

Peters ETI Religious Crisis Survey of 2008

Appendix 4: Comments

Religious Affiliation:	Comments (Sorted by Religious Affiliation)
Buddhist	As a Buddhist, it clear that ALL sentient beings are subject to birth, old and death and are, therefore, impermanent, subject to various forms of suffering and have no separate self. E.T's would be, essentially, no different from other sentient beings i.e. they would have Buddha Nature and would also be subject to karmic consequences of their actions. We might or might not be able to learn from them.
Buddhist	I believe that anything is possible including life on other worlds. To think that in the infinity of the universe that we are the only intelligent life form in existence is ludicrous. I would only hope those beings would exhibit more wisdom than humans have in how they relate to their world and fellow beings.
Buddhist	I believe that we will evolve into an atheistic system in the far future. I also think that any advanced race will also be atheistic. The search for the truth precludes any religion.
Buddhist	I neither agree nor disagree on those areas where we have no specific evidence at all to suggest a possibility. I think #5 should say "some world religions" would be affected
Buddhist	I think that this is a ridiculous question. No personal offence, but it is posed outside of any context of comprehension of That Which Is. Why would the presence or absence of extraterrestrial life have any bearing at all on the existence of Presence?
Buddhist	If alien civilization is "superior," then Question 9 and survey does not address possibility that they may not be benevolent. If our history has taught us anything it is that techologically superior cultures consider themselves advanced in cultural and religious ways, too, when they come into contact with cultures they consider less technologically advanced, to disastrous results to the less advanced culture. Such a situation would put religious beliefs and more at risk.
Buddhist	It is impossible to predict the nature of extraterrestrials. They could be technologically advanced but morally corrupt and vice versa.
Buddhist	Like attracts like and as we all awake to the Divinity within, I know, claim and accept that peace is here now.
Buddhist	Lumping together all the world's religions is a conceptual error (as in question 5). The religions of the book (the Abrahamic traditions) would have a very different set of reactions than the Asian traditions.
Buddhist	My comments mostly reflect a Zen "don't know" mind...!
Buddhist	POINTLESS SURVEY!!! I MIGHT AS WELL HAVE FOUND OUT WHICH ONE OF THE NINJA TURTLES I MOST RESEMBLED!!!!
Buddhist	re: question #6 - I believe they will be more advanced in technology, possibly politics, but not morality - hence the neutral answer.
Buddhist	Such contact, made public (perhaps hidden contact has long been made), would have major impact on earth institutions and world views. As a Mahayana Buddhist, with a world-view that includes in scriptures Buddhas and bodhisattvas from many different world systems, such information would not be shattering theologically, though of course institutions and practices might reverberate.

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Buddhist		Survey doesn't allow people to self-identify as members of two traditions. i.e catholic and Jewish
Buddhist		What is your thesis?
Buddhist		Your survey is so strongly anthrocentric that I don't believe that you can have valid results. Kind of like--do you still beat your wife?
Hindu	Sanatana Dharma	Hinduism is not a religion. It is a Dharmic tradition, and as such concerned with experience. Beliefs don't matter.
Hindu		its not a very good survey..i dunno what they want to know? what part of psychology they are trying to search??
Hindu		what have you been smoking? ha no, I think such a discovery would make the supernatural claims of religion (particularly from the ancient religious texts of India) more plausible, but it would also somehow make God seem further away.
Jewish		1. 'Orthodox' seems ambiguous to me, since Jews and Christians might identify with this term. Among Jews, would you want to know Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist/Renewal? Big differences here."Non-religious" seems to rule out people who classify as "spiritual" but not with an affiliated religion. Seems too big a catch-all.5. Even though my religious (or non-religious)viewpoint would remain unaffected, contact with extraterrestrials would so undercut traditional beliefs, that the world's religions would face a crisis.This seems poorly worded for a couple of reasons. First, religious (or non-religious)viewpoint -- why not just say "viewpoint" (or "personal viewpoint") since you have all cases? Second, how would someone who answered above that it would affect their viewpoint respond to this question? Whenever you have contingencies like this in a survey item it invites trouble of ambiguous interpretations from the respondent. Better to just say " contact with extraterrestrials would so undercut traditional beliefs, that the world's religions would face a crisis." Lastly, there needs to be a space between the left-parenthesis and "viewpoint."7. If contact with extraterrestrial intelligent beings occurs, I expect that they will have no religion, that they will rely solely on scientific knowledge to the exclusion of religious beliefs.This is problematic because it makes two assertions that are not identical, so you will not know which assertion guides a response (and it may be the first or the second across the sample). First, " I expect that they will have no religion." But that is DIFFERENT from "rely solely on scientific knowledge." When there is tension between parts of an item you tend to get middle responses in large numbers. I suggest separating these into two items for the survey, or choosing the one you want.8. Extraterrestrial beings are likely to have religious beliefs and practices which will conflict sharply with established beliefs and practices as we know them on earth.Which " established beliefs and practices " are you referring to? You have 10 or so listed above, and many more may be present in your population. Perhaps ground it for the respondent, like" conflict sharply with THE established beliefs and practices OF MY RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL INSTITUTIONS"10. Within the next generation it is more likely than not that we will learn of one or more extraterrestrial civilizations through the scientific efforts of SETI (the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligent Life) or through contact made by UFOs. "Within the next generation" is ambiguous. I suggest you say something like, "Within the next 15 to 20 years" or some such.
Jewish		Even if 'they' are out there, the rate of discovery is probably not close to fast enough to expect that this will occur any time soon in the present era by SETI (and certainly not, by UFO's).

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Jewish		It might be useful to know that while I identify strongly as a Jew, and am to some degree observant, I also am an atheist. I think you're assuming the equivalence of religious affiliation and belief, an assumption that doesn't apply to me, and I imagine to many other Jews.
Jewish		Splendid inquiry! I worked on the team that sent the first two astronauts to the moon on Apollo Eleven. These considerations have been familiar ones to me for 40 years. Let me know if I can help. Charles Garfield, Ph.D. Visiting Scholar, GTU charlie@charlesgarfield.com
Mormon		A lot of the answers to these questions depend somewhat on what the nature of the contact with extraterrestrial intelligent life actually is (if it ever happens) and what their civilization is like. Overall though, I don't think that the existence of intelligent e.t.'s would be a threat to religion -- although for some belief systems (both religious and/or personal) it would be. Everything still has to come from somewhere, if you believe in God as things are today, why would that belief change just because we realize (with the discovery of intelligent e.t's) that God is even bigger than we currently give Him credit for?
Mormon		According to Mormon theology, the creation was not ex nihilo and life's origins are panspermic. There is an expectation that Earth will remain isolated from all other populated worlds at least until the return of Christ, but I don't think that's been absolutely specified, and my faith would not be shaken if ET's showed up tomorrow. On the other hand, if the ET's were non-humanoid, I would do a lot of soul-searching. An anthropomorphic God is central to Mormon theology, and I feel finding another intelligent species with a drastically different form would challenge that tenet.
Mormon		Despite portrayals in film, I'd like to believe that civilizations on other planets aren't that different from our own. Possibly they have advanced further in science or politics because their scientific or political actors were better than ours. Or possibly the reverse (i.e. they never had an Einstein or a Pasteur). In any case, it isn't hard (for me) to imagine another planet with a fully developed civilization that looks a lot like ours, whether they and us are children of the same God or different ones. I can't say that my Mormon beliefs play any particularly important role regarding my belief in extraterrestrial life. However, Mormons do believe that each individual has the potential to spiritually progress and become like God someday (i.e. beget our own spirit children and send them to an "earth" like place to be tested). I can imagine if extraterrestrial intelligent beings were discovered on another planet, the Mormon church would cite this as an example of somebody who achieved this ultimate goal (i.e. become like God) and is carrying out their mission on that planet.
Mormon		Extraterrestrial life would also be human.
Mormon		First of all, my religion (LDS, Mormon) already "believes" in extra-terrestrials, and official doctrine and scripture even discusses names of extra-solar planets that are habitable for sentient life forms. If anything, an extra-terrestrial might even be looked at as confirmation of religious beliefs rather than something which would be thought of as something to avoid. Assuming that the E.T.s that are encountered are something substantially different, certainly "alien", postulating on what that encounter might be like based upon fictional literature is likely to be completely off. It is something useful to think about in a philosophical sense, but we are likely to be completely unprepared if such an encounter was to occur, regardless of whatever we come up with before it happens. Our universe is huge. So astonishingly huge that I find it absurd to think we are alone in this universe as a sentient life form. Even so, it seems as though a life-bearing planet is something that is astonishingly rare and

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		wonderful, and I have strong reservations that SETI (in its current form) will ever be successful. At best, these searches for E.T.I. will only show how rare and wonderful our planet really is... something I hope will be cherished and treasured by those who live here. It is impossible with radio telescopes and current technology to search through more than a minor part of our own galaxy, much less across several galaxies. While space is huge, it may be possible that our own local space may be devoid of other intelligent life for a great many reasons, and I believe the Drake equation to be far too optimistic for most parameters that are put into it.
Mormon		I believe that God, however he did it, created other worlds with other beings.
Mormon		If we were to have contact with aliens, it is likely that they would be very technologically advanced. We on earth are in our technological infancy. Judging by how technologically superior nations on earth have treated more primitive groups, even when well intentioned, we might justifiably fear contact.
Mormon		This is a fascinating topic! I can't wait to see the results of your research. I suspect that there's lots of intelligent life out there, but that given the limitation of the speed of light, it's most likely that we would find out simply that they exist, without having them visit or getting any specific information about them. Even that information, though, I suspect would rock the religious world.
Muslim		absoloute stupd questions why ay other civilisation would come and effect us on our religion nd believes why and why they help us may be they can come to earth to conquer us or may be they came here to learn some thing from us
Muslim		Doubtful that any major changes in belief would happen. Anyone believing in god does so in the face of such an overwhelming lack of evidence that no doubt ETs will be woven into the fabric of folklore as well. Faith is like light only in that it bends around the black hole of evidence.
Muslim		Islamically we do believe that God created other planets similar to Earth.
Muslim		Only arrogance and pride would make one think that Allah made this vast universe only for us to observe.
Non-religious		1) I hope you are distinguishing between religion facing a "crisis" (a test from which it may well emerge stronger) and religion being "destroyed" by contact with ETs. 2) I checked "neither agree nor disagree" to mean "we don't have enough data to make a reasonable prediction"; it doesn't mean I think all outcomes are equally likely, or that I have no opinion.
Non-religious		As much as I wish that some of the outcomes implied in your questions occurred. I don't know if they will. Just because I would want an outcome to occur, does not mean it will.
Non-religious	Atheist	Atheism is distinctly different from "Non-religious", Aliens are exceedingly unlikely to be able to even hold a meaningful conversation over interstellar distances, much less get here to say hello, and UFOs are not alien spacecraft, or they'd be identified, now wouldn't they?
Non-religious		Bound to happen sooner or later, whether they're more advanced than us is uncertain, but it will certainly get rid of the notion that we're "God's special little creatures made in his image"....man I can't wait :)

