

This is the Second Half of the  
**CHRISTIAN MIND**  
**WV CRITIQUE MANUAL**  
UNITS 7 *through* 10



# UNIT 7

## *EASTERN*

## *PANTHEISTIC MONISM*



# WELCOME TO UNIT 7

## EASTERN PANTHEISTIC MONISM

**READ:** Sire, Ch. 7


*Also Required:* “The Uniqueness of Christ in an Age of Relativism” by Dick Keyes

This unit may be the most baffling in the entire course. Why? Because **Eastern Thought** presents us with unmanageable complexities. The Religions of the Eastern World are ancient, exotic, and wildly diverse. And, Eastern Philosophies ask you to contemplate reality in ways that defy common sense.

**The Orient may totally disorient you!**

On the one hand (whatever the ‘sound’ of that is!) some insist that Eastern Thought is *so* alien to Western Thought that straightforward comparisons should not even be attempted! On the other hand, if the **7BQs** are properly “basic,” then all human beings will eventually ask them in some way, and **all WVs that count as WVs must try to answer them in some way**. To stand at all as a worldview is to face such questions with integrity.

We will do our best to appreciate the seemingly irresistible Eastern WV Approach while still critically examining the underlying assumptions. It is tempting to get caught up in the colorful array of religious curiosities and lose sight of the WV issues. It is also tempting to give in to the fear of being judgmental or chauvinistic. Obviously we are not going to criticize the adherents of the religions or their sincere fervor, but we *must* critique the WV assumptions behind the religious concepts.


This unit’s material is so vast and perplexing that we *hardly* know where to begin. But, as a Chinese sage once said, **“Even a journey of a thousand miles must begin with one step.”** 

The general itinerary for our long hard journey will be:

**Step One** – Review Western ‘Isms,’ note important incursions of Eastern Thought into the West beginning in the 19<sup>th</sup> c.

**Step Two** – Admit the intense attraction of Eastern ways, list many examples of its widespread influence today.

**Step Three** – Define Monism and Pantheism *on a Worldview level*. (How **is** reality perceived in those ways?)

**Step Four** – Discuss Hinduism as the “Mother of All Religions.” 

**Step Five** – Carefully Assess Eastern Pantheistic-Monism’s **answers** to the **7BQs**.

**Step One** – Discuss and Critique the **“All Roads Lead to One and the Same God”** idea.

**STUDY AIDS:** (Find these between the **7BQs** and the Keyes article.)

Chart Reviewing Western “ISMS” as to their Time and Place

Defining Monism and Pantheism

Hinduism – Key Terms and Ideas. *And...* The Major Religious Traditions Which Have Shaped the East

Reincarnation: Why Do Westerners Believe in it?

Finding the Way(s) to God [“If God is Infinite, the ways to God must also be infinite.”]

The Mountain Analogy of Comparative Religions. *And...* ‘The Parable of The Blind Men & the Elephant’

**Were** the Basic Questions Answered *or...NOT?* (And, if NOT...how is that any better than **nihilism**?!)

## ANSWERS TO SEVEN BASIC QUESTIONS

According to the Worldview of: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What Is **ULTIMATE REALITY**? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What is the Nature of **EXTERNAL REALITY**? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What is a **Human Being**? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What Happens to a Human at **Death**? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. (How) is it Possible to Know Anything? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. How Do We Know Right from Wrong? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. What is the Purpose of (Human) History? \_\_\_\_\_

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## REVIEW of WESTERN ISMS as to Their TIME & PLACE

<u>Major Worldviews:</u>	[Timeframe:]	 <u>Geography &amp; Culture:</u>
<b>THEISM (JCBT)</b>	[BC]	Ancient Near East Hebraic Covenant History Biblical Monotheism
	[1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> c.]	Israel, <i>Greco-Roman</i> Pagan Empire Christianity's Birth in a Jewish Context (Spreads throughout Pagan Empire but... <b>Loses</b> its ✦ ROOTS.) Empire "converts"...
	[5 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> c.]	Roman Empire, Birth of Europe Medieval Roman Catholic Christianity <b>'The Medieval Christian Synthesis'</b>
	[14 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> c.]	Europe, Global Exploration Medieval World shattered by: "3 Rs" - (Renaissance, Reformation, Scientific Revolution)
<b>DEISM</b>	[17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> c.]	Europe, Britain, U.S.A. "Age of Reason ~ Enlightenment"
<i><u>Beginning of Modernism</u></i>		
<b>NATURALISM</b>	[19 <sup>th</sup> c.] IMPACT OF: Industrial Revolution; Secularism  Darwin, Marx, Freud, Nietzsche Rejection of the Bible	(Begin 'Going Global')  <i>East Meets West already!</i>  (1893- <i>Swami Vivekananda</i> in the USA!)
<b>NIHILISM</b>	[20 <sup>th</sup> c.] ☠️ 💣 ☠️ <b>Loss</b> of Liberal Optimism: {World Wars, Genocide, Nuclear Proliferation, Eco-Disasters, Pandemic Plagues} {Disillusionment, Drugs, Ennui, Terrorism, Inflation, Angst, Crime, Society in Chaos}	
<b>EXISTENTIALISM</b>	[20 <sup>th</sup> c.]	(Europe and USA but global) Atheistic Ex. – creates individual meaning, tries to avoid despair... (but death wins anyway) Theistic Ex. – tries to rekindle personal faith, but too subjective (loses objective grounds for true faith)
<i><u>The End of Modernism</u></i> and its Natural Optimistic-Progressivism... <i>but now what!?</i>		
<b>POSTMODERNISM</b>	[20 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> c.]	Relativism is Absolute // Threats Are Global
We <u>Lost</u> "Truth & Transcendence" in Western Culture – <u>Open</u> to <i>Eastern Thought</i>		

## MONISM

(from: *Mono* – **ONE**)

**As a worldview, monism says that all of Reality is ‘One.’ To Be is to Be One.**

To be *Real at all* is to be the *One that’s All*. Everything that exists, everything real, is a total oneness...an immutable, immaterial, eternal, undiversified unity. Oneness is THE defining feature of reality. Reality in its entirety is a pure oneness...a perfect oneness. Not two, One. Not several, One. How many? One. Everything that is, is One. Oneness is everything, and everything is a Oneness. If it seems *not* to be One, it does not exist, it isn’t real, it is only illusory. “Spirit” is real, matter is not real.

Strictly speaking, Monism says anything that isn’t everything is nothing!

If your head doesn’t hurt yet, just to make it more confusing there are different kinds of Monism:

**Quantitative/Substantial, Qualitative/Attributive, Genetic, Neutral, Idealist, etc.**

Be glad to know that they won’t be on the test!

The point for us is that Eastern Monism tends to be a strict Monism, and the Absolute Oneness is usually said to be essentially **IMPERSONAL**. Philosophically, you might think that monistic metaphysics would be easy to grasp, but it is quite mind-boggling. Why? Do things seem to be a perfect oneness? Why not? *Hmmm...*

What are the implications **if** indeed it IS the case that all of Reality is only and ever an impersonal ONENESS?

**Ponder this.** Or just keep chanting until you get it: **...ALL IS ONE!**

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## PANTHEISM

(from: *Pan* – **ALL**, everywhere, universal; and *Theos* – **GOD**, divine being)

Pantheism literally means that Everything is Divine or God is Everything. Pantheistic worldviews say that the universe itself is divine. There is no Creator-creation relationship, for Nature itself is alive with divine life. All that is, is God or a part of God, and nothing else exists. There is no separate, distinct, unique, Transcendent God.

**Forget that.** Or just keep chanting until you ‘get it’: **...ALL IS GOD!**

There are different kinds of Pantheism too! Hylozoistic, Immanence, Panentheism, Emanational, Acosmic, etc. Again, be glad that you aren’t being required to grasp all the nuances. **Eastern Pantheism tends to be Acosmic.**

We will try to avoid getting lost in the kaleidoscopic of innumerable expressions, manifestations and ritualized ways of reflecting the view of ultimate reality found in most Eastern Religions. Instead, we will critique “Pantheistic Monism” as an underlying worldview assumption. **What are the implications of:**

**ALL IS ONE AND ALL IS GOD.**

**{EVERYTHING IS AN ETERNAL DIVINE ONENESS AND NOTHING ELSE EXISTS!}**

Is it Reasonable? Meaningful? True? Epistemologically grounded? Self-refuting? Satisfying? Moral?

