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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,000

Nuclear annihilation.

2

00:00:02,000 --> 00:00:06,000

This would have been an absolutely devastating event.

3

00:00:06,000 --> 00:00:09,000

Mysterious pyramids.

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00:00:09,000 --> 00:00:13,000

There are, apparently, these unusual structures there.

5

00:00:13,000 --> 00:00:17,000

And evidence of life billions of years ago.

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00:00:17,000 --> 00:00:25,000

Researchers found objects that looked extremely similar to microorganisms here on Earth.

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00:00:26,000 --> 00:00:32,000

Throughout human history, the planet Mars has captured our imagination.

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00:00:32,000 --> 00:00:38,000

But is it simply because of its striking red color and prominence in the night sky?

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00:00:38,000 --> 00:00:43,000

Or might there be a more profound, extraterrestrial connection?

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NASA knows there is life on Mars.

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00:00:47,000 --> 00:00:53,000

But for some reason, it does not want that information out.

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00:00:53,000 --> 00:01:00,000

Millions of people around the world believe we have been visited in the past by extraterrestrial beings.

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00:01:00,000 --> 00:01:03,000

What if it were true?

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00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:08,000

Did ancient aliens really help to shape our history?

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00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:14,000

And if so, might they have come from the red planet of Mars?

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00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:26,000

NASA

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00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:51,000

Cape Canaveral, Florida, August 20, 1975

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00:01:53,000 --> 00:01:56,000

Then we have this sound.

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00:01:56,000 --> 00:02:03,000

The United States launches a Titan rocket carrying the Viking spacecraft.

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00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:12,000

Viking is embarking on a 420 million mile journey to one of the most prominent sites in the night sky.

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00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:15,000

Mars.

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00:02:15,000 --> 00:02:26,000

If all goes well, in 11 months, the unmanned probe will touch down on the Martian surface and search for evidence of life.

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00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:38,000

Mainstream scientists say Mars is most likely a dead planet because of its incredible temperature swings and high levels of solar radiation.

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00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:46,000

So why is NASA spending a billion dollars to explore it?

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00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:49,000

The night sky is an astounding thing.

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00:02:49,000 --> 00:02:54,000

To the naked eye, the red planet could be seen with its special colors.

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00:02:54,000 --> 00:02:58,000

After all, it's the biggest thing you see up there past the moon.

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00:02:58,000 --> 00:03:08,000

So it's been a special object of fascination and reverence because religious systems often were associated with the planets and the stars, the sky in general.

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00:03:08,000 --> 00:03:17,000

Speculations about what's there, intelligent life there, or the gods there, that's kind of on for a long time.

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00:03:17,000 --> 00:03:27,000

Our dream for life on Mars probably goes back even to the ancient times when we were just doing naked eye observation.

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00:03:27,000 --> 00:03:35,000

It's the planet that really stands out that we now know is very close to Earth in terms of physical conditions.

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00:03:35,000 --> 00:03:46,000

Even though Venus is much more like Earth in size and gravity, it's a hellhole in the solar system.

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00:03:46,000 --> 00:03:54,000

But Mars is out there within our grasp.

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00:03:54,000 --> 00:04:03,000

Among the first to record this fiery red ball in the night sky were ancient Egyptian astronomers.

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00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:14,000

In 1534 BC, they placed Mars on humanity's first chart of the known cosmos, the Centimid Star Map.

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00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:25,000

Two and a half centuries later, the Egyptians painted the planet Mars on the ceiling of the tomb of Sedi I.

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But while the Egyptians honored Mars, many other ancient cultures feared it because they associated the red planet with death, destruction, and war.

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According to some anthropologists, this is because the planet glows red, like the color of blood spilled on the battlefield.

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00:04:48,000 --> 00:04:54,000

The association of the red planet with the gods of war goes way back.

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00:04:54,000 --> 00:05:05,000

In ancient Babylon, Mars was named after Nurgle, the god of fire, death, and destruction, essentially a god of war.

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The Greeks named Mars after Aries, their god of war.

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00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:16,000

The Romans, Mars, that is their god of war.

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00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:26,000

Rome was a warrior culture, so this martial emphasis all connected to the red planet is accounting for the great armies that conquered the known world.

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00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:34,000

A very successful story and very much aligned with the planet Mars.

