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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:17,800

Since the beginning of recorded time, mankind has seen unidentified flying objects in the

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00:00:17,800 --> 00:00:18,960

sky.

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00:00:18,960 --> 00:00:22,520

Have extraterrestrials influenced the course of human events?

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00:00:22,520 --> 00:00:39,240

Confront the specter that has haunted our collective imagination throughout history.

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00:00:39,240 --> 00:00:46,000

For thousands of years, we have gazed in awe at the night sky.

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00:00:46,000 --> 00:00:51,600

In watching their slow yet relentless movement across the heavens, people discover that the

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00:00:51,600 --> 00:00:57,640

changing pattern of the stars precisely matched the ebb and flow of seasons.

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00:00:57,640 --> 00:01:05,000

This allowed for the development of the calendar and the rise of agriculture.

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00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:10,600

But some objects in the sky followed neither pattern nor orderly path, seeming to defy

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00:01:10,600 --> 00:01:15,680

the natural laws that bind all things.

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00:01:15,680 --> 00:01:21,800

Since unidentified flying objects or UFOs challenged human understanding, provoking

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00:01:21,800 --> 00:01:30,640

a quest that continues to this day.

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00:01:30,640 --> 00:01:36,080

You'd have to say that UFO evidence goes back as far as man has left any records at all,

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00:01:36,080 --> 00:01:43,080

because even in ancient cave art 20,000 years ago or so in France and Spain, there are objects,

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00:01:43,080 --> 00:01:47,840

drawings that look like modern flying saucers.

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00:01:47,840 --> 00:01:53,120

So you'd have to go back that far if you wanted to start some point in time when the first

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00:01:53,120 --> 00:01:58,440

UFO report was recorded.

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00:01:58,440 --> 00:02:04,200

Forever frozen in silence and in stone, these provocative drawings raise questions which

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00:02:04,200 --> 00:02:06,760

are debated to this day.

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00:02:06,760 --> 00:02:11,600

For some, these shapes represent gods or ancestral spirits.

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00:02:11,680 --> 00:02:23,440

But for others, they are ancient depictions of spacecraft, ancient aliens.

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00:02:23,440 --> 00:02:30,080

Text from the world's earliest civilizations, including Sumeria some 5,000 years ago, mentioned

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00:02:30,080 --> 00:02:39,760

strange aerial phenomena and the beings who controlled them.

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00:02:39,920 --> 00:02:44,760

There are ancient records in which people describe different kinds of flying objects,

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00:02:44,760 --> 00:02:46,400

which they have seen.

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00:02:46,400 --> 00:02:52,440

In some cases, the people were describing what they understood to be flying vehicles

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00:02:52,440 --> 00:02:56,200

piloted by various categories of living beings.

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00:02:56,200 --> 00:02:59,080

There are written accounts which describe this in great detail.

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00:03:10,760 --> 00:03:19,760

The images are provocative and controversial.

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00:03:25,640 --> 00:03:31,480

A lot relates to how you interpret the signs that we see.

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00:03:31,480 --> 00:03:35,440

Is a sketch on the wall, an alien, and a space helmet?

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00:03:35,440 --> 00:03:36,800

Is it a diving helmet?

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00:03:36,800 --> 00:03:41,560

Or is it just the decorative piece of work from a science fiction writer of several

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00:03:41,560 --> 00:03:42,960

thousand years ago?

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00:03:42,960 --> 00:03:47,480

So the further back you go, the harder it is to interpret.

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00:03:47,480 --> 00:03:52,280

Despite increasing public support for the notion that UFOs may have been visiting the

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00:03:52,280 --> 00:03:58,480

earth since the dawn of history, the scientific community is overwhelmingly skeptical about

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00:03:58,480 --> 00:04:03,440

the subject.

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00:04:03,440 --> 00:04:08,640

Some people saw weird things in the sky and they were convinced that these were symbols

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00:04:08,640 --> 00:04:10,320

of God's intentions.

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00:04:10,320 --> 00:04:12,600

Their lives were controlled by the gods.

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00:04:12,600 --> 00:04:17,880

And in every case that I am aware of, there is an alternate explanation.

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00:04:17,880 --> 00:04:19,840

It could have been a meteor which they didn't understand.

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00:04:19,840 --> 00:04:22,240

It could have been some ball lightning.

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00:04:22,240 --> 00:04:26,360

It could have been any kind of thing that was just totally unknown to primitive man.

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00:04:26,360 --> 00:04:33,360

And so they always interpret these things in terms of supernatural.

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00:04:33,360 --> 00:04:39,320

Despite scientific skepticism, the annals of human affairs contain many curious examples

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00:04:39,320 --> 00:04:46,440

of strange objects seen in the sky.

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00:04:46,440 --> 00:04:51,880

One of the earliest written records of an encounter with a UFO comes from Egypt more

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00:04:51,880 --> 00:04:55,400

than 3500 years ago.

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00:04:55,400 --> 00:05:06,600

There's a story about two, most three Egyptian pharaohs who saw circles of fire in the sky

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00:05:06,600 --> 00:05:08,360

and started off with one.

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00:05:08,360 --> 00:05:11,880

And then the report says that there were a few days later, there were many of them in

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00:05:11,880 --> 00:05:13,560

the sky.