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Non-religious		Confirmation of alien intelligence might cause a crisis for Protestant fundamentalism and Islam, for which their scripture's failure to predict the aliens could be quite damaging. Catholicism will take it in stride, perhaps developing a teaching that Jesus incarnates on world after world ...
Non-religious		Confused about number seven: I think they will be void of religion, but not sure they will rely solely on science for anything... For discounting religion, yes, I agree, in other cases, not sure.
Non-religious		Could've already happened, maybe tomorrow, maybe never - If it does, I think people will find a way to incorporate it, for better or for worse.
Non-religious		Crises of faith or lack thereof strongly depends on what the Aliens say...
Non-religious		Discovery of ET would not affect my personal belief system because I am a stone atheist. I do search for ET and think we will come across some one day – Jim - www.SETI.Net
Non-religious		encounters with aliens will so frighten the ordinary human that he/she will cling more strongly to their beliefs because that is they will have left, the new universe will be totally overwhelming - religion is based on fear of the unknown - finding one new race might mean there are others - who knows? That lack of knowledge will only strengthen the irrational adherence to religious faith.
Non-religious		For a civilization to get from far away to here, I suspect it would need to have gotten over superstitious beliefs. But its ethics vis a vis humans would be totally unpredictable. Human religions claim, but shouldn't own, ethics and alien ethics could as easily be benign as harmful whether they are superstitious or not.
Non-religious		From what I've seen and heard regarding our search for extraterrestrial life, it's difficult to predict with any degree of certainty when we'll finally make contact with another intelligent lifeform that originates somewhere off this planet or what the reaction of that lifeform to us will be once we bump into them. Will it cause a crisis in religion? Probably not. Interpretations of religious texts will ensue and there will probably be some form of embrace or exclusion of our visitors by religious leaders depending on how first contact goes. Would they be religion free? Probably not, or else they wouldn't have wondered "What's beyond the stars?" and decided to go and find out.
Non-religious		Given the age of the Earth, compared with the age of the universe, and based upon the best current theories of cosmology, it would be unreasonable to suspect that intelligent life had evolved independently in separate locations within a narrow temporal margin (6 million years or less) of each other. Any human-equivalently intelligent extraterrestrials which may exist are overwhelmingly likely to have existed for much longer than humanity. This also makes it likely that they are highly distant from us, given the fact that the galaxy evinces no obvious signs of their presence. It would also be exceedingly improbable that disparately developing and originally unrelated intelligent civilisations would develop cultures of belief and practice along convergent lines, barring unforeseeable variables. Intelligent extraterrestrial cultures are therefore likely to be alien in belief and practice to human cultures. The psychological architectures of extraterrestrial intelligences are unlikely to mirror those of human beings, barring unforeseeable convergence-inducing factors. A conspicuously long-lived culture or civilisation would be unlikely to be founded upon beliefs about the universe which conflict with scientific or philosophical realities - superstitions, dogmas, and dogmatic religious philosophies which insist upon belief in realities which are neither evidentially substantiated nor mathematically probable nor pragmatically useful would be unlikely to predominate in a society which, by necessity, must consistently stack

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		<p>odds in its favour, due to the fact that beliefs incongruent with scientific, philosophical, and mathematical realities depreciate the capacity to behave in a rational and self-interested manner. Extraterrestrial cultures may pragmatically adhere to convenient delusions or metaphors, although barring unforeseeable convergence-inducing factors; it would be unlikely that such beliefs and practices would be familiar to humans. Pragmatic philosophically-based universal ethical concerns cannot be assumed to apply to all possible forms of intelligence - we cannot reasonably expect intelligent alien species of which we know nothing to arrive to the aid of our global civilisation simply because our own species maintains a psychological architecture conducive to concerns which are amenable to universalisation. I do not believe that a crisis of faith engendered by the discovery of extraterrestrial intelligences would be profound enough to damage religious belief in a non-superficial manner. Contact with alien cultures may have a more profound impact, although it is difficult to imagine a single event with implications so psychologically profound as to preempt all attempts by all believers to reconcile their current belief systems with the new data. Religious forms have survived all social and cultural upheavals experienced by the human species thus far, it is unlikely that the world's religions would be annihilated by the discovery of a foreign culture, although, as with all intellectual revolutions, such a discovery would likely weaken traditional religious forms while relatively strengthening novel forms. My personal beliefs would remain unaffected by any such event, barring imponderable circumstances, such as alien cultures importing their own highly developed, universalising ethical concerns into human cultures. As a secular humanist, my beliefs do not rest upon particular assumptions about the universe which are likely to be dispelled by the discovery of a naturalistic perspective foreign to my own. An extraterrestrial culture with sophisticated philosophically, mathematically, or scientifically based arguments against naturalism or ethical universality or for a different form of ethical universality would disrupt my belief structure. It is unlikely that extraterrestrial intelligences exist, or, alternatively, that they will be discovered by human beings, due to aforementioned considerations.</p>
Non-religious		<p>hail xenu</p>
Non-religious		<p>I am not sure if my perspective is useful since I am not really religious. Question 7 is a bit tricky, because I have to kind of apply *some* definition to the term "religion" and then speculate as to whether aliens will adhere to it. This is kind of hard.</p>
Non-religious		<p>I believe that anything is possible and try not to make assumptions about the nature of extraterrestrials, if they exist. I am open to but not banking on their existence.</p>
Non-religious		<p>I believe that we are not unique in the universe (it would be sheer hubris on our part, not that we are not a completely narcissistic species) but the universe is so large that contact among advanced civilizations is limited to neighboring planetary systems; and we may not have very advanced neighbors.</p>
Non-religious	<p>baptized catholic but not practicing any</p>	<p>I believe they are out there but....I have no preconceived idea of what they are like. Perhaps they are just like us, in all ways, good and bad. Thanks!</p>
Non-religious		<p>I have trouble describing an advanced extraterrestrial civilization in the context of the current and past human civilizations with which I am familiar.</p>

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Non-religious		I hope we do find life beyond our planet. I have an open mind as to what shape it may take and what influence it will have.
Non-religious		I remain open-minded so would not be disturbed by any new findings
Non-religious	Agnostic Theist	I think a bigger disruption to religious belief would be evidence that E.T.s seeded life on Earth.
Non-religious		I think it quite possible that we will find ETL somewhere; but I think it unlikely that we will have contact with ETL that we can communicate with. Supposing that we do find ETL, it's likely that they will be more technologically advanced than us (at least in some critical respects), but that doesn't necessarily mean that they will be morally advanced (if we could even define that). I think their morality will likely be alien to us (no pun intended).
Non-religious		I think we have certain assumptions (these beings would be more intelligent, etc.) about life elsewhere based on early influences from sci-fi television shows (i.e., Star Trek) and writings (Asimov, Wells, etc.). I think it is presumptive to assume anything about another civilization before even having knowledge of its existence.
Non-religious		I would tend to reason that a galactic action such as outreach, expansion, or even something more simple such as local exploration - such an effort would generally be driven by an overwhelming need of some serious kind. I would believe that history and trends might repeat themselves even on such a large scale. Alien missionaries will eventually lead to us being steamrolled over by the forward momentum of something obviously far more advanced...
Non-religious		Intelligent life on extrasolar planets will most likely be found in a petri dish or other lab apparatus after years of study on a foreign planet. Common sense odds are intelligent bipeds with their own monk corps and rain dances exist only on earth. Now whether aliens insects that can communicate to some degree will have rituals of some sort, sure, I can go for that, as repetition is innate to survival. But challenges to world religions - although of course possible - will probably not happen with the alien worms, amoebas and trees we more than likely will end up finding...
Non-religious		It is likely we will identify a planet that shows signs of habitation. However, contact is unlikely given the vast distances.
Non-religious		Most of the questions simply talk of "contact" with extraterrestrials, which can mean either physical contact (them visiting us) or simply exchanging radio signals. Question 9, on the other hand (and to a lesser extent, question 10) speaks explicitly of space travel which is, as far as I can tell, too expensive a proposition for almost any purpose.
Non-religious		MY BIGGEST BELIEF IS THAT I DON'T KNOW. THEREFORE, THE ONLY THING I FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT IS THAT ANY ET'S WOULD BE VERY DIFFERENT FROM US, INCLUDING THEIR BELIEFS, AND THAT OUR RELIGIONS, MOST OF WHICH ARE DOGMATIC, WOULD BE ROCKED.
Non-religious		Religions have always had no problem ignoring or incorporating new information brought by science. I don't think the discovery of intelligent extraterrestrial life would be any different.
Non-religious	Reasonist	Religious superstition is likely the hallmark of a youthful sentient species. As an intelligent sapient species evolves, science and materialism regularly trumps the unfounded, undemonstrated, and untested beliefs of religion.

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Non-religious		Reminds me of joke from Joys of Yiddish (parphrase): Boy asks his experienced cousin, "How do you succesfully date a girl?" Cousin says, "Jewish girls like to talk about three things: food, family, and philosophy." So boy goes on date and leads with, "Do you have a brother?" Girl says, "No." Boy then tries, "Do you like spaghetti?" Girl again says, "No." Boy tries one more time, "Well, if you had a brother, would he like spaghetti?" That was philosophy. (apologies to Leo Rosten) The idea is noble, but I think SETI has nearly made a case for disbanding itself. Our own planet is crawling with undiscovered or unappreciated life. Steve Luntz sluntz@earthlink.net
Non-religious		SETI sucks
Non-religious		Suppose we were told that there were extraterrestrial civilizations, but not told where to look for them. Where would one look first? Which way would you point your spaceship to find them? One could look for candidate solar systems, but it would be hard to know which direction to start.
Non-religious		Ted...I don't know what sort of audience you are attempting to survey so the questions seem odd to me. In general, they are written for a religious or religiously affiliated audience or at least is feels that way in my opinion.
Non-religious	I have none	The discovery of intelligent extra terrestrials could make human beings look more alike to each other, this could be a unifying force, hopefully for positive benefit of both.
Non-religious	nontheist	There is a real possibility that Earth is the singularity and people have to learn what is required to balance the power of reality nand then do it. Because we are here once does not mean we or life can ever come again. All dieties are simply creations of the minds of people andused by people for their own ends, often their own power. No one knows when consciousness ends and cannot be reclaimed through artificial means. I worked in this area so I am not writing theory, rather reality. Facts override belief. Good intentions are not enough. Learn neurology and the damage wrong teaching can do--and the risk it places all of us under. Life is wonderful and we need the truth--in all cases. One world, one currency, open communication and unified free regulation--education is essential but it needs to be factual. God/Allah/ Yahew and "enlightment" are all creations in books, written by men--in other words,they are characters in stories. We need ways to address the lifechanging events religions deal with, the social celrebrations linked to the calendar and we need the truth. All the deities keep people childlike rather than strong and dedicated. Life is best shared and new models to do this can be presented, realisitically. Should the extraterresterials already be here we deserve to know. There is no where to run, now planet to escape to if earth is the singularity and somewhre must be so why not earth? It is math--everything starts with 1 and on earth we have ploenty of 1s--real people.
Non-religious		There is no such thing as 'more highly evolved' in terms of civilisation. While it's likely that an interstellar-travelling specied is of a higher tech level than our own, matters of politics and morality are dependent upon environment and culture.
Non-religious		This is Gauri Sarda. I thought this was a very interesting line of study, and would be interested in knowing the results, if possible. I am contactable at maitrai@gmail.com

