



What if Gliese 581d had Life?

Young Earth Creationism and the Politics of Astrobiology

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Young Earth Creationism

- Subset of Christianity (largely Protestant)
- Bible is the literal and inerrant Word of God
- Bible is starting point for history and science
- *Ex Nihilo* creation in 6 ordinary days (24 hours)
- Young Earth & Young Universe (6,000-10,000 years)
- Adam & Eve, Original Sin, Death & Suffering
- Catastrophic Flood, Noah's Ark (animal "kinds")
- Jesus died for our sins & was resurrected
- Day of Judgment & Second Coming



Political Relevance of Creationism

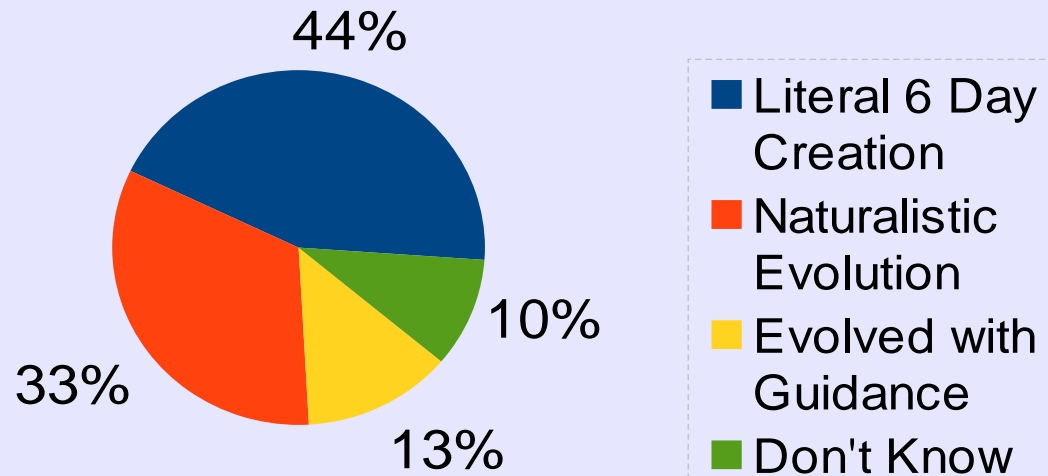
- Majority of the US, 1/3 the world are Christians (~2.18 billion 2011 Pew)
- Evangelical Churches are the largest group of Christians in US
- 40-50% of public believe in young earth creationism in polls
- Ongoing struggles over teaching evolution in schools (1980s)
- Growth and expansion of young earth apologetics (2000s)
- Resurgence of conservative religious politics (2000s)
- Rise of climate denial and religious based science skepticism

2005 NBC and Pew Polls - Public Views on Evolution and Creationism

Pew Center Poll Watch (September, 2005)

NBC News Poll

Question on Origin and Development of Humans (March, 2005)



(N=800, $\pm 3.5\%$)

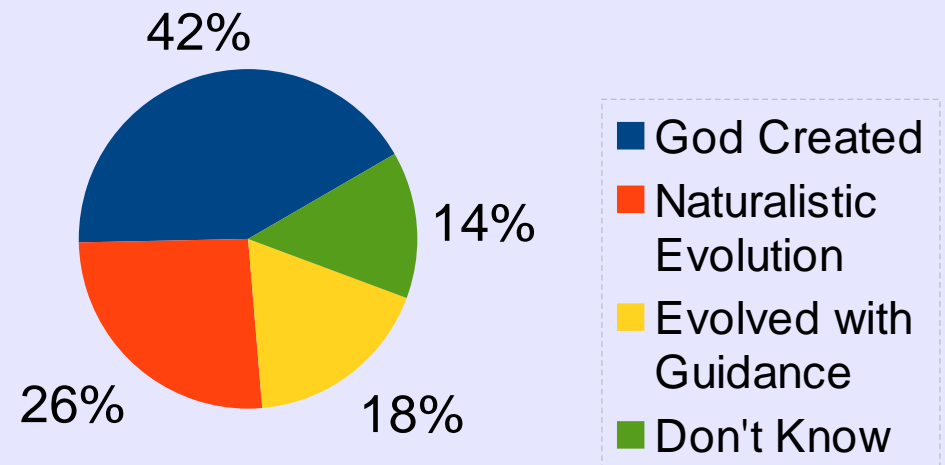
<- Origins of Humans

Divine Creation or Evolution ->

(N=2,000, 95% confidence $\pm 2.5\%$)

Pew Research Center Poll (July 2005)

