

Flying Saucers: A New Theory

Thule U.S. Air Force Base, Greenland, October 5, 1960: a formation of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) was picked up on the radar screens of America's early warning system. The objects appeared to be headed towards America from the Soviet Union. The Strategic Air Command was getting ready to strike back – when the radar blips just disappeared.

Goodland, Kansas, March 8, 1967: Sheriff G. L. Sullivan and Police Chief Al Kisner watched an illuminated 14 foot spherical UFO for more than an hour.

Huntington, New York, October 3, 1967: Aerospace computer systems engineer Phillip Burkhardt and two teenagers watched a silvery-metallic disc-shaped object hovering just above the trees a few yards from his home.

Ithaca, New York, December 12, 1967: Mrs. Rita Malley was driving home on Route 34, when she noticed a red-illuminated UFO flying alongside just above the power lines. Some strange force took over control of her car, taking it over an embankment into a field. She heard strange voices, one of them telling her of a terrible accident which had just happened to a friend of hers. The description proved correct. Then the car was taken back onto the road, and control returned to her.

It seems that this type of thing is happening to thousands of people all over the world. Some are crackpots and publicity-seekers. But there are plenty of UFO sightings on record vouched for by tough-minded observers like policemen, scientists, aircraft pilots, and the like, often corroborated by crowds of other witnesses as well. What does it all mean?

Operation Trojan Horse

This is the question which John A. Keel, a reporter, asked himself in 1967. He spent four years investigating the subject in depth, tracking down every clue, tracing every significant publication. The result is a fascinating book, *Operation Trojan Horse*, which appeared in 1970.

By his own admission, Mr. Keel started his research as a hard-boiled atheist. Following up thousands of leads in the public press by means of personal interviews, Keel soon became convinced that there were such things as UFOs. But how to explain them?

Space Visitors?

At first, Keel took up the popular notion – spread by UFO fanatics all over the world – that “flying saucers” come from outer space. But as he looked at the evidence more closely, he began to change his mind. He gradually came to think that the whole business had nothing to do with science and technology as such, or with outer space. The facts he studied forced him to conclude that the whole UFO thing belonged to the world of the occult, and was connected with things like witchcraft, spiritist seances, and the astral travel bit of the theosophists!

CIA and RAF Agree

What is more, Keel claims that this is basically also the conclusion of British and American government agencies, including the CIA. The U.S. Air Force and the British RAF had investigated UFOs for years. Both, says Keel, have concluded that UFOs are beyond the reach of technology, and are basically “paraphysical,” i.e. phenomena from a non-material dimension.

A modern government official can't very well announce at a press conference: “Gentlemen, we are dealing not with physical forces, but with demonic powers which we don't understand!” But this is basically the point made by RAF Air Marshal Sir Victor Goddard, KCB, CBE, MA, in his London address of May 3, 1969: “For, if the materiality of UFO is paraphysical (and consequently normally invisible), UFO could more plausibly be creations of an invisible world coincident with the space of our physical earth planet. ...” Sir Victor adds that some of the spirits of such an invisible world are “eager to exemplify principalities and powers.” They may wish to show their own great power or simply “to

astonish and disturb the gullible for the devil of it" (Keel, p. 44).

This theory that UFO are "paraphysical," or, to put it bluntly, demonic, of course infuriates most "ufologists," who desperately want to believe in visitors from outer space.

I have not gone to the trouble of checking up on Keel's sources (he gives heaps of documentation). And admittedly many of the things reported by him sound rather improbable. Yet the book as a whole seems remarkably credible. Keel has obviously done his homework well, and his arguments are presented soberly, without any ranting and raving.

From a Christian point of view, Keel's ideas make a lot better sense than, for example, Erich von Däniken's outer space nonsense.

Dramatic Satanic Activity

Why should not our decaying, post-Christian, pagan culture show signs of dramatic Satanic activity, particularly if the end is approaching and the devil has been "loosed a little season" (Rev. 20:3)? After all, primitive pagan societies (Africa, New Guinea, etc.) are demon-ridden chambers of horrors!

And if UFO's are among the manifestations of "illusion-prone spirits," we have perhaps some hint as to the meaning of strange texts like Eph. 2:2 ("the prince of the power of the air") and Eph. 6:12 ("the spirituals of evil in the heavenly places")!

Appearances of the Virgin Mary?

What makes little sense from Keel's religiously hazy point of view, but a lot from ours, is the amazing connection of UFO-type manifestations not only with Mormonism and Spiritism, but also with the supposed appearances of the Virgin Mary at Lourdes and Fatima! It appears that on October 13, 1917, 70,000 people in Fatima, Portugal, saw a huge silver "saucer" in connection with the apparition of "the Lady of the Rosary!"

Spectacular Miracle-Cures

Both Lourdes and Fatima, famous shrines of Mary-worship, are renowned for spectacular miracle-cures. When such things occur in support of false doctrine, of that which directs faith and trust away from Jesus Christ to someone or something else, are we not face to face with the warning of 2 Thess. 2: "whose coming is after the power of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders..."?

A Study of the Occult

Whatever may be the real truth about UFOs, the whole subject of the occult, of magic, of witchcraft, etc., and of their respectable scientific cousins – like ESP, clairvoyance, and so on – is of great interest today. One of the best brief but meaty studies of these questions, from a Christian point of view, is J. Stafford Wright's paperback, *Mind, Man, and the Spirits*.

More Than Meets the Eye

Demonic powers are no joke in today's world. Christians above all must be aware that there's a lot more to the world than meets the eye. St. Paul means business when he tells us to "put on the whole armor of God" (Eph. 6:11)!

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