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Non-religious		Where I do believe that life elsewhere is probable, I don't necessarily think that they will all be "good" aliens. Just because a race has evolved farther than we have doesn't mean they have evolved peacefully. They could be like the Klingons, on Star Trek, and want to dominate and control weaker, less evolved species, like us. Good luck with your research.
Non-religious		While I believe, based solely on the volume of the universe, that extraterrestrial intelligent life exists, I do not believe that meaningful contact will occur within the next generation.
Non-religious		You should break down the category of nonreligious into atheist and agnostic. I'm an atheist.
Non-religious		You use the phrase "more highly evolved" - which makes no sense. Evolution is about organism / environment fit and not some ladder to climb. More advanced would make more sense, perhaps.
Orthodox Christian		Apart from the questions dealing with how my faith would be affected by confirmation of alien civilization, this survey seems at best an exercise in conjecture. It appears you're looking more for how creatively your respondents can imagine alien life to be as opposed to how they would react faced with tangible evidence of extraterrestrial civilization.
Orthodox Christian		God created life on earth for 1 thing, to worship him. Therefore, if you take that thinking its pretty easy to deduce that God could create life on other planets. Remember we are not commanded to worship, but its through our own freewill that we do.
Orthodox Christian		I am constantly amazed at the ridiculous idea among some (a minority, I hope) in scientific community that people of faith are ignorant and of low intelligence and therefore must have a "God-of-the-gaps" theology (i.e., God is used to explain all things which we cannot at this time explain scientifically). I am also amazed at the notion (one might even say religious belief) among many of these same people that technological advances somehow run concurrently with -- or even bring about -- greater morality. I am a person of DEEP faith with a genius-level IQ, two doctorates, a hope that we will encounter intelligent life from outside of Earth, and a hope (but not necessarily an expectation) that any extraterrestrial intelligent life humanity encounters will be benevolent.
Orthodox Christian		I strongly disbelieve in the possibility of other intelligent life other than on earth. I think Christ came to release us from our sins on this planet and that is exclusive....But, if I were wrong and Christ can redeem other races, it would not change what I believe at all.
Orthodox Christian		i teach religious studies and philosophy and train chaplains.
Orthodox Christian		Nothing would make me lose my faith. God can reach them if they exist.
Orthodox Christian	Protestants/MarThoma Syrian Christian/India	Sorry to sound so negative--Q 6,7,& 8 and the others are too anthropocentric. ET morality would be dependnt on their evolving a complex brain-mind dependent on their 'nurture' & 'nature'.
Orthodox Christian		This survey made me realize how much my idea of "aliens" is based on film. Questions 6-8 were assumptions that I'd never contested.
Orthodox Christian		UFOs will have good food.
Orthodox		Yay for Lewis' Space Trilogy.

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Christian		
Other	Messianic Gentile	"Extraterrestrials" are actually Extra-spiritual beings. To put it in common terms....E.T. is a fallen angel...a demon.
Other	Jehovah's Witness	An 'extraterrestrial' being is outside of the realm of Earth. Those who believe in God, angels, Jesus, and heaven already do believe in extraterrestrials..just not the 'alien' kind favored by science fiction writers.
Other	Indipendent Biblically based Sabbatarian	Did Jesus die for extraterrestrials? No! He died for you and me -- human beings. He even became one of us to die as one of us. If the ET's are so advanced, why do they think it necessary to abduct and conduct horrible experiments on humans? What kind of morality is that??? Seems to me to be more demonic than not. Satan can present himself as an "angel of light" and so can his followers. What's to say that these "ET's" aren't deceiving devils?
Other	Mystic, used to be Orthodox Christian	Good idea to have this survey, but most of the questions aren't really knowable. My belief in God is absolutely unaffected by extraterrestrial life - although it would be downright dismayng if there were not other life in the universe.
Other	Mennonite	Great survey. I love the imagination required to answer. Thank you for the chance to participate.
Other	Non Denominational	I believe that all extra terrestrial beings are fallen angels (demons, if you will). And whatever traits they have can be traced back to Lucifer.
Other	Anglican Traditionalist (Am Anglican Council)	I believe there was a robust discussion in the Roman Catholic Church in the 17th-18th century on the 'multiplicity of worlds', although I have not examined it in depth. I also have a hunch that Islam, a retrograde institution, would have more trouble adapting to Contact than Christianity or Judaism.
Other	Discordian	I don't see how ET contact should be a big deal from a theological perspective. They're created beings just like us, and simply not impressive in relation to the big Universe and its alleged Creator.
Other	Jehovah's Witness	I notice that questions 3 & 4 refer to "a civilization of intelligent beings living on another planet" while several of the other questions refer to "extraterrestrial intelligent beings". The second phrase could be interpreted as including spirit creatures and hence may affect the answers given - it certainly has an influence on my answers. For background I have a science based education and background, hold a MSc and work in a field where applied science and scientific methodology are fundamental. I am an elder in a congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses in the UK. I think it unlikely that we will encounter intelligent material life on any other planet in the near future - since one could reasonably infer that the issues associated with the fall had never arisen before. Hence it would seem that humans here on earth are the first material intelligent creation. However this is an inference and if it turned out to be incorrect it would result in a rethinking of some detail and not of fundamentals. In the longer term future I think it quite possible that intelligent life will exist on other worlds - but I expect that they will have a belief in a God recognisable to that revealed in the Bible.

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Other	Plain old Christian	I personally think that all aliens, ghosts and anything supernatural is the deception of evil as portrayed in the bible. Evil wants us to not believe in God so therefore, evil will do whatever it takes to steer man away from divine truth. Most ancient records indicate God rather than Aliens and given the fact that for 10,000 years man has been pulling wagons and riding horses but within the last 150 years all of that has changed dramatically has told me that evil is at the end of its reign.
Other	Mennonite	I suspect any alien, advanced civilization will have some form of religion, probably more than one form of religion that will reflect their societies' differing cultural values. As a Christian, I also believe that there will be aspects of alien religion that will have parallels to our own since I believe there is ultimately one God, one love, or one truth -- however you want to look at it -- however different people and cultures have different ways of understanding this deific force. (if I can invent a word) I also think we only need to look at our own, human history to understand that scientific or economic superiority don't necessarily equate to moral advancement. An advanced alien race may well be peaceful and benevolent, but they could also be malicious and warlike as well. One would hope the latter would have evolved morally or destroyed themselves before attaining the scientific knowledge to travel to other planets, but I wouldn't consider it a given.
Other	Medieval Specialist with Tribal overtones	I suspect we have no reason to believe "they" will have a sense of morality defined in the same way we do. For example, President Bush sees "democracy" as a moral high ground, but limits his definition to American ideals. Clearly, a more advanced technological based ET (they can come here, we can't go there) would understand the operating laws of the universe differently than we do, just as we perceive "progress" having been made from the medieval ages. That said, I suspect ET will have a "religion" closer to Music of the Celestial Spheres. One must also consider the difference between ET (ie: has a body) and Inter-dimensional (doesn't have a body like we do) ... Physicality affects many religious beliefs - example Eschatology - that a being not confined to one dimension or body would simply not have developed, or would have progressed beyond such conceptualizations. I also suspect the Augustinian notion of Rationes Seminales as "seeds unfolding" would be closer to their notion of evolution than the our current theological debate frames the issue. I must tell you, as a person who has many years in contact with tribal cultures, that the existence of, and contacts with our star brothers is a given in most indigenous cultures. Only "modern" white man sees the issue from the point of view your questions indicate. For example, if you ask a Lakotah elder why there are several races on the planet now, they will reply it is because "we are from different places". In other words, we are them. I am confused by your perspective that contact may be coming in the future - it seems clear to me that there is plenty of evidence that "they" are, and have been, part of our history for thousands of years. May I suggest you look at the Dogon tribe in Mali, or read the Lakotah "Star Brothers" materials, or check the Tulli papyrus & the "Wall of Dreams" under the Temple of Seti 1st in Egypt... Tyhe biggest "threat" I see in relation to contemporary religions is the sense of superiority each claims to have. Clearly, these will be challenged. Just as the advent of Christianity claims to supercede the Jewish roots, the "new ideas" brought by contact with ET / ID will challenge established "norms" ... The more institutionalized the religion, the more traumatic this will be for adherents to that tradition. One need only look at the "Fundamentalist" response to the expansion of Islam to see this in action. Good luck in your research :) - RV

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Other	Quaker	It is too hard to judge even a little bit how an organism lives on another planet in regards to moral stance and sociological make up to actually make any kind of estimate on how they would interact with us or regards us.
Other	Baptist (did not come from Catholic church)	q6 needs to be broken down better
Other	Non-affiliated	Question 6 has an inherent epistemological bias. In this question, technological knowledge, political knowledge, and moral knowledge are rhetorically bound together as if advancement one area necessarily leads to advancement in another. One must look back no further than the World Wars of the 20th century to understand how discongruent technological progress and moral progress can be.
Other	experience-based, personal spirituality (paganish)	Re: #7, distinction between science and religion is a cultural artefact (due to artificial Mind/Body or Material/Spiritual dualisms). My religion is not distinct from my science.
Other	general theist	Recent experiences with channelers convinces me there probably is ET life.
Other	spiritual but not "religious" (i.e. not identified with an organized religion)	Since I don't identify with a religious tradition, number 4 does not apply so I left it blank.
Other	new-testamentic (try to become)	Thanks to excellent sites like Yours, I ve learned. But there are MISTAKES in Your questions; because of single-layer question viewpoint !! love, God s bliss, loneman777@hushmail.com HOLLAND
Other	Christian	The Bible does not disclose whether or not God chose to create life on other planets. Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence. If He did, that's his business.
Other	loose christian	The strict followers of religions would be the most affected by such a finding of extraterrestrial life whereas the loose followers such as myself would welcome the new discovery and be intrigued by the opinions of a different civilization
Other	raised Catholic actively non denominational	The world is too vast and wonderful and God's power is so limitless, that there must be more than little old us.

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Other	Swedenborgian	Though I think the odds are decent that there is life elsewhere in the universe, I rather wonder whether the constraints of time and space can be so easily transcended as science fiction writers love to imagine....perhaps life systems have persisted for billions of years without the ability to contact one another...and it could stay that way.
Other	vaguely gnostic	to note; there are various theories, most pseudoscientific that purport that the divinities spoken of in the world religions and mythologies were early man's experiences with a technologically superior, extraterrestrials.
Other	constructive deism	Was raised Roman Catholic but have not practiced in over 20 years - this fact does tend to shape some of my views on religion.
Other	Wiccan	Wouldn't it be cool if SETI found something? I'm really interested to see the results of this survey.
Other	Spiritualist	Yes, the truth is we've been inhabited for 1000's of years now. And our US govt. has been in not only contact but has treaties with the alien races. All our modern technology came from them & back engineered crashed or shot down craft. The factual knowledge will lead to the "RIGHTFUL," destruction of both "RELIGION & GOVERNMENT," around the world. Because they have not only lied to us for generations, they have used their knowledge for ultimate illegal power & control of the masses. Once known, all religions & governments on the earth will perish ! "THANK GOD !" They are no good anyway. They are a sucking leech on the backs of humanity who have lied, twisted, & hidden the real truth, just to keep themselves in power. For greed they have sold us all out ! I hope the aliens wipe out all of the earth's religions & governments ! That's what those scum deserve. "WE THE PEOPLE," deserve the truth ! About everything ! "THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE ! And "NO ONE HAS JURISDICTION OVER THE TRUTH !" Look up the "GREADA TREATY," & "THE 100 TREATY," they are treaties made with the aliens back in the 30's & 40's. They sold us all out ! Now we have secret joint underground human / alien bases, that are planning to take over the planet. The "GREYS," & "REPTILES," form Zeta Reticuli & Alpha Draconis, respectively. Want to kill & enslave all humanity. Lucky for us, The Pleadians, Andromedians, & Procyions, are on our side, in this secret war. It's taking place right now in our space above earth, & below in the underground bases & tunnels of the aliens. They also have bases on the moon & mars. In fact the truth about the moon bases & mars bases will also be coming out soon. When the truth finally comes out, there will be hell to pay, traitors to be shot, hung, & worse. And the world can get on to our rightful place in the stars, where we belong. Or we will be enslaved & wiped out by the dark evil alien forces & armies of the NWO & world governments. The end of humanity ! I'd love to see all the world's sick, twisted, & evil religions & governments fall ! Because I know they are all false, & full of crap ! The truth is, we were made by aliens. But we are also "GOD's," in our own right. We are all part of that which is "GOD," it's a force, just like Star Wars. I can't wait for the truth to come out ! I hope all the masses of stupid sheep, kill themselves,turn on their governemnt & religious slave masters & cut their heads off & worse. I hope they burn down every false church, the vatican, & government building around the entire world. That's what all these sick lying scum deserve. Because as they sucked the life,dreams, & money, from all humanity, they've worked hard to enslave & sell the rest of us all out, to become alien slaves & food. Yes food ! Some of the aliens actually eat us alive, like we eat fish & meats. Although most of us cook our food. Aliens don't. They eat us, live, kicking, screaming, & bleeding all over the place. If you don't believe me, read "THE DULCE WARS," or "THE DULCE BOOK," to see the truth. Thousands of doctors, technicians, scientists, & military men have been killed,