Question on Human Evolution Over Time

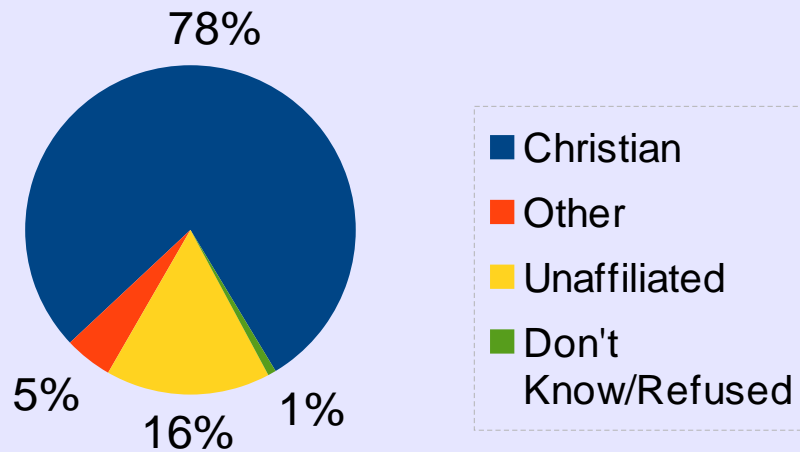


2008 Pew Religious Landscape Survey

(February, 2008 N=35,000, 95% confidence \pm 0.6%)

Pew Religious Landscape Survey

Breakdown of US Population by Religious Views



US Census Demographic Data

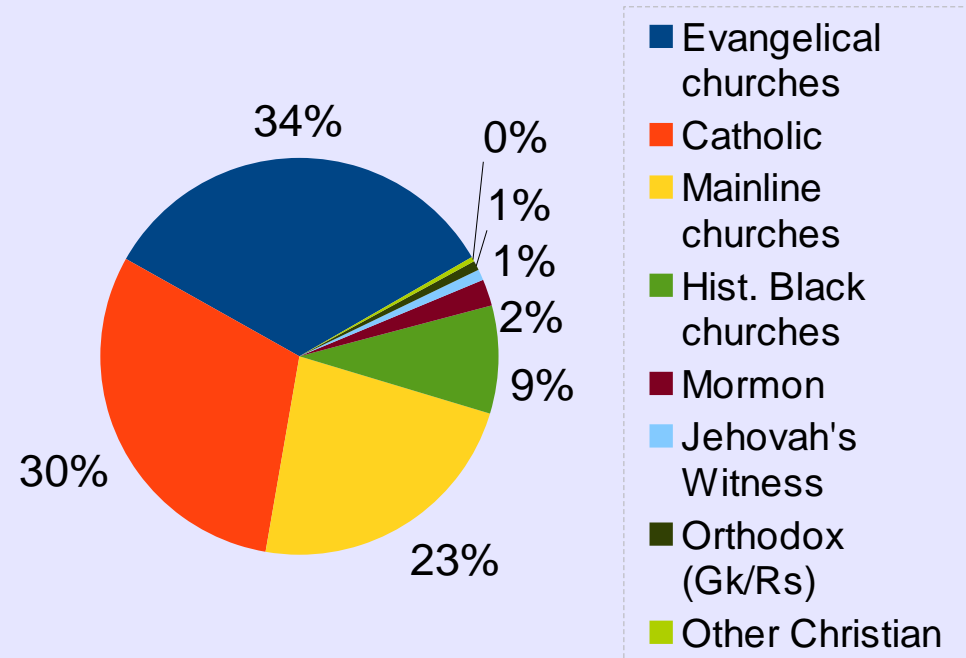
317,086,000 – Current US Population (as of 11/15/2013)

247,327,080 – US Christian Population (based on 78%)

84,091,207 – US Evangelical Population (based on 34%)

Christian America

Percentages within Christianity (78% total)