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00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:51,000

In 42 BC, the Roman forces of Augustus waged the battle of Philippi against Marcus Brutus, as Augustus tried to avenge the assassination of his adopted father Julius Caesar.

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Augustus pledged to the god of war, Mars, that if he won this battle, he would build a great temple for him.

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So he won the battle, became Caesar Augustus, one of the greatest of the Roman emperors, and he created the temple of Mars.

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00:06:14,000 --> 00:06:22,000

And whenever Rome would declare war, the temple doors would be thrown open.

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00:06:22,000 --> 00:06:26,000

It looks called a temple to Mars, the Avenger.

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00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:40,000

Famously, we say the gates of war nowadays, right? And it was the gates of Mars' temple that were opened or closed depending upon whether there was a war going on.

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00:06:40,000 --> 00:06:48,000

From India to Rome, all of the ancient societies had a reverence for Mars, a great closeness to Mars.

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00:06:48,000 --> 00:06:58,000

Very important in their pantheon, very important in the imagination of the people, that some kind of connection with that red planet be maintained.

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00:07:03,000 --> 00:07:11,000

But while many ancient societies felt a bond with Mars, most did not identify it as a planet like Earth.

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00:07:11,000 --> 00:07:15,000

The ancients thought planets were as uninhabitable as the Sun.

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They saw them as wandering stars. In fact, the word planet means in Greek, wandering star, planeta.

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00:07:23,000 --> 00:07:30,000

You have the fixed stars, the constellations, but then you have these stars wandering about.

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00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:37,000

They seem to follow the Sun because they appear to move against the background of the fixed stars the same way the Sun does.

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It wasn't until the 17th and 18th centuries when astronomers finally had telescopes powerful enough to make out features on the surface of Mars that we started to imagine life on the red planet as a real possibility.

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By the 1860s, an Italian astronomer by the name of Angelo Secchi thought he saw straight lines crisscrossing the surface of our little ruddy buddy up there, Mars.

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Then he called them Canali. The idea was picked up by an American astronomer by the name of Percival Lowell.

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And Percival Lowell built his own observatory down in Flagstaff, Arizona.

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He spent a lot of time looking through a telescope at Mars, and he wrote books about this.

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He was articulate, he was clever, and he convinced a lot of the public and some of the scientific establishment that there really was a civilization on Mars busy digging up their planet because they needed to irrigate their crops.

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But why has Mars fascinated humankind throughout history?

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Is it simply due to the planet's proximity to Earth and its striking red color in the night sky?

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Or is it possible, as ancient astronaut Theorists contend, that Mars really was at one time inhabited by intelligent life?

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The Scythonia region of Mars, July 20th, 1976.

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An alien spacecraft sent from Earth touches down on the red planet.

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After a ten-month journey, Viking 1 has reached its destination.

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To NASA scientists, it's a momentous event.

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For the first time in its history, the United States has a probe on another planet.

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Viking was the first spacecraft to actually attempt a soft landing on Mars.

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00:09:44,000 --> 00:09:50,000

And give us an actual feel, a taste for what the conditions were on the surface.

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We looked out at those pictures of the surface, and they looked so much like the Pacific deserts

here, like Death Valley.

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We all half expected to see a miner in his burrow come walking up over the nearest rise.

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Scientists knew that finding definitive signs of life on Mars was a long shot.

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But when the Viking lander performed four tests on the Martian soil, looking for microbial life, it returned surprising and controversial results.

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Dr. Gilles Levin designed one of the tests that the Viking probe performed.

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Microorganisms breathe just like you or I or anything else, and then they give off carbon dioxide.

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00:10:42,000 --> 00:10:48,000

So we got a tiny sample, a thimble full of the soil, put into a little container.

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00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:56,000

It was monitored for seven days continuously to see if there are any bubbles forming in the tube.

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Surprisingly, the test came up positive for life by the criteria that had been approved by NASA.

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However, the result of another important test, one looking for organic matter on the Martian surface, was negative.

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But Dr. Levin says the other test wasn't nearly as sensitive as his experiment.

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It needed three million bacteria in a thimble full of Martian soil to find signs of life, while Dr. Levin's test only required 30 bacteria.

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So there was a vast discrepancy and a sensitivity of the two experiments, and I immediately said, well, you know, they both could be right.

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We detected life, but maybe there aren't enough bacteria per unit of soil for the organic analysis instrument to find.