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		<p>suicided, or vanished to keep this all quiet & hidden. Trouble is, they can't hide or control it much longer ? I'd like to see all the traitors & scum get fed to the human eating aliens live on pay-per-view ! I'd pay money to see them get their just rewards ! Then kill all the enemy aliens here on earth. Then go into space & kick their no good asses there. The fact is there's already an inter-planetary war going on in the cosmos. And it's being fought over "OUR," human future. Seems the bad aliens were told not to invade or even be part of our natural evolution. They chose to, so now it's "INTERPLANETARY WAR." So I hope this helps you. I've spent over 20 years studying & researching all this, aliens & world governments & religions. I know the truth. And so by the way, now so do you ! Pray we "HUMANS," & the good aliens win ! Or else earth & all humanity are doomed ! And the alien buffet will start soon.</p>
Other	7th-day Adventist	<p>Your survey seems inadequate for your stated purpose. Questions 7, 8 are the only ones that relate to any "challenge" posed by the discovery of intelligent aliens. Lots of Christians expect that ETs exist. So the only "challenge" to religious faith would be a result of what the ETs believed and said to us.</p>
Protestants: evangelical	Evangelical Lutheran	<p># 8 -- this is really two questions issues. Assuming there is in every intelligent being a natural desire/drive to seek out its creator there may well be similarities in the beliefs. However since practice of one's belief is often culturally influenced, there is a high probability that the practices may be different.</p>
Protestants: evangelical		<p>A. Anyone who supposes extraterrestrial life would somehow undermine Christianity should consider the perspective of C.S.Lewis, perhaps the most widely recognized Christian apologist of the last century. There is nothing in Christianity that excludes other intelligent life. Lewis even wrote a science-fiction space trilogy that embraced the idea. I am not aware of any religion that would specifically exclude that possibility. Nor does finding other life disprove the idea of a Creator. Whatever process provided life on Earth, whether created or accidental, that same process could create/make life elsewhere. Those who imagine life elsewhere would point one way or the other haven't thought the matter through carefully. B. Regarding SETI, I believe the absence of any results is leading toward plans to shut down the program. Stephen Hawking recently speculated on this absence of results, and indicated he preferred to think it was because intelligent life is very rare in the universe (though simpler life might be more common). C. Question 5 uses check boxes (which allow multiple simultaneous selections), but I would guess this was unintentional and that it should have radio buttons (allowing one choice) like the other questions.</p>
Protestants: evangelical		<p>Advanced life, especially intelligent life, is so rare that Earth is probably its only location in the universe. The distances involved in interstellar space are so vast that even if there were extraterrestrial intelligence we would be unable to interact in any meaningful way.</p>
Protestants: evangelical		<p>Although this has nothing to do with religious belief, I think IF there is ETI out there and they are as super intelligent as many suppose them to be they would have contacted us already in an indisputable fashion. That leads me to believe that either they are not there or they are not as advanced as our science fiction supposes. How ever I honestly don't thing ETI existing has any affect on the Bible and the Christian faith.</p>
Protestants: evangelical		<p>Answering most of these questions would require unfounded speculation. I don't believe there is even sufficient evidence for that.</p>

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Protestants: evangelical		any et's are demonically inspired
Protestants: evangelical		As a Christian... I really do not believe that when "Advanced Aliens" make official contact with the People of Earth that that is who they really are. I believe that when this happens the Beings will really be "the Watchers" (fallen angels) who have finally returned to install the final Anti-Christ upon the Throne of World Government to Rule over Earth! He and they will be greeted by 90% of the Human Race as saviors since Earth will have gone thru much War and Natural Disasters before the Watchers Unveil themselves. Within a few years the true nature of the Worlds Great (false) Savior will be known. Then he will set about destroying as much of the Human Race as Holy God Permits before the Glorious Return of King Jesus to vanquish and imprison the rest of the fallen-angels to await their Final Judgement to come! Not Space Brothers but the Fallen Angels of Lucifer!
Protestants: evangelical		Comment on question 9: If the aliens are libertarians, they might think that the School of Hard Knocks is the best thing for us, and leave us alone. In fact, this may already be happening.
Protestants: evangelical		Do angels count as extraterrestrials? If so, They are already helping us, and in some cases hindering us, according to Christian tradition, beginning with the Bible. If not, other ET's are highly unlikely to interfere; why should they mess with obviously defective (sinful) humans unless they had the answer to sin? And we are effectively quarantined. Regarding question 6, who says they evolved? Maybe they were created, like I believe we were (on the basis of good evidence). My personal religious tradition would have trouble if there were ET's who were sinful, but the only theological crisis in Christianity would be precipitated if they were sinful and had not been offered salvation, although perhaps then we would be agents of salvation. I personally would bet pretty strongly against SETI finding anything, but UFO's might well give us apparent but false knowledge of ET's, as I expect that they might be elaborate deceptions, perhaps by evil angels. The questions in this survey are asked from a naive perspective, as indicated by (a) the absence of differentiation between angels and other ET's, (b) the assumption of evolution, and (c) the assumption that all evidence (e. g., UFO's) can be interpreted straightforwardly (deception does not exist). You might try re-designing your instrument.
Protestants: evangelical		First of all I would like to thank you for asking for my oppinion. I do believe the inhabitants of the "UFOs" will make contact with us within the next 30 years. I do not believe they are "ETs" in the sense that most people ascribe them. I believe they are from another demension than ours, not another planet. I believe that their appearence will cause distraction in faith of some Christians, and most other religions. It will not effect my belief, nor other serious Bible students because I believe Jesus has already warnned us about this event. See Daniel 2:43 I believe that when they, "the ETs" make contact that they will undermin serious Bible students and cause all in every country to believe that we {SBSs} are thwarting their {ETs} ability to give humankind the essentials to further asscend into higher evolved beings. I do believe that Jesus will interceed for He says that if it were posible they would deceive the very elect, but for the elect's sake that time {the time when they will present themselves, they who try to mingle themselves with the seed of man} will be shortened.

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		Thanks again, Bernadette Holliday AS, LVN
Protestants: evangelical		From an evangelical Christian perspective, the Word of God was written for us on Earth to reveal the creator. We were created to bring glory to God. Why would we repudiate the idea that God may have created other civilizations to bring him glory in the same way? Christ as our Savior may be the method he chose to redeem us on Earth, but he could have used similar methods in other galaxies if he desired.
Protestants: evangelical		Genesis 6--sons of God came to daughters of men. Were these extraterrestrial entities or demonic entities who can take on human form? As a result, Genesis says the earth was destroyed by flood. The Bible allows for possibility of "Advanced Beings" who can take on human form-- 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6. Strange story--not referring to line of Seth and Cain that is now popular among evangelicals. While their "magic" of advanced technology may be truly advanced technology, it may well be from a more sinister source. Fallen angels have high intelligence to produce advanced technology. Truth can be more strange than one might imagine. When these advanced "beings" appear, are they truly from another planet or advanced civilization in some mundane sense, or another dimension? These stories of alien abduction, mutilation of sexual organs and examination of human reproduction oddly could be seen to parallel biblical, cryptic passages even in 1 Enoch. The truth is out there, trust no one!
Protestants: evangelical		Having no knowledge of Ets, we can know nothing of their religious or moral beliefs
Protestants: evangelical		How about the converse of question 8 that reads "Extraterrestrial beings are likely to have religious beliefs and practices which conform substantially with established beliefs and practices as we know them on earth."
Protestants: evangelical		http://thecreationofanevolutionist.blogspot.com/2008/05/indiana-jones-star-wars-et-and-origin.html
Protestants: evangelical		I believe in a God so big that if he desired he could have created other intelligence within the Universe. I believe if they are out there they were created about the same time as us so it will be a long time before we will know for sure if there is other intelligence out there.

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Protestants: evangelical	I believe that the eschatological claim that 'every knee will bow' to Jesus as God applies to 'extraterrestrial intelligent beings' (even if they don't have knees), in addition to leaders of all religions (including Christianity), as well as angels, demons, and Satan, and whoever else may show up before it's all over (Rev. Moon, or any other antichrists), and applies to any beings (or non-beings) to be found in this universe or any other universe; in short, in my opinion Jesus is not only 'the Lamb that was slain' but also the 'King of kings'
Protestants: evangelical	I believe that the Extraterrestrial exists, but we need to discover them. God might have created or allowed to be created an another world at some other place in the universe. Bible says there are a lot of things that human cannot understand
Protestants: evangelical	I believe that though the discovery would not affect all Evangelical Protestants, some would experience a crisis of faith. This would lead to thought, reading, prayer, and discussion. I think I personally would go through some questioning, and end up refining my beliefs without deserting the essentials.
Protestants: evangelical	I believe that we (society) are already in a moral religious crisis and that the search of and/or finding of Extraterrestrial Intelligent Life is simply a search for God. Regardless of the outcome, I view the search as saying more about us and our rebellion to God than about reality and the unknown. Saying fire is god is the same as saying ET is god. No matter how much we search, if the purpose is to have God on our own terms, it is all the same. I don't think we'll ever find another Earth, but if we did, I would make all effort to keep myself in check with whom I worship and adore.
Protestants: evangelical	I can't see why the discovery of other life would affect our belief at all. God has made our world- and can make millions more, I suppose. Is Jesus the savior for all of them too, or did God do things very differently in those places? I'd be fascinated to find out, but not at all disturbed by it.
Protestants: evangelical	I do not believe that Christianity precludes belief in extraterrestrials, but I do however believe that the Lord's plan for them would likely be different from ours. As Romans says, one Adam brought sin into the world and a second Adam paid the ransom for all and became our salvation. We have no concept for what their 'Eden experience' would have been like. The Bible is explicit that man was made in the image of God. Christ's death on the cross does not allow all animals into the kingdom of heaven, only mankind. So...the question would remain...would they have a soul?
Protestants: evangelical	I don't think they are out there. But if they are, that's cool.
Protestants: evangelical	I hope you will publish the results of this survey.
Protestants: evangelical	I like your writings