Young Earth Creationism support base

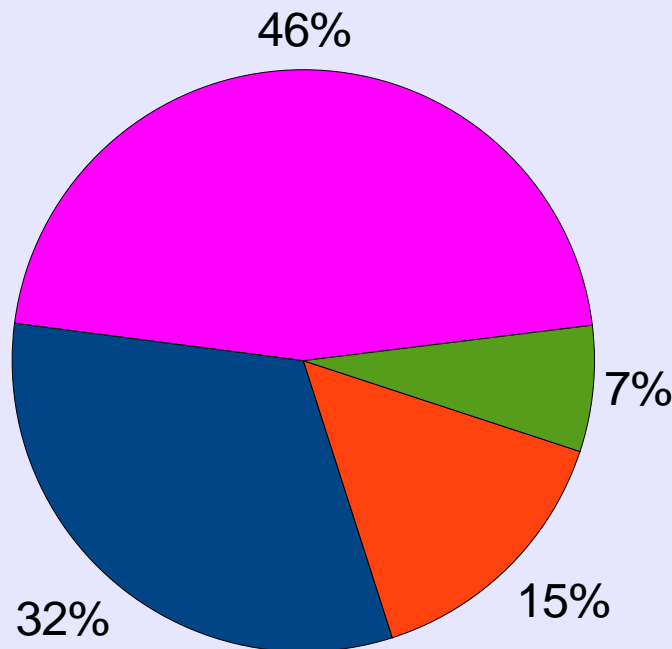
Key Point To Emphasize

- Nearly 80% of US public operates with a theistic origins worldview
- The majority view on theistic origins is grounded in Biblical literalism

(“God created human beings pretty much in their present form at one time within the last 10,000 years or so.”)

Values and Beliefs Data

(May, 2012 Gallup Survey)

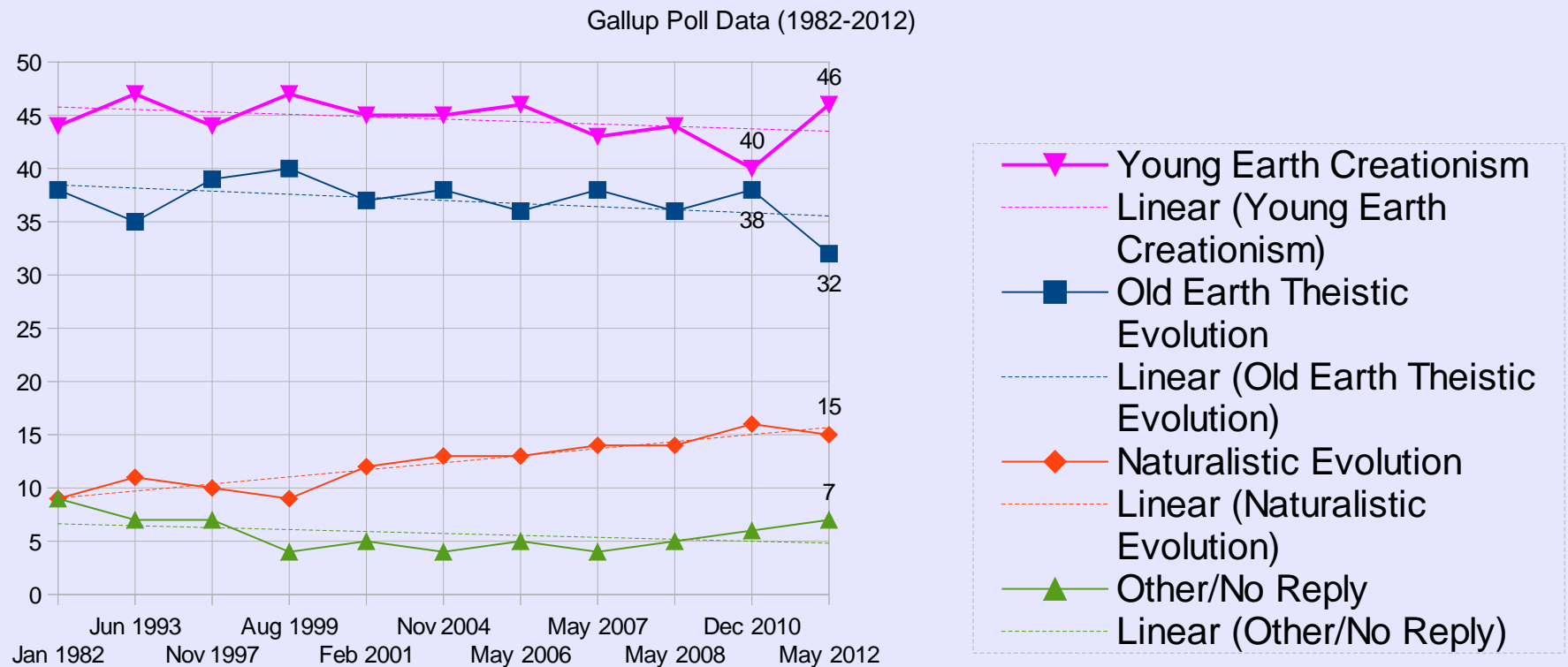


- Young Earth Creationism
- Old Earth Theistic Evolution
- Naturalistic Evolution
- Other/No Opinion

(N=1,024, 95% confidence, $\pm 4\%$)

- Support for theistic origins (young or old) has been high historically
- Since 2008 there has been a shift in favor of young earth creationism

Historical Trends in Values and Beliefs Survey



Creation Astronomy

“The heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament showeth his handiwork.”

