dreams relate to astral projection can only be left to speculation. Some feel that flying dreams simply indicate the desire to escape; what exactly was it I was trying to escape *from*, beginning at such an early age is an interesting question in itself, though.

But even the one incident on it's own where my grandmother "caught me" was enough to bring another question strongly to mind - if Whitley was being taught this technique by his visitors as an adult, and I'd been doing it when I was a child, had I been in contact with the same type of beings he had? In case you're wondering why my grandmother plays into these scenarios so much, so did I. I may never know for certain, but the short *possible* answer, and I can verify all of this, is that her husband, my grandfather on my mother's side, fought in World War II, then later worked for the military as a contractor in the 1940's (the team which he headed is credited with the invention of the relief map. Later, he also had his own television show, before I was born). Professionally, he had certain "top secret" types of clearances and projects that he worked on after the war. He flew in army planes and made maps of the world.

In our home, there is a photo of him and his team, published in a magazine article from the late 1940's or early 1950s. My mother doesn't remember why (maybe he got a better job offer), but he resigned from "Army Map Service," to work for "Aero Service Corporation," and moved his family away from Washington D.C., to Philadelphia, less than a year after the summer of 1947. Now of course that's not significant in itself, but there's also this story my mother has told every time the subject of ufos has ever come up in our house (which ain't often!). It's a story I've heard all my life, and had to have some influence on my own interest in them. When the news of the Roswell, New Mexico crash was first reported in 1947, his only comment to my mother, then in kindergarten, was "Believe it."

I asked her about it this weekend, and she (unaware of what I'm writing) told me that in 1947, they lived in a basement apartment two blocks from the White House, and there was often much about his job that he was not allowed to talk about, even to his family. She assured me that when he said "Believe it," that it was not simply his opinion. Her words to me were, "He knew. He had proof." Beyond those words, he would never discuss the issue, though. Obviously, I'll probably never know what "proof" he may have had. At this writing, I am in the process of requesting any military and employment records about my grandfather for the period I can find, but it's doubtful that much will be released to me that may show any connection to the Roswell affair. There may be no connection. Whatever experience or information it was about his military and government work that formed this conviction probably died with him, when I was in the second grade. Nevertheless, I've got my own experience and information to draw upon, and my own convictions. It seems I have a family tradition.

Advent

As I said, my own curiosity and intellectual bent would eventually prod me away sometimes from my desire to bury the whole thing. Occasionally, I would covertly interview family members to see if any new information might surface. I had no desire to share what I believed with my family, or anybody, but it was worth checking to see if anything they might say could add to my own knowledge. There was this story from my childhood relating to my grandfather and older brother, how that one night they'd come home about two hours late because they stopped to watch "a meteorite explode." I asked my older brother about it during this time, and he just sort of reluctantly mumbled the same information I already knew.

Just before I started work on *Come Sail Away* (he was the one who told me about the Phoenix sighting, which finally prompted me to write), I asked him about it again, with about the same results, only this time it was a shooting star. Two hours worth of a shooting star. Also, during the time of my "great depression," I thought to ask my mother why I always got such bad ear infections as a child (this will only mean anything to those who have made a great study of ufo folklore). She told me that it was hereditary. I asked her who else in our family got them. She couldn't think of anybody. So I asked again, why did I get them? She said it was hereditary. But who else got them? Nobody. Then why? "It's hereditary." If you're my target audience, you can see why I mention that. If you're not, sorry about that one. Leon worked as a cook at the place I had been waiting tables, and where I was now bartending. He was truly a great guy, and had a lot of respect from the others at the restaurant. He was also young, nineteen or twenty, and even though he'd once had a reputation as a druggie, many were already tagging him with the affectionate nickname, "Preach" (short for preacher). I, of course, avoided him like the plague.

It was only once he began waiting tables that we began to talk on any sort of regular basis. By that time, I often had my astrology books behind the bar with me, to study during slow times, and he had his Bible in the back. He was wise enough to not even bother with telling me how bad I was, or to try to argue with me on any topic; he was just a continuously pleasant person to work with. Once, just to show him that I wasn't totally ignorant of the Bible, I asked him if he could explain to me what the passage I'd read in Florida might be referring to. He actually called his pastor and got back with me on it. Their answer had little to do with what I was looking for, and I actually allowed myself to feel superior to him on that count, thinking that I had some "deeper understanding" of my passage than they did. That's the main trouble with people who haven't read the Bible, or worse, have read only small portions - they think that what

little they do know is "far beyond" or "deeper" than what someone who's read the whole thing might know. Try it with any other book, such as an algebra book, or a novel, and just see how stupid you sound "expounding your superior knowledge of the subject" around those who make a constant study of it. Anyway, he didn't let on that I was an idiot. It would be a while before I would figure that out.

One day, after our shift was over, for some reason we were both just hanging around the front lobby, waiting for a reason to leave. This was not normally the place people sat and talked for any length of time, but somehow we wound up having over a half-hour of private conversation, our longest ever. As we spoke he told me, without any great drama, about something he'd witnessed recently - a demon being cast out of a church building. The services lately had been poor in attendance, as well as just generally dry. Some pastors got together to pray about the problem, Leon with them, and somehow this "presence" manifested itself to them. He said that they quite simply commanded it to leave, and it did.

Leon told me that he watched what appeared to be a red light move along the wall, then through the ceiling. After that, the services picked up dramatically. In telling the story, he was very credible. There was nothing sensationalized about the details, although being a new Christian and seeing this for himself for the first time, he still had an honest sense of wonder about the whole thing. He concluded by saying that there are just a lot of things in the world that most people know nothing about, but are very real nonetheless. I couldn't help but agree.

It was right about then that I asked him what he thought about ufos. We agreed that there was definitely something going on, to capture the attentions of so many. I asked if he'd ever read Whitley Streiber's book, and was actually surprised that he knew what I was referring to. He told me that he'd seen the movie, which intrigued me, because I hadn't. It seemed that he was one up on me, now. "So what do you think about it all?" I asked him. There was an actual moment of silence before he answered. He could tell that it was important to me. He wasn't going to just blurt out anything. And I knew, *I just knew*, that he was waiting to hear from his God before he answered. He carefully considered his words, then almost reluctantly said, "I think it's demonic." "Oh, yeah?" "...Yeah."

It's funny sometimes the way God orchestrates lives. Very shortly after that, Leon went to work at another store, and it would be a long time before I would see him again - before I would seek him out, that is. I'd believed everything he'd said up until that point. I had no reason not to. Now, his final words had penetrated me somehow. His words were "anointed," a word I didn't know then. I felt "convicted." I couldn't blow it off. And now I had a decision to make. I didn't bother to tell him anything personal, about my relationship with them (still haven't), but they were real; we'd met on that point. With that established, I now had two distinct choices from there. I could either continue to think that they were angels, or some sort of advanced beings, and maybe wait for the next time I'd get to go sail away; or, I could open up to the possibility that I'd been in league with demons for too much of my life. For about another year, I chose, "C - drink heavily." But I think you can guess the rest.

December 25, 1993 - Waking dream

I'm driving at night with my older brother. We keep passing these strange streetlights. There's these, these little people all along the road that want us to give them a ride. We don't like them, so we speed up. But they're everywhere we go. Somehow now, we've taken a wrong turn, and now it's like we're stuck on a racetrack, going around and around. The little people *want* in the car, and it's starting to get scary. And now the lights are on all over the racetrack. We go faster, driving in a circle, and our motion creates the sensation that outside, the lights seem to be circling the car. And now the little people are holding on to the car. They're on all the windows, looking at us, trying to get in. We can't drive fast enough to shake them off. They're ugly. "How'd they get in the car?"

It's full of them now, and they're beginning to grab at us. We've stopped, but the lights are still circling, it doesn't make any sense, why are the lights still circling, they're all over, they're trying to take us out of the car, stop it, they're all over, they're grabbing at me, stop it, go away, stop it go away stop it go away! I'm saying it so fast I'm not speaking English anymore. I'm scared to death and I'm praying in tongues. I rebuke them and command them to leave, and for a while, it works. Some of them start to pull back, but there's just too many and I'm so scared. They're all over me again, and I'm just too damned scared to say anything anymore! I'm crying now. And now the lights are getting closer. They become one light, the car is stopped, but why are we still moving?