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00:05:13,560 --> 00:05:24,200

And it was so impressed that this was recorded on a papyrus and considered very momentous.

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00:05:24,200 --> 00:05:33,520

In the year 22 of the third month of the winter, a circle of fire appeared in the sky.

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00:05:33,520 --> 00:05:39,760

After some days, it became more numerous and shone with the brightness of the sun extending

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00:05:39,760 --> 00:05:43,480

to the very limits of the heavens.

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00:05:43,480 --> 00:05:51,600

The records of Pharaoh Tethmosis, 1480 BCE.

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00:05:51,600 --> 00:05:57,240

Days later, during his invasion of Asia, the mighty Greek leader Alexander the Great

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00:05:57,240 --> 00:06:04,360

is chronicled as having witnessed UFOs.

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00:06:04,360 --> 00:06:11,000

While crossing a river in 329 BC, Alexander and his men observe what are described as

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00:06:11,000 --> 00:06:14,600

gleaming silver shields in the sky.

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00:06:14,600 --> 00:06:19,920

The objects repeatedly swoop down on the column of soldiers, scattering men and horses

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00:06:19,920 --> 00:06:25,000

in panic.

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00:06:25,000 --> 00:06:31,280

Seven years later, while attacking the Phoenician city of Tyre in the eastern Mediterranean,

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00:06:31,280 --> 00:06:34,480

Alexander again encounters UFOs.

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00:06:34,480 --> 00:06:39,320

Recorded by observers on both sides of the conflict, one of the objects suddenly shoots

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00:06:39,320 --> 00:06:45,720

a beam of light at the city wall, which crumbles into dust, allowing Alexander and his troops

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00:06:45,720 --> 00:06:51,000

to easily breach the defenses and take the city.

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00:06:51,000 --> 00:06:56,680

The passage of centuries leaves us with little proof of whether the events really took place,

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00:06:56,680 --> 00:07:07,200

or were merely the products of fertile and imaginative minds.

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00:07:07,200 --> 00:07:14,120

Remember the working hypothesis for historians, for hundreds of years, has always been that

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00:07:14,120 --> 00:07:20,040

mankind is alone, that there are no intruders from outer space, that there were no advanced

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00:07:20,040 --> 00:07:27,320

civilizations, that our civilization, in each generation thinks is at the peak.

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00:07:27,320 --> 00:07:28,320

We're it.

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00:07:28,320 --> 00:07:31,760

Well, unless you throw out those assumptions, there's no way you're going to get at the

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00:07:31,760 --> 00:07:36,400

truth of these old accounts.

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00:07:36,400 --> 00:07:41,840

Many of the accounts are mystifying indeed.

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00:07:41,840 --> 00:07:48,680

Medieval Europe was the scene of a mysterious incident in 1463, when a strange slab-like

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00:07:48,680 --> 00:07:52,360

object reportedly appeared in the sky.

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00:07:52,360 --> 00:07:59,680

Surrounded by flames and a bright light, it glided eerily above the landscape.

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00:07:59,680 --> 00:08:07,120

This drawing was made by Hermann Shaden, a witness to the event.

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00:08:07,120 --> 00:08:12,400

A century later, another witness recorded this unearthly occurrence above the skies

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00:08:12,400 --> 00:08:15,200

of Nuremberg, Germany.

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00:08:15,200 --> 00:08:21,960

On the morning of April 14th, 1561, huge round cylinders were said to have appeared above

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00:08:21,960 --> 00:08:24,000

the city.

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00:08:24,000 --> 00:08:33,360

Smaller circular objects emerged from them, appearing to engage in battle with one another.

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00:08:33,360 --> 00:08:38,720

Five years later, a similar display was reported above Basel, Switzerland.

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00:08:38,720 --> 00:08:44,440

This time, many of the objects attacked one another, were consumed by fire, and then vanished

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00:08:44,440 --> 00:08:46,720

without trace.

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00:08:46,720 --> 00:08:54,000

Once again, the encounter was documented by a local witness.

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00:08:54,000 --> 00:08:59,720

By the early 19th century, the world seemed to be resonating to the mysterious presence

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00:08:59,720 --> 00:09:03,160

of unidentified flying objects.

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00:09:03,160 --> 00:09:08,560

These mysterious theories were proposed as to what they were and where they came from.

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00:09:08,560 --> 00:09:14,400

A lot of the ancient stories about UFOs are really stories about angels and leprechauns

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00:09:14,400 --> 00:09:18,120

and things of that sort, which existed in the mythology of the time.

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00:09:18,120 --> 00:09:22,520

They're I think a product of the very powerful fantasy ability of the mind.

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00:09:22,520 --> 00:09:26,120

After all, everyone dreams.

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00:09:26,120 --> 00:09:32,680

The subject of UFOs is a sensitive one, with supporters on opposing sides of an ongoing

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00:09:32,680 --> 00:09:36,360

debate.

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00:09:36,360 --> 00:09:44,360

We have today an enormous body of evidence of people seeing consistently reported beings

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00:09:44,360 --> 00:09:50,320

in terms of their shape, their size, little details that indicate a phenomena is going

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00:09:50,320 --> 00:09:55,200

on where those beings are associated with spacecraft, flying saucers, call them what

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00:09:55,200 --> 00:09:56,640

you want.