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<p>Protestants: evangelical</p>	<p>I love CS Lewis' commentary on this subject: Lewis' essay "Onward, Christian Spacemen" was reprinted as "The Seeing Eye" as part of his posthumous collection Christian Reflections, in 1967, (Walter Hooper, ed.) Even though we have not pointed our detectors toward a huge fraction of the space around us, I am not convinced that there is life elsewhere, nor of the need to spend money looking for it. There are many conditions that go into making life possible on a planet. A majority of the variables in Drake's equation require speculative estimations, and even then Wikipedia suggests an estimate of 10 civilizations in the Milky Way. I think peoples' desire to look for life elsewhere stems from the question of 'are we alone?' And I think that that question has much to do with the fact that we are inherently lonely. The reason for this loneliness is spelled out in the Bible.</p>
<p>Protestants: evangelical</p>	<p>I personally believe that Satan, the enemy of Jesus, will attempt to deceive the world into believing he is an ET, and many will fall for it. He will offer assistance, but it is a deception to turn people away from God. There are no ETs in the sense of physically evolved alien creatures. There are ETs in the sense of spiritual beings (angels and demons).</p>
<p>Protestants: evangelical</p>	<p>I struggle with these questions, which seem somewhat irrelevant to my faith, founded on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I believe Jesus is exactly who he said he was, and extraterrestrial life wouldn't affect the truths of the Bible or of Christ himself. Given that God Almighty is the creator of the universe, it wouldn't surprise me if he had created life on other planets, but in my humble opinion, we have no way of knowing what his plan is for them and/or how they might relate to us. Getting a grasp on the Bible and Jesus seems like a huge project so I'm sticking with that :-)</p>
<p>Protestants: evangelical</p>	<p>I think that the Bible is the story of God's relationship with humans on earth. Jesus Christ, God Incarnate, died for the sins of humans. I think that the Bible leaves room for other creatures in the universe, both physical and spiritual. If we meet them, then they will probably have a relationship with God as well, although their story may sound different to us. Of course, it also might fill in some of the questionable pieces of our history.</p>
<p>Protestants: evangelical</p>	<p>I think you've lost it man!! Who gets credit for creating the entire universe? Better spend a little time in the first chapter of the Bible.</p>
<p>Protestants: evangelical</p>	<p>I wish to clarify my answer to number 8. I think that extraterrestrial religious beliefs and traditions will differ, perhaps greatly in some ways, from those of earth religions because the alien species and their world(s) would likely be different from ours. However, they live in the same universe with the same God, and a similar array of religious responses and developments would likely have developed on their world. If at least some of them have covenant dealings with the God of the Bible, their covenant relationship might well be different than ours. There would probably be noticeable similarities between points of their theology and Christian theology. That would no doubt cause much bafflement. But I do not think that extraterrestrial religion would be so shockingly different from Earth religion as to cause a sharp conflict. The interesting factor would be if and how the extraterrestrial civilization is affected by sin. It is possible that they have the same trouble with it that we do. It is possible that they would be even more deeply affected by it than we are, but I find that unlikely. A truly devilish species would probably not be capable of reaching the stars. It is also possible, though I think unlikely, that we might encounter a civilization that has not experienced the Fall. Contact with Earth</p>

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		would probably be more troublesome to them than to us. I think direct contact and communication on any large scale with such a species would be unlikely because they would probably be content with their own world and not strive after trade, conquest, or colonization on other worlds. At most they would be explorers, seeking to view and appreciate God's universe.
Protestants: evangelical		If there really is a supreme being, ET's will no doubt know or have conceived this as much as men. Truth is universal. It does not change from planet to planet, life form to life form. Strange that some religious folk fear the discovery of ET. What would be more logical of God than to create life in great abundance? The old Kabbalists believed there were something like 18,000 planets with life.
Protestants: evangelical		If these aliens are so advanced morally, why are they abducting so many humans for research/experimentation? Sounds to me more like they are amoral (no morality) or just plain evil (like demons). With all the transhumanistic experimentation going on in the open now, it doesn't seem too far-fetched to think that these "aliens" might even be the result of those kinds of experiments already completed -- that they originated right here on earth and are part of a huge deception.
Protestants: evangelical		If we believe that our own understanding of the universe and of god's creation is exceptionally limited and we further believe that god is omnipotent, then it seems rather foolish for humankind to conclude that life only exists on earth and that god's dominion is limited to the earth (and the occasional trip to the moon.) Even after scientific proof was irrefutable, it took the Roman Catholic Church over 200 years to acknowledge that the sun was indeed the center of the solar system. So, even with CNN and the internet I would not expect humankind to reconcile an omnipotent god with extraterrestrial life overnight. However, just as facts are facts, faith is faith. We sin when we use scientific knowledge to alienate ourselves from god. We move closer to god when we acknowledge our humility and accept that god indeed has the power to create life beyond our world (or our current understanding.) Another way of looking at it is this; If you have become accustomed to being an only child and you suddenly discover that you have a sister that lives in the next town over, you may react with anger, curiosity, or elation, but you would not deny the existence of your father. Instead, you would ask questions, eventually gain a deeper understanding of events, and certainly redefine your new relationship with your father and sister.
Protestants: evangelical		In an article a few years ago I suggested that if -- as I believe -- there is a creator-God, all beings in the universe will have the opportunity to be in communication with him/her (in their own way, admittedly, just as religion now is culturally instantiated whatever else it may be), and it may be that belief in and revelation from the same God would actually be the one thing we would all have in common in the face of vast differences in evolutionary history, intelligence and culture, or even chemical composition.

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Protestants: evangelical	In question #6, you joined technological and moral progress. Since super-light-speed travel would be necessary to visit other stars, a higher technology than ours would be required -- so such a contact would require ETs to be more technologically advanced than us. But I don't believe technological advances are always (or even usually) linked to any kind of moral improvement. Consider, for example, high-definition "reality" television, which is more technologically advanced than ever, and yet far shallower and more demeaning than the reading materials most people entertained themselves with before television. Pre-WWII, Germany was the most technologically advanced nation on earth. Morally? You judge.
Protestants: evangelical	Interesting quiz, lots of these issues are a wait and see situation, things could be either way. I trust that the God who made the heavens and the earth will have all this under control.
Protestants: evangelical	It is my opinion that UFOs are manifestations of the demonic. As regards material beings from say...another planet within another galaxy; it is my opinion they would be so advanced above and beyond earth's human population and be so different in nature, that it is possible to argue the supposition these could be "angels", either holy or unholy; given that "angel" simply means "messenger." My belief system is based wholly on Scripture and my faith is based wholly on Jesus Christ as my Savior and the "only begotten of the Father." All else within the universe of whatever nature, form or origin it/they may take, are the initial creations of God Almighty..whether good as unto "holy" or evil as unto "unholy."
Protestants: evangelical	It was difficult to answer the middle questions, especially considering the survey did not specify several factors such as: do we find them, or do they find us? (this would affect whether or not they would be likely to be "more advanced"
Protestants: evangelical	Just a note, I disagreed with strongly worded expectations, as I felt the NAND response wasn't strong enough.
Protestants: evangelical	Larry Norman wrote a song ("He's an Unidentified Flying Object) in the 70s which include the following lyrics: "And if there's life on other planets, and I'm sure that He must know, well he's been there once already, and has died to save their souls"
Protestants: evangelical	Many of the answers to these questions are dependent upon the origin of the extraterrestrial life. IF the Bible is true (I believe that it is, so obviously that effects my opinion), then there are three possible origins for ET life: They are human descended from us via an advanced civilization in time past, they are alien and created by God (which would mean they bear no moral guilt although they would exist under the curse like all creation), or they are demonic in nature. Obviously, some of the question you ask could be answered differently based upon which scenario one is thinking about. I'd love to chat with you regarding this subject if you desire: mark@noblehill.org should find me.
Protestants: evangelical	My comments where I neither agree nor disagree should be interpreted as not knowable. My certainty with regard to question 10 is that given the great age of the Universe if an advanced civilization existed AND they could contact us it would have already happened. Physics may not be able to be overcome.
Protestants: evangelical	Nothing I can find in scripture altogether rules out extra-terrestrial life, but on balance I think it is very unlikely that such a thing exists.

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Protestants: evangelical		on q. 10, UFOs and SETI are rather different categories. There's an essay by C. S. Lewis (unfortunately published under various titles in various anthologies) that strongly argues against any particular significance for Christianity of any conceivable type of extraterrestrial. Whether or not one agrees, it is clear at any rate that extraterrestrials would not be disruptive to all religious belief.
Protestants: evangelical		Personally I don't believe there are ETs, as if there are, they probably would have been discovered by now. As far as the UFO phenomenon goes, I think it's all smoke and mirrors, otherwise why do they not make contact with us? Are we defective in some manner? This would align with Christian belief that all humans have the disease of SIN, and they (aliens) may not be sinful, making contact with us a prohibited thing (C. S. Lewis "Out of the Silent Planet" series). Never the less, if they do exist I don't see how it should effect most religious belief. This because most religious belief is based upon a transcendent God who is beyond the Universe, and anything in the Universe, is created by Him. Therefore how can one of His creations be a threat to the question of His existence?
Protestants: evangelical		Question 6 is terribly flawed. As our own world shows, scientific, political, and moral progress are not necessarily linked at all.
Protestants: evangelical		Question 6: I agree they will likely be advanced in technology and politics but I don't agree that they will necessarily be moral at all. They could mirror some of the civilizations on earth like radical Islam and be hostile. Question 7 Possible they have no religion, but also possible that God has reached them. Question 8 Possible they have religion and practice contrary to ours, but also possible that they are abundant in Christ. Question 9 They may come to help, but they may come to exploit and plunder.
Protestants: evangelical		Re question #6: This should be 2 questions, separating the technical and moral issues. Our civilizations on earth have advanced greatly in knowledge and technology in several thousand years, but real advances in moral behavior are few, if any. These two issues are not interdependent so #6 cannot be answered correctly in many cases.
Protestants: evangelical		Ridiculous set of questions. You are asking us to offer opinions based on a complete absence of E.T. experience or evidence. Further, you seem to lack a fundamental understanding of evolution in that you assume a "higher" level of evolution equals a more progressive morality.
Protestants: evangelical		Scripture is silent on the issue of ET's so I cannot be dogmatic about their existence one way or the other. Still, it seems that most of the thought about ET's is generated by a materialistic framework which appears to assume that chance can produce complex life. The tacit (and I believe, questionable) assumptions in the quest for ET's makes me dubious as to their existence.

