

Scientology: The Science Fiction Religion!

by **Tal Davis**

Do you like science fiction? I love to watch “Star Trek,” “Battlestar Galactica,” and other SciFi TV shows. Most of my favorite movies are SciFi classics like *Star Wars*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, and *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

Growing up, I read science fiction stories by great writers such as Jules Verne, Arthur C. Clarke, and Robert A. Heinlein. If you are a SciFi fan, I recommend any of those authors. Also, C.S. Lewis, who wrote the *Chronicles of Narnia*, authored a great SciFi trilogy: *Out of the Silent Planet*, *Perelandra*, and *That Hideous Strength*.

Another popular 20th Century Science Fiction writer was L. Ron Hubbard (1911- 1986). Hubbard wrote numerous short stories and novels. In 1982 he wrote a bestseller titled *Battlefield Earth*. In 2000 it was made into a movie starring John Travolta.

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Scientology?

Hubbard’s most enduring legacy was not his science fiction writing, but the strange religion he founded. In 1954, he began a movement that is now called the Church of Scientology. Perhaps you have heard of it. Some famous Hollywood celebrities claim membership: including Travolta, Tom Cruise, and Nancy Cartwright (the voice of Bart Simpson).

Scientology is not your normal church. Members don’t go to worship, hear sermons, or study the Bible. Instead, they study the writings of Hubbard and submit to an intense and expensive mental training process called “auditing.” During auditing sessions, a person is connected to a machine called an “E-meter.” According to Scientology, it detects and removes harmful thought patterns, called “engrams,” from the mind. Eventually, the person will supposedly delete all mental hindrances to success and happiness.

Uh?

Sounds strange, doesn’t it? Don’t forget, Hubbard was a science fiction writer before he started his religion. In fact, Scientology incorporates ideas that obviously sprung from Hubbard’s creative SciFi mind. For example, Scientologists believe that 75 million years ago this galaxy was under the control of an evil ruler named Xenu. He sent millions of souls called “thetans” to their physical deaths by H-Bombs. Xenu was eventually imprisoned in an electronic cage on the planet “Teegeeeack” (Earth!). Thetans’ spirits, however, still live today and attach themselves to humans causing illness and pain. One must go deep into Scientology’s bizarre mind-control system to get rid of these parasitic spirits.

“Whoa!” you say. “I like SciFi, but this is ridiculous!” Unfortunately, thousands of people pay high fees for Scientology auditing every year. Christians need to be cautious of any group that makes unbiblical claims like Scientology. Look to the Bible and Jesus for your spiritual guidance, not Scientology or any other “Science Fiction Religion.” 