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00:09:56,640 --> 00:10:02,200

So I think as an explanation, oh, people are just seeing these same leprechauns that they

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00:10:02,200 --> 00:10:04,000

saw before.

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00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:06,320

It's a foolish explanation.

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00:10:06,320 --> 00:10:12,680

Maybe the people back then were seeing the same little gray guys that are coming here

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00:10:12,680 --> 00:10:18,160

now.

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00:10:18,160 --> 00:10:23,680

For centuries, scholars have grappled with the question of what UFOs may be, the possible

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00:10:23,680 --> 00:10:28,000

identity of their occupants, and where they may have come from.

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00:10:28,000 --> 00:10:36,960

Unfortunately, answers are hard to find.

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00:10:36,960 --> 00:10:41,520

When we return, we look to an unlikely source for the answers.

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00:10:41,520 --> 00:10:47,000

Some of the earliest accounts of UFOs ever recorded may be contained within the pages

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00:10:47,000 --> 00:10:48,120

of the Holy Bible.

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00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:06,200

The saga of events that once played out against the landscape of the Middle East is enshrined

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00:11:06,200 --> 00:11:13,760

in the Western World's most revered book, The Holy Bible.

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00:11:13,760 --> 00:11:19,800

In recent years, the Bible has been increasingly touted by some investigators as a collection

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00:11:19,800 --> 00:11:25,680

of stories describing encounters with aliens and UFOs.

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00:11:25,680 --> 00:11:28,520

But the topic is controversial.

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00:11:28,520 --> 00:11:34,280

Can the sacred nature of the biblical texts be challenged?

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00:11:34,280 --> 00:11:38,840

With the decline of religion that has been experienced by a great many people, I think

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00:11:38,840 --> 00:11:42,760

people are looking for an alternative that is more scientific.

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00:11:42,760 --> 00:11:46,160

And so the possibility of life is one that has been suggested by scientists.

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00:11:46,160 --> 00:11:52,200

So the next best thing to having a supernatural intervention in our world is to have UFOs visiting

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00:11:52,200 --> 00:11:53,480

us from another civilization.

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00:11:53,480 --> 00:11:58,440

So I think there's a certain would-be religious urge that has moved in the direction of supporting

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00:11:58,440 --> 00:12:00,440

UFOs.

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00:12:00,440 --> 00:12:06,920

The search for humanity's first possible contact with alien beings in prehistoric times

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00:12:06,920 --> 00:12:09,680

leads to an unlikely place.

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00:12:09,680 --> 00:12:14,400

To the Bible's earliest chapters, to the book of Genesis.

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00:12:14,400 --> 00:12:18,160

Genesis describes conditions in the world at the dawn of time.

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00:12:24,480 --> 00:12:28,040

There were giants in the earth in those days.

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00:12:28,040 --> 00:12:34,000

And also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they

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00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:36,720

were children to them.

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00:12:36,720 --> 00:12:41,440

Genesis 6.4.

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00:12:41,440 --> 00:12:51,680

Exactly who were the giants in the earth and the sons of God mentioned in the text?

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00:12:51,680 --> 00:13:00,240

While most English Bibles use the word giants, the original Hebrew word is nephilim.

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00:13:00,240 --> 00:13:08,080

One translation of the word nephilim is the men who came down, or those who came down,

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00:13:08,080 --> 00:13:11,080

meaning those who came down from the sky.

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00:13:11,080 --> 00:13:14,160

So it may not mean necessarily that they're physical giants.

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00:13:14,160 --> 00:13:20,320

They could just be something like great heroes that came down from the sky and produced a

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00:13:20,320 --> 00:13:22,680

hybrid race.

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00:13:22,680 --> 00:13:28,400

For many investigators hoping to unlock the mystery of UFOs in the ancient world, the

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00:13:28,400 --> 00:13:33,560

Bible contains other intriguing clues.

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00:13:33,560 --> 00:13:39,880

The Bible is full of UFO references that can be interpreted as such, and they were very

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00:13:39,880 --> 00:13:40,880

well recorded.

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00:13:41,880 --> 00:13:48,560

One of the best examples of classic UFO story is the story of Moses.

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00:13:51,560 --> 00:13:58,720

3,500 years ago, an epic period in biblical history begins when Israelite slaves are finally

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00:13:58,720 --> 00:14:02,000

released from bondage in Egypt.

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00:14:02,000 --> 00:14:07,560

Under the leadership of Moses, they begin a 40-year trek through the wilderness en route

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00:14:07,560 --> 00:14:09,840

to the promised land.

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00:14:09,840 --> 00:14:14,920

But according to the Bible, something very mysterious guides the multitude through the

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00:14:14,920 --> 00:14:16,920

barren desert.

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00:14:26,440 --> 00:14:33,680

The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in

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00:14:33,680 --> 00:14:38,080

a pillar of fire to give them light.

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00:14:38,080 --> 00:14:41,680

Exodus 14:21.

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00:14:45,560 --> 00:14:50,600

Some believe the biblical passage contains another dimension to the meaning long cherished

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00:14:50,600 --> 00:14:54,000

by most Christians and Jews.