It's a false light. I don't know how I know, but it's a false light. The false light begins to fill my eyes, and they're all over me. Dozens of little hands. I can't move, and I'm scared and I'm crying. And now the light. I can't take one more second of this. I close my eyes, and I call the name. Jesus.... He died to save me from my sins. He lives to save us from the sins of others. Scared stiff, sweating, all snot-nosed and speaking in tongues, two and a half years after my conversion, I wake up. I say "thank you" to Jesus, for allowing me to remember, even symbolically. Thank you for being with me, for walking with me that far into the terror of my own soul, until I couldn't take any more. And thank you, thank you, thank you, for bringing me out of it.

To my knowledge, there is not one other person out there with experiences like mine who is now a Christian, who's been born again. The deception is that good, the trauma that deep, and the strongholds entrenched in people's minds, their ways of thinking, are that powerful. Some people even think that they're angels. But it's a new age. One got away. I got saved. I honestly hope I'm not the first, but I won't be the last. That, I promise. I'll write it all down, one day. "Here am I. Send me." I'll tell them. But not today, okay Lord? It's Christmas. In memory of the 39 - and no more.

"SAVED" from the Greek word *sozo* meaning "rescued, set free from, healed, delivered, made whole, protected"

common examples: "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" *Acts 16:30*

"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" *Romans 10:9*

Jesus - "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved" *John 10:9*

example from the text above: "I got saved."

best example: "(Your name here) got saved!"

MISSION STATEMENT

- "... to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." *Paul quoting Jesus, to King Agrippa, while on trial for preaching the gospel - Acts 26:18*
- "Then Agrippa said to Paul, 'Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to become a Christian?' Paul replied, 'Short time or long -- I pray God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains.'" *Acts 26:28-29*
- "It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, ...Rather, as it is written, 'Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand.'" *Romans 15:20*
- "And we have made the word of the prophets more certain, and you would do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." *2 Peter 1:19*
- "And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will." *2 Timothy 2:24-26*
- "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf : Be reconciled to God." *2 Corinthians 5:20*
- "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you ..." *Ephesians 1:17-18*

New Age, Ancient Lies

You're still with me?!? Are you a glutton for punishment or what? That, or you really want to know what the Bible says about this stuff. Once again, I appreciate your giving me the opportunity to share my views with you. ~ Okay, well, this part can be laborious reading (don't say it!) - I'm just warning you now, but it moves pretty fast and it kinda builds. You will be confronted with what the Bible has to say about almost everything you hold dear, if you're a new age kinda guy or gal, that is. ~ Now, I didn't mean to plan it like this, but The Lord is much more creative than I am, and for you who have come the distance, this converges into probably the neatest combination of UFO and Bible information I've had yet. Hope you agree, 'cos it takes awhile to set up.

~ Seriously, GOD BLESS YOU! gm

In the beginning, when the serpent approached Eve, he used a deception to convince Eve that it was okay to eat from the tree God had said not to. The Bible states that this act (referred to as The Fall of Man) separated Adam, Eve, and subsequently all of mankind from the close union God had originally set up. The following five verses from Genesis contain the entire conversation, with the deceptive statements italicized. As you will see, the exact same lies "the serpent" used then, are still being used with great effectiveness today, and can be found in some fashion in every - *yes every* - fundamental principal of New Age doctrine. "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "*Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden.'*" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat from the trees in the garden, but God did say 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" *'You will not surely die,'* the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it *your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.*" Genesis 3:1-5

Deception #1 "Did God really say..."

Causing one to doubt the Word of God is always the first thing that must be accomplished in order to deceive a person - to lead them away from knowing God's will, or plan, for their life. If one is not open to the Bible, he is open to believe any number of "arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God" (2 Cor 10:5). Remember, the Bible states that "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so they cannot see the light of the gospel (2 Cor 4:4)."

Our age is full of attempts to discredit the Bible, and the average new-ager may not even own one, except to keep on a shelf in order to of think him or herself as "spiritually diverse." I don't say this to be mean, I say it from my own life. I owned a Bible, but you couldn't pay me enough to read from it. In fact, I would not engage in any debate if the other person started a sentence with, "The Bible says ..." Any New Age or deceptive philosophy will portray the Bible as anywhere from "just a book, albeit a good one," to just plain erroneous - full of mistakes, fables and mistranslations. My own cry was, "There is no way that any book, even if God did originally write it, could still say remotely the same thing it did thousands of years ago." Sound familiar? Jesus believed differently.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets (what we call the Old Testament, or Torah). I have not come to abolish them, but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, *not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.*" Sermon on the Mount - *Matthew 5:17-18*

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but *my words will never pass away*" *Luke 21:33*

Here is what the Bible has to say about itself. First Paul, then Peter (sorry, I don't do Mary). "*All scripture is God-breathed* and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness..." (Paul, to Timothy) *2 Timothy 3:16*

"Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but *men spoke from God* as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." *2 Peter 2:21-22*

The effort to keep people from believing the Bible is, by necessity, Satan's number one deception. Once a person opens his heart to the scriptures, it has supernatural power to sink in to the spirit man; that person is unalterably changed, and cannot be deceived.

"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, *it penetrates* even to dividing soul and spirit..." *Hebrews 4:12*

Jesus said "If you hold to my teaching ... you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." *John 8:32*

Finally, Jesus himself *is* the Word of God... "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was *with* God, and the Word *was* God ... Through him all things were made ... *The Word became flesh*, and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth..." *John 1:1-14*

The Bible declares the divinity of Jesus. He took part in the creation. He is God, in the flesh - *the only begotten Son*. Throughout history, Satan has used many forms of deceptive philosophy to keep people from hearing, thus believing this. The first step in keeping people from embracing the living, incarnate Word of God, Jesus Christ, is to cause them to doubt the written Word of God. Despite widespread unbelief, the Bible is still the best-selling book of all time, and millions are shipped all over the world annually. "... the word our God stands forever." *Isaiah 40:8* quoted in *1 Peter 1:25*

Deception #2 "You will not surely die..."

This statement tricked Eve into thinking that doing something God had said not to, would prove harmless. The implication is that there is no consequence for sin. Whether it means eating "forbidden fruit," committing murder, stealing, or one of any multitude of what God has defined as "sin," Satan wants us to believe that we can get away with it, without a price being paid. Still today, the rallying cry of anti-Christ philosophy or religion is "if it feels good do it! ...and don't dare let anyone, or any religious code, tell you not to." However, as we all know from experience, there is often an immediate price or consequence for our sin (addiction, jail, disease, unplanned pregnancy, broken homes and lives), and the gulf between us and God just keeps getting wider, "... for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God." *Romans 3:23*

The death God spoke of is first spiritual, then eventually physical. "For every living soul belongs to me ... The soul who sins is the one who will die." *Ezekiel 18:4* "For the wages of sin is death, *but the gift of God* is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." *Romans 6:23* Because we are descendants of Adam and Eve from after The Fall, we are all born into a state of spiritual separation from the eternal God, with a natural bent toward sin. Because of this lost union, we all die physically as well. Another implication of the phrase, "*You will not surely die...*" is that, even though we all die, perhaps death is not the end, merely a new beginning. Reincarnation is taught widely by almost every type of New Age or non-Christian religion. We are led to believe that even though we may not get it right in this lifetime, that we are given perhaps thousands of lifetimes to achieve perfection, and "become one" with God. The "serpent" wants us to believe that we can safely die without becoming "right with God."

But the Bible says that "... *man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment*, so Christ was sacrificed once, to take away the sins of many people ..." *Hebrews 9:27-8*

The Bible teaches that the moment we die, we enter into our eternal destiny. Some go immediately to torment (Luke 16:22-23), and others join Jesus (Acts 7:54-60 - records the first Christian to die).

