

# Timeline of the apes

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**1972** In February a Liberty I model starcraft named “Icarus” is launched on the first interstellar flight toward Alpha Centauri, 4.25 light years away. Taylor, Landon, Dodge and Stewart expect to travel 700 years into the future after one year of suspended animation in their hyperstasis pods. Contact is lost with this starcraft.

**1972** In November a Liberty II model is launched with Skipper and Brent, on the same flightpath, to probe the earlier disappearance. Contact is also lost with this starcraft.

**1972-1980** Space exploration continues. The fate of the two starcraft lost in 1972 is unsolved. The 8 years are spent improving space flight techniques culminating in Faster-Than-Light power (FTL) power drives with small detachable cabin-style command capsules.

Liberty III is the first ANSA Faster-Than-Light power (FTL) model and it is a far more advanced form of spacecraft than Liberty I or Liberty II models. Liberty III is designed for very high velocity, very short duration flights, similar to a modern jet airliner.

- There is no hatch from the command capsule to access any other part of the ship.
- The spacecraft is not designed to be exited other than when it lands.
- It has no airlock and no obvious spacesuits, meaning that it was not intended to be opened in the presence of vacuum or any hazardous atmosphere or condition.
- It includes an automatic homing device, activated from within the command capsule.
- It lacks basic survival facilities (eating / sleeping / toiletry).

(<https://www.goingfaster.com/icarus/qvirdonwarp.htm>)

**1980** Launch of the Liberty III starcraft “Probe 6” on August 19, 1980. Crew of Lieutenant Colonel Alan Virdon and Majors Peter Burke and Edward Jones leave Earth and arrive at or near Alpha Centauri star complex on the very same day. It subsequently encounters radioactive turbulence while approaching Proxima Centauri, 4.25 light years away, on August 19, 1980. Navigator Eddie Jones triggers the automatic homing device but the command capsule, freed of the FTL power drive when the homing device was activated, enters a time warp. Contact is then lost with this starcraft.

**1980 - 2020** ANSA starcraft program includes ongoing search for the time warp, with one starcraft lost (Probe 8 transits the time warp after Probe 6 to land 10 years before Probe 6) but with no success for ANSA in locating the time travel mechanism/portal/wormhole.

**2020** ANSA ceases the time warp search program, as Colonel Christopher Virdon retires at 50, according to news reports at the time.

**2020** An air-borne virus complex emerges in Africa that sends all cats extinct (including big cats) and limits reproductive output for humans, dogs and mammalian livestock.

**2020 - 2100** Slow decline of the human population worldwide, due to a combination of reduced reproductive rate and reduced livestock numbers, both from the virus. Animal protein becomes scarce and expensive, which further reduces human reproduction.

**2030 – 2100** Climate change accelerates, and shallow areas are inundated as polar ice sheets melt. Collapse of the Gulf Stream and drying of the north east of South America leads to range expansion of the Venezuelan troupial.

**2050 – 2150** Apes are being brought into use as workers. All 3 great ape species are gene edited<sup>1</sup> to be less dangerous so as to be safe to work with.

- Gorillas have their bone and muscle mass reduced.
- Chimp males have their scrotal volume reduced to one-third original and chimp females have their oestral swelling removed.
- Orangutan males have their cheek flanges and throat pouches removed.
- The virus complex limits the ape reproductive output.

Apes are forbidden to be fed on animal protein, which is kept to be human-only food. Apes thus begin competing with livestock for agricultural crop outputs.

**2050 – 2200** Livestock numbers drop due to the virus. Declining mammalian livestock numbers limit human population because of lack of animal protein and human inability to live on only vegetation (<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/foodfeatures/evolution-of-diet/>), while the ape worker population is rising based on the apes ease of digesting vegetation. Only wealthy economies can afford pharmaceuticals.

**2100** Earthquake flattens the Greater Los Angeles area. The survivors rebuild locally but the greater urban area never recovers and much of the rubble is reclaimed by nature.

**2300** Massive volcanic activity starts along the western part of the Ring of Fire (SE Asia) and spews ash into the air, which blocks sunlight and causes the collapse of crops across Asia, Europe, Africa and the east coast of North America. (<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/1816-the-year-without-summer.htm>) The already reduced human populations and the ape populations on those continents suffer widespread starvation. Volcanic ash causes cessation of air travel in the region. A scientist records the message found in *The Legacy*, as part of a wider program to conserve “all human knowledge” in the hope that one day others can access it.

**2300 - 2500** Dramatic land subsidence along the east coast of USA, caused by over-extracting groundwater, especially in cropping areas, developing over wetlands and damming rivers. Cities are rebuilt inland (eg. New York) while seawater intrusion kills off forests and causes more subsidence. Incursion by the sea reduces the area for cropping, and reduces irrigation water quality (*As Sea Levels Rise, the East Coast Is Also Sinking, Matt Simon, Wired, 26 April, 2023*). This leads to food shortages and hence starvation for much of the

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<sup>1</sup> Gene editing: change the DNA of an organism, by cutting the DNA at a specific spot; then delete, add, or replace the DNA where it was cut.

remaining human and ape populations there.

Air travel ceases entirely, so any surviving populations are now isolated.



**2300 - 3000** Boreal forests and tropical forests begin to regrow in depopulated regions, fertilised by the volcanic ash, sucking up water and stabilising the climate.

**2500 - 2600** Other viruses emerge that cause further and ongoing loss of human populations remaining in Europe, Asia and Africa. No pharmaceutical industry is left to assist.

**2600 – 3000** On the US west coast, apes rise up using brute force to take control over the remaining humans and put them to work growing crops. Ape culture develops based partly on a) avoidance of meat which is “a human thing” and b) “this is all human science’s fault”. Humans are tightly controlled and brutalised when necessary to keep them under control, and all evidence of human science and technology is destroyed, except where it benefits apes (eg for growing crops). To the north, mountains and snow limit the apes spread, while to the east and the south inhospitable land is flagged as Forbidden Zone as per Urko’s map.



**March 21, 3085** – “Probe 6” touches down only 100 miles south of its intended recall site, where Edwards Air Force Base had once been. Colonel Alan Viridon and Major Peter Burke survive the impact of the forced landing of “Probe 6”, beginning the events of the TV series.  
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