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But NASA was very cautious, and they opted to say, no organic matter, there goes the ball game, no life.

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Dr. Levin has fought NASA for almost 40 years on whether the Viking probe found evidence of life on Mars.

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If he was right about the results of his test, this would be the first proof accepted by mainstream science that life exists outside our planet.

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But ancient astronaut theorists say an even more profound discovery regarding the red planet has been uncovered right here on Earth.

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Mysterious relics that may reveal an actual visitation of beings from Mars.

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Teotihuacan, Mexico

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In 2003, archaeologists in this ancient city made a startling discovery.

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A previously unknown tunnel lies 45 feet beneath the temple of the feathered serpent, one of the most sacred pyramids on the continent.

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Working underground, scientists methodically explored the debris-filled tunnel using a robotic probe with an infrared scanner.

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After some 250 feet, they reached a side cave.

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The tail end of the tunnel, the terminus of the tunnel, was loaded with yellowish metallic-looking

orbs, apparently colored clay.

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The orbs are very interesting objects. I've never seen anything like them in any kind of other archaeological context.

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On the inside, they are clay. On the outside, they're coated with some sort of gold flecks, so they look like golden balls.

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What purpose these golden balls served is unknown, but some archaeologists believe the cavern in which they were found was a place of sacred ritual.

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Like the clay balls, the walls were also covered in gold flecks, so if the cavern was illuminated by a torch during a ceremony, it would have shimmered with a thousand points of light, resembling the cosmos.

103

00:14:23,000 --> 00:14:32,000

These beautiful orbs of yellow material strongly suggest that someone was illustrating planets.

104

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We do know that the Mayan calendar is heavily calibrated to the orbital parameters of the planets in our solar system, specifically the inner planets.

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The red planet's connection to the Mayan calendar is portrayed in the Dresden Codex.

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This rare book from Mayan antiquity describes the calendar in relation to Mars' movements across the sky.

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The Dresden Codex is one of four remaining books that the Maya wrote.

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It is, in many regards, an astronomical almanac. There are many different sections of the book that talk about different astronomical phenomena.

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One of them is the planet Mars.

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There is an almanac near the end of the book that breaks up days into ten groups of 78 days, equalling 780 days, which is the synodic period of Mars.

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00:15:39,000 --> 00:15:47,000

The time in which it takes Mars to get back to the same place on the horizon from a human perspective.

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Scholars believe Mars played an important role in the Maya astrology that's described in the Dresden Codex.

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Above that almanac is a sky band shown with various aspects of celestial symbols we recognize out of hieroglyphs, and hanging off of it is this interesting dragon-like creature.

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That dragon-like creature is recognized as the face of Mars.

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Why did the planet Mars feature so prominently in Maya astronomy?

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Ancient astronaut theorists suggest the answer may be found in a little-known myth surrounding the story of the feathered serpent god, whose temple sits above the secret tunnel that contains the golden orbs.

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In the Mayan tradition, their great god often pictured as a feathered serpent was said to have been responsible for the death of the god of Mars.

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It played him to death. That's stripping off the skin. It's a horrific ritual that was actually done in other ways in that culture.

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But the idea is death by that means it absorbs the power of the enemy.

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But the name of the god also is associated with the comets.

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There are certain drawings that show comets that look like they have feathers coming off the back, that the flames are depicted as feathers.

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And some scholars believe there's a connection between the look of the flying feathered serpent and these comets.

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Is it possible that the Mayan myth of the feathered serpent describes an actual event?

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A cataclysmic comet strike that destroyed the Martian atmosphere.

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After studying the red planet for decades, mainstream scientists admit it's entirely possible this impact occurred on Mars in the distant past.

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If you look at the Martian landscape, it's heavily cratered compared to Earth.

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Mars is next to the asteroid belt. In fact, in some ways it defines the inner edge of the asteroid belt.

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So Mars is constantly being hammered by asteroids relative to Earth.

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You always have the risk, and of course we've seen it here on Earth, of having large asteroids or comets hit the planet and cause tremendous ecological damage.

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The most famous example of that is the Chicxulub asteroid that may or may not have been the final nail in the dinosaurs coffin.

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00:18:58,000 --> 00:19:08,000

And certainly that could have happened at Mars because it doesn't have a large moon to help shield the planet and possibly deflect asteroids.