We are born into a condition so separated from God that merely being a "good person" is not enough to get us any closer to him. He's that perfect; we're that imperfect. The gulf is like an ocean, and trusting in being a good person to get one to heaven, is like believing that those who are "good swimmers" have the best chance of getting to another continent. Satan will keep you busy trying though, with "religion," or good deeds, or thinking happy thoughts, but ultimately, the Bible says that we can only *receive* the pardon for our sins; we cannot earn it.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, *through faith* – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – *not by works*, so that no one can boast." *Ephesians 2:8-10* A price *will be paid* for your sins, and you cannot do enough good to clear your own record. The choice before all mankind is to either trust in Jesus' atoning death for your sins, or pay the price yourself, in hell. That is why Jesus came. As He said Himself: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever *believes in him* shall not perish but have eternal life." *John 3:16*

The penalty for your sin was paid by Jesus, on the cross:

"By this gospel you are saved ... For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that *Christ died for our sins* according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve ... " *1 Corinthians 15:2-6*

It was an exchange! Jesus absorbed all of your "bad karma" on the cross." ... man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, *so Christ was sacrificed once, to take away the sins of many people ...* " *Hebrews 9:27-8*

The finality of death, and the consequences of sin, are two things Satan has been trying to keep from us since day one. He doesn't want people to know the horror of what really happens at death, or the alternative. But Jesus' last command, known as The Great Commission, was for his followers to "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation..." *Mark 16:15* That's the literal translation of the word gospel - good news! "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." *John 3:17*

Deception #3 "...your eyes will be opened..."

As referenced in *Come Sail Away*, Saul of Tarsus (known now worldwide as the Apostle Paul) met Jesus, then shortly afterward "something like scales fell from Saul's eyes" (*Acts 9:18*). The lyric from the song *Amazing Grace*, "I once was lost but now I see," is the definitive experience to all born again Christians. *One's eyes are opened*, and you never see the world, or people, in the same way again. This statement coming from the serpent's mouth is Satan's continual deception - a promise to reveal "hidden knowledge." All cult and New Age belief systems promise the initiate an opening of the eyes, a look at "secrets" kept from most of mankind.

And often, there are secrets revealed, but their reality is demonic in its power and origin. Remember, Satan is a fallen angel, who witnessed the Kingdom of God for untold eons before the earth's creation ([Appendix C](#)). He has not a creative bone in his body; he only duplicates and counterfeits what he knows is God's power. But it's a sad substitute for the true things of God (see *Psychics, Sorcerers, the Scriptures and the Spirit*). The promise to reveal hidden knowledge and powers gains converts because it appeals to our very human pride. We want to be special; we want to be *superior* to others. False teachers (that Jesus said to be on guard against) led even first-century Christians away from the true gospel at times. Many of the writings of the New Testament letters are written to refute the deceptive philosophies that called themselves Christian (Gnosticism is one sect that arose then, and is on the rise again today).

God's desire is to reveal secrets to you!

- "The Lord confides in those who fear him" *Psalms 25:14*
- "Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets." *Amos 3:7*
- "He reveals the deep things of darkness and brings deep shadows into the light." *Job 12:22*
- "I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name." *Isaiah 45:3*
- "I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come." *Isaiah 46:10*

However, God's method of revealing his secrets has nothing to do with teachers who claim you as "their" disciples. This is the truest mark of a cult leader – they have you following them, and worshipping and trusting in them, rather than focusing firstly on a relationship with Jesus Christ, and following *him*. God reveals secrets to us as a result of our relationship with him; and he does so by his Holy Spirit, who indwells those who are born again. Before his death, John wrote "I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit -- just as it has taught you, *remain in him.*" *1 John 2:26*

Before his own death, Jesus promised "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever -- the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you ... But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit ... *will teach you all things.*" *John 14:16,17 & 26*

New Age "wisdom" is but a pale comparison to what God *wants* to reveal to you. "We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him' -- *but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.*" *1 Corinthians 2:6-10*

If secret knowledge is your quest, who do want to receive it from - the creator, or the imitator? "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know" *Jeremiah 33:3*

Deception #3b "... and you will be like God"

Volumes could be written about this one. Examples of philosophies that claim we are like God are everywhere. "We are all gods." "We are co-creators with God." "We are one with God." "We are on our way back to God." How does God himself feel about all this?

- "Be still, and know that *I am God*" *Psalms 46:10*
- "I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another..." *Isaiah 42:8*
- "Before me no god was formed, *nor will there be one after me...*" *Isaiah 43:10*
- "I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God." *Isaiah 45:5*

Some "Bible scholars" of the New Age movement point to Jesus' quotation from the Psalms, that says, "... you are gods," to say that even Jesus said that we are all divine. Actually, there are many other passages that these teachers could point to, to support that line of thinking, if they'd bother to read the whole book before teaching from it. The phrases "gods" and "lords" are all over scripture. It denotes title, however, not divinity - much the way a slave would say to a master, "Yes, my lord." English nobility uses this frequently, and throughout history, many political leaders have claimed divine status, to ensure the loyalty and obedience of their subjects. It's easier to rule people who believe that you're a god. Indeed, the New Testament passage that relates to conversion and salvation, Romans 10:9 ("... if you confess 'Jesus is Lord'") is actually written as an extremely direct opposition to the claim of the age - Roman subjects were required to confess "Caesar is Lord." To claim Jesus as one's Lord "robbed" the reigning Caesar of his claims of divinity. See now why we got thrown to the lions?

In fact, it is this very issue that got Jesus killed. Many today acknowledge him as merely a prophet, a teacher, or a wise man - as something that we could all aspire to, or become. His own claims however, were that he was divine, from the beginning; he did not "become" divine. While the motivations behind his crucifixion were more political than anything, the actual charge against him was blasphemy. " 'You are not yet fifty years old,' the Jews said to him, 'and you have seen Abraham!' 'I tell you the truth,' Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am! ('I AM' is the name God revealed himself to Moses as. The Jews definitely caught Jesus' usage of the name, and the implication.)' At this they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds." *John 8:57-59*

" 'I and the Father are one.' Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, 'I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?' 'We are not stoning you for any of these,' replied the Jews, 'but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.'" *John 10:30-33* (Read all of John, chapter 10, to see Jesus' use of the phrase "you are gods" in it's entire context, and decide for yourself if there's a distinction between that usage, and Jesus' claims about himself. Then read the actual psalm Jesus quoted - Psalm 82 - and that issue will be put to bed for you for good!) *

" 'Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.' 'Yes, it is as you say,' Jesus replied... Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'he has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now that you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?' 'He is worthy of death,' they answered. Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists." *Matthew 26:63-67*

Had Jesus recanted, he may have been set free, but he continually claimed that he was the fleshly incarnation of God. Unless he was telling the truth, this was a direct violation of the Old Testament Law, which he kept to the letter. This brings up the famous C.S. Lewis question - is he a liar, a lunatic, or indeed the Lord? Will you ignore him, spit on him, kill him, or fall to your feet and worship him? Claiming to be God was once a charge worthy of death. Now it's fashionable. How far we've come. I wonder, would today's New Age teachers be so quick to make this claim if the death sentence were still enforced? Are they as certain of their claims as Jesus was, or as willing to die for you to hear their message? Or are *they* merely liars and lunatics? The commandment to not serve other gods is not a contradiction of the statement that there is only one God. It is meant to protect from those who claim to be gods.

* (If the "you are gods" passage is an issue that's close to your heart, I challenge you to research this for yourself! Satan has always used scripture to deceive. In the famous wilderness temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4), every lie Satan told Jesus was a twisted use of the Word of God. Jesus' victory over deception then, and ours today, comes from countering deception with the Word of God, "rightly divided." And that's the problem with New Age teachers who quote from the Bible: you've got people who haven't even read the whole thing, teaching people who won't even pick it up! As Jesus said "*Leave them, they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit.*" *Matthew 15:14*) Real quickly, for those who believe that we are "co-creators" of the world along with God, he poses a challenging series of questions to you, in the book of Job (which many scholars say was written before Genesis). "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me... "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! ... On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone -- while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? "Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb... when I said, 'This far you may come, and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt?' "Have you ever given orders to the morning, or shown the dawn its place...? Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep? Have you seen the gates of the shadow of death? Have you comprehended the vast expanses of the earth? Tell me, if you know all this. "What is the way to the abode of light? And where does darkness reside? Do you know the paths to their dwellings? Surely you know, for you were already born! You have lived so many years! "What is the way to the place where the lightning is dispersed...? "Can you bind the beautiful Pleiades? Can you loose the cords of Orion? Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons or lead out the Bear with its cubs? Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you set up God's dominion over the earth? "Can you raise your voice to the clouds...? Do you send the lightning bolts on their way? Do they report to you, 'Here we are'? "Will the wild ox consent to serve you? Will he stay by your manger at night? "Does the hawk take flight by your wisdom...? Does the eagle soar at your command...? "Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him! "Do you have an arm like God's, and can your voice thunder like his?"

