



In a world increasingly marked by scientific discoveries and profound questions, the relationship between faith and the universe remains a fascinating topic. One recurring question at the intersection of science and religion is: *What does the Catholic Church say about aliens?* Is it possible that the Bible mentions beings from other planets? And more importantly, how should a Christian approach this possibility from a theological perspective?

## **An Expanding Universe**

For centuries, humans have looked at the sky with wonder and curiosity. With advances in astronomy, we now know that our galaxy, the Milky Way, is just one among billions in the observable universe. Each new discovery of an exoplanet or mysterious signals from space sparks speculation about the existence of life beyond Earth.

The Catholic Church, far from rejecting these questions, has a long tradition of openness to science. Let us remember that the Vatican hosts one of the oldest astronomical observatories in the world and that scientists like Georges Lemaître, a Catholic priest, proposed the Big Bang theory. But where do aliens fit into theological reflection?

## **The Bible and Beings from Other Worlds**

The Bible, as the Word of God, is not a scientific manual but a book that narrates the story of salvation. Its primary purpose is to guide us toward a deeper relationship with God. However, some passages, through the lens of human imagination, could be interpreted in the context of extraterrestrial beings.

For example, the prophet Ezekiel describes in his vision a celestial chariot with wheels full of eyes and strange creatures (Ezekiel 1). While this image is generally understood as a symbolic representation of God's glory, some have speculated it could refer to encounters with beings from another world. Similarly, the Psalms mention how "the heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1), suggesting that God's creation may be far more vast than we can imagine.

It is crucial, however, to interpret these texts carefully. The Church teaches that we should not fall into sensationalist readings or interpretations disconnected from theological context. Catholic exegesis seeks to understand the original intent of the biblical authors, inspired by the Holy Spirit, rather than projecting modern ideas onto ancient texts.



## The Church's View on Extraterrestrial Life

While the Bible does not directly mention aliens, the Church does not dismiss their possible existence. Father José Gabriel Funes, former director of the Vatican Observatory, stated in 2008 that extraterrestrial life does not contradict the Christian faith. According to Funes, if other beings exist in the universe, they too would be God's creatures, and their existence would not diminish the unique role of Jesus Christ in salvation.

This perspective is based on a broad view of creation. The Church teaches that God is omnipotent and may have created life in forms and places we cannot yet comprehend. This possibility should not be a source of fear but rather of awe and humility before God's greatness.

## Theological Implications: How Does This Impact Our Faith?

If the existence of extraterrestrial life were confirmed, what would it mean for Christians? Below are some key theological implications:

1. **The Universality of God:** The potential existence of aliens highlights the universality of God as Creator of all that is visible and invisible. In the Creed, we proclaim that God is the "Creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible." This includes any form of life that might exist beyond our planet.
2. **The Uniqueness of Christ:** A significant theological question would be whether aliens also require redemption. St. Paul teaches that Christ died "once for all" (Hebrews 10:10). This could be interpreted as a sacrifice sufficient for all creation, though we do not know the specifics of how it would apply to other forms of life.
3. **The Dignity of Creation:** The possibility of life on other planets invites us to reflect on our responsibility as stewards of creation. Caring for Earth and seeking harmony with the cosmos are ways to live out our Christian vocation.

## Living with Faith and Curiosity

As Christians, we should not fear scientific questions but embrace them as opportunities to deepen our faith. St. John Paul II once said, "Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth." The search for extraterrestrial life is not a threat to our faith but an occasion to marvel even more at God's power.

While the Church does not have an official stance on the existence of aliens, it encourages us to live with an attitude of openness and trust. Every scientific discovery is an opportunity to



recognize the Creator's imprint on the universe.

## Practical Applications for Our Lives

1. **Cultivate Humility:** The universe reminds us of how small we are and how great God is. This perspective can inspire us to live with humility and gratitude.
2. **Foster Spiritual Curiosity:** Exploring difficult questions helps us grow in faith. Let us not fear to investigate and discuss topics like extraterrestrial life.
3. **Protect Creation:** If we ever encounter life on other planets, it might teach us the importance of living in harmony with the cosmos. Meanwhile, we are called to care for our common home, Earth.

## A Mystery in God's Hands

The existence of extraterrestrial life is ultimately a mystery we leave in God's hands. What we do know with certainty is that we are deeply loved and that God has revealed His plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. In a universe full of possibilities, our mission remains clear: to love God above all things and our neighbors as ourselves.

Are we alone in the universe? We may never know for sure. But as believers, we can live with the assurance that we are not alone in the most important sense: God is with us, always.