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00:14:54,000 --> 00:14:59,160

Some people interpret the pillar of smoke and the pillar of fire that Moses followed through

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00:14:59,160 --> 00:15:05,000

the wilderness as being similar to a cigar-shaped UFO.

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00:15:05,000 --> 00:15:13,320

It expresses a theme of an extraterrestrial intelligence, some sort of advanced form of

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00:15:13,320 --> 00:15:17,680

life and intelligence that's guiding man, something that's higher than man.

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00:15:21,520 --> 00:15:27,480

Some of the most intriguing biblical passages concern Mount Sinai and the handing down of

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00:15:27,480 --> 00:15:30,000

the Ten Commandments.

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00:15:31,000 --> 00:15:41,000

Mount Sinai was covered in smoke because the Lord descended upon it in fire and the smoke

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00:15:41,000 --> 00:15:47,000

ascended as the smoke in a furnace and the whole mountain quaked loudly.

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00:15:47,000 --> 00:15:56,000

And when the voice of the trumpet sounded and waxed louder, Moses spake and God answered.

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00:15:56,000 --> 00:15:59,000

Exodus 19:18.

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00:16:00,000 --> 00:16:05,880

When Moses returns with the Ten Commandments after his encounter with God or Jehovah on

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00:16:05,880 --> 00:16:12,000

Mount Sinai, his skin mysteriously shines with an unearthly glow.

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00:16:12,000 --> 00:16:15,000

His hair has turned snow white.

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00:16:15,000 --> 00:16:21,000

The story of Moses has been tied in with an extraterrestrial encounter.

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00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:28,000

His hair was turned white, which some have linked with the possibility of radiation,

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00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:31,000

exposure and so forth.

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00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:37,000

It's easy to see how this could be regarded as a classic UFO encounter.

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00:16:39,000 --> 00:16:44,000

The notion that the Israelites may have been led to the Promised Land by some form of

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00:16:44,000 --> 00:16:50,000

extraterrestrial entity has attracted many adherents in the last few decades.

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00:16:50,000 --> 00:16:57,000

But understandably, scientists and religious leaders fiercely challenge the idea.

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00:16:59,000 --> 00:17:05,000

We're dealing very much with an interpretation and we're dealing with an issue that I think

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00:17:05,000 --> 00:17:11,000

has potential for being highly controversial because after all, if you say that Jehovah

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00:17:11,000 --> 00:17:17,000

is an ET, then that changes the basis of Judaism and Christianity in a very fundamental way.

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00:17:17,000 --> 00:17:20,000

But it is a question of interpretation.

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00:17:20,000 --> 00:17:21,000

It's so easy to speculate.

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00:17:21,000 --> 00:17:27,000

You can look at almost any story and find something that could have been signs of an

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00:17:27,000 --> 00:17:28,000

extraterrestrial.

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00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:31,000

But what you have to do, if you want to have such an incredible explanation, you have to

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00:17:31,000 --> 00:17:33,000

have very strong proof.

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00:17:33,000 --> 00:17:35,000

Otherwise, you're just gullible.

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00:17:36,000 --> 00:17:43,000

Hint: possible biblical connections with extraterrestrials or UFOs are not confined to the

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00:17:43,000 --> 00:17:45,000

book of Exodus.

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00:17:45,000 --> 00:17:50,000

In the second book of Kings, there is the intriguing story of the prophet Elijah, who lived

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00:17:50,000 --> 00:17:54,000

around 900 years before the time of Jesus.

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00:17:54,000 --> 00:18:02,000

While Elijah crosses the river Jordan with his son, Elisha, a strange airborne craft appears.

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00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:11,000

And it came to pass as they went on and talked that,

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00:18:11,000 --> 00:18:18,000

behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire and parted them both as

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

thunder.

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00:18:19,000 --> 00:18:29,000

And Elijah went up by a whirlwind onto heaven, and Elisha saw it and cried and saw his father

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00:18:29,000 --> 00:18:30,000

no more.

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00:18:31,000 --> 00:18:34,000

Second Kings 2.11

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00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:43,000

In all ancient cultures, you will have descriptions of flying chariots of different kinds.

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00:18:43,000 --> 00:18:48,000

For example, a chariot drawn by horses that flies through the sky and so on.

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00:18:48,000 --> 00:18:55,000

In many cases, people today will interpret these as UFOs, that is, some kind of vehicle

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00:18:55,000 --> 00:18:57,000

that flies under its own power.

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00:18:57,000 --> 00:19:03,000

Just over three centuries after Elijah's ascent into heaven in a chariot of fire,

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00:19:03,000 --> 00:19:06,000

another strange incident occurs.

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00:19:06,000 --> 00:19:09,000

This time it concerns the Hebrew prophet Ezekiel.

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00:19:09,000 --> 00:19:15,000

He is believed by some to have encountered alien spaceships on at least four separate

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00:19:15,000 --> 00:19:16,000

occasions.

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00:19:16,000 --> 00:19:23,000

In one account, he describes a clearly mechanical device under the control of human-like figures.

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00:19:23,000 --> 00:19:30,000

Ezekiel.10.8

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00:19:30,000 --> 00:19:35,000

I saw four wheels, one wheel beside each cherub.