"Then adorn yourself with glory and splendor, and clothe yourself in honor and majesty. Unleash the fury of your wrath, look at every proud man and bring him low, look at every proud man and humble him, crush the wicked where they stand; Bury them all in the dust together; shroud their faces in the grave. "Then I myself will admit to you that your own right hand can save you." *from Job 38-40*

God is not the sum of our parts. All is not one, and one is not all. He's God, and we're not.

In closing...

Today, we often think too highly of ourselves when we think that the Bible teaches that man is made in God's image. In a sense, we are, but we've fallen from that original image. *Adam* was made in God's image, but he fell. Note carefully that scripture teaches that after The Fall, Adam and Eve did not continue to reproduce in God's image - they reproduced humans fallen from the image of God... "This is the written account of Adam's line. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God ... When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son *in his own likeness, in his own image*; and he named him Seth." *Genesis 5:1-3*

Big difference, huh? The lineage of Genesis 5 records Adam's descendants to Noah. While Cain and Abel are not mentioned here, they were born after The Fall, and we can assume that they too, and their descendants, were born into the fallen image, no longer as much like God as our society tends to believe. If that assumption is not fair, and one begins to think that perhaps there are some portions of society born with "God genes," and some not, (before trying to imagine where you probably fall) let's remember that *all* the inhabitants of the earth were wiped out in The Flood. Only Noah's line, with Adam's spiritual and genetic makeup, continued. Unfair as it may seem, we are all born into a fallen state, not like God, but separated from him. But don't get mad at God for that! It was the serpent, remember? However, God promised, in Genesis 3:15, that *from Eve's offspring, one would arise to crush the serpent's head*.

Before we take one final look at Genesis 6, and reintroduce the Nephilim to this study, can you guess who that prophesied champion is? Descended directly from Adam and Eve, from Noah, from Abraham, from King David, and born finally to Joseph and Mary? Okay, so Joseph and Mary was too good a hint. I gave it away. You know me and Christmas. God promised that a descendant of Eve's would crush the serpent. Now if you were Satan, and you wanted to prevent this, what would *you* do? Pollute the bloodline, perhaps?

- "The Nephilim were on the earth in those days - and also afterward - when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them... So the Lord Said, 'I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth. But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.'" Genesis 6:4-6

Since I began writing *Come Sail Away*, it was suggested to me that Noah was not simply righteous, and therefore God chose him. In fact, right after The Flood recedes, the Bible points out that he slips into sin, like so many of us "righteous folk" do. He's Adam's descendant, sure enough. But is it possible, that in his age of rampant visitations and half-breed humans, that perhaps Noah and his line were among the only genetically pure people left in the earth? If the Nephilim are society's darlings - "heroes of old, men of renown" (*Gen 6:4*) - and these "sons of God" are "marrying" any human daughter they choose (*Gen 6:2*), who's left in that age that hasn't been visited? Take into account that his three sons had wives from other lines, along with the somewhat limited population of the earth at that time, and do the math! The odds are fast-becoming pretty high against a genetically pure bloodline. The earth was destroyed because of the great wickedness that abounded then, and the "visitors" were at least a great part of that. Was Noah's the only family left that was capable of producing the Messiah? Is that why they were chosen? Who knows? But it's a killer theory!

At any rate, we can state with certainty that the Bible says that during the days of Noah, humanity was visited *en masse* by non-human beings not from the earth. They abducted whomever they chose, had sex with them, and even produced children. We know that these beings were also on the earth after the flood (*Gen 6:4*). Giants also continued to roam the land (Goliath was one of them), so we know that the visitor activity continued, and God commanded the Israelites to destroy every race that was polluted by their presence... (Sounds gruesome, doesn't it? But when contemplating "what kind of God" would command such a thing, we fail to realize that they weren't even human. They were the enemies of not only Israel, but of humanity in general, seeking to "assimilate" us. Any Borg fans out there? I got your "First Contact" right here.)

Today's children of God are taught that "...we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (*Eph 6:12 KJV*). Stupid as it sounds to come out and say, our fight *is* with demons. We also know that, during the days of Noah, the earth was destroyed as a result of the great wickedness caused by mankind's turning away from the God of the Bible, and idolizing these beings... The parallels are there for those who care to see them; and there's not a ufologist out there worth his salt who doesn't believe that today's visitors aren't tampering with our genetics, "for our own good." Yeh, right. It's a New Age, but it's an ancient lie.

And we know that Jesus said, "As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. "That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left." *Matthew 24:37-40*

The Rapture *will* occur. The UFOs *will* land. The End *will* come. Only the order of these occurrences is debatable.

Thousands of years ago, to Job, God posed the question, "Where were you when the earth was formed?" Today the question is, where will you be when it's destroyed? Whose teachings will you be following when your time comes? Jesus'? Or Shirley McLaine's? Or Whitley Strieber's? "For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to hear what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist..." *2 Timothy 4:3-4*

If you want true enlightenment, if you want true power, and if you really want to live forever, then you need Jesus. If you've read this far, by now you know how to get in touch with him. Thanks for hanging with me this long. Gotta go be Noah now. Gotta go check my e-mail. See who wants in.

"I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name... I summon you by name and bestow on you a title of honor, though you do not acknowledge me.

I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting men may know there is none besides me. I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things... Woe to him who quarrels with his maker... Does the clay say to the potter 'What are you making?'

This is what the Lord says -- the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker: Concerning things to come, do you question me about my children, or give me orders about the work of my hands? It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshalled their starry hosts... For this is what the Lord says -- he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited -- he says: I am the Lord, and there is no other. I have not spoken in secret, from somewhere in a land of darkness... Gather together and come; assemble, you fugitives from the nations. Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood, who pray to gods that cannot save... Who foretold this long ago, and declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the Lord? And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Saviour, there is none but me. Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other." -- Isaiah 45

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During the stages of writing *Come Sail Away*, I gave many early copies of the first drafts to those close to me, as well as sent out early versions of the webpage to other people with UFO websites, to request links. Also, I received a few hits from the page, before I even started "marketing" it. Many people had questions that I either hadn't covered, or hadn't even thought about. I would answer as best I could, which often wasn't sufficient. At first, I usually responded that I'm no expert in this subject; but as it seems to be turning out, I guess I am. That answer simply is not going to work any longer. In addition, the process of writing brought many questions and issues to my mind, which I also had never thought about. The more you know, the more you find out you don't know.

This section will be dedicated to covering, as best I can, many of the more peripheral questions that the subject brings with it. While I am not interested in most of the more "tangent" issues (such as, "How many angels can dance on the head of a pin?" or "How many gray aliens does it take to screw in a light bulb?" *None* - they can see in the dark. Besides, they've got all the government employees they need to do things like that for them.), some questions definitely deserve attention, and an honest attempt at an answer. I will always try to supply the most Biblical answer that I am able to. That slant, or bias, may not work for some of you, but hey, with a name like *UFOs and the Bible...* I will not be quoting large Biblical texts in this section (!), but will simply give the reference, if there are any that I know of (if you need a Bible, let me know). Some may have incomplete, perhaps even evasive, answers. Some I'll be able to farm out to others who have been at this longer than I have. Some will be simply my best guess. And some I just made up, to get this page started, and to avoid being asked later.

If you have a "relevant question" that I haven't at least tried to answer, here, in *Come Sail Away*, or Appendix A, B, or C, [E-mail it to me](#), or write the P.O. Box. If it's a good one, I'll add it to this site, and I'll also see if I can hook you up with a free set of those night-vision goggles!

Do you believe there is intelligent life on other planets? Well, I don't believe there's much on this one, so I sure hope so. While I used to, there simply is no good reason to, yet. There is still no definitive indication of it in the general scientific community, or the Bible - though some try to make it seem that way with the "sons of God" references. The original Hebrew word, *Elohim*, is a word that means angels, and (as stated in previous writings) the "angels" in all of the Biblical references UFO people use are, every time, the fallen angels. However, the Biblical reference that many believe describes Lucifer's expulsion from Heaven ([Appendix](#)), does mention that *he* walked among "fiery stones," which *could* be a reference to the other planets, perhaps in the earlier stages of creation. Mars seems to be a focal point for this study. Brenda, at [Watcher](#), has tons of awesome info on this, as well as the face on Mars, and its connection to the Pyramids, Stonehenge, etc. Give that site a visit, and tell her hi for me. On the flip side Tim, at [NACOMM](#), has tons of articles that account for the possibility of genuine life on other planets, and poses them as possibly seekers of God through our planet's relationship with Jesus Christ, or possibly as other "unfallen" races, or *maybe* as bad guys. His speculative approach is very sound Biblically, and allows for a great deal more scientific inquiry than most of us Christians do. He has lots of stuff on The Nephilim, too. Check it out!