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Protestants: evangelical		<p>Sorry for all the "Neither agree or disagree" responses, but views on the likely behaviour of alien races are terribly speculative, aren't they? On the impact of contact with intelligent extra-terrestrials (IET's) I think one has to ask (1) what is understood as the basis of religious belief within a given religious tradition; and (2) how has that tradition coped with new technological and scientific developments in the past. Demonstrably some traditions are very robust in this regard, and I would not expect these traditions to falter at the discovery of IET's (although a period of theological adjustment may well be in order). For what its worth, I have, for several years, been musing on the implications of contact with IET's for evangelical Christian theology (my own tradition) and will say that my opinion as to the theological implications is a considered one (regretably, I lack the time and space to develop that statement). It's funny, btw, how nobody ever assumes that IET's might actually find human religion profound and meaningful in its own right. Heck, perhaps we might even shake THEIR understanding of the universe? The reason we don't imagine this is because (IMHO) our mindset on this point is shaped by secular science-fiction authors who had a metaphysical axe to grind (e.g. Asimov, Sagan, Rodenberry). Or hadn't you noticed that traditional religious belief is always absent when aliens are present? The motive behind my response to Q.10 is, incidentally, scientific rather than theological-taking a generation as 20 years, I simply don't see anything happening in that time frame. I should like to say very much more, but space is somewhat of a limiting factor! All the best with your research.</p>
Protestants: evangelical		<p>Sorry to mark most of these as "Neither agree or disagree" but the fact is that there's so much we don't know. Those who do not have the Spirit of God living within will fall away. Those who have the indwelling Holy Spirit will not. It is the "wheat and tares" scenario.</p>
Protestants: evangelical		<p>The actual interaction with advanced extraterrestrial life would create a crises for my belief system. Finding some extraterrestrial lifeform in a far away planet would not.</p>
Protestants: evangelical		<p>The so called aliens are the watchers of old.</p>
Protestants: evangelical		<p>There are aliens all right. We've always known about them - called by various names: gods, unclean spirits, angels, demons, spirits...</p>
Protestants: evangelical		<p>There is one God. If extraterrestrial beings exist, it is highly doubtful that God would not reveal Himself to them as He has to us. The True religion would be the same. Most of them would not believe it, just as most humans mock the idea that God became flesh and dwelt among us.</p>
Protestants: evangelical		<p>These are interesting questions. The term "traditional beliefs" is not clear enough for me to venture an answer. Some questions I responded with "disagree" not because I think it impossible but because I have no evidence upon which to affirm such a proposition other than Star Trek, etc. and such movies are not evidence. I disagreed with 10 because I think it just as likely that we will take the initiative in encountering ET life forms, if they exist, as it is that they will take the initiative in encountering us.</p>

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<p>Protestants: evangelical</p>		<p>These questions are loaded with absolutes which make them hard to answer accurately. Aliens that can make it to earth would need only a more advanced technology to do so; to assume they are more "moral" is just plain unjustifiable. I wouldn't assume aliens have religion, but if they do, it would be reasonable to assume that their practices would not be like ours, whatever that means. Let's assume the aliens are the Borg ~ not likely they are interested in world peace. If you look at the European discovery and "assistance" to the rest of the world, you are probably looking at the intergalactic pattern as well. On the other hand, since God created the heavens and the earth, it is certainly possible that he created beings on other parts of the heavens and is known to them. Nothing in the Bible precludes the possibility that God has more than one set of beings to be his children.</p>
<p>Protestants: evangelical</p>		<p>these questions are purely speculation. I really don't know what other life God has created, but I'd be happy to learn more instead of saying that it would undercut my beliefs.</p>
<p>Protestants: evangelical</p>		<p>This is an interesting Survey. here's why: Angels (from Heaven - which is definitely an advanced place compared to Earth. would you not agree?) would also be considered Extraterrestrial and would be in complete agreement with the Bible that I live by. assuming Heaven is real it would qualify as a place far more advanced than the planet we now occupy. I find it....rather curious that many who embrace the foolishness of evolution (not all, obviously) are so quick to believe that big brother Extraterrestrial exists somewhere Millions of light years away, but will not believe that a God created Man in his image and in his likeness according to the Book of Genesis. Go figure: -Minister Mason</p>
<p>Protestants: evangelical</p>		<p>This survey doesn't seem to allow for the Ancient Astronaut theory, or the religious counter to AA theory.</p>
<p>Protestants: evangelical</p>		<p>This survey seems to believe that we are the only visited planet. God could have visted many different planets.</p>
<p>Protestants: evangelical</p>	<p>Christian! Denomination does not really matter: I've been Roman Catholic, Quaker, and for the last 24 years Evangelical Protestant</p>	<p>To explain my answer for Question 6: If contact with extraterrestrial intelligent beings occurs, I expect that they will come from a civilization that is more highly evolved than we are in technology. (Otherwise how would they get here?) As for politics and morality, if we look at the recent history of our own planet, advancement in technology (Nazi Germany, Russia, United States) does NOT necessarily imply advancement in morality. So for this part of #6, I neither agree nor disagree. Our history also affects my answer to Question 9: a more technologically advanced civilization may be either exploitative and self-serving or may work for universal peace and common good, depending on their religious and moral values.</p>

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Protestants: evangelical		Traditional Christian understanding teaches there are other intelligences in the universe who are more powerful than humans. Discovery that this teaching is confirmed strengthens Christianity, not weakens it.
Protestants: evangelical		We simply do not know whether there is other intelligent life out there, but if there is (and I hope there is), it might take longer than the next generation to make contact. Contact through SETI remains a possibility, but it might not happen until humans start venturing beyond our own star system. I think the religious tradition with which I identify (Protestant Evangelical) is not prepared for the day we do make contact, but we need to start thinking this out and become prepared.
Protestants: evangelical		what a bunch of raw conjecture.
Protestants: evangelical		What about non-civilized aliens like extra terrestrial rhinos?
Protestants: evangelical		Who knows what ETI might be like or what effect it would have on people on earth? I have a hard enough time figuring out Earthly Intelligent Life.
Protestants: evangelical	(ELCA)	Wouldn't it be more revealing to pose this question to Christians, asking them-- as the NY Times once did--"would you Baptize an extraterrestrial"? dave buehler providence college --> http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9A00E7DD1338F93AA15756C0A962958260
Protestants: mainline		4 and 5 of course depend on what the ET's say of these. Although I disagree with 10, I think that this is a real possibility with high relevance for religions.
Protestants: mainline	Christian	A highly advanced civilization, in a technological sense, is just as likely to be evil and corrupt as not. We are foolish to broadcast our presence deliberately. As one quip said, "The answer to the questions of whether we are alone in the universe is...NO, unfortunately.
Protestants: mainline		As I'm sure you're well familiar, C.S. Lewis wrote on this subject and having read this, I don't think I or other protestants would have trouble reconciling ET Life. That said, I think it's a good thought exercise, but encountering ET Life is a very very remote possibility.
Protestants: mainline		As to question 6: who makes first contact? If us, we are advanced, if them, they are. Many of these questions are worded in a way to be less than useful and hard to answer. Sharpen your focus and be more specific.

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<p>Protestants: mainline</p>	<p>Being that our own religious beliefs and practices deviate sharply within our own civilization, it is unlikely that beliefs and practices would conflict "sharply". There will be conflict, and it will be sharp. IF the civilization is more advanced than ours, there is no guarantee that it means they will be willing to help us do anything. Look to our history. Spain and Portugal were considered to be a more advanced civilizations, and their emissaries decimated the South American Indian civilizations that they encountered. It is arguable, however, as to who had the more advanced civilization. Another thing to consider is that a civilization is only as advanced as the emissary and the situations that present itself to that being or council or whatever. Look to Iraq. Some people there welcome the U.S. as liberators. Others seek to destroy the U.S. presence. Most are in the muddy middle, and would just as soon be left alone to fend for themselves. Détente is nothing if not difficult to achieve.</p>
<p>Protestants: mainline</p>	<p>Eh, this sort of seems like a moot point unless aliens show up... Honestly, I think extraterrestrial life probably exists somewhere else (this is too big a universe for it not to), but that it's bound to be so different from us that we won't be able to communicate, or maybe even recognize each other. Why is it we always imagine this alien life to look and act and be motivated like us? It seems like just another religious belief like thinking that God is just like us. (Not that I don't buy into that particular myth, but still, that's what it is...)</p>
<p>Protestants: mainline</p>	<p>Even if they were discovered the government would do all it could not to let the public know about it.</p>
<p>Protestants: mainline</p>	<p>Extra Terrestrial Intelligent Life may even be from a planet from outside the solar system. But with the present state of knowledge, it is difficult to hazard a guess whether there is such Life and where it exists. Notwithstanding this limitation, the answers given would still hold good, as far as my thinking goes.</p>
<p>Protestants: mainline</p>	<p>Finding ETI, I believe, would be a profound and wonderful event. However, we must separate beliefs from evidence, as I hope the ETI do. I believe that it is more likely we will find more developed civilizations than ours, simply because we are so young. And if this civilization has not self-annihilated, it must have some moral and ethical framework, I think. Hence it will be of interest to compare their framework to ours.</p>
<p>Protestants: mainline</p>	<p>For #6, I'm not sure advances in politics and technology necessarily go hand-in-hand with advances in morality, or vice versa.</p>
<p>Protestants: mainline</p>	<p>For those of us whose belief in God is based on experience and we have been deemed of sound mind, extraterrestrial life would only add an interesting theological factor to our theology. We would then have to factor in the meaning of evolutionary theory into theology and eschatological reflections that expand the horizon. On the questions of what their morality, politics or religion, it is not a given they are more advanced. Although, it may be sound to assume their technological advancement depending how we find them, and what they are flying. But we have not a priori arguments from revelation or experience that God has not created other worlds. And if God revealed herself to us, there is not reason to believe God would not reveal herself to them.</p>

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Protestants: mainline	methodist	i believe GOD almighty can stand with or without religion. GOD is bigger than ANY religion or set of beliefs here or elsewhere. I think it would be GREAT if ET's existed. It would give man-kind the ability to see that GOD should NOT be limited to our own finite understanding.
Protestants: mainline		I believe in a god who created all things, visible and invisible. This god is certainly capable of creating things that I don't understand or fully grasp.
Protestants: mainline		I can't speculate on the nature of this alien civilization - it is unknown. I think the media will make it a religious crisis, whether it is or not. It wouldn't be for me.
Protestants: mainline		I don't doubt that there is extraterrestrial intelligent life on other planets. But I have no way to assess whether it will be malevolent or benevolent.
Protestants: mainline		I don't think it's likely there's an extraterrestrial civilization out there. But if there is, it wouldn't shake my beliefs because I believe in a creative God, and I'd just assume He'd created them too. Also, as I believe the universe (having been designed by an intelligent God) has an order to it that can be perceived by intelligent beings, I imagine that an extraterrestrial civilizations would have beliefs about the universe not that different from our own; they would have based their beliefs on observing the same universe, after all.
Protestants: mainline		I don't think we can assume that a more advanced society will be more peaceful and ecological, any more than we can assume that it will be less so.
Protestants: mainline		I imagine that, should such life be discovered, it will not be unlike the time when the West discovered people in the "New World." The analogical implications for mission will be the same, but the lessons of missionary malpractice in the past must be learned.
Protestants: mainline		I maintain a healthy agnosticism about things extra-terrestrial. There's enough work for people of faith right here, in terms of healing, providing hope, and fullness of life.
Protestants: mainline		I must admit that many of these questions beg many modifying facts. It is difficult to answer some of them without additional information as to what the contact contained or did not contain - not simply the absence of that in the questions. Also, let us examine item number 9. I strongly disagree that they could actually come to help us, but they might be willing. And even if the help were in the form of communication only a few planets that could have inhabitants are close enough that such a conversation could be practical. By the way, the author of the first paper in Scientific American on extra solar system planets is a personal friend.
Protestants: mainline		I personally believe in God and extraterrestrial biological entities.
Protestants: mainline		I really dislike the tone of the questionnaire. The words "undercut" and "conflict sharply" seem to have implications over which I have no control.
Protestants: mainline		I strongly support SETI, whatever it may or may not come up with. It is at least asking an interesting question
Protestants: mainline		I think learning to communicate with and understanding an ET will be a much larger challenge and time factor following the detection of an ET, or even making contact.
Protestants: mainline		I think that the answer 'possibly' would be appropriate for #5 #8 and #10.