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In his book, Life and Death on Mars, physicist John Brandenburg describes an impact crater in the Leo region of Mars that's more than 125 miles in diameter.

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00:19:25,000 --> 00:19:31,000

He believes this comet strike may have caused a profound disruption to Mars' planetary system.

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00:19:32,000 --> 00:19:41,000

It's a large double-ring crater. Only this happened to a planet that only gets half the sunlight of Earth. It has one quarter of its surface area.

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00:19:42,000 --> 00:19:46,000

So this would have been an absolutely devastating planet climate changing event.

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00:19:47,000 --> 00:20:00,000

There may have been a very dramatic event where some other leftover piece from the birth of the solar system, some big asteroid, sort of made a close flyby sort of a fender-bender collision with Mars and just stripped off a lot of the atmosphere.

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That's a very popular way to look at what may have gone wrong with Mars.

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00:20:04,000 --> 00:20:23,000

But if Mars fostered life long ago before losing its atmosphere, could intelligent life and perhaps even civilization have existed and even flourished on the red planet?

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00:20:24,000 --> 00:20:29,000

And if so, where would the inhabitants have gone after the cataclysm?

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Some say the answers to these questions can be found in the origin story of Earth's first civilization.

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Mosul, Iraq, 1849

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During an excavation of the biblical city of Nineveh, a team led by the eminent British archaeologist, Austin Henry Layard, discovered the ruins of the ancient Assyrian library of Ashurbanipal.

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Among the priceless relics Layard recovered from the library is a series of cuneiform tablets called the Anuna Ailish, also known as the Seven Tablets of Creation.

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The tablets are essentially text in columnar style, no more than 8 to 10 inches tall, 6 to 7 inches wide, which were made of clay.

145

00:21:31,000 --> 00:21:43,000

And while the clay was just in the process of setting, a stylus would be used by a transcribe to etch the stories of our existence on this planet.

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00:21:47,000 --> 00:21:57,000

The Seven Tablets of Creation tell a story about a group of gods called the Anunnaki, who came from heaven to give birth to the human race.

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But some ancient astronaut theorists believe the original translations, completed in the 19th century by some of the best scholars of the day, are flawed.

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00:22:08,000 --> 00:22:16,000

The professors, certainly brilliant brains, had no idea of space travel, not to speak of extraterrestrials.

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00:22:16,000 --> 00:22:25,000

So they all, without exception, made the translations in the belief that the stories had to do with the almighty God.

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00:22:26,000 --> 00:22:30,000

Idiotics, we have for example a word like heaven.

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00:22:30,000 --> 00:22:36,000

For example Abraham was taken up to heaven and brought back to earth.

152

00:22:36,000 --> 00:22:43,000

So we should change the word heaven into the word space. So it makes sense.

153

00:22:44,000 --> 00:22:49,000

Using what they say is a more accurate translation of this origin myth.

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00:22:49,000 --> 00:22:59,000

Ancient astronaut theorists believe the tablets tell a story about the Anunnaki, coming from space to colonize both Mars and earth.

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According to some researchers, the Sumerians had a number of myths about Mars, including that the Anunnaki used Mars as a supply base to create a new space.

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And subsequently the Anunnaki then ruled the earth as these extraterrestrial God kings, while humans began to create the many civilizations on our planet.

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And eventually the Anunnaki left to go back to their own planet. Or did they?

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00:23:36,000 --> 00:23:51,000

Is it possible that the Anunnaki Gods in our ancient origin stories were actually extraterrestrial beings and that they created the structures that some believe they see on Mars?

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00:23:51,000 --> 00:23:56,000

And if so, did they then journey to earth?

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We see multiple references in the cuneiform tablets that are allegedly the records of the Anunnaki that in fact they did originate from Mars.

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00:24:09,000 --> 00:24:17,000

That this is not a dead, isolated, rocky world with nothing on it, but there was life.

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00:24:17,000 --> 00:24:38,000

But according to modern translation of Sumerian and Babylonian origin myths, a cataclysmic event occurred on Mars, an event that sounds remarkably similar to ancient Mesoamerican myths about a feathered serpent flaying the red planet.

163

00:24:39,000 --> 00:24:51,000

Well the Anunnaki were using Mars as a supply base for earth. At some point there was a

catastrophe. There was some asteroid comet strike on Mars.