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00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:42,000

In appearance, they were like sparkling topaz, and all four were alike, like a wheel within

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00:19:42,000 --> 00:19:43,000

a wheel.

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00:19:43,000 --> 00:19:48,000

They moved in any four directions, never swerving from their course.

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00:19:48,000 --> 00:19:51,000

Ezekiel.10.8

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00:19:54,000 --> 00:20:02,000

Based on the biblical description of the strange flying device, in the 1960s, NASA engineer

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00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:06,000

Joseph Blumrich constructed this model.

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00:20:06,000 --> 00:20:11,000

Is this what Ezekiel saw?

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00:20:11,000 --> 00:20:14,000

I don't know what Ezekiel saw, if he saw anything.

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00:20:14,000 --> 00:20:19,000

One possibility is he was dreaming, another possibility he had some hallucinogenic mushroom

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

or something of that sort.

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

Another possibility is that he met another tribe that might have had torches and masks

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00:20:26,000 --> 00:20:32,000

that were very frightening to him, and he just saw something otherworldly that he couldn't

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00:20:32,000 --> 00:20:36,000

explain, and so he made up this story that explained it as best as he could with the

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00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:41,000

terms that he understood in his time.

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00:20:41,000 --> 00:20:47,000

Despite the ambiguity of biblical accounts, other records from prehistory have intensified

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00:20:47,000 --> 00:20:48,000

the debate.

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00:20:48,000 --> 00:20:53,000

Some could be interpreted to suggest that UFOs and extraterrestrials have influenced

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00:20:53,000 --> 00:20:58,000

pivotal events in human history.

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00:20:58,000 --> 00:21:05,000

When we come back, possible evidence of alien encounters at the dawn of civilization.

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00:21:19,000 --> 00:21:25,000

Artifacts discovered throughout the Near East speak of a time when humanity's ancestors

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00:21:25,000 --> 00:21:27,000

came to Earth from the heavens.

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00:21:27,000 --> 00:21:34,000

Hundreds of clay tablets and cylinder seals depict human-like beings with wings, linking

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00:21:34,000 --> 00:21:39,000

them with the sky, and always conspicuous, the stars.

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00:21:39,000 --> 00:21:51,000

If you look at the ancient history of the Near East and consider the Sumerians and Babylonians,

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00:21:51,000 --> 00:21:57,000

you'll find that these peoples believed that their civilization was given to them by beings

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00:21:57,000 --> 00:21:59,000

who came down from the heavens.

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00:21:59,000 --> 00:22:02,000

There's nothing in the historical record that is really conclusive.

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00:22:02,000 --> 00:22:08,000

There are some intriguing stories in the records of Babylon, for example, but the human mind

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00:22:08,000 --> 00:22:15,000

is so easily able to invent myths and fantasies that we have to take these ancient stories

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00:22:15,000 --> 00:22:19,000

with a grain of salt.

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00:22:19,000 --> 00:22:24,000

Yet archaeologists have often pondered on the exact process which led to civilization

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00:22:24,000 --> 00:22:30,000

as we know it, for it was with the suddenness of a sunrise that human ingenuity and engineering

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00:22:30,000 --> 00:22:37,000

skills arose from the Stone Age and burst forth onto the landscape of history.

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00:22:43,000 --> 00:22:49,000

The Sphinx and the Great Pyramid at Giza are two of the greatest enigmas of all time.

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00:22:49,000 --> 00:22:53,000

The exact dates of their construction are still cause for debate.

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00:22:53,000 --> 00:22:58,000

How these ancient people developed the technology to build the Great Pyramid with a discipline

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00:22:59,000 --> 00:23:03,000

and precision still unmatched today is unknown.

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00:23:03,000 --> 00:23:08,000

The Great Pyramid of Egypt stands more than 450 feet tall.

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00:23:08,000 --> 00:23:15,000

It weighs more than 6 million tons and it has a footprint in excess of 13 acres.

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00:23:15,000 --> 00:23:21,000

It's perfectly aligned to true north, south, east and west.

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00:23:21,000 --> 00:23:32,000

To achieve that precision of alignment with a monument on this scale is an extraordinary technological feat

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00:23:32,000 --> 00:23:37,000

and one that is continuously overlooked by our scholars today.

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00:23:37,000 --> 00:23:44,000

Suddenly out of nowhere this extraordinary monument, a high-tech achievement by any standards,

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00:23:44,000 --> 00:23:47,000

just appears on the desert.

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00:23:47,000 --> 00:23:51,000

This is a great mystery, totally unexplained by conventional history

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

and one that requires us to use our minds and our imagination and intelligence

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00:23:56,000 --> 00:23:59,000

to try to work out what on earth is going on here

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00:23:59,000 --> 00:24:04,000

and what it says about the origins of human civilization, of the origins of our society

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00:24:04,000 --> 00:24:08,000

and our view of the past and where we came from.

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00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:14,000

My sense is that we're missing a huge part of the human story.

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00:24:14,000 --> 00:24:20,000

I think it's possible, indeed probable, that we are a species with amnesia,

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00:24:20,000 --> 00:24:28,000

that we've lost the record of our story going back thousands of years before so-called history began.

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00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:33,000

And I think if we could go back into that dark epoch,

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00:24:33,000 --> 00:24:37,000

we would discover many astounding things about ourselves.