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ts: mainline		
Protestants: mainline		I think that this topic is more complex than the questions implied, and I wished I could have given more nuanced replies than SA, A, NA or D, D, SD. Interesting set of questions. Is there a reason Professor Peters that you're asking this now?? Did they want to test the waters before heading on over? Hey, I'd share a pew with extraterrestrials any day. Americans are becoming so distant from their neighbors and even families, by the time the UFSs land for this grand meeting, we might be so used to living amidst and distrusting the 'others' that these new-comers would go practically unnoticed by mainstream America. Well, except for the media. If their numbers were large enough, the media would be vying for their attention... now I'm just letting my pessimism seep out. I think the clash would all depend on what information came with these bodies. If they said that they created us, well, yeah, that would smash my religious foundation. But, if they were just beings living in our galaxy, struggle for answers based on the scraps of evidence they were given, then I think it could be a truly fruitful encounter.
Protestants: mainline	church-going agnostic. Skeptical of creeds.	I think they will be out there, but it may be ages before we meet them. When we do, we will learn more about ourselves, what it means to be alive, and what are the Ends of Mind. I hope that we will not find a cultural gap that is unbridgeably alien, and hostile, but may lean from each other.
Protestants: mainline		I used to believe in life on other worlds, but my faith has caused me to re-evaluate that belief (read Hebrews. Jesus died only ONCE for all. On THIS world only) I believe these extraterrestrials to be part of the end time deception. The Nephilim have returned...
Protestants: mainline		I view extraterrestrials the same way as I view other terrestrials - beings who have a different religious tradition and perspective than I have. If they find us before we find them, it will be because they have better technology than we do, but not necessarily better morality, etc. (as per the book "Guns, Germs, and Steel") The problem will be for people who think that humans are special and exalted and the only beings made in the image of God.
Protestants: mainline		If life were discovered elsewhere in the universe, I think my faith in the absolutely mysterious and grace-giving God would actually be more confirmed than it is now. I would have to believe that God is involved not just on our planet, but in the universe in its entirety.
Protestants: mainline		If other civilizations exist, rather than allowing our experience of them, and findings about them, to be too determined by our expectations, we might better adopt the samurai attitude "expect nothing; be prepared for anything."
Protestants: mainline		If the existence and behavior of humans - particularly religious humans - doesn't threaten religious belief, then the existence and behavior of aliens ought to be a walk in the park for the faith of the faithful.
Protestants: mainline		If the extraterrestrial life is from a more advanced civilization than ours, I would pray that they stayed put and didn't get involved with us. We are, in general, a closed-minded, intolerant, vicious civilization who would most probably seek to destroy whatever or whoever came to help us. I truly believe that we are a doomed race and planet, and God should move on to others more worthy of his grace and awesome creative powers. How will the results be published, I would enjoy seeing them?

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Protestants: mainline		If the extraterrestrials are Mormon, I will have to admit that I had Joseph Smith all wrong.
Protestants: mainline		Interesting ideas! My answers are based on the assumption that any extraterrestrial life is also part of the Creation of God; which does not mean that they are therefore any less warlike than we are. If they are more advanced it is possible that they have moved closer to the beneficence of God.
Protestants: mainline		Interesting questions, Ted, but I find myself unable to speculate with any accuracy on what I can't quantify. Hilary
Protestants: mainline		Interesting survey. I was intrigued by the assumptions about how people might respond and how life in other worlds might 'look,' in terms of the way the questions were framed. Thanks! Sue Hedahl
Protestants: mainline		It is completely impossible in my view to say anything at all about extra terrestrial civilizations. We simply have not evidence to go on. Therefore much of what we do is really a speculation about ourselves.
Protestants: mainline	UCC	It is interesting how much media (TV, Movies, Books) contributes to our ideas about these OTHERS that may or may not exist. Good questions! :)
Protestants: mainline		It is unlikely any exo-intelligence greater than ours will assume world peace and ecological health would be achievable with their limited presence and additional knowledge. I do foresee a concordant literal view emerging, which is not ad-hoc.
Protestants: mainline		It should be noted that a crisis in a tradition does not lead to its dissolution, but usually to its eventual strengthening
Protestants: mainline		it would be interesting to correlate your responses with the percentage of survey takers who read a moderate to high amount of science fiction...
Protestants: mainline		It would be utterly fascinating, further historicizing our parochial traditions! Of COURSE our beliefs would be transformed in the process, just as the textures of belief changed with the new sense of scale after early modern sea explorations.
Protestants: mainline		It's hard to imagine any religious conflicts more destructive than those that exist on earth already. And if we can work out peace between religions here, I can't imagine any threat to that peace coming from outside.
Protestants: mainline		Most of my comments are non-committal because I would think that the effect of such a discovery would depend crucially on the nature of the intelligent life with which contact is made.
Protestants: mainline		Needs to be another category besides lay, clergy, religious and none - there are also apologists and other religious intellectuals who have thought far more carefully about these issues than lay people, and their answers would reflect that.
Protestants: mainline		No one can estimate the religious or moral positions of future-contacts.
Protestants: mainline		On Question 6: I expect they would be more technologically advanced and perhaps politically. I have no particular education of their morality. On Question 7: The questions seems to imply an a-rational view of religion. (Religion with is neither supported by, nor informs the "rational" sciences.) I find this view of religion spurious. Question 9: Without an expectation of morality, I find no expectation though altruism. In absence of their interest, I

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		doubt they would help us.
Protestants: mainline		questions 1-5 are too wider in scope than qts 6-10. with the historical landing on Mars I am so positive we are going to learn new scientific facts of "Marstertrial life" Thank you
Protestants: mainline		Questions 4,6,7 & 8 are so hypothetical that any answer would be purely guessing. But I guess that all of these questions are pretty much hypothetical. I truly believe, however, that whatever is discovered about extraterrestrial beings, such knowledge would not in any way disturb, challenge or change my faith. It will remain strong because it is NOT based on religious dogma.
Protestants: mainline		Questions like this make me think about Star Trek and space fantasy. It's hard to take them seriously, but I know it's a real issue. I suspect if we find evidence of life in universe outside of ours that it may not be as dramatic as "Close Encounters of the Third Kind". Answering these question just feels like pure speculation.
Protestants: mainline		Questions need to be revised, or at least the possibilities of answers.
Protestants: mainline		So far there does not seem to be a planet that has the necessary conditions to support life but that does not mean that one does not exist. No way, at this point, to guess what that life might be like if it does indeed exist. Interesting to contemplate though.
Protestants: mainline		Some of the questions wanted me the make assumptions about unknown data about something I will not know until we "meet the extraterrestrials".
Protestants: mainline		Ted, thanks for the opportunity to participate in this. Some comments: #3,4,& 5: No time frame was given here. I believe in the short-term there will be "crises" events in faith, but in the mid- and long-range, pre-contact belief will return to norm or perhaps slightly strengthen. Overall: no appreciable change across the world's faiths. #6 & 7: These questions imply a social change theory of "progress," and the idea that religion makes up the gap between scientific knowledge and scientific ignorance. But there are other options. For example, an increase in scientific knowledge can also increase faith as evidenced in current discussions surrounding theoretical physics. #8. C.S. Lewis suggests that it's arrogant to think of the issues at the heart of our terrestrial faith extending beyond the atmosphere. It's far more likely that an extraterrestrial faith will be radically different from terrestrial faith. #6 & 9: These questions seem related to me, and my answers are largely a flip of the coin. We typically engage our youngest. least wise and most aggressive persons for exploration and the military--including many space initiatives. This may also be the case for other civilizations, and thus these kind might be the first beings we encounter. Or, some have suggested that we humans are in our adolescence. Wiser and more mature aliens are waiting to contact us until we're more mature--in other words, we have no capacity to receive their gifts of peace right now, as we would likely misuse them. And there is, of course, Star Trek's "Prime Directive." But then again, I'd certainly help out someone younger than I to achieve peace #10: Here I define a generation as approx. 20-35 years.

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Protestants: mainline		The only aspect of encountering extraterrestrial life that could constitute a theological crisis, in my opinion, is the question of salvation through Christ's life, death and resurrection alone. I don't think that the theological "adjusting" would be much different from the questions we face now--we know of people on earth who haven't heard of Christ, have lived and died, are they outside of God's love--I'd say no. We encounter religions with different salvations systems now, here on earth. The same sort of questions and answers would apply. As to the advanced nature of such life or what we could expect, isn't that a complete unknown? One would hope, for their sake, they are not less advanced than we, because human contact would surely result in colonization and despoilment of their resources if they have something we want, and can't defend themselves. THAT I think, would be the challenge for the church on earth--to resist such colonization and despoilment on behalf of alien sister/brother children of God.
Protestants: mainline		The premise is highly unlikely
Protestants: mainline		The various religious traditions will have sharply differing reactions to discovery of extraterrestrial life.
Protestants: mainline		These questions are difficult to respond to, as the possibility they suggest would so take us out of and beyond "the normal," "the daily routine of things," "the earthly." Which, I guess, is the point.
Protestants: mainline		They've been here for thousands of years. And in the past 6 decades, a segment of the US government has covertly had contact and agreements, unconstitutionally, to the point that "we the people" must now make contact ourselves, and we are doing so. Our intention is to work with benevolent ETs. There is a Declaration of Cosmic Cooperation that expresses this intention, which you may see and sign at www.cosmiccooperation.com . Thanks for conducting the survey. Thomas Hansen, Ph.D.
Protestants: mainline		This calls for so much speculation... which I really don't feel able to do.
Protestants: mainline		This is a fascinating topic and a very thought provoking questionnaire. I look forward to a report of the results.
Protestants: mainline		This is a very complex issue, and the way your questions are phrased seem to box responses into simplistic black & white answers. I would be afraid for the other life-forms should they come here and walk among humans, that some men would freak and kill them, or science would capture them for vivisection. The Fear-factor in humans would make Earth not an easy place to "help" achieve peace. Too many humans & leaders choose power/division/fear OVER peace/partnership, and historically those 2 worldviews don't co-exist well. A being from another galaxy can not change a 7000 year collective memory of dominator-society model, in their life-time. I actually believe humanity prefers fighting, it's easier, and it's the way we've been taught to resolve conflict. If we long for peace, real steps towards that will need to come from us First ! It's like you can NOT make an alcoholic stop drinking.. They must WANT to not drink, THEN you can support them. I'm not sure humans want peace badly enough. . . YET.
Protestants: mainline		this is stupid, who cares, we will find out hen it is time for it!