Can a system based on pantheistic-monism have honest answers to the basic questions of existence? Why does such a Reality exist? Why does so much else seem to exist? Is a human self ultimately an impersonal thing? Is there any real way out of the endless cycle of illusory embodiments? How could we know about such a reality if it is beyond knowing? If there are no distinctions, how can we tell right from wrong? Will all of this imperfect, illusory bodily existence recycle endlessly or is there any hope of the perfect oneness finally being fully perfect, although it really is already...hmmm...and if I am infinite...why haven’t I figured it all out yet? Why am I sitting here reading a notebook?

I can understand a person thinking they are a god...but why would God think it is ME?

If ALL is ONE and ALL is GOD and nothing else exists...why haven’t these annoying questions vanished?

Oh, it isn’t about Knowing, it’s about Being. But what does ‘Being’ mean?

If Being and non-Being cannot be differentiated...where’s the Meaning?

Oh, it isn’t about Meaning...it’s about...what? All is God and God is All? But what does that actually MEAN???

Everything?? Or...um, (or should we say **OM**) **Nothing???**

## HINDUISM — Key Terms and Ideas

- ☉ Arose in India, evolved over several millennia, still the major religious culture or 'way of life' in India, (~ 85 %)
- ☉ It is not one religion but a hugely diverse, highly complex **family** of religions, philosophies, and cult practices.  
As it evolved and spread, Hinduism absorbed other cultures, so it 'includes' **poly-**, **heno-**, & **pan-**theistic forms!
- ☉ Hindus themselves call their 'Hinduism' - **Sanatana Dharma** - which means:  
The **eternal way of life and thought**; or the **Cosmic Order**. **Dharma** means duty or moral law.
- ☉ .....Be familiar with these salient terms **and** the worldview concepts behind them:.....
- Advaita** — Nondualism, the monistic interpretations and traditions such as taught by **Shankara** (9<sup>th</sup> c. AD)
- The Vedas** — The entire collection of sacred literature. Ancient texts may date from as early as 1500 BC.  
In **Sanskrit** — *The "Language of the Gods"*. Thus, the Hindu 'Bible' and thus, Vedanta Societies are 'Bible Societies.'
- The Upanishads** — The commentaries found at the end of each of the Vedas (800 — 500 BC.)
- Vedanta** — 'end of the Vedas.' The traditions derived from varying interpretations of the Vedic texts.
- The Bhagavad-Gita** — "The Song of the Glorious Lord", a Sanskrit epic poem (~400 BC) telling of **Lord Krishna**. The 'Gita' is a beloved classic in world devotional literature.
- BRAHMAN** — The essence/soul of *all* possible worlds; **Ultimate Reality**; (Q1!) "god beyond god."  
Brahman is: eternal, indescribable, impersonal, formless, and *without* set attributes...!
- ATMAN** — The eternal aspect of 'individual' souls; the only real part of any soul; of the **SAME** essence as Brahman. The Brahman=Atman Unity is a key concept. "**Atman IS Brahman**"!
- The Trimurti**: (Created by Hindu priests to make sense of the wild proliferation of gods and goddesses.)
  - ☉ **BRAHMA** — The **Creator**. Aloof. He is the *least* widely worshiped. (Because, *his* job is done!)
  - ☉ **VISHNU** — The **Preserver**. Loving & caring. Has been "incarnated" numerous times (ten 'officially'!)  
**Krishna** is just one of these many incarnations. **Rama** is another.
  - ☉ **SHIVA** — The **Destroyer**, god of death & funeral pyres. There are more temples to Shiva than the other 2 combined!  
**Note**: These 3 gods *also* have female consorts *and* countless "**Avatars**" — incarnational appearances.
- Yoga** — 'Yoking' = (union with 'god.') **Yoga cannot be separated from Hindu religious belief & practice.**  
**All** of the mental/physical disciplines/techniques **aim** at overcoming your bondage to 'self' & the **Samsara cycle**.  
The **main types of Yoga**: **Jnana** — the way of **knowledge** (*not* information but intuition — to unite with what *IS* 'known'...  
*i.e.* ...god! — *which is all that truly exists!*). **Bhakti** — the way of **devotion** (emotional worship). **Karma** — the way of selfless **works**.  
**Raja** — 'the royal road' — the way of deep consciousness (psycho-physical exercises). **Other types include**:  
**Hatha, Mantra, and Tantric**, (self-torture, abstinence, ritual copulation, awakening the 'female energy' **Kundalini**.)  
**ALL** types of Yoga aim at release from reincarnation and becoming ONE with Brahman (the divine universe).
- Law of Karma** — All deeds, thoughts & intentions have consequences for future 'embodiments.' But, this Law is: ...deterministic, implacable, *and* impersonal. All living things exist in inescapable bondage to this 'moral' law!
- Reincarnation** — Transmigration of the soul. The endless chain of rebirths, connected with the Law of Karma.
- Samsara** — "Wandering", refers to the karmic reincarnation cycle, the *perpetual* series of rebirths.
- Moksha** — Salvation; liberation; final *release from* the bondage of the Samsara cycle; absorption into Brahman.
- Maya** — Illusion, appearance. Refers to all that 'poses' as reality but is not! Maya tricks you and prevents you from 'realizing' Absolute Reality (that Atman = Brahman). But, where it 'comes from' *no one knows!*
- Lila** — "God's play"...A Hindu 'answer' to: "**Why** does anything at all ( other than Brahman ) *seem to exist?*"
- ☉ Please note other important religions that emerged out of Hinduism. Such as these two from the **6<sup>th</sup> century BC**:
- BUDDHISM** — Founded by Hindu priest Siddhartha Gautama, who contemplated suffering, became empty and attained 'enlightenment.' Buddhism denies the reality of atman **and** Brahman (**No self, No god!**) Goal is "**nirvana**."
- JAINISM** — Founded by Vardhamana the Mahavira ('hero') amid protest against the Vedic (priestly sacrificial) Cultus.  
Denies Brahman or any ultimate reality! So, the cosmos itself is eternal and even 'gods or higher spirits' are finite!  
Extremely ascetic and pacifistic. Salvation is found within...liberation comes via severe self-discipline.

## MAJOR RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS WHICH HAVE SHAPED THE EAST



**Religions from INDIA:** Tend to be **monistic** (although dualistic and pluralistic forms *also* exist), and to view reality as **cyclical**.

**HINDUISM** — (810 million adherents) An ancient but evolved, diverse and *all-absorbing family* of religious sects and philosophical schools.

**JAINISM** — (5 million) Arose as **protest** to Hinduism, 6<sup>th</sup> c. BC. Denies Brahman-atman, find salvation 'within' via: "right faith, right knowledge, right conduct." Extremely ascetic, pacifistic, vegetarian, *etc.* Jainism didn't spread too far beyond India.

**BUDDHISM** — (330 million. 38% **Theravada** and 56% **Mahayana**) Founded by Siddhartha Gautama, ~6<sup>th</sup> c. BC. He **rejected** the Hindu caste system and taught a variant version of Karma/Samsara where there is actually **NO** continuing Atman! He was not originally a 'god' or even a prophet, just a teacher or model of Enlightenment who attained a Buddha-Nature. He taught "The 4 Noble Truths" and "The 8-Fold Path" for the cessation of all *desire* therefore of *suffering*. The final goal is **NIRVANA** — absolute emptiness or extinction! In Buddhism, everything is impermanent...perhaps even 'gods'! Only Nirvana as ultimate reality is permanent.

After Gautama's death, "Buddhism" split into **2** main branches: **1. Theravada** — "doctrine of the elders." This 'conservative' branch tends to be meditative, not philosophical; makes the role of the monks central; and tries to keep to the original teachings of the Buddha. Theravada is found in Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos. **2. Mahayana** — "Greater Vehicle." Disparaging Theravada as a "lesser vehicle" (like a raft too small to cross the river...) Mahayana is for ALL people, *not* just Monks, and says *all can reach Nirvana* with help. So... Proclaims the Buddhist ideal of the **BODHISATTVA** — an Enlightened One who 'stays back' so as to help others reach Nirvana. This 'liberal' branch has given rise to many new sects, devotional and philosophical, and co-exists with other religious systems. It has impacted **Tibet**. *The present Dalai Lama is the 14<sup>th</sup> in a succession of bodhisattvas.* Mahayana is also found in Japan, Korea and China.