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00:24:45,000 --> 00:24:52,000

Egypt and the Near East are not the only regions where ancient ruins

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00:24:52,000 --> 00:24:56,000

taunt the mind with the riddle of how they came into being.

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00:24:56,000 --> 00:24:59,000

There are many such places.

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00:24:59,000 --> 00:25:06,000

This is one of them, the great ceremonial center known as Tihuannako in Bolivia.

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00:25:06,000 --> 00:25:10,000

Not as old or as imposing as the pyramids of Egypt,

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00:25:10,000 --> 00:25:14,000

what makes this site so unusual is its unique location.

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00:25:18,000 --> 00:25:24,000

Some believe that it too could not have been built without intervention from a superior source.

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00:25:24,000 --> 00:25:40,000

The biggest blocks at Giza weigh 200 tons. The biggest blocks at Tiahuannako weigh 400 tons.

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00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:45,000

400 ton blocks of stone used to create enormous constructions,

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00:25:45,000 --> 00:25:51,000

12,500 feet above sea level, in an area where it's almost not possible to grow any food today.

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00:25:51,000 --> 00:25:55,000

The altitude is so high that the crops come out of the ground stunted.

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00:25:55,000 --> 00:25:59,000

And yet again we're asked to believe that this was done with massive labor forces

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00:25:59,000 --> 00:26:02,000

hauling on ropes, pulling these blocks along.

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00:26:02,000 --> 00:26:06,000

It defies belief to imagine that this was how it was done.

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00:26:06,000 --> 00:26:10,000

You could not support ever a large labor force at that altitude.

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00:26:10,000 --> 00:26:14,000

Whether we like it or not, we're looking at the evidence of a technology

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00:26:14,000 --> 00:26:17,000

and one that we don't understand.

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00:26:17,000 --> 00:26:25,000

Like the Giza site, the site of Tiahuanako also incorporates extremely precise astronomical alignments.

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00:26:30,000 --> 00:26:37,000

Perhaps the most perplexing site of all in South America are the Nazca lines in Peru.

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00:26:37,000 --> 00:26:43,000

Covering more than 200 square miles, a bewildering pattern of gigantic artwork

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00:26:43,000 --> 00:26:46,000

litters the Nazca Plateau.

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00:26:51,000 --> 00:26:55,000

In addition to figures of birds, spiders and animals,

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00:26:55,000 --> 00:27:00,000

arrow straight lines stretch out to every point of the compass.

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00:27:00,000 --> 00:27:04,000

Believed to have been laid down here more than 2,000 years ago,

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00:27:04,000 --> 00:27:07,000

they are observable only from a great height.

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00:27:13,000 --> 00:27:20,000

Is this a canvas of signs and symbols etched in the sand to honor pagan gods?

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00:27:20,000 --> 00:27:28,000

Or as some people believe, do they contain hidden messages aimed at ancient travelers from the stars?

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00:27:35,000 --> 00:27:41,000

These are very remarkable sculptures made by essentially moving pebbles

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00:27:41,000 --> 00:27:45,000

so as to change the color tone of the desert surface.

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00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:55,000

It appears that many of these patterns of lines seem as though they're oriented towards the heavens in some way.

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00:27:55,000 --> 00:28:02,000

We really don't know what they were for or how they were interpreted by the people who made them.

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00:28:02,000 --> 00:28:11,000

I think that this may be one explanation that the Nazcans were projecting these into the sky

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00:28:11,000 --> 00:28:15,000

and using them for religious and ceremonial purposes.

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00:28:16,000 --> 00:28:19,000

But the Nazca lines really do constitute a mystery.

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00:28:20,000 --> 00:28:23,000

No one really knows what they were for.

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00:28:24,000 --> 00:28:35,000

Like so much of the ancient world, Nazca brood silently, its secrets lost in time.

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00:28:42,000 --> 00:28:47,000

When we return, thousands of miles away on the other side of the planet,

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00:28:47,000 --> 00:28:52,000

evidence that UFOs may have visited Asia in a far-gone era.

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00:28:53,000 --> 00:28:56,000

The Nazca line is a very long line.

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00:29:03,000 --> 00:29:08,000

Asia, ageless land of a thousand legends.

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00:29:13,000 --> 00:29:17,000

It is also a continent of intriguing riddles.

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00:29:18,000 --> 00:29:22,000

During the 1920s, while exploring northern China,

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

famous Russian artist Nicholas Rerek wrote of a remarkable incident in the Himalayas.

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00:29:35,000 --> 00:29:40,000

On August 5th, during our camp, and at about half past nine,

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00:29:40,000 --> 00:29:46,000

some of our caravans noticed a huge shining oval shape flying high overhead.

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00:29:48,000 --> 00:29:56,000

It came from the north at great speed, crossing our camp before disappearing into the clear blue sky.

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00:29:56,000 --> 00:30:01,000

It had a bright, luminous surface, brilliant in the sun.

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00:30:02,000 --> 00:30:06,000

Nicholas Rerek, Travel Diary 1926.

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00:30:11,000 --> 00:30:15,000

In the long history of this vast and beautiful continent,

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00:30:15,000 --> 00:30:23,000

it seems that the UFO phenomenon has shaped many myths and stories handed down from generation to generation.