I'm definitely not opposed to the idea that there *could* be genuine, intelligent life forms on other planets, though. OF COURSE IT'S POSSIBLE, and logic, science, and religion, would all be extremely narrow to absolutely, dogmatically say that there's not, and try to pretend as if they knew for sure. If we ever *are* formally visited by a race from another planet, however, we'd better hope to God that they're not like us, or then we'll really be in trouble. Can you imagine them telling us that they "come in peace," offer us all kinds of shiny cool stuff, in exchange for, say, Manhattan Island, then proceed to take over the whole planet from there? It could happen, white man!

However (fast becoming my favorite word), I am as certain as I can be, that what our society is currently fascinated with is not visitations from other worlds. What has our attentions now is demonic, in case I hadn't quite made myself clear on that opinion, which I base muchly on the "fruit" of the phenomenon. As I stated at the very end of *Come Sail Away* (and shame on you if you skipped over the alter call), I do believe, once Jesus returns and sets up the Kingdom of God on Earth, that born again people *will* inhabit the stars. Many well-studied Christian people may not believe this, however (or have never looked at it in that light), and of all the other stuff I've written so far, that idea is probably the most open to question, doctrinally speaking. Fine, I'll go without them. (Just like I'm staying for the good stuff, if the timing of the Rapture is Pre-Trib, after all.)

As to the other planets and star-systems themselves, ego-centric as it may sound to some, Genesis does say that the reason they were created was for our benefit (*Gen 1:14-18*), and even they will fall from the sky and be no more. There will be a new heaven and a new earth (*Rev 21:1*). The entire purpose of *all* creation is to bring forth a Bride for Christ, and *that purpose* for creating the universe in the first place is *only* fulfilled in born again humanity, whom even the angels are servants to (*Hebrews 1:13-14*). Yes, of course God *could have* created life anywhere else, and yes, Jesus *could have* gone to other planets, but there's nothing in the Bible that indicates this. (*John 10:16* is a way long stretch, and firstly refers to the nations, considering that the then Jewish-only disciples of Jesus were pretty in the dark at the time about God's plan to include the Gentile nations.)

So far neither does the Bible indicate, nor has science offered any empirical proof, of non-earthly sentient life. The part left to imagination has been capitalized upon by demonic deception, and has, so far, led us far away from God. If our government does actually announce that they have been "in contact," I sincerely hope the wanderlust of it all doesn't cause our brothers and sisters in the scientific community to swallow it wholesale, without at least requiring as much proof and testing as it takes to get a new diet pill approved. No, I do not believe there is sentient life on other planets. Why do some people get "visited" and others not? Oh, just lucky, I guess.

My best guess, as always, hinges upon the underlying assumption that the visitor phenomenon that we are *currently* experiencing is demonic. People, households, and especially bloodlines that have an active relationship with God through Jesus Christ are under a specific "umbrella" of covenant protection from much of the evil present in the world-system (*Psalm 91, Malachi 3:10, Duet 28:7 and 20, for starters*). The story of Israel's Exodus from Egypt (*Exodus ch 3-15*), and the protection God provided from the plagues, describe this concept wonderfully, and the Passover Lamb (*ch 12*) is prophetically symbolic of the covenant Jesus would seal, with his blood. In the book of Job, Satan first had to ask God to remove the "hedge of protection" from Job before Satan could strike him at all, and in each case, limits were set (*Job 1:10-11 and 2:6*).

The bad news is, God does lift this protection for specific reasons, and bad things do happen to good people, but the overall teaching of the whole Bible is that walking with God brings blessing and protection, and he gives his angels charge over us. Families and individuals that are without Christ are largely without this protection, and are wide open to satanic assault of *any* variety. Often the prayer of others covers those who are without this protection, but not forever. On the other side of the coin, those who are in sin *bring curses* upon themselves and their descendants (*Duet 28:20, Exodus 20:4-5 for starters*), and these are often spoken of as generational curses (*Exodus 20:4-5 - The 2nd Commandment*). Many of the sicknesses that modern science labels as "hereditary" fall into this category, as do curses involving sexual sins, witchcraft, addiction, poverty and insanity. Spirits often become "familiar" to a bloodline (in his books, Whitley Strieber often speaks of the visitors growing relationship with his son), and children end up victims of demonic oppression for generations because of "the sins of the fathers." These curses and "cycles" can all be broken by the blood of Jesus, by the generation that repents, as he became a curse for us (*Galatians 3:13*). The Appendix covers this in great detail.

It would be interesting to do surveys, but in general it is known that people who have experienced intense "visitor" phenomenon, are from families that are not strongly Christian, and the individuals involved have many "open doors" for demonic activity, such as witchcraft, drug abuse, or occult involvement (again, see The Appendix). When did it stop for you? (First read "Why do some people get visited..." above)

I'm not sure, but definitely before I was ten. My best guess, and this is just something I believe the Lord allowed me to piece together, has to do with the fact that my other grandmother, from my dad's side, also lived with us for a while before her death. She was a strong, 1950's style Pentecostal Christian. Perhaps her presence in our house brought a residual blessing, or perhaps she "discerned" an evil afflicting the house. I believe that her presence, prayers, and possibly "spiritual warfare," caused the visitations to stop, in time, one way or another. I *am* certain that her prayers "plowed the ground" for my eventual salvation, as God honors faith and obedience, and His word promises that members of your household and bloodline will receive his salvation.

"There are many ways to interpret the Bible..." (first said to me by Dan, of [UFO Folklore](#) fame). Now I don't intend to sound mean, but this is only ever said by people who have never read it. Those who have read it, simply don't make that statement. The most humble simply admit that there are "disputable matters," and then follow the Bible's admonition to not make great arguments out of lesser issues (the most vocal, however, are often not the most humble, when it comes to these other issues). But all agree that the "main issue" of the Bible is Jesus Christ. The central mandate of the Bible, outside of knowing Him better, is to preach the gospel. To be fair, it's the Christians who get off of the central theme of the Bible, that scare everybody else off; and we know that. But what can you do?

But for those non-Christians who have read only small portions, and then attempt to "interpret the Bible," the analogies are really wide open. Would you want a surgeon who'd only read a small part of the book pertaining to your operation, but had no experience? Would you want a financial manager who only occasionally ever glanced at a few magazines? You see what I mean. This attitude, while totally illogical, permeates the mindset of otherwise logical people in regard to one issue and one issue only - the Bible. I simply challenge you to read it through once, *then* interpret it all you want to. And let me know what you come up with.

When you get down to it though, there are really only two ways that people ever interpret the Bible. One is to already know what you want it to say, and go at it looking for ways to prove the agenda of your heart (and then the Lord will only answer you according to *your* agenda - *Ezekiel 14:3-4*). The other is to open the Bible with an admission that you don't know everything, and read it asking God to reveal the truth to you, even if finding truth *might* mean risking all that you already know. I'm not saying that it necessarily will, or that you'll find ultimate truth for your life, but are you willing to take the chance? If you're not, never use the word "closed-minded" to refer to another Christian again, because you just lost your right to that word. Okay, smart guy, if it's not really ships from other planets, what are we seeing then? Ships from this planet. Even the X-files have covered that one. While the average person out there may be taken in by the phenomenon, people (not me) who put great amounts of their time and energy into researching sightings become more and more convinced that they're of earthly origin. Exactly what they base these conclusions on, I don't know, but they're the ones who spend years to arrive at them. [Try this link](#), for starters, and please, those of you out there, help me out here. If you have a good website on the subject, [let me know](#). If you have a good article, send it in - I'll make you famous.

We all know that the government has to do secret tests of advanced aircraft; we'd feel unsafe if we *didn't think* it was going on. The question open to debate is where they get their ideas from. My feeling, as you know, is that they come from the same place they got the idea, and technology, for the Tower of Babel. Don't forget, thousands of years ago, the Pyramids were the technological marvel of the world, and arguably might still be (and that was one demonized society). Stonehenge has got some serious advanced math built into it, too. They're spirits beings, who existed in heaven since probably before our universe was created. God said "Let there be light," and *they watched it happen*. They probably *witnessed* the Big Bang. They watched our planet cool. If any of this is true, they should have a better understanding of physics than Albert Einstein. Whatever our level of technology might be at any given time, it's no trick to show us the next step, even if God was wanting to wait for us to mature a little more, before giving us "the next step..."

