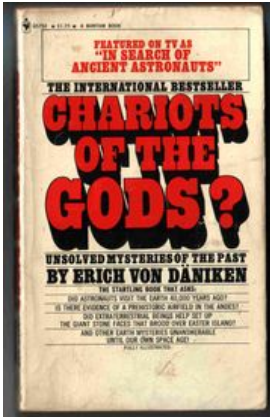


## *Chariots of the Gods?*

### *Unsolved Mysteries of the Past*



Written in 1968 by Erich von Däniken. This author presents a hypothesis that many ancient civilizations' technologies and religion were given to them by space travelers who were welcomed as gods. The book shows photographs and gives detailed information that sheds serious light on his theory. Von Däniken claims ancient art throughout the world can be interpreted to illustrate astronauts, air and space vehicles, non-human but intelligent creatures, and artifacts of high technology. Von Däniken also points out details that are similar in art of unrelated cultures around the world.

According to von Däniken, the oral and literal traditions of most religions contain references to visitors from 'stars' and vehicles traveling through air and space. One such is Ezekiel's revelation in Old Testament, which he interprets as a detailed description of a landing spacecraft. As a real-life example, von Däniken uses the "cargo cults" that formed during and after World War II, when once-isolated tribes in the South Pacific mistook the advanced American and Japanese soldiers for gods.

Artifacts have been found which represent higher technological knowledge than is presumed to have existed at times when they were manufactured. Von Däniken maintains that these artifacts were produced either by extraterrestrial visitors or by



humans who learned the necessary knowledge from them. Such artifacts include

the Egyptian pyramids, Stonehenge, the head statues of Easter Island and the Antikythera mechanism



The **Nazca Lines** are a series of geoglyphs located in the Nazca Desert, a high arid plateau that stretches 53 miles or more than 80 kilometers between the towns of Nazca and Palpa on the Pampas de Jumana in Peru. They were created by the Nazca culture between 200 BC and 700 AD. There are hundreds of individual figures, ranging in complexity from simple lines to stylized hummingbirds, spiders, monkeys and lizards. The Nazca lines cannot be recognized as coherent figures except from the air. Since it is presumed the Nazca people could never have seen their work from this vantage point, there has been much speculation on the builders' abilities and motivations.

*From Wikipedia, the free on line encyclopedia.*

Further examples include a medieval Turkish map known as the Piri Reis Map,



The **Piri Reis map** ("Piri" pronounced /pi.ri/) is a famous pre-modern world map created by 16th century Ottoman-Turkish admiral and cartographer Piri Reis. The map shows part of the western coasts of Europe and North Africa with reasonable accuracy, and the coast of Brazil is also easily recognizable. Various Atlantic islands including the Azores and Canary Islands are depicted, as is the mythical island of Antillia. The map is noteworthy for its depiction of a southern landmass that some controversially claim is evidence for early awareness of the existence of Antarctica.

*From Wikipedia, the free on line encyclopedia.*

The **Antikythera mechanism** (Greek: Ο μηχανισμός των Αντικυθήρων, *O mēchanismós tōn Antikythērōn*) is believed to be an ancient mechanical calculator (also described as a "mechanical computer"<sup>[1]</sup>) designed to calculate astronomical positions. It was discovered in the Antikythera wreck off the Greek island of Antikythera, between Kythera and Crete, and has been dated to about 150-100 BC. It is especially notable for being a technological artifact with no known predecessor or successor; other machines using technology of such complexity would not appear until the 18th century.

*From Wikipedia, the free on line encyclopedia.*



Von Däniken wrote several other follow up books that attempt to support his theory, but his first is the most extraordinary, in my opinion.