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Protestants: mainline		Though the E.T.s will have evolved differently, I think the question of whether they will be 'more evolved' is an inappropriate questions. In terms of morality, technology, and politics, there are many possible paths which would be neither more advanced nor less advanced than our own. Such 'advancement' and 'progression' comparisons will not be useful in dealing with another species. Furthermore, their sciences may not resemble our sciences. Many civilizations did well without the concept of science on Earth, so there is no guarantee a concept like science would be part of the E.T. experience and development.
Protestants: mainline		Unfortunately, spell check can't help you choose between "principle" and "principal."
Protestants: mainline	Lutheran	Utter nonsense
Protestants: mainline		We cannot know at this point what "intelligence" might mean; we also do not know, for purposes of this survey and otherwise, what "advanced" means. We may find an extraterrestrial civilization that is so "other" that we have no means or ability to communicate effectively at all.
Protestants: mainline		what the fuck, ted peters?
Protestants: mainline		While true that most current religions have nothing to say about ETI, I don't believe that this has to precipitate a crisis. We are already dealing with something like this in terms of evolution and the idea that Man was the climax of creation rather than possibly the latest and so far as we know, only beings that have abstract reasoning and written communication.
Protestants: mainline		Your questions are all hypothetical, and as such, so are my answers. I strongly believe that the search for extraterrestrial intelligent beings will prove to be an exercise in futility!
Response	Other (please specify)	Any Other Comments?
Roman Catholic		#6. The simple fact of technology says nothing about an advanced morality. After all it was an advanced technology that brought such devastation to the Belgian Congo. We have been sending probes out for decades, disturbing the peace of space and often violating the territorial sovereignty of neighboring planets. I am not so sure that that can be described as morally or politically advanced behavior. When non-terrestrial beings show up on the horizon they may just be Thugs from the local Justice of the Peace with cease and desist orders in their back pockets. #7. I expect that they will have whatever religion they need to wake up every morning. They will believe in something, even if it is only the Quadratic equation. If nothing else, they will also be invincibly convinced of their superiority. We may not be able to apprehend their beliefs, or they ours. It would be really narrow minded to assume that their beliefs would be any more monolithic than ours. #9. What would make another civilization more advanced? And how would we recognize the signs of such advancement? We in the USA consider ourselves pretty damned advanced and yet we can cause a great deal of moral, political, and economic havoc for our fellow beings when we find that we need a little oil. the Iraq's seem to be able to see through the smoke-screen of our claims to be advanced. Perhaps an Advanced Non-Terrestrial Civilization has a sudden need for Salt and would like to suck it all out of our oceans. Shouldn't we be willing to give it to them,

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		Shouldn't we be willing to change our ways to conform to their ways?
Roman Catholic		Because of the sheer numbers of suns with planets involved, I've always assumed that there is intelligent life elsewhere in the universe, but I thought the distances and speed restrictions made visits here unlikely. Incredible technological advances in the last 20 years are pushing me to reconsider those limitations.....
Roman Catholic		Here are the comments I left at the end of the survey: The existence or nonexistence of intelligent aliens is not necessarily a threat to the Christian Faith, although it does present difficulties. Scripture teaches that the original man (defined as a rational animal: a creature possessing intelligence, being made in the image of God) rebelled against God and was expelled from paradise, thereby becoming subject to death. His original sin is passed on to his posterity through normal generation; i.e procreation. Thus, all men descend from a common ancestor, and either alien beings must be descendents of earthbound men, or we of them, and all must be subject to death. As regards Christ, his death and resurrection were universally salvific. It must apply equally to alien beings and to us. However, just as here on earth knowledge of the Good News was not known immediately everywhere but was spread gradually throughout the world via evangelization, so there's no particular difficulty presented by the fact that the event didn't occur on the alien planet and wasn't immediately known to them. (I disregard scenarios involving multiple Christs, bilocation, etc. as either flatly impossible or highly unlikely depending on the scenario.) As for the likelihood of finding alien intelligences: the probability approaches zero. While there are ways to cram the Christian faith into the lunatic box of Saganism, as I've suggested, there is in reality no evidence whatsoever (period; none; zero; zilch), either Scriptural or scientific, that any living creature exists in the universe besides the ones here on earth. That they do exist is nothing but a superstitious hope based on the materialist faith of modern scientists. P.S. Asking a person of one religion to evaluate the intellectual effects of extraterrestrials on all religions is ridiculous and, frankly, stupid. In the first place, how would I know how that would affect Zoroastrian doctrine? Second, and more importantly, different religions are by definition based upon different principles and beliefs. Who is so stupid that they don't understand that this means there are likely to be as many answers to your questions as there are religions? In the hope that your purpose in asking is other than what it appears, I will refrain from offering the obvious answer. Also, a survey like this seems worthless except as a polemical instrument. Without taking into account the reasons why a respondent answers the way he does, any data you collect must be essentially meaningless. Just to take one example, if I reply that I neither agree nor disagree that ET's will be willing to come to earth to help achieve world peace and save the planet, what am I

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		saying? That I think they won't be willing? That while I think that's possible, I also think they might come for other reasons, like to shoot us with their death rays? That while they might want to help us save our planet, they might not give a damn about world peace? Or simply that I'm not so dumb as to think I could have a clue about their motivations? Answer: it could be any of these and more, but you will simply report it as "X percent of Christians give answer Y," which tells us pretty much nothing.
Roman Catholic		I believe that Christ became incarnate (human) in order to redeem humanity and atone for the original sin of Adam and Eve. Could there be a world of so called "extraterrestrial's? Maybe. It doesn't change what Christ did.
Roman Catholic		I believe that extraterrestrials had a hand in forming some of the ancient civilizations on Earth.
Roman Catholic		I recognize that the wording of any questionnaire is ambiguous. Of course, discovery of extraterrestrial intelligent life would be a "crisis" in religion very much like the effect of scientific theory today. However, with intelligent reevaluation I don't think it would affect my core religious beliefs only confirm them giving fuller insight. So also with general Catholicism.
Roman Catholic		I suppose I'd like to see what would happen if it happens
Roman Catholic		I think Buddhism and Hinduism would be better equipped to face any encounter with other civilizations. The three monotheistic traditions, however, would enter into a serious crisis.
Roman Catholic		I think question number 6 should be disaggregated. Extraterrestrials would most likely have to be higher in technology if they were to contact us, but neither politics nor morality are subject to "evolution" and "progress" in a manner analogous to technology and science. (This is an Aristotelian perspective: advance in speculative science is progressive due to its universal and eternal characteristics, in practical wisdom progress does not accumulate in the same way, but rather is much more susceptible to particular circumstances.)
Roman Catholic		I think reading the Bible (especially the early chapters, which I admit is as far as I've ever gotten) is most easily interpreted and seems like nothing so much as a visit by extra-terrestrial beings, in which case that which is hypothetical in the above questions can be seen as something which has already happened. In other words, what we are today may be the result of past visitations by ETs. We may owe our sentience to them and thus today be the very ETs we wonder about. What early men thought of as "Gods" can easily be seen today as much more advanced beings from another world who visited earth and found a way to perpetuate their DNA through us. The initial reaction of Central American natives to the arrival of Europeans was to regard them as "Gods" despite the fact that the technological "edge" of the Europeans was a vanishingly small one in comparison to the "edge" which would have applied to an interstellar civilization. If we were visited again today by such an advanced interstellar civilization, the majority of humankind would probably once again regard them as "Gods" as may have happened in the past. --- RBB

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Roman Catholic		I think you might be missing a key question and perhaps might help you reflect on your own possible biases. What if we were contacted by aliens and they believed in God? Would you fall to your knees and begin a life of faith, or would you dismiss the aliens as misguided?
Roman Catholic		I would have no way of knowing what extraterrestrials, if they exist, would think or feel or what the authorities in various religions would think about them.
Roman Catholic		I, probably like most people, get my imagery of what contact will be like with extra terrestrial life from books, movies, television. My favorite movie regarding this subject is "Contact" starring Jodie Foster.
Roman Catholic		Interesting questions. I hope I see the finished product some time.
Roman Catholic		Isn't any guess at what hypothetical extraterrestrial beings may or may not be expected to be like or do just a huge projection of our own desires?
Roman Catholic		It's a big universe. There are bound to be just as many races with some form of religion as without. I would be surprised to find any of them of a more peaceful bent than we ourselves are.
Roman Catholic		My attitude is essentially optimistic. I could also envisage more pessimistic responses in line with Jared Diamond's view (3rd Chimpanzee) that extraterrestrials might destroy us.
Roman Catholic		My opinions are strongly influenced by the C.S. Lewis space trilogy and what those books (as dated as they now are) did to enhance and expand my appreciation of my own faith and the wonder and meaning of the Incarnation as it unfolded on Planet Earth.
Roman Catholic		My religious view points and practices would remain unchanged. The same God who made me is also capable of making extraterrestrials. His message of faith, hope and love of neighbor goes beyond the borders of the known universe. I would welcome such discoveries of extraterrestrials but I would NOT expect them to share my points of view. I would see this more as a learning experience. Larry Torres
Roman Catholic		Nuance to #6: I'd believe that if alien life found us, they are technically more advanced than us, but not necessarily more moral. Life on earth has shown that moral and scientific progress do not happen together necessarily, no reason to think things elsewhere would be too different.
Roman Catholic		Perhaps you should also ask which country the respondent is from, their age group & gender. It might be helpful in analyzing your results :-). My responses to those are: Mumbai, India, age 26 ,male.
Roman Catholic		Question n. 5 assumes too much- my religious viewpoint *would* be affected but not be so undercut that my beliefs would face a crisis.
Roman Catholic		Question number 6 is asking two or three quite different things.
Roman Catholic		Religious faith is not solely based upon religious teachings. The notion that an event, even one as profound as the discovery of other forms of intelligent life would undermine religion is invalid. It is the result of a generation of western culture's attempt to sanitize society of religion. Human society is untenable without religion, the two cannot be mutually exclusive. This is the reason there are so many cultural conflicts in Europe. The entrenched elite secularists want to completely remove all vestiges of religion from society. This attempt is being met by the strong religious faith of Muslim immigrants. Society cannot remove or reject religion, and the Muslim example demonstrates that religious belief is not easily undermined.

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Roman Catholic	Since I am not as knowledgeable about the existence of Extraterrestrial Intelligent Life (although don't doubt that it does exist), I cannot be so certain of what is or may be about these other civilizations. What I do have a better grasp on is this civilization and its arrogance of thought (and perhaps belief) on being the center of creation. I think it is hard for us not to measure other beings by our standards (just as it is hard not to imagine any God or divine being in human terms). But perhaps as limited as we are in imagining God, we are also limited in imagining how other intelligent beings in the universe might exist, live and thrive. Religion helps us to try to understand things that are in some ways unknowable about earthly life. This is why I think religions will enter a crisis if there is discovery that Intelligent Life beyond this earth exists. Our religions could not be called upon to help us cope with that reality.
Roman Catholic	The BIG question is HOW MUCH will we let our belief systems be influenced by the ET`s. We can only hope that they would want PEACE and help us survive the coming centuries. If you were WATCHING EARTH PROGRESS, what would you think of Humanity?
Roman Catholic	The foundations of my religion (Catholic) and many others may be shaken by such a discovery because most human religions view human beings as special or privileged beings on the earth and in the cosmos. In Christian traditions humans seem to hold special favor with God. However, I see no reason God could not (or has not) create(d) other beings. It does not imply a lessening of God's love for us. In fact, come to think of it, it would be good for us to discover other beings--especially ones equally or more intelligent than ourselves--because it might knock down human arrogance towards other species right here on earth.
Roman Catholic	The universe is a large place and thus it would seem that there may be other inhabited planets. However, given the distances involved, the constraints of physics, and the economic resources needed to mount interstellar exploration, it would surprise me if we ran into any of them any time in the next thousand years. For all we know, other inhabited planets may have existed millions of years in the past but have since died out, had their stars gone nova, etc. I love Battlestar Galactica and Star Trek, but I'm not waiting up nights for a Close Encounter.
Roman Catholic	This is great ! I've never thought of this - hope I live long enough to find out !
Roman Catholic	This survey misses questions about the interaction between human life forms and others. It also neglects pressing issues on how we might want to react. As a scholar, I find it too basic and lacking usefulness beyond very basic beliefs of a self selecting group who choose to answer it.
Roman Catholic	Though we cannot rule out the existence of extraterrestrial life, I do not believe they exist. Our search for them is in fact an expression of our human dissatisfaction with ourselves and projection of our hope that something "different" alone can save us. kuru@jesuits.net
Roman Catholic	To be honest, i have never really considered these questions. That is, i am part of a demographic that probably feels they are less pertinent to soteriological concerns than others.
Roman Catholic	You presume that UFOs come from other planets. Maybe. Maybe not. Might they be manifestations of the Devil? Maybe and maybe not, although some Orthodox authorities believe so. Certainly they have been reported to engage in activities with humans that have heretofore been identified with incubi and succubi in the middle ages.