164

00:24:55,000 --> 00:25:05,000

It ripped the atmosphere from Mars. It changed the climate. And Mars couldn't be used as a habitable space base for the Anunnaki anymore.

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00:25:05,000 --> 00:25:24,000

And so therefore as we explore Mars more and more, we may find structures, pyramids, zirats, even giant statues carved into rock on Mars which are really relics of the Anunnaki and the time when they occupied that planet.

166

00:25:25,000 --> 00:25:34,000

Some have suggested that Mars may have had an atmosphere and it got annihilated about 65 million years ago.

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00:25:34,000 --> 00:25:44,000

What some have suggested is that before this annihilation occurred that that civilization was able to escape to earth.

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00:25:44,000 --> 00:25:50,000

Now according to this view, we might in fact be the Martians.

169

00:25:54,000 --> 00:26:09,000

Some scientists say they found powerful evidence of this lost civilization. They believe they may have discovered a nuclear signature in the Martian atmosphere that matches earths after a nuclear test.

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00:26:12,000 --> 00:26:20,000

During the height of the cold world we are detonating very large hydrogen bombs in the open air and it produces a lot of a gas called xenon 129.

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00:26:21,000 --> 00:26:32,000

On Mars we've also found a lot of xenon 129. The only process we know to produce this xenon 129 is a nuclear explosion.

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So apparently a very large nuclear weapon or weapon was detonated on Mars.

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If we look at the Sumerian Keneafom tablets there are very clear references to a variety of advanced forms of technology.

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And it would seem pretty clear that if we were able to get a nuclear bomb then why couldn't a civilization that was superior to our own have developed the same technology?

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00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:09,000

There is a Sumerian myth concerning the planet Mars having to do with some colossal battle of the gods.

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So there is elements in mythology that look very much like descriptions of nuclear war.

177

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Signs of a possible nuclear blast, myths of a comet flame the planet and a controversial NASA experiment that may have found life.

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Could these really be traces of an ancient alien civilization on Mars?

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00:27:39,000 --> 00:27:48,000

And if so is it possible there are artificial structures buried beneath the surface even to this day?

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00:27:53,000 --> 00:27:55,000

The Aries-Vallis region of Mars.

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00:27:56,000 --> 00:27:59,000

July 4th 1997.

182

00:28:00,000 --> 00:28:05,000

NASA's Pathfinder spacecraft lands on the red planet.

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00:28:06,000 --> 00:28:10,000

The first probe to reach the Martian surface since Viking.

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00:28:10,000 --> 00:28:13,000

Pathfinder will look for signs of water.

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00:28:19,000 --> 00:28:28,000

Since the Viking missions in the 1970s, mainstream scientists have come to the conclusion that the planet may have once boasted oceans full of water.

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00:28:30,000 --> 00:28:32,000

And complex life.

187

00:28:33,000 --> 00:28:40,000

Billions of years ago early in the history of the solar system Mars probably looked in many ways the way the Earth did.

188

00:28:42,000 --> 00:28:45,000

It did build up in atmosphere and oceans.

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00:28:46,000 --> 00:28:52,000

The atmosphere probably would have been equivalent to Earth's atmosphere at that time.

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00:28:52,000 --> 00:28:55,000

Life could well have fought in the oceans.

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00:29:00,000 --> 00:29:13,000

One day after Pathfinder touched down, the Sojourner rover began exploring the Martian surface for signs of these ancient life forms using an x-ray spectrometer and a high-powered camera.

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00:29:14,000 --> 00:29:23,000

What they discovered was, yes, Mars in certain places looks like the high desert on Earth.

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00:29:24,000 --> 00:29:30,000

And maybe there are areas which do seem to be dried out riverbed.

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00:29:31,000 --> 00:29:34,000

Maybe there's water under the surface.

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00:29:35,000 --> 00:29:42,000

The thing we've learned from the rovers that's most interesting, I think, is the fact that Mars once had a wet past.

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00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:49,000

And if there was liquid water on the surface of Mars long enough, not just for a couple of weeks, a couple of years, a couple of thousand years,

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00:29:49,000 --> 00:29:55,000

but for millions of years, hundreds of millions of years, maybe something cooked up in that liquid may be life.