**SIKHISM** — (20 million) An oddly syncretistic blend of Hinduism and Islam, 'revealed' to Nanak (1469 – 1538) Says **Allah** is **Vishnu!** Found in northern India. *It is incredible to combine the most polytheistic religion in the world with the most rigidly monotheistic!*

**Religions of CHINA:** These tend to emphasize harmony of nature, and to revere or worship ancestors.

**CONFUCIANISM** — (6 million) Founded by K'ung Fu-tzu ( Confucius, 6<sup>th</sup> c. BC ) upon ancient Chinese beliefs in spirits, rituals, and ancestor worship, but Confucius was pragmatic and rational about "divine" questions! He was more of a humanist-ethicist, stressing harmony in political society. Confucianism was the state religion of China until the Communist revolution, and still permeates the society as philosophical-religious-ethical practice. Because Chinese tradition draws no strict line between matter and mind, Confucianism can coexist with **Taoism** (as the everyday life of human interaction is imbued with spiritual-immortal meaning).

**TAOISM** — (220 million) Founded by Lao-Tzu (b. 604 BC) although the concept of the **Tao** pre-existed him. "**TAO**" means divine order, the perfect eternal plan of the universe, the "**WAY**". The native religions of China *already* included a concept of the Tao along with their animism, divination, and ancestor veneration. Taoism is known for the geomancy idea of **Feng Shui**.

Perhaps best known for the concept of there being two interacting energy modes or complimentary forces within every natural object:

**YIN** (feminine, negative, cold, brooding) and **YANG** (masculine, positive, warm, procreative, *etc.*) ♀ ☯ ♂ !!

**BUDDHISM** — Mahayana coexists with the above religions in China. Also — **CH'AN** Buddhism (called **ZEN** in Japan) arose in the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD. Ch'an is highly meditative, seeks 'sudden enlightenment'. Finds 'salvation' by looking inward and attaining Buddhahood. Ultimate Reality is conceived of as what? As a **VOID**. (?)

**Religions of JAPAN:** The Japanese *have* considered the land of Japan itself 'divine' and the very center of the world. ☼  
But, after the shattering disillusionments of World War II, **secularism** has increased in Japan.

☩ **SHINTOISM** — (7 million) "The way of the gods/higher spirits." The native religion of Japan.

The constitution of 1889 actually included an article declaring that the Emperor is sacred.

**BUDDHISM** — Mahayana Buddhism has become deeply intermingled with Shintoism. Also, three branches of **ZEN** were established in the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, and have had quiet but wide influence in Japan. *Zen is highly irrational*. The goal is **Satori** (sudden enlightenment.) This is to 'see' the unity beyond-within as...as what? As pure nothingness!! Uses riddles, koans, mandalas, haiku, *etc.*

Teachers may actually punish students for *asking* for rational explanations! (Whereas I may punish you for *not* doing so!) 😊



OM Symbol



Vishnu



Shiva



The Beatles in India



A Buddha



The Dalai Lama in India



Tibetan Mandala

## REINCARNATION

### WHY DO WESTERNERS BELIEVE IN IT?

#### “I THINK THERE ARE MANY ‘PROOFS’ OR DEMONSTRATIONS OF REINCARNATION”:

It is manifest in the frequent phenomenon of the “*Déjà vu* Experience!”

Through hypnosis and ‘past life regressions’ we can discover who we were in previous lives. (There would be no other way to obtain that information, so that *proves* it!)

It explains homosexuality...(because a person was the opposite gender in a past life.)

It explains why some people have psychic power and others do not.

It means that the Cosmos itself is a **JUST** reality wherein all strife is eventually resolved:

‘It gives the answer for why we suffer in life.’

‘It is a better answer to the question of death.’

‘It is comforting to know that our souls are eternal.’

‘It allows an indefinite number of opportunities to strive toward Godhood.’

#### WE’D BETTER RECONSIDER THIS ‘HOPE’ OF ‘ETERNAL LIFE’:

First, westerners should see that in Eastern religions, Reincarnation is a ghastly and terrible punishment. It is *not* to be desired but *desperately* avoided! But we must also consider whether the concept of reincarnation has any validity or merit as a belief:

Not one of the ‘proofs’ above is verifiable. Each can be more sensibly easily explained.

*Déjà vu* might be due to double neurons, even spiritual deception. And ‘Past-Life Regression’ is notoriously unreliable, as many stories conflict! (Just how many ‘Helens of Troy’ were there!?)

Even if reincarnations happen, there is **no personal memory preserved** and thus, no way to learn from your ‘past mistakes!’ There is no way to have genuine moral progression.

The illusory ‘*jiva* soul’ of individuality dies with the body.

Thus, the cycle of re-embodiments would be ultimately fatalistic and pointless.

(And if you are demoted to an animal, what are you going to be able to do to earn any ‘karma points’?) 🐦 🐱 🐾 Well I’m a good kitty!

But it is on the WV level that the fallacies of this belief are most evident. Reincarnation depends on the pantheistic-monistic view that claims: “ALL is ONE and ALL is ETERNAL (GOD).”

In extreme contrast to the redeemer-God of Biblical-Theism, the pantheist-monist ‘God’ is not personal, never clearly self-revealed and is not at all capable of being grasped and known.

Ultimate Eternal Reality is Impersonal and unknowable... and it is ALL that truly exists.

All else is illusion! (So, any incarnation at all is the result of ignorance-of-true-reality!)

However, there is no explanation for why such ignorance would exist! (If everything is spirit and eternal, who or what is having an illusion of corporality and temporality!? Why would any punitive embodiment ever be necessary?)

If, as they say, *Atman IS Brahman*, then this is all a dream. But who is having the dream?

No. Sorry. This cannot be an answer to existence, life and death!



## FINDING THE WAY(S) TO GOD

*"As many lights shine as there are pious pilgrims. If God is infinite, the ways that lead to him must also be infinite. Why discuss or debate? What matters is to find God at all costs and not torture yourself over the choice of the best road to take. Rigid adherence to dogmas is foolish and even harmful. If you know God, you will not concern yourself with doctrines. You may read all the holy books of all the religions. You may believe in all the revealed credos, and yet be incapable of finding God!"*

~ Ramakrishna of Bengal *The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna*



Deconstruct this oft-quoted saying:

"If God is infinite, the ways that lead to God must also be infinite."

Take the first part of the saying and discuss:



"If God is Infinite..."

(i.e.- Has no finite limitations. Self-existent; Uncreated. Eternal: No beginning and no end.)

Agree or Disagree?

- Some Being must be Infinite-Eternal for anything else at all to exist...for Being to be!  
(We can see that something does exist. It cannot 'be' that Nothing is infinite...ergo...  
Either- Everything is Infinite, Or- Some Being is and other beings are not.)
- "God" *by definition* would be such an Infinite-Eternal self-existent Being. Okay...

Agree: '*GOD IS INFINITE...*'



“The ways for a person to ‘find’ God are also infinite.”

(i.e. - The **way** doesn’t matter, **all** sincere seekers will reach God.)

All religions, and all philosophies about ‘infinite being,’ will reach that ‘One.’

Agree or Disagree?

☉ Either the ‘seekers’ are **infinite**-eternal or they are **finite**-temporal beings:

○ If they are *already infinite*, as monism says, then there is no adequate explanation for why they would not already ‘realize’ this state-of-infinity.

**Their very being-in-this-illusory-world cannot be accounted for by this WV.**

The temporal ways, paths and roads are *also* mere illusions.

The oft-quoted saying above is a nonsense statement if pantheistic-monism describes reality! **If** pantheistic-monism is true, **then** there *are* no ‘ways to god.’

○ If the seekers are **finite**, they never *can* grasp the **infinite**.

They can never ‘find god.’ No finite path, no system of rituals & works, no speculation about ultimate reality will *ever* ‘reach’ the Infinite. There is actually NO ‘way leading to God.’

Not even an *infinite* number of *finite* attempts will *ever* succeed in ‘finding god.’

If all of us are finite...and all we have is our variegated finite ways...then...

*who* among us can somehow ‘know’ that we each have not just a sincere but a genuine partial grasp of the infinite...much less a full grasp!?

Who (among all the finites) could ever know that all our competing ways lead to the same god?

○ There is **no such experience** in a monistic world...

(where everything is infinite...everything is **one**, eternal and perfect)

... as any being reaching/finding another being!