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00:30:25,000 --> 00:30:29,000

A brief glance at the texts of ancient India is revealing,

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00:30:29,000 --> 00:30:35,000

for here too we find the haunting presence of strange phenomena observed in the sky.

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00:30:37,000 --> 00:30:43,000

Gurkha, flying a swift and powerful Vimana, hurled a single projectile,

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00:30:43,000 --> 00:30:46,000

charged with all the power of the universe,

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

an incandescent column of smoke and flame,

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00:30:50,000 --> 00:30:56,000

as bright as ten thousand suns rose with all its splendor.

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00:30:57,000 --> 00:30:59,000

The Mahabharata.

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

Compiled some two to three thousand years ago,

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00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:10,000

the Mahabharata is a Hindu poem written in Sanskrit.

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00:31:11,000 --> 00:31:15,000

Ten times longer than Homer's Iliad and Odyssey combined,

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00:31:15,000 --> 00:31:19,000

it is a saga of conflict on a cosmic scale.

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00:31:21,000 --> 00:31:26,000

The plot of the Mahabharata, which is the great epic of ancient India,

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00:31:26,000 --> 00:31:33,000

has to do with an invasion of the earth by negative extraterrestrial forces.

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00:31:34,000 --> 00:31:41,000

Basically the idea was that governments of the earth were taken over by beings coming from other planets,

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00:31:41,000 --> 00:31:47,000

who had the desire to control and exploit the situation for their own personal benefit.

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00:31:47,000 --> 00:31:52,000

The story goes on to describe how godly forces intervened,

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00:31:52,000 --> 00:31:57,000

and finally there was a great battle here on the earth in which the issue was resolved,

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

and the negative forces were repelled.

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00:32:04,000 --> 00:32:10,000

Another epic poem, the Ramayana, was written more than two thousand years ago.

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00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:15,000

It too tells of conflict and conflagration in India's distant past.

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00:32:19,000 --> 00:32:25,000

The Vimana was a weapon so powerful that it could destroy the earth in an instant.

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00:32:25,000 --> 00:32:30,000

It made a great soaring sound in smoke and flames,

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00:32:30,000 --> 00:32:35,000

and on it sits death, the Ramayana.

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00:32:36,000 --> 00:32:43,000

Prominently featured in all these stories are strange flying devices referred to as Vimanas.

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00:32:43,000 --> 00:32:45,000

Could they have been UFOs?

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

The Vimana is described in some detail, and its flight pattern is also described.

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00:32:52,000 --> 00:32:57,000

It's quite interesting because it is very similar to the pattern of flight,

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00:32:57,000 --> 00:33:02,000

which is described in the context of modern UFO sightings.

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00:33:02,000 --> 00:33:07,000

For example, the Vimana would move in a very abrupt zigzag fashion.

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00:33:07,000 --> 00:33:10,000

It would sometimes disappear from sight.

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00:33:16,000 --> 00:33:22,000

The earth shook, scorched by the terrible violent heat of this weapon.

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00:33:22,000 --> 00:33:27,000

Elephants burst into flame and ran to and fro in frenzy.

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

Over a vast area, other animals crumpled to the ground and died.

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00:33:33,000 --> 00:33:41,000

From all directions, the arrows of flame reigned continuously and fiercely from the Vimanas.

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00:33:42,000 --> 00:33:44,000

Vimanas.

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00:33:48,000 --> 00:33:55,000

They were described as flying fortresses that were used for aerial battles.

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00:33:55,000 --> 00:33:58,000

They also attacked people on the ground.

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00:33:58,000 --> 00:34:03,000

They sent out missiles according to these translations and interpretations.

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00:34:03,000 --> 00:34:08,000

Sort of like a modern UFO report, except the war was taking place.

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00:34:11,000 --> 00:34:16,000

Could great aerial battles have been possible more than 2,000 years ago?

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00:34:16,000 --> 00:34:24,000

Compelling though the stories may be, the debate continues over whether they were fact or fantasy.

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00:34:24,000 --> 00:34:30,000

I think the ancient Hindu descriptions of flying machines are probably fantasies

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00:34:30,000 --> 00:34:36,000

sort of like the Buck Rogers myths of flying rocket ships long before they really existed.

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00:34:36,000 --> 00:34:41,000

The easy way out, it's mythology. Old science fiction, if you will.

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00:34:41,000 --> 00:34:49,000

The realistic way is to say that those people were describing things that they didn't understand, but that were real.

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00:34:49,000 --> 00:34:56,000

What we need is an open-minded effort to look at these things from the viewpoint of modern technology,

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00:34:56,000 --> 00:35:01,000

possibly admitting that even we can't do some of the things that are described.

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00:35:02,000 --> 00:35:08,000

Asia would not be the last place where UFO phenomenon occurred.

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00:35:08,000 --> 00:35:19,000

When we return, a spate of sightings appears throughout the four corners of the modern world and causes a sensation.

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00:35:20,000 --> 00:35:37,000

While many believe that the Earth has been visited by extraterrestrials in their spacecraft, could this indeed be possible?

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00:35:37,000 --> 00:35:44,000

Reports of strange, unidentified flying objects have continued to trickle in throughout the centuries,

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00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:48,000

echoing incidents in ancient times.