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00:29:57,000 --> 00:30:05,000

As the Pathfinder rover snapped photographs of the Martian surface, it captured images of something that puzzled some scientists.

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00:30:08,000 --> 00:30:11,000

A mountain range they nicknamed the Twin Peaks.

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00:30:12,000 --> 00:30:27,000

In his book, *Life and Death on Mars*, Dr. John Brandenburg says that because Mars has limited volcanic and tectonic activity, it's an open question as to how these mountains were formed.

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00:30:31,000 --> 00:30:35,000

This interesting formation is the tallest thing for hundreds of miles.

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00:30:36,000 --> 00:30:40,000

Most of the volcanic activity on Mars is concentrated in the Tharsis region.

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00:30:41,000 --> 00:30:43,000

How many miles away is that approximately?

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00:30:44,000 --> 00:30:45,000

Oh, it's like 2,000 miles away.

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00:30:46,000 --> 00:30:50,000

So this area is not known for any volcanoes or anything like that?

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00:30:51,000 --> 00:30:52,000

No.

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00:30:53,000 --> 00:30:57,000

And because we now know so much more about the climate of Mars than we did 20 years ago, it had an ocean.

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00:30:58,000 --> 00:31:01,000

It had long periods of permanent liquid water flowing on its surface.

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00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:06,000

So all of this causes us to look at everything on Mars with new eyes.

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00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:12,000

And so we have these two interesting objects that can join.

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00:31:13,000 --> 00:31:17,000

Not only are they the tallest things for 200 miles, but they're linked to each other.

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00:31:18,000 --> 00:31:22,000

And this reminds me of what we have found on planet Earth.

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00:31:23,000 --> 00:31:24,000

Now, there is alignment.

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00:31:26,000 --> 00:31:31,000

And what's interesting, this is the Giza Plateau from Egypt.

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00:31:31,000 --> 00:31:40,000

And it is near Cairo, which name in Arabic drives the name in it El Kahira, which means camp of Mars, place of Mars.

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00:31:41,000 --> 00:31:42,000

Very interesting.

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00:31:43,000 --> 00:31:49,000

And we also have found out recently that at one time the sphinx was covered with red paint.

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00:31:51,000 --> 00:31:57,000

So imagine we are looking at the Giza complex and the sphinx.

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00:31:57,000 --> 00:32:01,000

And a million years of erosion has happened.

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00:32:02,000 --> 00:32:06,000

Wouldn't these things all look kind of rounded and mounted like this?

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00:32:07,000 --> 00:32:08,000

It's conjectural.

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00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:14,000

Now notice over here, because it's the Giza Plateau, we have the sphinx.

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00:32:15,000 --> 00:32:21,000

Has something similar been discovered on Mars specifically around the Twin Peaks areas?

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00:32:21,000 --> 00:32:27,000

Well, we have this strange object, which is nearby, and we see that from space and also in the

picture.

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00:32:28,000 --> 00:32:29,000

And look at this.

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00:32:30,000 --> 00:32:31,000

At this alignment.

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00:32:31,000 --> 00:32:32,000

Here is the sphinx on Earth.

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00:32:33,000 --> 00:32:34,000

Here is the pyramid.

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00:32:36,000 --> 00:32:41,000

Here is this object, and there is what looks like a mound of stuff.

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00:32:41,000 --> 00:32:43,000

Who knows if it is degraded archaeology.

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00:32:43,000 --> 00:32:46,000

We must look at everything on Mars now with new eyes.

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00:32:46,000 --> 00:32:52,000

In fact, when the sphinx was originally found in modern times, it was buried up to its neck in rubble.

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00:32:53,000 --> 00:32:54,000

And it had to be excavated.

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00:32:55,000 --> 00:32:57,000

So something similar could be going on right here.

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00:32:58,000 --> 00:33:00,000

There could be a much larger structure buried beneath it.

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00:33:03,000 --> 00:33:09,000

Could the Twin Peaks be evidence that an ancient civilization may have once existed on Mars?

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00:33:10,000 --> 00:33:15,000

A civilization whose structures appear to resemble those on Earth?

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00:33:17,000 --> 00:33:26,000

Ancient astronaut theorists say yes, and that evidence for this startling conclusion has been accumulating for four decades.

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00:33:27,000 --> 00:33:32,000

When Viking orbiters originally started taking pictures of the surface of Mars,

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00:33:32,000 --> 00:33:38,000

they took pictures of very intriguing features on the plane of Sidonium.