- Psalms 19:1

Impacts on Astrobiology

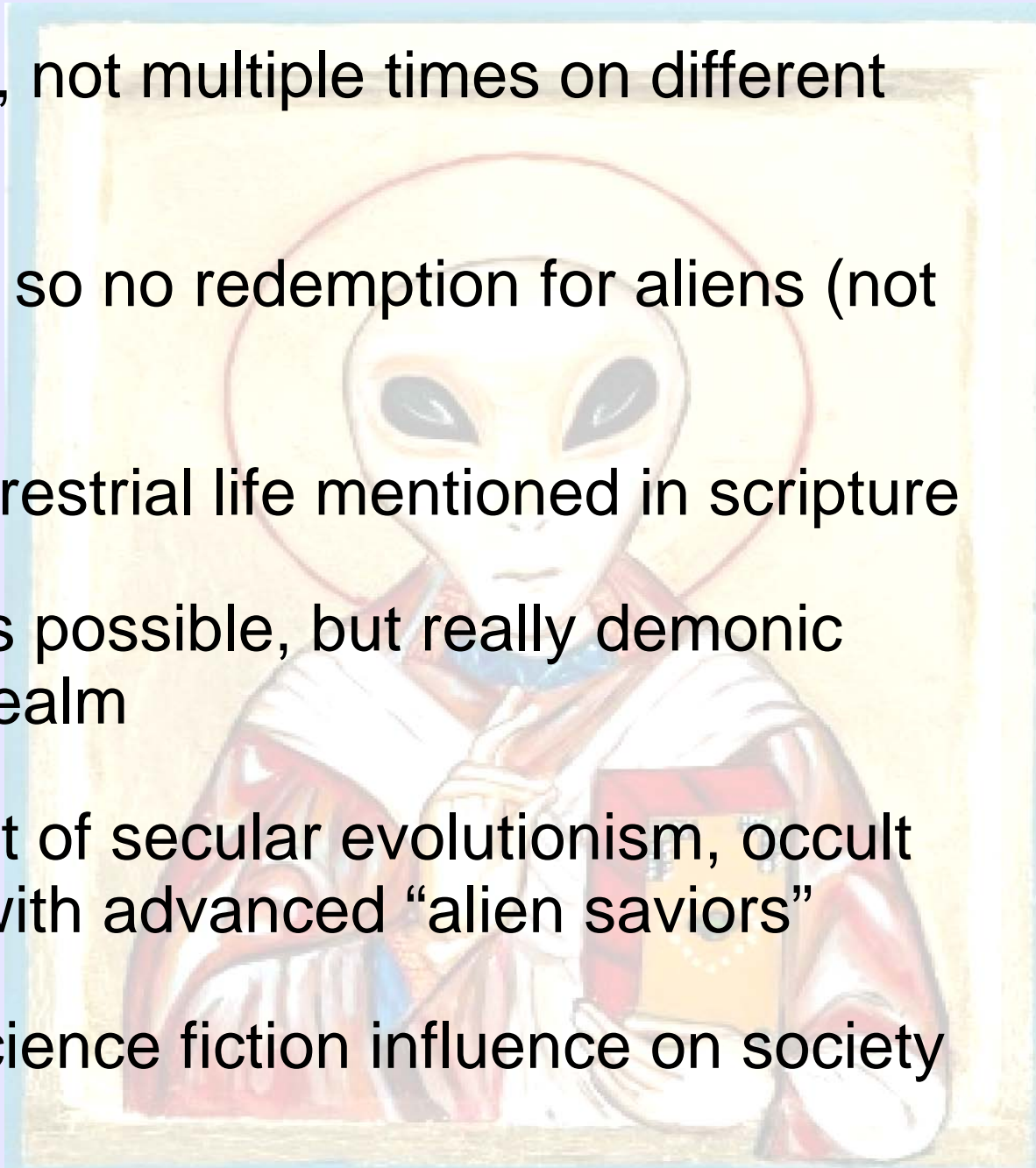
- 1) Undermines science education
- 2) Could impact science \$ funding
- 3) Increases religious/secular polarization

Creation Astronomy Science Critiques

- Astrobiology has nothing to study (science w/out an object)
- Waste of public money to search for aliens
- Philosophy of “cosmic evolution” posing as science
- Earth is the center of a young universe (6,000 years old)
- Big Bang has weak or no observational evidence to support it
- Universe doesn't have equal anti-matter from Big Bang
- Dark matter and dark energy have no empirical proof
- No explanation for stellar evolution prior to first stars being created
- Time operated differently during Creation Week (“Distant Starlight” problem)
- Comets can't exist for billions of years, yet we see them today

Creationist Extraterrestrial Critiques

- Jesus died “once for all”, not multiple times on different planets
- Sin effected all creation, so no redemption for aliens (not from Adam’s bloodline)
- No possibility of extraterrestrial life mentioned in scripture
- Inter-dimensional beings possible, but really demonic beings from the spiritual realm
- Belief in aliens is a result of secular evolutionism, occult attempts to replace God with advanced “alien saviors”
- Belief in aliens due to science fiction influence on society





Creationist Books

How do religious publics engage with extraterrestrials?