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

By the 1940s, the term flying saucer had entered the vocabulary of a fascinated world.

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00:35:55,000 --> 00:36:02,000

Suddenly, seemingly everywhere, the skies were filled with UFOs of every description.

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00:36:02,000 --> 00:36:11,000

In the ensuing decades, UFOs were witnessed by people from all levels of society.

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

Even astronauts saw them.

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00:36:17,000 --> 00:36:24,000

I personally believe in UFOs, and I believed in UFOs before I got into the space program.

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00:36:24,000 --> 00:36:33,000

I just personally believe that there are other civilizations somewhere out there that people are

traveling from.

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00:36:34,000 --> 00:36:41,000

This was in the early 1950s when I was flying fighters in Germany.

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00:36:41,000 --> 00:36:50,000

And these objects were coming over our base that appeared to be the same kind of formations that we fly in our fighters.

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00:36:50,000 --> 00:37:01,000

On occasion, their movements were more erratic than ours, which meant they could really accelerate laterally and accelerate four and a half more readily than we do.

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00:37:02,000 --> 00:37:07,000

But we felt that they looked very much like high-flying fighters, except they had no wings.

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00:37:07,000 --> 00:37:15,000

They were certainly higher and faster than any airplanes we know of here on Earth at that ticker time,

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00:37:15,000 --> 00:37:19,000

and they certainly appeared to be saucer-shaped and metallic.

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00:37:20,000 --> 00:37:27,000

Why are UFOs so seemingly secretive and elusive?

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

If extraterrestrials are visiting the Earth, some believe that this question only can be answered by direct face-to-face contact with them.

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00:37:49,000 --> 00:38:15,000

In 1977, NASA sent two robotic Voyager spacecraft on an ambitious exploratory tour to Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, the four giant outer planets.

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00:38:16,000 --> 00:38:31,000

Their epic journey took 12 years to complete, but they acquired more scientific data about our solar system than had been learned in the previous five centuries.

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00:38:31,000 --> 00:38:46,000

Could this be the UFO's mission to planet Earth? To explore our world on behalf of another technologically advanced civilization somewhere in the far-flung reaches of the cosmos.

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00:39:01,000 --> 00:39:08,000

While we now know that the chances of finding intelligent life in our solar system are extremely unlikely,

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00:39:08,000 --> 00:39:18,000

our Sun is but one of billions in our galaxy, and the galaxy itself is but one of countless galaxies spread throughout the universe.

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00:39:19,000 --> 00:39:22,000

With these odds, can we be alone?

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00:39:22,000 --> 00:39:29,000

In August 1996, scientists announced that life might have once existed on Mars.

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00:39:29,000 --> 00:39:34,000

Just a few months earlier, the first planet orbiting another Sun was confirmed.

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00:39:34,000 --> 00:39:44,000

Though eight light-years or a staggering 50 trillion miles from Earth, on the cosmic scale that is literally just down the road from our own backyard.

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00:39:45,000 --> 00:39:51,000

Today, we know a lot about the universe, and we know there really is a possibility that there could be life out there,

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00:39:51,000 --> 00:39:59,000

but most of what you hear about it is nonsense, because people accept the most bizarre stories without proof.

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00:39:59,000 --> 00:40:03,000

And there are many stories from all over the world of people seeing strange lights in the sky.

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00:40:03,000 --> 00:40:07,000

Some of them are true, there are strange lights in the sky, but they usually have an explanation.

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00:40:08,000 --> 00:40:14,000

There are all kinds of things going on around us, and the average person doesn't know about this, and they see something weird, and they say,

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00:40:14,000 --> 00:40:19,000

wow, it must be extraterrestrial. So there's a tremendous amount of gullibility all over the world.

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00:40:20,000 --> 00:40:26,000

We live on a planet revolving around a star in the middle of an unknown infinity of space.

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00:40:26,000 --> 00:40:32,000

Isn't it arrogant and stupid to imagine that we are the only life in this enormous universe?

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00:40:32,000 --> 00:40:43,000

If you take our ancient texts seriously, they all tell us that the universe was created as a home for life, that the universe is full of life.

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00:40:43,000 --> 00:40:52,000

I think it's obvious that there are many other intelligent life forms in the universe, and I don't dismiss for a moment the possibility that they have visited Earth,

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00:40:52,000 --> 00:40:55,000

perhaps in the past, perhaps even now.

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00:40:56,000 --> 00:41:10,000

Despite the vast distances and technical difficulties involved in space travel, it is possible that an advanced civilization has visited our small blue planet sometime in its forgotten past.

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00:41:10,000 --> 00:41:18,000

It is also possible that they brought with them a message from the stars that still lies buried beneath these ruins.

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00:41:19,000 --> 00:41:24,000

This summer, best friends became enemies.

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00:41:24,000 --> 00:41:27,000

He hung up on me. That's how mad he laughed at me like it was a joke.

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00:41:27,000 --> 00:41:31,000

Now, will the truckers all in the same room, are Rick and Hugh gonna have it out?

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00:41:32,000 --> 00:41:35,000

It's a clash of the truckers, and it won't be pretty.

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

Ice Road Truckers on the Edge concludes Sunday at 9 only on the History Channel.