If the monistic god ‘realizes itself,’ then that ‘realization experience’ is beyond words and would not be communicable in *any* modality...and **who would ‘be around’ to hear it?!**

This WV should remain **austerely silent** and not pretend to offer ‘higher truths’ about god.

○ There are **no ways** for finite beings in a *finite world* to grasp or attain infinite being.

● It makes absolutely no sense *either way* to claim that: ‘the ways to god are infinite.’



Ergo, we **must disagree**...the ways to ‘God’ are certainly *not* infinite!

But then is there possibility of finding God at all?

What **is** the solution...is there **any ‘way’** to ‘reach God’?

**Challenge:** Create an illustration 🖼 or write a **parable** depicting **your** solution.

## THE MOUNTAIN ANALOGY OF COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS



Its lesson is supposed to be: "Don't stay in the craggily foothills and argue about whose path might be the 'best' one to climb...just ascend from wherever you are! Any ole trail will do. You'll all eventually reach the summit, right!? Of course!"

**Likewise in religion!** Transcend all the lowly craggily differences. As you climb higher and higher into spiritual experiences, you will come to the mystical 'realization' that *all religions are essentially the same*. **Don't debate, meditate!**

**At the Top o' the Mountain,** we will *all* be able to see the very *same* God. Sounds lovely. Especially if you don't like to think. But...we must think! (And remember... mindless views of Comparative Religions make you only comparatively religious!)

### CRITIQUE THE ANALOGY:

Will people with **no** religious convictions at all still get to climb? How about religions that don't even believe in a **god**...will they still reach the 'One' at the top? And if 'all is one and all is god,' is there any such thing as 'a finite being reaching the infinite'?! (Finite 'existence' is illusory! Does anything reach *anything* in a WV with no differentiations at all?) (Does anything actually 'happen' at all...if time itself is an illusion and human actions are merely 'maya'?)

If you *reeeeally* think about it, even though this Mountain Picture seems so 'fair'...it actually makes no sense! If Pantheistic Monism were an accurate description of reality, there would be no such thing as one being reaching, meeting or knowing another being. Because there is only **ONE** BE-ing and **IT** is already 'Infinite'! So, you may picture a real earnest finite soul climbing arduously and *finally finally finally* attaining 'salvation'....but, can that truly happen in a Monistic World?! Ever?

**Are you going to 'know it' when you get there?** No! And, wouldn't release from the horribly punitive Reincarnation Cycle would be a rather unique event!? But what are the chances of that *ever, ever, ever* occurring in a world where time isn't real and nothing is unique because **Everything is Eternal!!!**? That may be a bit thick. But this is quite simple...

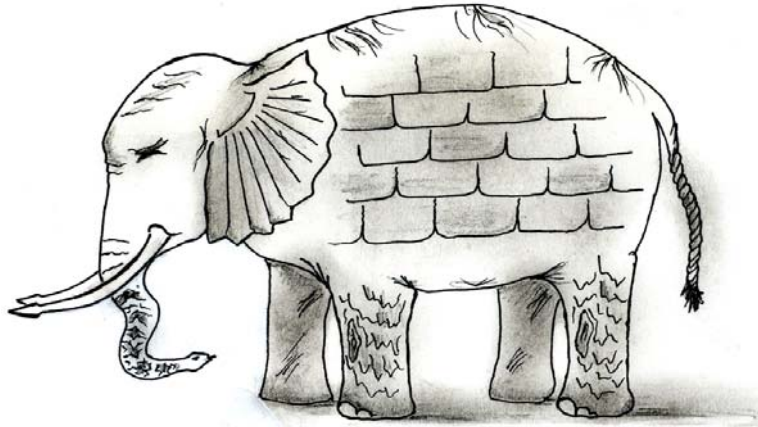
The fatal flaw in this nice sweet open-minded fair-sounding 'Analogy of Comparative Religions' is that it refutes itself! Doesn't this view **absolutize relativism**? Isn't that utterly self-demolishing?

**Think:** *Who* is describing the mountain and how would *they* "know" that is the *only* view of religious quests? *Hmmm...*

See the article by Dick Keyes following this Unit's Many Study Aids. He sagaciously asks:

 Why does the *relativist* 'get an airplane' while everyone else has to climb?!

## "The Parable of the Blind Men and the Elephant"



This time-honored story originally came from Jainism. To Jainists, the story illustrates the foolishness of humans thinking that *anything* is absolutely true. Jainists believe that knowledge is only *ever* relative and partial. Jainists do not even believe that there IS an over-arching divine being! The fable has been repeated for ages and is used by Buddhists and others.

Obviously it is perfect to promote the **Eastern** view that there is a 'God' *beyond* all our conceptions of god...or that each religious approach only has a *part* of the truth...and *all paths/* parts will eventually grasp the "whole elephant" of Brahman – the Cosmic Soul.

The parable is **also** used by **Western** skeptics and agnostics to claim that 'we are all BLIND' to the true nature of reality, or that we can *never* know Ultimate Reality. It is very 'postmodern' to reject the notion of a coherent 'whole picture' or a 'meta-narrative' of reality. If no single WV can be known to be true, then no one religion can be true.

The Mountain and Elephant analogies try to **refute** the 'exclusivist claims' of Biblical Theism, but they actually refute relativism!

1. The analogies may be picturesque and memorable, but they are **not** valid arguments...they are merely illustrations of a presumed opinion. They "prove" nothing at all. They 'express' absolute **relativism**, and we can push *that* to its logical demise!
2. If we really push the elephant fable – how do the blind men '**know**' that they are supposed to be touching and describing an *elephant*? Maybe they **are** touching ropes, trees & walls! If EVERYONE is blind...**who** is describing the pathetic scene taking place? ((Someone who 'knows' an elephant really exists as an elephant...someone who **isn't** blind to the true nature of reality??)) Then, oops, there goes your "absolute relativism"!
3. Keep pushing the analogy toward consistency: Fact is – the blind men don't just have "partial elephant truth" or "clues that will all eventually lead to the same Elephant"! (They are dead wrong in the original parable!) So, the most the analogy could say about 'religious truth' (man's reach for God) is – that we are all **wrong**...NOT that we are all ultimately **right**!
4. Another point to consider: The *men* may be blind, but what if the elephant's keeper were nearby to "save the day" and guide the men's groping hands...revealing to them what the sturdy animal really is?
5. Against biblical theism's exclusivist truth claims...these analogies try to allege that we Christians only believe our religion is true because we cannot experience, test or "see" the other paths. But that is exactly what this WV course has been designed to do! (To let you **TEST** other basic views of reality for consistency and coherence.)

Using logic and a rather comprehensive methodology, we saw that *only* Theism is able to account for reality even *being* there as it is, *and* our being able to possess reason, whereas both Monistic and Naturalistic models have *fatal* epistemological deficiencies.

6. Finally, if someone is trying to use the Elephant Analogy to snub your belief in Absolute, Revealed Truth and to convince you that Relativism is 'the only correct view to take'...simply ask them: "Where are **you** in the story?" They might say: "Well of course I am just another blind groper...as we ALL are...and at least, *unlike YOU*, I have the humility to admit that I can not and do not have the truth." Now ask them: "But then, how exactly can **you** be describing the *whole* picture???" And if they answer: "Well, everyone else is blind *except* for me..." you can say: "Good, you DO believe in absolutes...now let's discuss it!"

In the original fable, the amusing scene of the blind men and the elephant is being observed by the Rajah from his palace balcony. In Theism, the Ruler of the Universe is a loving, self-disclosing God who has not left us to grope on our own, but who has 'come down from the palace and can heal our blindness.' This is surely no fable.

## Were the 7 Basic Questions Answered by Eastern Pantheistic Monism?

### Q1 & Q2

#### We cannot know the Nature of Reality, Infinite OR finite!

Or better say: 'IT Cannot Be Known' (as there is no 'WE' and no activity of KNOWING, which takes two...see Q5) Seriously.....

We cannot know what is **real vs. what is unreal or semi-real.**

To say: **Maya** ('oh it's all a mirage') is simply **no** explanation whatsoever.

We cannot know **WHY** anything **does** exist **or seems to exist** (as an illusion or trick.)

And even according to the sacred Vedas themselves, if there is a god, even he/it does not know! ("...perhaps he knows not.")

It's all a mystical-magical-maya-mistake?

If Everything is Eternal and therefore constant, perfect and omniscient, then **WHY** is such a gross 'mistake being made' ???