HELLO FROM EARTH

Send a message to the nearest Earth-like planet outside our Solar System

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WELCOME, EARTHLING!

Welcome to HELLO FROM EARTH.

This site collected goodwill messages from the public for 13 days in August 2009 which were transmitted to Gliese 581d, a planet outside our Solar System which may support life.

Messages were moderated by staff at COSMOS magazine; those accepted for inclusion in the transmission have been published on this site. Transmission occurred at midday on Friday 28 August 2009 and was undertaken by the NASA/CSIRO Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex at Tidbinbilla, Australia, using the 70-metre main antenna known as DSS43.

Thanks for taking part in this National Science Week event!

You can read our best messages below (see [BEST MESSAGES SO FAR](#)), see a list of what we think are the [top messages received](#), or browse through [all messages here](#). You can also [search messages](#) by the names of people who have successfully left a message, their email addresses or by message content.

MESSAGES RECEIVED SO FAR

TARGET PLANET: GJESIE 581D Share

An artist's impression of Gliese 581d, an exoplanet about 20.3 light-years away from Earth, in the constellation Libra.

Time Remaining to Gliese581d

19:88:21:21:02
years days hours min sec

Distance Remaining to Heliopause

-8,783,660,357,107 kms

Distance Remaining to Oort Cloud

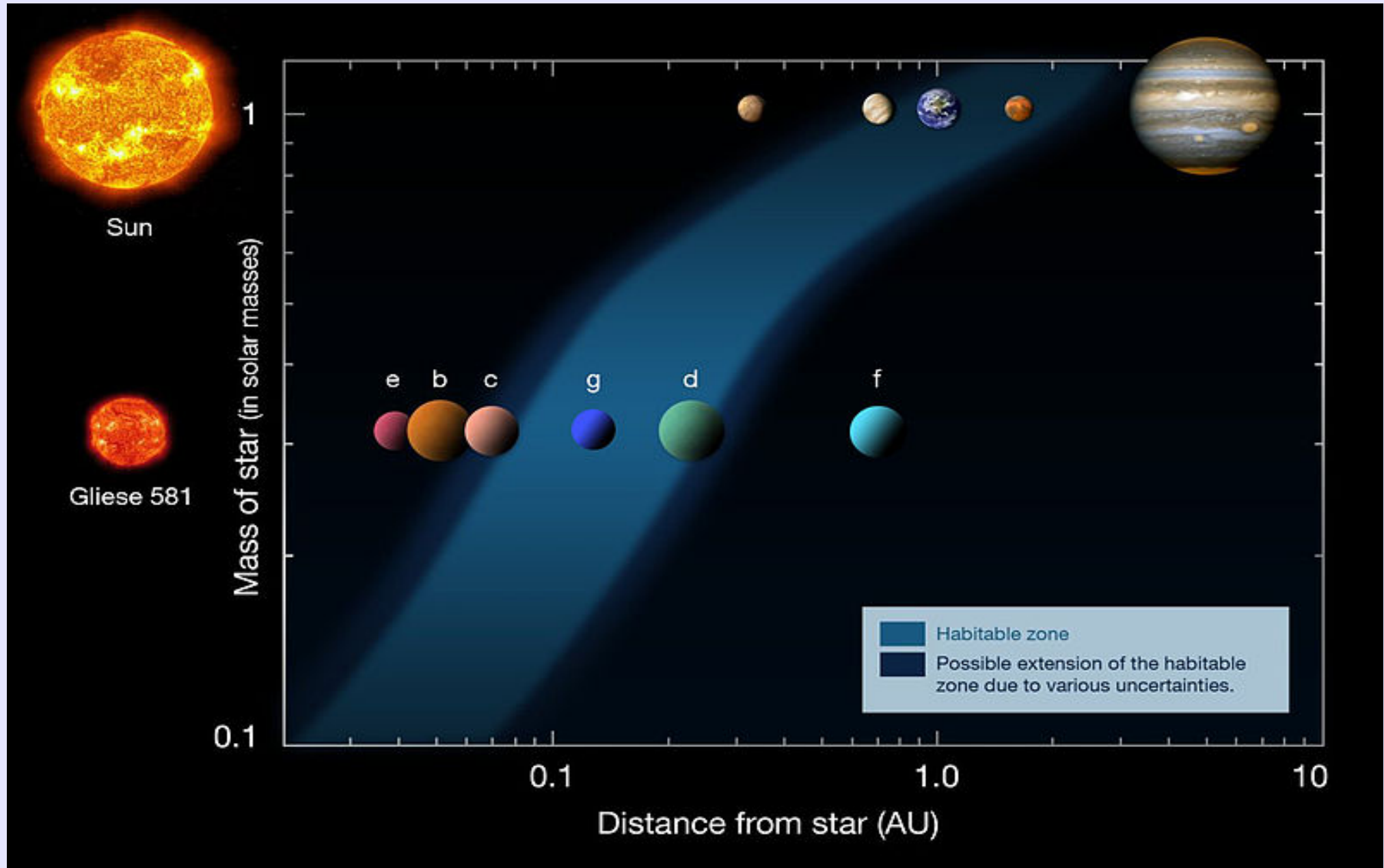
-7,074,124,132,995 kms

Distance Remaining to Gliese581d

181,933,270,332,365 kms

Case Study: Creationism & Astrobiology in Pop Culture

Gliese 581d

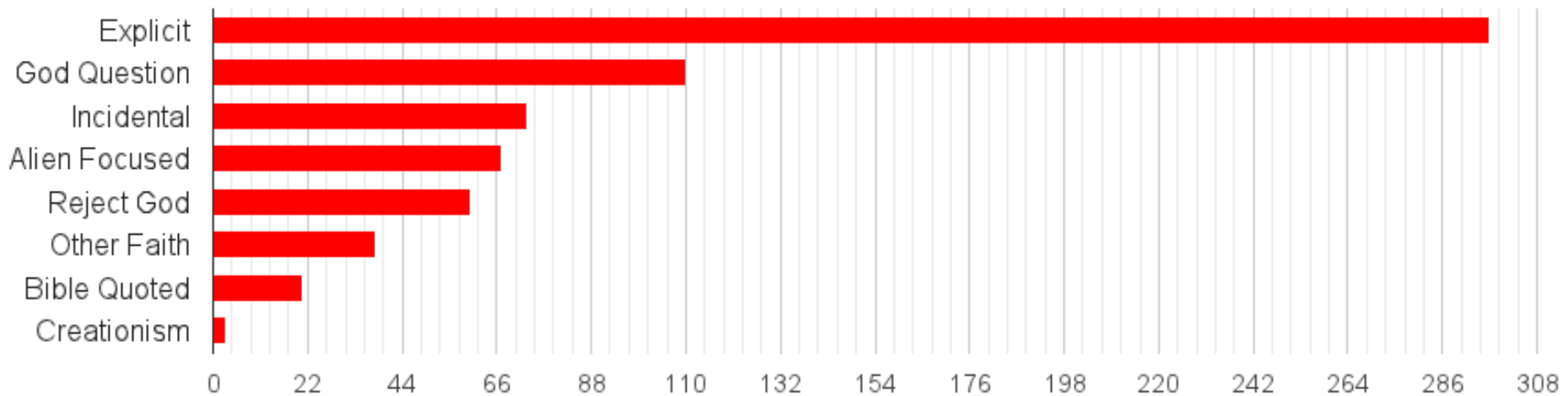




- **Gliese 581d, exoplanet near red dwarf star Gliese 581, twenty light years from Earth, constellation Libra**
- **Cosmos Magazine project in summer of 2009. National Astronomy Week, International Year of Astronomy**
- **40,000 messages (29,000 actual). Translated into binary code (01101), compressed, and beamed at Gliese 581d**
- **Messages sent on August 28, 2009 from Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex in Tidbinbilla, Australia**
- **Messages will reach Gliese 581d around 2029**
- **One of several examples of sending space messages**

Broad themes in the messages containing some kind of religious-related content

Religious message content by subcategory (N=647)