"The release of atom power has changed everything except our way of thinking...If only I had known, I should have become a watchmaker." - Albert Einstein

"You will not surely die..." - Satan

So what, in your philosophy, actually happens, for someone to have a "visitor" experience or memory? (read [ships](#), [first](#)) The "stereo-typical" experience - actually I should say - most common occurrences, involve this scenario: The person involved is awakened from their sleep, sees these "beings" all around him or her, is fearful, but unable to move, then perhaps spirited away from their home, maybe undergoes some sort of examination, or even sexual experience, and then returned to their bed. The common thread is torment. My belief is that they usually don't actually physically leave their home, but that the visitors appear and communicate with us most often while we are in a stage of sleeping or dreaming that is ripe for other-worldly experience.

Many UFO researchers believe that the visitors are possibly other-dimensional, rather than from other planets. They are from a "dimension occupying the same physical space as earth, but a different plane," thus explaining the overall lack of physical evidence of their visit (except for possible physical marks on the person, which is common in many types of demonic manifestations and encounters). "Other-dimensional" is an apt description of the "second heaven" of the Bible (a.k.a., the demonic realm -*Eph 6:12*).

When we are sleeping, science tells us that there is a chemical released in our brain that keeps our bodies from moving around, acting out our dreams, and thus not being injured. I believe that the visitors - oh heck, *demons*, simply are aware of how to access our dimension, or cause us to access theirs, while we are in certain stages of sleep, close to waking, but not quite. This is why the person involved is unable to move, fight, resist, or scream.

They then initiate an astral, or out-of-body, experience with the subject of the visitation, giving them memories of leaving their home, flying to different places, or of being on a ship or any other "dreamscape." The more often this happens to a person (or the more experienced they already are with occult or drug-induced "altered states") the more prone they would be to participate in an "abduction." The experiences would take on greater and greater depth and detail, and seem more and more realistic. After a certain point, some may even leave their homes willingly, perhaps

without remembering doing so, and go to a place that is a focal point for demonic activity. In folklore, "haunted woods" tales come to mind.

Kind of late, I realize, but let me state that this is how I believe it happened in my case. While physical abductions are in keeping with what Genesis 6 describes, I don't believe such a thing actually happened to me, nor to many of those who have similar stories. For the most part, I believe that most happen as described above, leaving the (often buried) impression of an abduction, or visitation, not to mention a mental "stronghold" of resistance to the gospel.

Those abductions involving physical craft, may well involve a ship, but one of earthly origin. The demons *may* have a hand in the technology behind the ship, and in a small percentage of "test flights," *may* influence the flight plan. But assuming not, it is still no problem for angels *or* demons to keep up with a fast moving vehicle (the way I drive, I'm glad of that, because I know my life's been spared a time or two because of "divine intervention"). They simply accompany the ships while in the air, and sometimes cause many people, to have what seems to be an "abduction" experience by other-dimensional, or astral, "technology," after seeing the ship.

That's not to reduce the whole thing to bad dreams, either, though. All demonic activity is very real, often quite intense, and often bleeds into the physical realm. As we approach the end times, however, these occurrences will become more and more common. More and more people will experience "visitations" like mine, true physical abductions, and perhaps even pregnancies, exactly as described as Genesis 6. That may sound more far-fetched to more Christians than non, but remember, it was Jesus who said the final days would be like Noah's time (*Matthew 24*). Obviously, I don't have all the information needed to properly explain every abduction, but I'll bet I'm on the right track. Keep that same attitude with this whole book, and we'll get along fine. Of course, neither I, nor anybody, can cover all the bases. The point is that it's demonic, not extra-terrestrial. If you've read this far, then you've got to admit that there's enough plausible arguments in this book to, hopefully, cause you to reconsider your spiritual loyalties.

And that's all I set out to do – to fully and intelligently present the gospel to a target audience that normally wouldn't sit through it. "It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, ...rather, as it is written, "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand." *Romans 15:20*

The seed planted here will bear fruit in many. My hope is that you now understand the gospel message better than you did before, and can make your eternal choices based on that understanding, rather than solely on New Age doctrines. Even if I'm wrong about the whole UFO thing, I'm right about Jesus. He is Lord of All; he will return to judge the earth, and either you're going with him, or you're not. "The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life." *Revelation 22:17* Appendix C is some reprinted material from two pastors of mine. After this last question, this book is pretty much done. One last time, thanks for hanging with me as long as you have. Don't forget, He loves you. He died a horrible death to win you...

Maybe not today, maybe not tomorrow, but soon, you've got a decision to make. Come sail away with me. Do you think they'll ever come back to "visit" you again? Don't do me any favors... Actually, it's quite possible. Firstly, I would answer in general, that when God sets a person free, they're free. The power of the blood of Jesus, and God's covenant to protect, see to it, as long as the individual continues to remain in God's will for their life, on a somewhat consistent basis.

That said, I am also aware that the struggles and issues of our life in this world are partly for training us for Eternity (an idea new-agers and reincarnationalists have gotten away with stealing, mainly because it's true. But, as with Eve, what they believe is truth has a deception attached to it. Pure deception is often too obvious to detect, and we all know that half-lies are usually the most effective). God often gives us battles here, to train our spiritual character for the glorious role he has prepared for us in the future. Kicking demon ass in the name of Jesus is often part of that training. He wants us to be very aware of the authority and power He has bestowed upon us, and what better way than to make us use it?

That said, while some others who become Christians after *any* type of demonic experiences may never have to wrestle with them again, the fact that I've written this book, and am actually seeking out other "abductees" to take the gospel to, *might* bring me into contact with them again. For over twenty years, I've left them alone, and they've left me alone, but that's changed. There's a degree of "specialized calling" inherent in what I'm now doing. I'm taking an "offensive stance," going onto their turf, and with Jesus' grace am attempting to take back those they've taken. Yes, they might visit me again, especially in proportion to any degree of success I may see.

"Coming out of the closet" about this issue aside, part of the fear involved for me in doing this thing has involved considering exactly that issue. And yes, I'm scared. Intellectually, I know that the authority of Jesus in me is more than enough to command them to leave, and then some, but the issue is using it. And honestly, if the moment ever comes, I could revert to a five year-old emotionally. The dream I had Christmas of 1993 showed me exactly where I was then, in regards to that issue - I fought for about twenty seconds, and then buckled in fright. In fact, if you care to know something really silly about me, it wasn't until I was nineteen years old, that I realized that I was no longer afraid of insects. I didn't recognize it as a phobia until after it was gone, but for much of my life I was scared of bugs. Anything with big eyes that had the potential to swarm scared the living daylights out of me. Silly, huh? So who knows if I'll ever see them again? And if I do, I really don't know how I'll fare.

But this *is* God's will for my life. His strength is made perfect, and noticed by others, when we are weakest. Being strong and mighty is His job description, not mine. I'm just the sidekick. One of millions, by the way... *"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."* 1 Peter 2:9-12

Well, Imagine that. Turns out the Christians were the aliens all the time! (I always knew they were weird...)
Okay, so don't beam me up yet, Lord; I've still got a story to tell... There's people deceived and going to hell out there, and I want my fifteen minutes! Damn the torpedoes, man! Full ... *"Engage!"* you made it!

THE END

Those who have come the distance, I especially want to thank you, and especially, to hear from you! Agree, disagree, whatever; you've got something to say...

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"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But rather SEEK YE FIRST his kingdom, and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well..." Jesus Christ, The Sermon on the Mount Matthew 6:31-33 (in case you were wondering!)

If you just got saved, or are dangerously close to it, I PROMISE YOU, God has already prepared a place, and a people, for you. Seek and ye shall find... Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION. Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used By Permission of Zondervan Publishing House. Scripture quotations have been diligently compared to both the King James Version and The New American Bible (Catholic Edition) for accuracy and content, with no significant discrepancies.