(The unfortunate **mistake** that a tangible-temporal Cosmos containing all us poor creatures with time-bound aging bodies **exists**.)

**Is** the Cosmos an illusory trick? Who is the trick being played on? Who is it *having* the 'delusion'? Who is *making* the mistake?

**IF** the boo-boo is being made by some consciousness **other than** Brahman (and it would HAVE to be)...**THEN** some reality **other than** Eternal Being exists...but there's goes your **Monism**, because there would have to be **More than ONE** consciousness/being! Give it up!

The Pantheistic-Monistic Worldview = Metaphysical-Ontological-Cosmological nihilism

### Q3 & Q4

#### What is a human being? Nothin' Personal! 'Personality' has to be annihilated.

A human being is a 'finite' thing to be renounced for 'infinite being' (whatever *that* is!) The human-*qua*-human (with a sense of being a self) is a trivial fleeting 'mistaken' thing!

In the Eastern view, a human BE-ing, to BE, must NOT BE! A person must learn to lose 'self' altogether and be a NON-person.

That isn't unselfishness! it is self-obliteration! (It may sound more mystical than mad, but it is still nihilism!) And deathly...but....

Death is nothing lamentable in Eastern WVs. Only bodies and jiva-souls (ego boo-boos) die and they aren't real in the first place!

As we have asked, can **Reincarnation** honestly provide a hopeful answer to the reality of death? No!

It means you must die innumerable times...and be reborn...and die...and be reborn...*ad infinitum*!

Eastern 'Answers' to Human Life and Personhood = Total Personal nihilism

### Q5

#### It isn't about Knowing; it's about Being. Huh?!

But we haven't reasonably accounted for the being of being! Eastern Thought denies the basic rules of Logic, literally trying to claim that Being and Non-Being are indistinguishable.

And if "god" or Ultimate Reality is Beyond Knowing...**how would we KNOW that it is beyond knowing?**

That just doesn't make any sense at all. It is epistemological **NON**-sense. It is a **NON**-answer.

The Eastern Way of Knowing = Epistemological and Logical nihilism

### Q6 & Q7

#### 'Karmic Law' is not truly Moral or Meaningful!

Karma is fatalistic, deterministic, and unfair to *each* present embodiment (which carries no memory of 'what it did wrong' in the last one to deserve the miserable fate.) The Karmic Cycle trivializes death, impedes compassion, and justifies injustice.

It is hopeless and endless... and may all be only be an illusion anyway...so why wouldn't 'Moksha' also be illusory?!

No individual's personal history is important...time is an illusion...and 'The Eternal Everything' recurs in a cosmic endless cycle.

*How could such a reality possibly be meaningful? There is NO ultimate goal...no ostensible purpose other than Lila! How cruel!*

As lovely and full-of-poetry as they are, is there any genuine hope of salvation / redemption in any of the Eastern Religious Systems?

The typical Eastern 'nicety' is that 'All roads **lead** to the same god.' But the pantheistic-monistic concept of god is always negative and non-descript. As we have seen, if 'god' is merely 'infinite' but does **not** disclose himself finally and clearly...there is no such thing as a road (any road much less all roads) 'reaching' 'god'! Perhaps if you are going *nowhere*...any road will do!

The Eastern Approach ultimately = Moral and Historical and Religious nihilism

Without judging the millions of precious humans beings who hold to these mystifying philosophies and so fervently follow these arduous religious paths, an honest critique must conclude that the Basic Qs of existence were **not** answered. But we do not denigrate the people. Tragically, their own WV does.

# *The Uniqueness of Christ in an Age of Relativism*

By Dick Keyes (edited by Jan Boville)

Director of L'Abri Fellowship, Southborough, Mass.

## COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY ONLINE RESOURCES

✚ One of the most contentious issues any Christian has to face today is the question of the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. This issue is difficult, in part, because our society is **religiously pluralistic**.

We live in a society where kind, intelligent, sincere people all around us have very, very different religious convictions from Christian ones. What would ever lead a person to believe that there is one true God and only one way to Him in a time of such plurality?

Or as it was asked to me once, *what is your excuse for believing such a thing?!*

The intellectual and spiritual atmosphere in which we live quickly answers that question by saying that Christians who *do* believe in Christ's uniqueness believe it only because they are 'arrogant, ignorant, ethnocentric, and perhaps even neurotic'! If a Christian tries to convert somebody, then he or she is seen as 'bigoted, intolerant, imperialistic, and perhaps psychologically unbalanced'!

Christians do not want to be arrogant, ignorant, ethnocentric, or neurotic, nor do we even want to be thought of in that way by our next-door neighbors. At the same time, the uniqueness of Christ as the **Son of God**, as **the way, the truth, and the life**, the **only way** to the Father, is not just something Christians can brush aside as if it were optional or on the periphery of the faith. If true, it is essential, vital, and absolutely crucial.


As we relate to others in the midst of these challenging assumptions we must see the place from which some of the assumptions stem. The conviction of Christ's uniqueness did not arise or thrive first in the nineteenth century colonial era of Western imperialism. In fact, it did not even arise in Europe. The whole Christian faith is a Middle Eastern religion, not a European religion at all.

In addition, religious pluralism is nothing new. The start of the Christian faith was in the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire in the first century was possibly more pluralistic than modern America! It was more radically diverse in the different religious movements. The Christian faith, with its claims to Christ's uniqueness, grew and thrived in exactly *that* pluralistic setting. Pluralism in the modern world may surprise the church today, but it offers no new challenge to the Christian faith.

Ironically, there is a special relevance of the New Testament for us now in dealing with pluralism. Far from putting us in a new paradigm, pluralism puts us back into the first century, right into the setting of the book of Acts. Pluralism was exactly what the Apostle Paul was facing as soon as he stepped out the front door of a synagogue onto the main street of any gentile-pagan city.

### **Pluralism and Relativism**

While pluralism is not new, we need to see that our society has developed a way for viewing pluralism that is widely accepted. That way of viewing is a philosophical system called **relativism**. Relativism is one possible paradigm for understanding pluralism. It is a system that denies that anyone can know absolute truth about God or about ultimate things and asserts that it is naïve for a person to think he or she has knowledge about such truth. Relativism declares that because we are finite, we have no standard or criterion to judge competing truth claims. We have no scale with which to measure or examine differing beliefs.

 When considering relativism, I often think of the example of a lifeguard on a beach who has an elevated chair so he can look down over everybody and see what is going on. He has a perspective that **nobody else has!** Everybody else has their feet in the sand and cannot see beyond their own umbrella!

But the lifeguard has an elevated chair from which to see the whole beach. Relativism tells us that **nobody** has that ‘lofty view’ when it comes to religion. Everyone is at ground level, with only a local perspective.

Relativism claims that there are many people from different perspectives saying what they *think* ultimate truth is, but that these people are simply expressing their own wishes or beliefs. They are attempting to ‘name what is not namable.’ Relativism claims that it doesn’t make sense to talk about some religions being **true** and other religions being **false**; doing so brings the wrong *categories* to the discussion. [The category ‘T vs F’ does not exist.]

So to the relativist, **no** religions are truly true! [But neither can they be false!] Certainly none are ‘true’ in any way that would exclude any *others* being true. They are all ‘true’ in that they all do more or less the same ‘job.’ That is, they express the deepest human longings for goodness. They are means for achieving social cohesion; they help hold societies together with a sense of unity and common purpose.

Just as you would never say that vanilla ice cream is the only ‘true ice cream’ and chocolate ice cream is ‘false ice cream’ simply because you *prefer* vanilla, so the relativist insists that you should never speak in such a way about your *religious* tastes and preferences. The deeper issues of True vs. False are shunned from the discussion.

How does relativism relate to pluralism? Simply put, **relativism disrespects pluralism**. Relativism *seems* to have high moral ground. It *seems* to celebrate the plurality of religious beliefs and be tolerant, non-judgmental, generous, and ‘enlightened.’ It *seems* to ‘celebrate and embrace the diversity’ of religious perspectives....

**But in fact**, the message of relativism is that it is the **one exclusive and correct way** to understand the full picture of religious diversity in the world. **In fact, relativism is extremely absolutist!**

**It arrogantly assumes for itself the very status it scorns when anybody else holds it.**

### **This Way Up The Mountain**

*The relativist is a closet absolutist.* You have heard the idea that ‘all religions are merely paths up the very same mountain.’ As a climber trudges up the mountain on his ‘preferred’ trail, he has no clue that there *are* countless *other* roads up the same mountain. When he finally gets to the summit and ‘sees God,’ the hiker realizes that he was not on an ‘exclusive’ road, but that there are lots of people on their way to God by diverse paths or religions.