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00:33:39,000 --> 00:33:48,000

On July 25th, 1976, they took a picture of something that looked for all the world like a human face.

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00:33:49,000 --> 00:33:57,000

The whole thing kind of blew up when NASA project scientist named Toby Owen put a magnifying glass over a frame number named 35A72

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00:33:57,000 --> 00:33:58,000

and said, hey, look at this.

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00:33:58,000 --> 00:34:05,000

NASA actually held a press conference the next day where Owen and Gerald Soffin, who was the chief Viking project scientist, said,

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00:34:05,000 --> 00:34:08,000

you know, isn't it peculiar what tricks of light and shadow can do?

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00:34:09,000 --> 00:34:12,000

The whole thing kind of went away a couple hours later when we took another picture.

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00:34:13,000 --> 00:34:20,000

The problem with that is that a couple hours later, the Viking orbiter was nowhere near Sidonia and it was dark,

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00:34:20,000 --> 00:34:22,000

so there's no way that picture could have ever existed.

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00:34:22,000 --> 00:34:29,000

Some believe they found not only a human face carved into Martian rock, but also a pyramid, a cliff.

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00:34:30,000 --> 00:34:35,000

In fact, an entire city buried by thousands of years of sand and soil.

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00:34:37,000 --> 00:34:46,000

By the late 1980s, one researcher had even discovered what he thought were mathematical relationships among the features of Sidonia.

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00:34:46,000 --> 00:35:00,000

A cartographer and satellite imagery expert from the Defense Mapping Agency named Errol Torren took a look at the pyramid and concluded that it was what he called the Rosetta Stone of Mars.

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00:35:01,000 --> 00:35:08,000

He found a bunch of mathematical relationships that pointed to other objects in the area that he thought were artificial looking.

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00:35:08,000 --> 00:35:15,000

They included the face, an object called the cliff, which is a straight line that goes on for hundreds of meters, a rounded mound called the tholas,

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00:35:15,000 --> 00:35:18,000

which appears to have a pathway that goes up to the top.

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00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:29,000

More than 20 years after the Viking mission, NASA re-photographed the Sidonia region in 1998 and again in 2001.

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00:35:30,000 --> 00:35:37,000

The face no longer looked human, but some said it was a human.

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00:35:38,000 --> 00:35:43,000

Scientists believe that was because of when and how NASA took the newer pictures.

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00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:47,000

They shot it from the side. They shot it at morning.

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00:35:48,000 --> 00:35:55,000

It was as much a different viewing geometry and lighting geometry as possible from the original pictures.

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00:35:56,000 --> 00:36:04,000

Based on that evidence, the face on Mars, the evidence of past climate on Mars, the past ocean,

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00:36:04,000 --> 00:36:10,000

I have concluded that Mars was apparently the home of a civilization in the past.

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00:36:12,000 --> 00:36:17,000

Is it possible that an alien civilization existed on Mars in the distant past

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00:36:18,000 --> 00:36:22,000

and built the structures that recent Martian probes have photographed?

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00:36:25,000 --> 00:36:32,000

If so, does the government know more than it's telling us about life and death on the red planet?

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00:36:35,000 --> 00:36:43,000

Washington, DC, August 7th, 1996.

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00:36:44,000 --> 00:36:49,000

On the south lawn of the White House, 30 years after NASA announced the Viking mission,

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00:36:50,000 --> 00:36:59,000

had not found evidence of life on Mars, President Bill Clinton held an historic press conference to announce some momentous news.

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00:36:59,000 --> 00:37:04,000

Microbial life may exist on the red planet after all.

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00:37:05,000 --> 00:37:14,000

Scientists had found what they believed to be fossilized remains on a Martian meteorite that crashed to Earth 12,000 years ago.

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00:37:17,000 --> 00:37:26,000

It must be confirmed by other scientists, but clearly the fact that something of this magnitude is being explored

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00:37:26,000 --> 00:37:34,000

is another vindication of America's space program and our continuing support for it even in these tough financial times.

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00:37:35,000 --> 00:37:45,000

There was enormous excitement over this discovery. Based on the chemical composition of the meteorite, we could tell that it was from Mars.