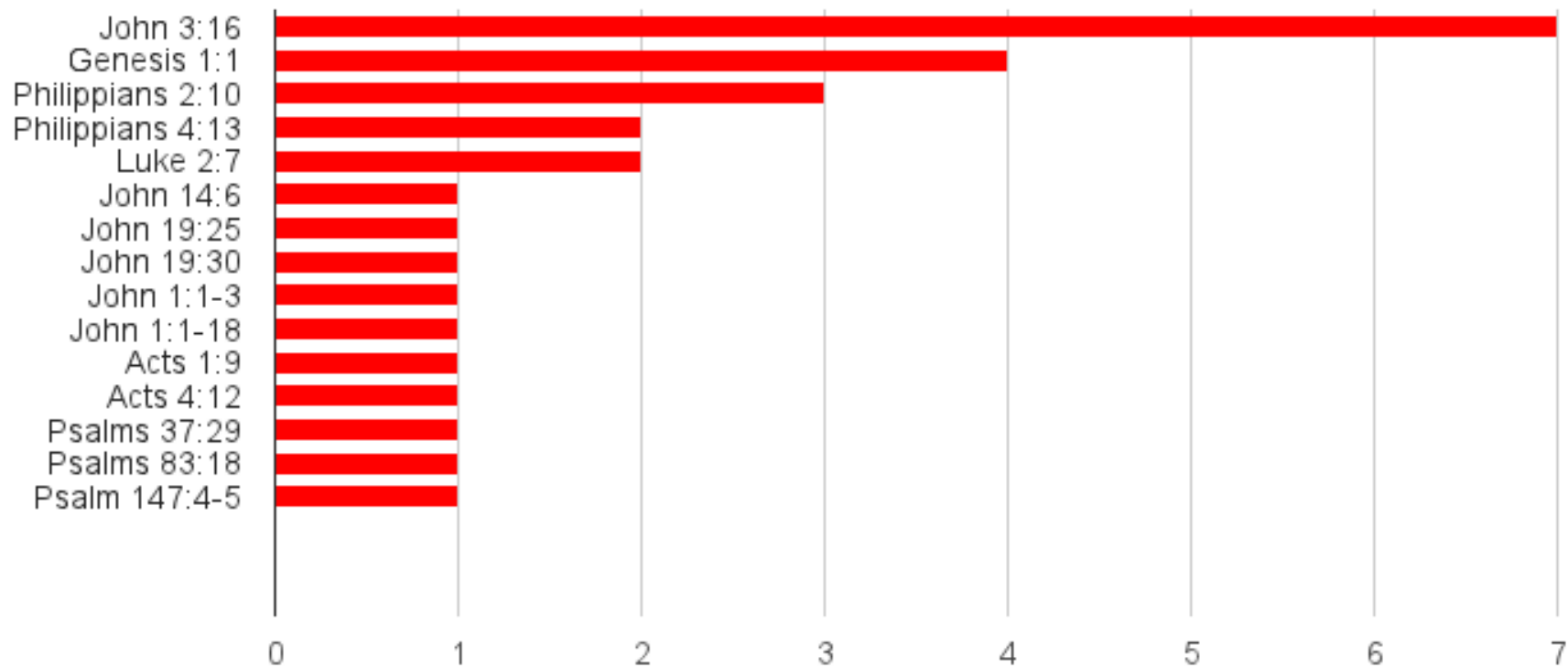


- If your planet really exists, has the Creator revealed Himself to you? He has to us here on Earth. His Name is Jesus Christ.
- HELLO! I am glad to know that the Lord Jesuchrist is Lord in the whole planetary system. The Holy Spirit confirmed to my spirit that Jesuchrist is LORD EVERYWHERE. [*sic*]
- Hi, Jesus died for us. Did he die for you too? Lets talk about the maker of the universe! Hows YOUR planet? I want to share technology with you!
- God exist. Jesus Christ is our Lord.
- Jesus is lord of the universe, also died and rose for you.
- Only Jesus Christ saves, heals, liberates and baptizes with the Holy Spirit. He's the Way, the Truth and the Life. (Mãnica Sampaio - Rio de Janeiro - Brasil)
- Hello my friend, do you believe in God? I just want to tell you Jesus, God's Son, loves you and died for your sin. May God bless you and your planet.
- Aliens are demon angels who rebelled against God & were ousted from heaven & disguise themselves as aliens to deceive mankind. Mankind, accept Jesus & be saved!
- In this universe, Jesus Christ is the Lord and all creation to worship!

Communicating the Bible to Extraterrestrials

Conversion, Redemption & Salvation

Bible references in Gliese 581d message (N=28)



Number of occurrences of each cited verse.