This mountain analogy *sounds* very humble. It makes people who disagree with it feel ignorant, narrow-minded, and arrogant to think ‘their road is the only road.’ But the real question to ask is this – “Where exactly is the person standing who is describing this multi-trail mountain?” That person must be in an airplane in order to see the whole mountain. **Why is the relativist the only one who gets to have an airplane** when all others sweat and trudge up their roads in ignorance?

The relativist is not giving us a lovely picture of openness. The relativist is giving **ONE exclusive model** to understand ALL the religions of the world. **Relativism is a meta-religion** that forces all religions into its mold. It *sounds* rather humble to be willing to admit the fallibility of human knowing, but it produces a single vision of ultimate truth that **excludes** all other contenders. The relativist **claims an immaculate perception** of religious truth, but *at the same time* **denies** that anyone can have such a perspective! [That’s Self-Refuting at its best!]

**Relativism denies pluralism**, the idea that there are different options that differ substantially from each other. Relativism actually **destroys** pluralism. It homogenizes all differences so they are seen as basically the same. In the relativist’s own illustration, pluralism is represented by these poor people struggling up the road on the mountain, all of them in the same ignorance about what they are doing.

Think of what this means for specific religions. For instance, the Christian faith **affirms** a belief in a personal God. Buddhism **denies** a personal God. Relativism says that these two religions are really the same in their most basic convictions. This is blurring process obscures the real and crucial differences.

**For the relativist ‘all views are one view.’ All religions are equally valid paths to salvation. But here we must ask, what does salvation mean?**

## Salvation?

The different religions have very different views of salvation. Which salvation gets to be the one that we are talking about? For Buddhism salvation is *Nirvana*. The Buddhist finally leaves behind all his desires and even his experience of his individuality! Compare this to the Muslim view of salvation. At least for the terrorists of recent fame, it meant that they would be met by 72 virgins who would be committed to indulging their every desire.

**Whose salvation** are we talking about? Whose heaven? If you take the relativist line, you will have to acknowledge that we really cannot say anything about the nature of salvation because the moment a person does, that person has excluded somebody else's view. So the only thing to say is that we know nothing! But that doesn't get us very far. It is time we see the philosophical *and* spiritual **bankruptcy of relativism!** Or...what if salvation is merely defined as "enabling a truly moral life" or "keeping the forces of despair at bay"? The intriguing thing is that those statements do not sound like they are coming out of *any* of the world religions but more like tired old **liberal humanism** forced onto the plurality of world religions.


## In Defense of Pluralism

Christians need to be the ones defending pluralism against relativism. We need to defend the point that **there is a difference** among the religious options, and maintain that these differences are important.

**Why** are words like 'conversion' or 'proselytize' or 'missionary' so offensive today? It is not just because the people involved are belligerent and insensitive, because not all of them are. It is because the idea of conversion or proselytizing is offensive to the doctrines of relativism. If somebody converts, he or she is saying the options are not all the same – otherwise why would I change? You do not convert unless you believe there are real differences between the options available. The existence of any convert is testimony to the fact that those differences matter, and some conversions are enormously costly.

**Why** not change if you no longer believe your earlier convictions to be true? If they are important enough, why not even persuade somebody else to change, if you care about them? Isn't this true of every other area of knowledge? In history, economics, political science, medicine, physics – **there are crucial differences**. The health of those academic disciplines depends on free discussion about the differences in those fields. Because there is a plurality of views, people change their minds about affirmative action, tax cuts, global warming, counter-terrorist measures, and origins of the American Revolution. People change their views about all sorts of things and a good educational environment, and a free society, demands that conversions be possible. **Why** is conversion such a problem **only** when it comes to religious truth in our society? If there is real plurality, a real difference of religious options, then it is possible to be wrong and to be wrong in a way that matters a great deal. If there really are differences, it is possible to be so wrong that it can be catastrophic. We could, for example, be accountable to some far greater Being than ourselves. We could be entirely wrong as to how to approach that greater Being. We could miss out on whole realms of meaning in our life here on earth.

**If** there are real choices between religious options it raises some very uncomfortable questions. By contrast, relativism, which does not respect the plurality of religions, is very comforting. It tells us that it is impossible to be wrong in any way that matters. It is perfectly safe to be entirely wrong about God, or to totally ignore God and questions of God's existence and relevance. Different views are differences only in preference – vanilla, chocolate, coffee, whatever. This way of looking at things encourages people to **sleepwalk** through the biggest choices of their entire lives.

**It is Relativism that is the Opiate of the Masses.**  Especially in the modern university setting, where it deadens and discourages what could be enormously stimulating intellectual and spiritual discussion. Discussions of serious differences, however, too often are seen as dangerous and liable to 'offend' somebody. Discussion of difference is shunned out of the classroom as quickly as possible. But **if we respect** the plurality of religions, we'd say the **choice** between them is possible and necessary. (Here's where we need to be **Pro-Choice!**)

**God? No God? Which god?** These are important questions that everybody ought to grapple with. We need an atmosphere that facilitates asking these questions with integrity instead of burying them in shame and fear of *political incorrectness*.

Everyone is free to believe something that **excludes** my beliefs. btw, 🗨️ **Relativists do this all the time!** But, let's *help them admit* that they are excluding my beliefs. And *then* we can talk – one absolutist to another! *That's okay!* We can still be civil, we can care for each other, and we may even love each other! Only when **Truth vs. Falsehood** as a category *does* exist and *isn't* banished from the room, will we be able to have meaningful discourse. *That is* when we can have splendidly fruitful discussions together. And...

🗨️ **Even when we must 'agree to disagree', I find that we will always learn from one another.**

### Welcoming Meaningful Discourse

Anyone with *any* genuine conviction about God *has to* 'exclude' somebody else's view of God. To 'avoid' this is to try and deny the Law of Non-Contradiction...which is impossible without falling into utter self-refutation. Ergo –

If everyone would admit to being an absolutist, there could be much more fruitful conversation! We all hold some absolutes. We are all fundamentalists; it's simply a matter of what tenets are fundamental to us. If we could agree this far, then the discussion about Jesus Christ as the Only Way to God could be a discussion held on a level playing field. My hope is for an atmosphere in which the reality of pluralism can be put on the table, in which there can be a civil interaction of **different positions and their enormous implications**. This calls for courage to let questions be aired and discussed openly. We must welcome the open discussion.

In that discussion, Christians must be 'ready to give an answer for their hope with gentleness and with respect.' Nothing so quickly discredits the Christian message than it being 'proclaimed' in arrogance or with defensiveness, or even the conceited desire to 'win an argument.'

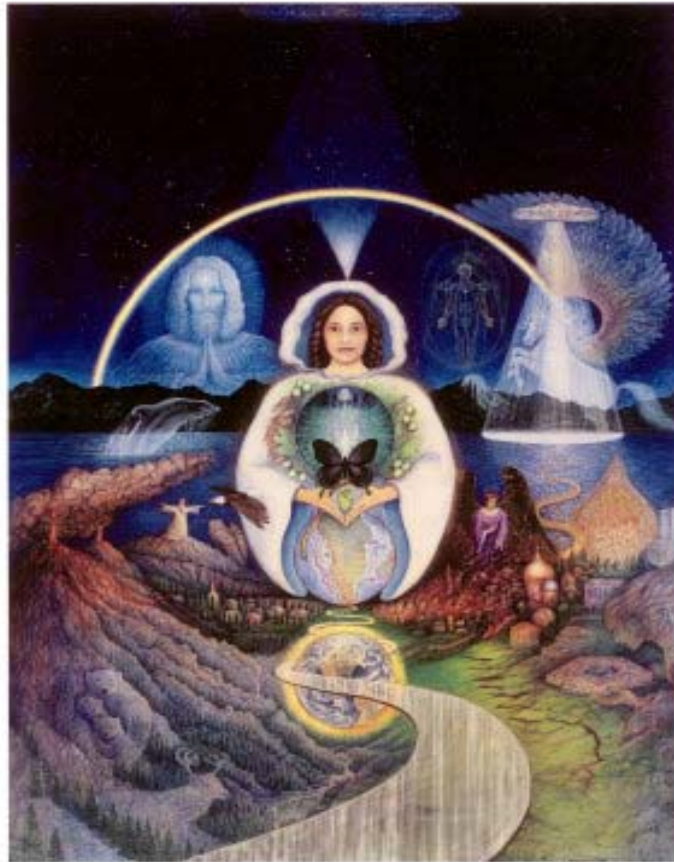


We may try to 'present' Christ, but remember we 'represent' Jesus! Therefore, we must temper our **passion for truth** with a **deep humility and graciousness**. Only then can we be a blessing to our neighbors in their 'universes next door.'