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00:37:46,000 --> 00:38:01,000

Inside the rock, researchers found different chemicals and in particular different physical shapes of objects that looked extremely similar to microorganisms here on Earth.

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00:38:04,000 --> 00:38:13,000

Soon after the President's press conference, scientists began to backpedal on whether the meteorite actually showed signs of life.

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00:38:14,000 --> 00:38:17,000

They said the original team of experts may have been wrong.

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00:38:18,000 --> 00:38:36,000

The image certainly looks like some kind of a microorganism, but the opponents said the microorganism remains are too small to have DNA to be incited and therefore it can't be a fossil.

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00:38:36,000 --> 00:38:50,000

Since then, microorganisms have been found that small which have DNA in them, but it has not been resolved.

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00:38:53,000 --> 00:39:05,000

But given the controversy surrounding the possibility that life may have been discovered on Mars,

starting with the Viking mission of the 1970s and continuing to the present day,

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00:39:07,000 --> 00:39:12,000

some scientists say NASA almost seems to be avoiding the issue.

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00:39:14,000 --> 00:39:20,000

The space agency has never retried Gil Levin's test for signs of life on the red planet.

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00:39:24,000 --> 00:39:33,000

It is very puzzling as to why NASA has refused to send life detection experiments back to Mars.

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00:39:34,000 --> 00:39:46,000

My experiment discovered the most remarkable thing yet known about Mars, that there's something highly reactive in the soil, chemical or biological.

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00:39:47,000 --> 00:39:49,000

But we really should find out what it is.

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00:39:50,000 --> 00:39:57,000

It is startling that NASA has made no attempt to determine that issue.

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00:39:58,000 --> 00:40:12,000

I truly think NASA knows there is life on Mars, but for some reason unbeknownst to me, it does not want that information out.

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00:40:13,000 --> 00:40:26,000

Has NASA found definitive signs of life on Mars that they're intentionally keeping from the public?

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00:40:27,000 --> 00:40:33,000

And if so, have they found evidence that an advanced civilization once lived on the red planet?

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00:40:34,000 --> 00:40:55,000

Some ancient astronaut theorists believe they have, and as evidence point to a report commissioned by NASA in 1960 that offers advice for how to reveal the news if the American space program should ever find proof of extraterrestrial life.

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00:40:56,000 --> 00:41:15,000

The so-called Brookings report essentially said that in your travels throughout the solar system, there is a distinct possibility that you will discover artifacts, that you will actually discover evidence of an ancient alien presence on Venus, on the moon or on Mars.

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00:41:16,000 --> 00:41:28,000

And the implications of such an announcement, if it were made, would be potentially devastating to the human race. It could be catastrophic. In fact, it used the word disintegrate.

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00:41:30,000 --> 00:41:34,000

I would imagine that it would be something that would be kept secret for a while.

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00:41:35,000 --> 00:41:49,000

I don't think it's a bunch of men sitting in the room and smoking cigarettes and saying, we're going to keep this cigarette. But it is a responsibility, and I think that it would certainly be very, very careful as to how to let out this lunge.

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00:41:49,000 --> 00:42:12,000

Is it possible that not just microbial life, but also intelligent beings once called the red planet their home? And if so, what would that mean for the existence of life elsewhere in the cosmos?

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00:42:13,000 --> 00:42:23,000

If life used to exist on Mars, particularly if it formed independently of Earth life, life in the universe is all over the place.

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00:42:26,000 --> 00:42:39,000

That means that of the billions of planets discovered now, similar to Earth through our universe, many of them would have life on them.

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00:42:42,000 --> 00:42:58,000

And if there is life different from life on Earth that has evolved, there would be every reason to suspect such evolution would have gone on on countless other Earths and that there would be intelligent life out there as well.

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00:42:58,000 --> 00:43:14,000

We want there to be life on Mars. We want there to be life somewhere beyond here. We want that transcendent connection to the heavens. We don't want it to be invaders, but we don't want to be alone in the universe.

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00:43:14,000 --> 00:43:42,000

Are tales of life on Mars bound in cultures across the world, simply mythology? Or might Martians really have visited Earth in the distant past, as ancient astronaut theorists suggest? If so, could there be evidence waiting to be discovered on the red planet?

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00:43:44,000 --> 00:43:56,000

Perhaps with further missions to Mars, we'll find that not only was it home to alien beings thousands of years ago, but it still is today.