Conclusions

~Creation Astronomy impacts on Astrobiology

- 1) Harm science education and future career interest
- 2) Impact \$ funding and gov't support
- 3) Increase inter-religious and religious/secular polarization

~Young Earth Creationism and Extraterrestrials

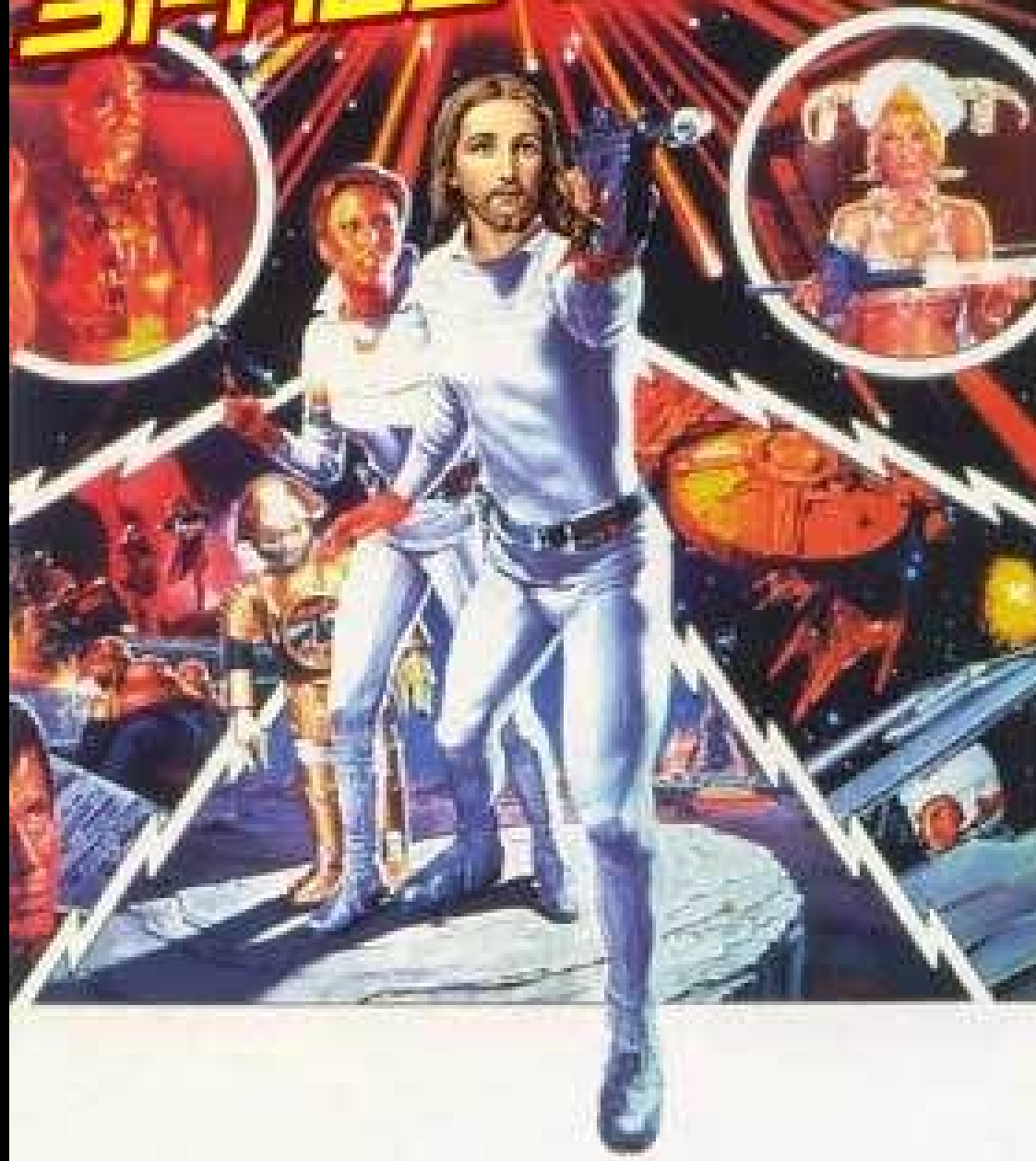
- 1) Bible precludes possibility of aliens (Adam, Jesus, Salvation)
- 2) Inter-dimensional beings really demons

~Astrobiology and Young Earth Creationism

- 1) Astrobiology need to develop an “Astrobiology Apologetics”
- 2) Ignoring Creationism is an ill advised political strategy

The Amazing Adventures Of

SPACE JESUS



VINNIIE'S PIZZERIA

TODAY'S SPECIALS...

CARL SOYGAN

A (CARL) VEGAN SLICE
WITH SOY SWEET CHILI
CHICKEN, ONIONS + PEPPERS
SOY MOZZARELLA + CHEDDAR!

TACOSMOS

A TACO SLICE WITH
BLACK BEANS, GROUND BEEF,
PICO DE GALLO, TORTILLA CHIPS,
CHEDDAR + SOUR CREAM!

PE-CONTACT

VEGAN COOKIES WITH
PECAN, COCONUT, WAL-
NUTS + CHOCOLATE CHIPS!



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