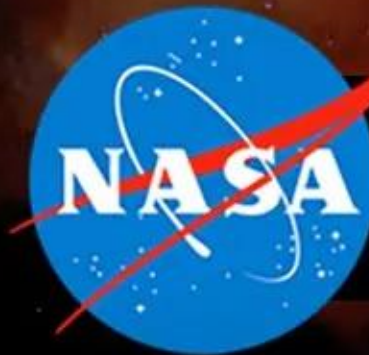


THE HISTORY OF THE FUTURE

WITH STEVEN DICK



GRAVITY ASSIST



Podcast

1
00:00:02,923 --> 00:00:13,163

Are we ready as a society to discuss what the
next steps are if we find life beyond earth?

2
00:00:13,163 --> 00:00:20,320

Hi, I'm Jim Green, Chief Scientist at NASA and this is
Gravity Assist. On this season of Gravity Assist,

3
00:00:20,320 --> 00:00:26,560

we're looking for life beyond Earth. I'm here
with Dr. Steven Dick and he's an astronomer

4
00:00:26,560 --> 00:00:34,720

an author and a historian of science - most noted
for his work in the field of astrobiology. Steven

5
00:00:34,720 --> 00:00:41,520

also has served as Chief Historian for NASA and
he's been the Bloomberg Chair at the Library of

6
00:00:41,520 --> 00:00:48,640

Congress in astrobiology. So, let's say if we find
life beyond Earth, what do you think will be the

7
00:00:48,640 --> 00:00:52,951

reaction by the public, and what will happen next?

8
00:00:52,951 --> 00:00:57,280

Uh, I usually put it in terms of world views.

9
00:00:57,280 --> 00:01:02,800

I think our cosmological worldview would change,
our philosophical and theological worldviews would

10
00:01:02,800 --> 00:01:10,160

change and our cultural worldviews would change.
By cosmological, I mean that we will we will know

11
00:01:10,160 --> 00:01:15,280

that we no longer live in a physical universe,\h
entirely physical universe, where we are the only\h\h

12
00:01:15,280 --> 00:01:20,560
kind of freak biology, the freak intelligence,\h
that we live in what I call a biological universe.\h\h

13
00:01:21,120 --> 00:01:28,080
Uh, and that, uh, you know, that makes a big\h
difference for for our future, our sort of\h\h

14
00:01:28,080 --> 00:01:33,200
human destiny. If you have a biological universe\h
where we have to interact with intelligence.\h\h

15
00:01:33,200 --> 00:01:38,480
So there's the cosmological aspect, then there's\h
the philosophical and theological aspect.\h\h

16
00:01:38,480 --> 00:01:46,240
If we engage with extraterrestrials, we will find\h
out something about our own knowledge. Do they\h\h

17
00:01:46,240 --> 00:01:50,000
know the same things that we know? Do they\h
see the universe the same way that we do?\h\h

18
00:01:50,000 --> 00:01:55,520
This is a big philosophical problem. Do we have\h
objective knowledge? So that's a huge question in\h\h

19
00:01:55,520 --> 00:02:00,640
philosophy. One of the points I like to make is it\h
very much depends on what the discovery scenario\h\h

20
00:02:00,640 --> 00:02:05,040
is. You know it's almost, it's almost meaningless\h
to say what's the impact of discovering life.\h\h

21
00:02:05,040 --> 00:02:09,440

Are you talking about microbial life, or
intelligent life, or intelligent life with

22
00:02:09,440 --> 00:02:13,920
a signal, or with a signal that's deciphered
and what do they say? Those are all different

23
00:02:13,920 --> 00:02:18,789
scenarios that you have to consider when you
talk about what's the reaction going to be.