

30 UFOs, ETs, and the Millennial Imagination

[Get access >](#)

Robert Pearson Flaherty

<https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780195301052.003.0030> Pages 587–610**Published:** 05 January 2012

Abstract

The proliferation of the atomic bomb was paralleled by the emergence of another unique development—fascination with unidentified flying objects (UFOs), extraterrestrials (ETs), and objective planetary escape. The publicity of the UFO factor since 1947 coupled with the threat of imminent annihilation, stoked a fury among global millennialists and witnessed the establishment of worldwide neo-millennial organizations, preaching salvation via extraterrestrial means. The explanations for this are many: one theory claims earth to be an abode and under observation of extraterrestrial superbeings that are the original progenitors of humankind who keep visiting periodically to enhance human faculties. A marked tendency is observed to demythologize scriptures and contextualize them against backdrops of objective realities. The Raelian movement exemplifies this trait as founder Claude Vorilhon, claimant to extraterrestrial contact, extensively decrypted the Holy Scriptures as he claimed was done for him by Elohim, an extraterrestrial higher being (not God).

Keywords: [unidentified flying objects](#), [extraterrestrial](#), [Raelian movement](#), [annihilation](#), [global millennialists](#), [Holy Scriptures](#)

Subject: [Religious Studies](#), [Religion](#)

Series: [Oxford Handbooks](#)

Collection: [Oxford Handbooks Online](#)

You do not currently have access to this chapter.

Sign in

[Get help with access](#)[Personal account](#)[Institutional access](#)

- Sign in with email/username & password
- Get email alerts
- Save searches
- Purchase content
- Activate your purchase/trial code
- Add your ORCID iD

Sign in >

Register



Sign in through your institution

[Sign in through your institution](#)

[Sign in with a library card](#)

[Sign in with username/password](#)

[Recommend to your librarian](#)

Institutional account management

[Sign in as administrator](#)

Purchase

Institutions

Flexible purchasing options

Browse products >

Individuals

[Recommend to your librarian](#)