1. Why Mars?
   1. Mars retrograde motion sparked the models of Ptolemy (Earth-centered, circles in circles in circles) and Copernicus (Sun-centered, circular).
   2. Kepler, using the data of Tycho Brahe, realized that circular orbits would not work. During his “war on Mars” he discovered that the orbits of the planets were elliptical and developed his 3 laws!
   3. Newton generalized Kepler’s laws to create his laws of gravity!
   4. Percival Lowell focused interest on \*life\* on Mars by publishing “Mars As The Abode of Life” and citing man-made “canale” on Mars surface
   5. Viking lander visited in 1975. Other missions followed
   6. David McKay documents potential microbial fossils in a Mars rock (discovered in Antarctica), and Mars mission counts skyrocket! Mars rovers.
   7. Need to get someone there. In 2004, George Bush announced manned mission to Mars. George Bush Senior predicted (aggressively) in 2020. Still on NASA books. Current plan is 2035??? Popularized recently in the movie, “The Martian”.