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Originally 'published' July 1997 at www.mindspring.com/~seekye1 (which is a dead link now, but I just want this in the record books for when Hell breaks loose.) Tell a friend! This entire book may be read and reprinted for free at www.seekye1.com

The Kingdom of Darkness

APPENDIX TO COME SAIL AWAY : UFO PHENOMENON & THE BIBLE

www.seekye1.com

From IDENTIFYING STRONGHOLD IN CITIES AND NATIONS

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Before we deal with any other subjects, we should first examine the anatomy of the kingdom of darkness. This is not because the demonic is the most important aspect of the spiritual mapping or identifying strongholds. In fact, we would say that the issue of destiny or redemptive purpose is the most important. But we must deal with an overview of the demonic realm to make sure that every one in class is on an equal footing theologically before we proceed.

1. SATAN WAS APPARENTLY A HIGH RANKING HEAVENLY BEING BEFORE HE REBELLED AGAINST GOD AND WAS THROWN TO EARTH.

"I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven." Luke 10:18

"How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven: I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High. But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit." Isaiah 14:12

"You were the model of perfection full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor... so I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings." Ezekiel 28:12-17

2. WHEN SATAN REBELLED, SOME SAY THAT HE TOOK A THIRD OF THE ANGELS OF HEAVEN WITH HIM. THESE ARE NOW WHAT WE CALL DEMONS.

"The great dragon was hurled down-that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth and his angels with him. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth." Revelation 12:9,4

3. NOW, SATAN RULES A KINGDOM

"Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?" Matthew 12:25-26

4. THIS KINGDOM HAS RANKS AND LEVELS IN IT, MODELED AFTER THE ARRANGEMENT SATAN SAW IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly realms." Ephesians 6:12

5. SOME EVIDENCE EVEN INDICATES THAT THERE ARE DEMONIC FORCES ASSIGNED TO NATIONS, EVEN AS ANGELS ARE ASSIGNED TO NATIONS. IN DANIEL 10, MICHAEL IS MENTIONED AS THE ANGEL OF ISRAEL AND THERE IS CLEAR MENTION OF A DEMONIC "PRINCE" OF PERSIA AND A "PRINCE" OF GREECE. ALSO, SOME TRANSLATIONS OF DEUTERONOMY 32:8-THE SEPTUAGINT FOR EXAMPLE-INDICATE THAT GOD HAS SET UP THE NATIONS ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF THE ANGELS. BIBLICAL SCHOLAR F.F.BRUCE SAYS THAT THE SEPTUAGINT TEXT IS CLOSEST TO THE ORIGINAL AND HE WRITES:

"This reading implies that the administration of the various nations has been parceled out among a corresponding number of angelic powers...In a number of places some at least of the angelic governors are portrayed as hostile principalities and powers-the 'world rulers' of this darkness of Ephesians 6:12."

6. THE AIM OF THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS IS THE COUNTERFEITING OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE DESTRUCTION AND CONTROL OF MAN AND HIS INSTITUTIONS.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10

"...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him." Acts 10:38

7. IN ACCOMPLISHING THE GOALS OF DESTRUCTION AND DECEPTION, THE ENEMY WORKS ACCORDING TO A DEFINED PLAN OF EVIL.

He has a strategy-2 Corinthians 2:11 ("schemes" or "wiles" = noema)

He has a method-Ephesians 6:11 ("schemes" or "wiles" = methodeia)

8. THE GOAL OF HIS STRATEGY AND METHOD IS TO GAIN STRATEGIC TERRITORY, OR WHAT MOST TRANSLATIONS CALL A "FOOTHOLD." THIS APPLIES TO BOTH INDIVIDUALS AND NATIONS.

"In your anger do not sin; Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold (topos)." Ephesians 4:27

9. THE PURPOSE OF THIS 'FOOTHOLD' OR GRASP FOR STRATEGIC TERRITORY IS TO CONTROL THE INDIVIDUAL OR NATION FOR HIS PURPOSES. EXAMPLE:

"And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will." 2 Timothy 2:26

NOTE: There is confusion in the body of Christ because we are so used to the word "demon-possessed." This word does not appear in Scripture in Greek. The word in Greek is daimonizomai and means "having or possessing a demon." There is no word for demon-possessed in the Bible, but because we think in these terms we often fail to recognize the activity of the devil in influencing without "possessing." A good example of this dynamic in the life of an individual is that of Peter in Matthew 16. Notice that in verse 17 Peter is received revelation from God but six verses later, in verse 23, Jesus rebuked Satan who influenced Peter's thoughts and words.

10. HOW DO THE DEMONIC SPIRITS GAIN TOPOS OR STRATEGIC TERRITORY IN REGIONS OR CITIES?

Examples:

* Sin of any Kind-Leviticus 18

* Idolatry -Psalm 106, 1 Corinthians 10:20, Revelation 9:20, Jeremiah 16:18

* Bloodshed-Numbers 35:33

* Unrighteous Covenants

* Generational Sins-2 Samuel 21

* Curses

Part II: God's Redemptive Purposes

Beyond seeking strategic military territory with which to control people and nations, Satan also seeks to station his strongholds against what he knows to be God's "redemptive purposes" for individual, institutions, and the nations.

1. GOD HAS A PURPOSE, A DESTINY, FOR INDIVIDUALS WHICH HE ESTABLISHED BEFORE THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE WORLD.

"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." Jeremiah 1:5

"All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." Psalm 139

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

"...I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me." Philippians 3:12

2. GOD NOT ONLY HAS A DESTINY FOR INDIVIDUALS, BUT FOR NATIONS AS WELL.

"By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; He puts the deep into storehouses." "Let all the earth fear the Lord: he commanded, and it stood firm. The Lord foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purpose of the peoples. But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations." "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance. From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind, from his dwelling place he watches all who live on the earth - he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do." Psalm 33:6-15

3. REMEMBER THAT NATIONS IN THE BIBLE DOES NOT MEAN ONLY POLITICAL NATIONS.

The Greek word is ethnoi. Ethnoi means a "multitude bound by the same manners, customs and other distinctive features," "a multitude...associated or living together," "a multitude of individuals of the same nature or genus." It also means any people identified by a common characteristic. I might better be translated "tribe."

4. CONSIDER THE EXAMPLE OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE, ITS REDEMPTIVE GIFTS, AND HOW THE ENEMY HAS STATIONED DEMONIC FORCES AGAINST THOSE GIFTS AND PURPOSES.

The calling of God on Nashville identified by the fathers, prophets, and intercessors.

-That Music City USA becomes a Worship City to the World

-That the Athens of the South becomes a Jerusalem to the Nations

To oppose these purposes of God, the enemy has stationed spirits of racism, perversion in the arts, selfish ambition, and religiosity. All of these are exhibited through the city's history.

5. THIS IS WHY IT IS SO CRITICALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE SPEAK OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE AS "RELEASING DESTINY."

Deliverance and Counseling from the
HARVEST CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
church membership manual

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The Bible often describes life as a battleground. God is raising up His holy people and releasing them into their destinies, but there is always opposition to His work. The Bible identifies three primary enemies of Christians that must be overcome to live a victorious Christian life. The Bible study that follows briefly exposes these three primary foes and how they seek to operate in believer's lives:

The Three Enemies

I. The Flesh

- A. Romans 8:3-4 and Galatians 5:16-19 speak of man's flesh as being evil. The word in these cases refers to the part of man that has an unholy bent towards sin and is in rebellion to God. It is also called "our old man" (Romans 6:6, Ephesians 4:22). Paul in Romans 7 refers to it as the "sin which indwells me" (vs. 17), "sin which dwells in me" (vs. 20), "the evil present with me" (vs. 21), and "a different law (other than God's law) in my members" (vs. 23).
- B. This sinful nature of man is sometimes referred to as man's condition of "depravity". It means that all people are affected by sin (Romans 6:1-10-18, 23) and are therefore "by nature children of wrath." (Ephesians 2:3) When a person comes to Christ the power of the flesh to control behavior is broken (Romans 6:1-10; 8:9).
- C. Christians must realize, however, that the authority of Christ must be exercised over the flesh through the power of the Holy Spirit on a continual basis to walk in victory (Galatians 5:16-18). Paul says that "by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body" (Romans 8:13).

II. Devil and Demons

- A. Satan (also know as Lucifer or the devil, Revelation 12:9), was a high-ranking angel who rebelled against God's authority and was cast out of heaven, taking a third of the angels him (Ezekiel 28:12-19; Isaiah 14:12-14; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Revelation 12:4.9).
- B. Demons are probably fallen angels (compare Matthew 25:41 and Revelation 12:7 with Matthew 12:24,26). (Also note that angels and demons have similar essence. Angels are called "spirits" (Psalms 104:4; Hebrews 1:14), and so are demons (Matthew 8:16, Luke 10:17, 20).
- C. These "angels" of Satan are either bound, confined to the pit (abyss-Revelation 9:1-11; Luke 8:31), or are abiding in the "heavenlies" and attacking mankind (Ephesians 3:10; Ephesians 6:12). Their goal is to oppose God's work and steal from, kill, and destroy mankind (John 10:10).