[The bumper sticker "God said it; I believe it; that settles it!" is not what we want. Let it be:  
"God said it, I believe it, let's discuss it!"]

# UNIT 8

## *THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT*



## WELCOME TO UNIT 8

# NEW AGE MOVEMENT

**READ:** Sire, Ch. 8.

And: “New Age: From a Biblical Viewpoint” by Mother Basilea Schlink, of blessed memory.

Mother Basilea, a German Bible Teacher who resisted Hitler, was the founder of *The Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary*

This unit is by far the most important of the entire course. Christians and non-Christians alike should be alarmed by these facts:

- ❑ Millions of people already **embrace** New Age ideology, and millions more **lack** the spiritual *and* the intellectual discernment to critique or resist it.
- ❑ Elite New Age ideologues *know* that uncritical pursuers of the *sweeter*-sounding ideals...  
(*e.g.* – seeking inner peace, world peace; realizing your full potential; loving nature, *etc.*)  
...And the countless uncritical practitioners of New Age techniques and fads...  
(*e.g.* – occult dabbling, TM, Yoga devotees, astrology readers, crystals, visualization, *etc.*)  
...Will end up assisting the elite in achieving their goals. The Elite calls them “*world servers.*”
- ❑ The beliefs and goals promoted by the New Age...  
Such as: *Altered States of Consciousness* and **SELF**–Deification...  
The Establishment of a **One World Religion and New World Order (Global Government)**...  
The Implementation of Alice A. Bailey’s ‘**The Plan**’ (*via* Luciferic Initiation...)  
...are *precisely* what the Bible warns us that the **Antichrist** will attempt!

Although *as a ‘movement’* it is seemingly indefinable, we will try to define it as thoroughly as we can.

We will:

Recognize its wildly *syncretistic* mix of worldview assumptions and beliefs

Acknowledge its goals, vision and techniques

Become familiar with some historical background and most influential leaders

Detect its panoramic impact in *every* academic field and upon *every* aspect of society

Recognize its increasing infiltration into Christianity

The New Age Movement can be seen as the greatest collective effort in history to try and create...

**“A Complete Paradigm Shift in Human Existence!” / “A Whole New World!”**

**THERE ARE SEVERAL STUDY AIDS!** (Because *with all due respect*, this is Sire’s **weakest** chapter!)

Lecture **Outline**, and a **Study Guide/Quiz** (to be filled in as you do your reading.)

Four ‘**Definitions**’ of the New Age Movement

What is Gnosticism?

Helena P. Blavatsky & Richard Wagner as the ‘Grandparents of the NAM’

**Chart:** “Anti-Theistic Variations on the Original Lies”

*Be Thankful for Truth and Aware of Deception* (Scriptural Warnings We Need to Heed!!)

# ANSWERS TO SEVEN BASIC QUESTIONS

According to the Variegated Worldview of: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What Is **ULTIMATE REALITY**? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What is the Nature of **EXTERNAL REALITY**? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What is a **Human Being**? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What Happens to a Human at **Death**? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. (How) is it Possible to Know Anything? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. How Do We Know Right from Wrong? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. What is the Purpose of (Human) History? \_\_\_\_\_

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# OUTLINE FOR THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT LECTURE SERIES

## 1. ASSUMPTIONS, GOALS, AND VISION:

a. Even on the level of ‘Basic **Assumptions**’ the NAM is *bluuurrrry*: It takes from the other ‘isms’.

It is a WV **SYNCRETISM**. [ “a sacred naturalism; a super-humanism; a personalized pantheism; a modernized animism”! ]

b. **Goal:** ( “New World Order”, “One World Religion”, A “Global Government” “Universalism” )  
= “GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION” Q. *How* will this transformation be attained?

Through Cosmic Consciousness? Define: \_\_\_ **And**...through the elimination of all obstacles!

c. **Vision:** A glorious new reality...a NEW AGE of peace, love, harmony, and wholeness.

Combine the above aspects into a well-informed ‘college level’ definition of the NAM.

Discuss: **NEW?** No, but yes! An evolutionary leap forward! **AGE?** Of Aquarius, superseding the Age of \_\_\_ !

**MOVEMENT?** A vast network... from the “elite” to the naïve — all will serve the agenda. The NAM is on the move!

## 2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND LEADERSHIP:

a. Ancient strands coalesce in 19<sup>th</sup> century and provide foundations for the 20<sup>th</sup> c. “launch.”

b. The term “N.A.” itself? c. The term: “Cosmic Consciousness”? Dr. Richard Bucke, 1901.

d. Note these four major trends necessary for the realization of New Age goals:

**Meld Ancient & Modern; Merge East and West; Revive Paganism; Eradicate JCBT’s God!**

Two significant forerunners. (The ‘Grandparents’ of the NAM):

Madame Helena Petrovna Blavatsky ( 1831-1891 ) Founded the THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, 1875

HPB’s teachings and ‘channeled’ writings are canonical...the ‘fundamentals of the (NAM’s) faith’!

*Isis Unveiled: A Master Key to the Mysteries of Ancient and Modern Science and Theology* *The Secret Doctrine*

HPB’s T.S. also spawned many other groups: “I AM”, Church Universal and Triumphant,

Many Aryan Destiny Cults like the Thule Society (which groomed Hitler)...and especially:

ALICE A. BAILEY, Arcane School, Triangles, Lucis Trust. Alice Bailey’s “THE PLAN”

Richard Wagner ( 1813-1883 ) Composer, Paganist, and Antisemite. Influenced Hitler.

Discuss: **Why** is antisemitism always a part of neo-paganist ideology and agendas?

Other ‘Keynote’ Leaders: Robert Muller; David Spangler; Benjamin Crème; Marilyn Ferguson; Barbara Marx Hubbard;  
John Randolph Price... Promoters of “*The Secret*”...Oprah Winfrey...and a host of others...

## 3. THE PANORAMIC INFLUENCE OF THE NAM:

NA ideology is espoused and its goals are being actively promoted in *every* area of society...not just religion but...politics, business, entertainment & the arts, sports, toys & games, medicine, education, etc.

**Psychology:** Transpersonal Psychology; Esalen and Arica Institutes (Humanism + E. Mysticism)

Carl G. Jung...*as popularized by Joseph Campbell* (The Power of Myth; Masks of Eternity)

**The Sciences:** “The Gaia Theory” Scientific Pantheism

**Geo-Politics:** Planetary Citizens; Share International; World Goodwill; Planetary Initiative for the World We Choose;  
The Declaration of Interdependence, etc. The United Nations!

**Other examples:** (Health & Alternative Medicines; Human Potential Movements; *etc.....*)

## 4. INFILTRATION INTO CHRISTIANITY:

Matthew Fox - *Creation Spirituality*; Mind Science Cults; The Positive Thinking Cult and Prosperity Teachers  
*A Course in Miracles*; Unity in Diversity; Ecumenism *Sans* Truth and The United Religions Initiative

What **criteria** do we use to discern pure unalloyed Gospel Truth from deceptive New Age Syncretism?

Discuss: Biblical Redemption *vs.* The Luciferic “PLAN” (Jesus the Jew *vs.* “Cosmic Christ Consciousness”)

## YOUR STUDY GUIDE FOR ALL READINGS ON THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

### The Radical Transformation of Human Nature

1. Beyond ordinary evolutionism, the *NAM* claims that human beings will evolve into \_\_\_\_\_. Since this will occur by attaining higher consciousness, list 3 ways by which *NAM* teachers advocate altering our minds:
- 

### The Panoramic Sweep of New Age Thought

2. a. Name five **academic** fields into which NA theorists have made serious inroads.

b. Give five examples of New Agey influence on our 'pop culture.'