III. The World System

- A. Satan is called "the god of this age" and "the prince of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4; John 12:31; 16:11). He rules an organization of demonic beings and fallen man, which establishes a counter-culture of sin opposed to God's righteous order. The enemy has so entrenched the world's value systems, that the Bible speaks of earthly, natural wisdom as demonic (James 3:14-15). The rulers of this world, following the wisdom of this

world, crucified the Lord of glory (1 Corinthians 2:4-8). John also discusses the evil present in the world in 1 John 2:16-17. He speaks of certain aspects of our "human culture" as being "not from the Father, but from the world."

- B. Demonic entities not only seek to torment individuals (Ephesians 2:1,2) but also seek to control political governments, (Daniel 10:13,20) world perspectives, and events (John 12:31; Ephesians 6:11-12; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10).
- C. Christians are encouraged by these words of Jesus: "In this world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33). John also exhorts us in a later book, "...for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is victory that has overcome the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4).

IV. Demonic Partnerships.

1. Demons and the Flesh. Demons attack the flesh. They find weak spots (of wounding and sin) and take advantage. A good question would then be: "Are normal sins "flesh" problems or demonic problems? The answer is often, both. Ephesians 2:1-3 gives us an anatomy of sin. The flesh, with its desires, becomes a target for evil spirits. They then attack the weak places in our flesh. That is why we are all at war with evil spirits (Ephesians 6:11-12). When we are dealing with sin areas, we must "resist the devil and he will flee: (James 4:7) as well as put to death the weak places in our flesh by the power of God's Spirit (Romans 8:13). If a person chooses to chase away demons, but not gain control of his flesh by the power of the Spirit, then the demons will just come back and torment that individual again (Luke 11:24-26). In some situations where demons are involved, they are more of an effect of the problem than the root cause. Dealing therefore with the flesh, problem within the heart of the person becomes the key to real victory.

2. How do demons get control? Demons look for access in these areas: A) areas of wounding B) places of sin C) curses and generational sin D) occult involvement or drug abuse.

A) Beelzebub (the ruler of demons in Matthew 12:27) means, "lord of the flies." Flies flock around wounds, and so do demons. They try to use bitterness and unforgiveness to poison internal wounds much like a physical infection can poison outward wounds on a person's body (see Matthew 18:21-35). Sometimes demons will use areas of wounding as a breeding ground for fear. Fear often draws the believer's focus off of the grace and power of God and onto the enemy (Matthew 14:22-31). Deception can then usher someone into a place of bondage where truth must be spoken and received for real freedom to be experienced (John 8:32; 2 Corinthians 10:5).

B) In regard to areas of sin, the following verses provide a sketch of the enemy's strategy:

a) People follow their wicked ways (Eph 2:1,2)

b) Sin patterns give demons a foothold (Ephesians 4:27).

c) The mind begins to be corrupted and footholds lead to strongholds (2 Cor. 10:4).

d) Once a solid stronghold of the enemy exists in a person's mind and actions, the evil spirit can move in and make the person his "house" (Matthew 12:43, 44a).

C) Generational sins and curses can come upon people through sins of their ancestors (Exodus 34:7; Numbers 14:18; Deuteronomy 5:6-10), through their own disobedience (Deuteronomy 28:15-68), by satanic attack (sometimes channeled through others) (Numbers 22:4-6; Job; Galatians 3:1; 1 Corinthians 4:12), or by words carelessly or maliciously spoken (Proverbs 18:21; Genesis 27:11-13). Curses can be broken through repentance and prayer (Examples of such: Nehemiah 1:6,7; Daniel 9:20), and by applying the blood of Jesus. Scripture says, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us..." (Galatians 3:13). (See also Revelation 12:11; Matthew 16:16-18, 18:18-19)

D) Occult involvement can also open the door for demonic control (Deuteronomy 18:10; Galatians 5:20; 1 Corinthians 10:20-21). Even ouija boards and horoscopes (as innocent as they may seem to some), can open the door for demonic bondage. (Drug abuse will sometimes open the same evil supernatural windows that are opened through overt occult involvement - the Greek word for sorcery is *pharmekia*; note the connection?).

3. Demons and the World System

Demons devise and inhabit many of the world's systems. Many of the social structures in our society are simply the visible entities which demonic forces use for their own unholy purposes. We find these specific examples in scripture:

A) Demonicallly inspires doctrines (1 Timothy 4:1)

B) The traditions of men (Mark 7:6-13; Matthew 15:1-20)

C) Demonicallly inspired wisdom (James 3:14-15)

D) Demonicallly inspires "regulations" (Galatians 4:3; Colossians 2:8, 20-23)

E) Demonicallly controlled government (Ezekiel 28 - King of Tyre was a physical pawn for a demonic principality)

Examine Yourself (1 Corinthians 11:28):

1) We must take inventory. Have and "demonic," "earthly" structures become part of your thinking or behavior?

2) Are there "access points" in your inner man where the enemy is allowed to "latch on" and bring defeat into your life?

3) Are there any places of wounding that have not been properly healed? Do you still need to release and forgive any who have hurt you mistreated you?

At [Harvest Christian Fellowship](#), we will wage warfare on each of these three major enemies of the body of Christ as the Lord directs: the flesh, demonic forces, and the world system. The scriptures teach us that we should deal with the flesh and demonic forces alike. Many modern churches specialize in just one of these areas, ignoring the others. Our

approach in helping people find victory in Jesus will take into account both the flesh and the devil. Many struggles in peoples' lives involve internal struggles with the flesh as well as external battles with demonic forces. In many such cases the root problem is a problem with sin or inner pain which leads to demonic bondage as a result, or an effect of the cause.

Relevant Questions:

1) Can Christians be demon-possessed?

"Demon possession" is probably not the best way to translate the Greek participle "daimonizomenas." It should be translated "demonized" which suggests demonic activity within a person, but does not infer that demons own the person afflicted. Christians, like God, are made up of three parts. The Bible says we have a spirit, soul and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23). The Bible teaches that before we knew Christ we were "dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:11). This is certainly referring not to our bodies or souls (the mind, will, and emotions), but to our spirits. At salvation, the Holy Spirit comes in and quickens (makes alive) our human spirit (Romans 8:10; 1 John 5:1,11). From that time on, the Holy Spirit lives connected to our human spirit. Demons cannot "possess" the spirit of a Christian. They can however, afflict the mind, will, emotions (soul) and body of a believer if they have been given a point of access. Careful study of the following New Testament passages illustrates this truth:

Luke 13:10-17; Acts 5:3; 1 Corinthians 5:5; 1 Corinthians 10:20; 2 Corinthians 11:3,4; 1 Timothy 4:1; Galatians 3:1; Peter 2:1-22.

2) Do you practice deliverance ministry?

Absolutely! Deliverance ministry occurs when mature believers gather around one who is struggling with demonic forces, and join together in prayer with that individual, asking God for breakthrough. The prayer warriors then resist specific evil spirits who have tormented the one receiving prayer. (Matthew 16:17-18; 18:18-20) Deliverance is not an end in itself, but a means to an end. (Luke 11:24-26) The goal of deliverance is to remove obstruction so that the individual can seek God in an unhindered atmosphere and receive into his/her mind and heart God's truth.

3) Do you believe in Christian counseling?

Certainly! The Holy Spirit is called the Counselor (John 14:16), and providing insight and counsel is one of His primary ministries to the church. Often, His counsel will come through a mature believer who is gifted to bring wisdom from the Lord into a tough situation. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Proverbs 15:22) It must be noted, however, that some of the most effective counselors in the body of Christ do not have degrees from colleges, but are, nonetheless, highly gifted by God to provide Holy Spirit inspired counsel. (1 Corinthians 12:8) On the other hand, other counselors that are recognized by the state may not be accurately communicating either God's heart or His truth. One must be very careful from whom he/she receives counsel. At Harvest Christian Fellowship, in special cases where a counselor outside the church is needed, our zone leaders working with the family group leaders will make specific recommendations.