3. Although New Age Spirituality is really as old as Eden, leading New Age promoters utilized the media and 'came out' (went public in a concerted way) in what year? \_\_\_\_\_. (Why is that year significant?)

### Relationship to other Worldviews and 'ISMS'

4. New Age Ideology is best described as a "WV \_\_\_\_\_"

5. What does the *NAM* take from **Naturalism**?

6. What does it 'take from' Christian and Jewish **Theism**?! [And what does it DO with what it takes?]

7. What does it take from **Eastern Pantheistic Monism**?

In what essential way does it **differ** from Eastern Religions? \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_ is the general view that underlies all primal, indigenous, cultic religious systems  
List several 'notions' (or practices) the *NAM* takes from these pagan cults?

How might these primitive notions be modernized or 'demythologized'? (Give an example.)

9. Define PAGANISM: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Define GNOSTICISM: \_\_\_\_\_

### Hints to help you answer the 7BOs according to the NAM [You may start with Sire's given 'tenet' - but **do** add more info.]

**Q1** (Prime Reality) — Sire Tenet 1. Each Divine Self is 'Ultimately' *part of* or *same as* The Divine 'Conscious' Cosmos.

**Q2** (External Reality) — Sire Tenets 2 & 5. The Cosmos is unified in the Self. Various 'versions' of reality...*all* are 'true'.

**Q3** (Human Being) — Sire Tenet 1. Self as God. [But some races are unable to evolve and must be eliminated.]

**Q4** (Death) — Sire Tenet 4. The Self 'transits' to a higher reality...or reincarnates...or finally realizes its divinity, *etc.*

**Q5** (Knowledge) — Sire Tenets 3 & 5. Cosmic Consciousness is *beyond* all distinctions! Total Conceptual Relativism.  
Knowledge is '*symbolic fiction*' because reality is *whatever* the Creative-Self wants it to be...*etc.*

**Q6** (Right & Wrong) — Sire Tenets 1 & 3. Oneness negates all distinctions. The Self *as god* defines good/evil as he 'wills.'

**Q7** (History's Purpose) — All! Evolutionary Transformation into 'super-human' divine-cosmic beings *thus* a **new age**.

**Your NAM Study Guide continues on the next page (#s 11 through 20)**

 **The NAM vs. the Biblical Worldview**

11. A **closed** universe, even if it is 'divine', has **no** real distinction between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Spirit-beings do exist, in *both* animistic *and* theistic religions. But, the Bible is quite clear on what our attitude/actions toward them should be. Explain the important difference between Biblical Christianity and the **NAM** regarding angels, demons, & spirits: (You might include specific Bible verses.)

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13. In what way can **radical feminism** be linked to **NAM** spirituality?: (What is the **WV** link?)

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14. **NAM** leaders, historically *and* presently, are grossly **antisemitic**...to the point of being genocidal. **Why** would that be? (Try to explain in some depth...this matter is usually ignored in Christian critiques.)

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15. Make a chart contrasting some key Biblical truths and their Occult-Pagan **counterfeits**: [Be specific.]

_____	}
_____	}
_____	}
_____	}
_____	}

16. Does the Bible teach *anything* about a "**New Age**"? (How about 'new' humans?!)

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17. Where can you find **explicit warnings** about spiritual deception, false prophets, *even* false 'Christs'?

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. "There is **NO** GOD" ... "**ALL** is GOD" ... and "**YOU ARE** GOD" sound a bit like tempting variations on:

- A. Anti-God falsehoods uttered by the Serpent as recorded in Genesis
- B. The Hegelian Dialectical view of Ultimate Reality/Absolute Spirit
- C. Mediumistic messages channeled through Ms. Shirley MacLaine

- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. The sweetly worded *Great Invocation*, published in 1945, (and printed in the Reader's Digest in the 1980s!) **IS**:

- A. a rather sentimental but harmless Ecumenical Prayer for our religiously pluralistic society.
- B. an initiation prayer to herald the coming "The World Teacher" and help implement "**The Plan**."
- C. an updated positive 'Lord's Prayer' (like Robert Schuller's "Be-Happy-Attitudes" instead of The Beatitudes!) 😊
- D. a completely non-religious pledge that invokes human responsibility and timely global cooperation.

20. Name any 'celebrity' (either a contemporary **or** historical personage) that blends Christianity with the **NAM**.

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## DEFINING THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT



A vast and growing network of personalities and groups invisibly connected by their  
Worldview Synthesis of **PAGANISM, GNOSTICISM, SPIRITUALISM,**  
**PANTHEISTIC – MONISM, and HUMAN DEIFICATION.**

With a colorful array of fads and techniques, they fervently promote  
**‘MASS COSMIC CONSCIOUSNESS’** so as to effectuate **‘GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION.’**  
They work toward a **‘ONE WORLD RELIGION / NEW WORLD ORDER’** so as to inaugurate a  
harmonious-glorious **NEW AGE** of world peace, and full human spiritual anthesis.

*A mushrooming propaganda movement espousing a mystical ideology drawn from ancient mythologies, eastern religions, and witchcraft. These idolatrous elements are syncretized with pseudo-scientific pantheism and political globalism. The serious members of this amorphous movement actively advocate an elite-led universal totalitarian system that will impose unification and will eliminate all obstacles by ‘planetary cleansing.’ (Genocide!)*

“There is One Spirit pervading the whole world and indwelling all things.  
There is One Perennial Truth with myriad variations.  
All things are evolving toward universal realization of this celestial essence.  
All strife on earth will cease when we all envision this Divine Unity.  
Many ‘enlightened sages’ have appeared through the ages, but soon and very soon...  
...The World Teacher will arrive and a blissful New Age will be birthed.”

A dangerously proliferating web of deceivers and their deceived followers.

In a wildly successful variety of ways they are:

Profaning the Holy Name and character of the Judeo-Christian God.  
Substituting “Cosmic Christ Consciousness” for the real Jesus Christ.  
Repackaging and extending the original Lies of Satan.  
Offering a completely **Counterfeit “PLAN”** for world redemption.

## WHAT is GNOSTICISM?

No scholarly consensus on its **exact origins**. (Maybe *pre-Christian*, but flourished in 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> c. and endured for centuries.)

Was wildly **diverse** as to its communities, expressions, lifestyles & teachers. Thus ‘Gnosticism’ refers to a variety of Hellenistic Era religious groups, not one unified movement. [See: Cerinthus; Marcion; Basilides; Valentinus...]

Had been known to us mostly through writings of the early Church Fathers (who were writing *against* them.)

Gnostic challenges and competition necessitated Scripture’s **canon-setting** for Christianity.

Now, due to the *Nag Hammadi* cache (53 treatises) found in Egypt in 1946, much more is known.

For *this* course we are especially interested in the nature of the **Gnostic Worldview**, how their teachings were never *entirely* eliminated from Christian culture, and most of all...

...how we must respond to today’s widespread infatuation with the **Gnostic Gospels**.

They are wrongly deemed more ‘original’ (thus ‘truer’) than the NT regarding salvation and **‘The Christ!’**

‘They offer the truest meanings of Jesus’ teachings, which were repressed by the imperious Church hierarchy.’

We are also concerned that **Gnosticism as an approach to spirituality** is enjoying a revival today.

**Look at Carl Gustav Jung’s via Joseph Campbell’s impact on Oprah and the ‘New Age’, for example.**

As a belief system or worldview it is based upon radical Platonic ontological **DUALISM**:

[**Spirit** is pure, righteous and good ... and **Matter** is impure and punitive.]

In such ‘Spirit *vs.* Matter; Good *vs.* Evil; Light *vs.* Darkness’ models we can see similarities with Manichaeism and other *dualistic* religious systems.

Beliefs & practices center on the idea of **Salvation via Knowledge**...[*gnosis*]

**Not just any knowledge, but secret, esoteric knowledge about the supreme Spirit Being.**

This enables the human spirit (as a spark of divinity) to escape this bodily prison...which may only be *illusory*...having *lesser* reality! (Hmm...what does that sound like!?)

For a Gnostic disciple, the goal of life is to discover reality *via* hidden spiritual insights while denigrating bodily experiences and perceptions. A Gnostic abhors ‘literal’ interpretations and dusty historical facts.

Gnostics may be either severely ascetic (deny body) or libertine (body isn’t real anyway!)

**Philosophically**, this dualism relates to our old problem of **APPEARANCE vs. REALITY!**

A Gnostic would deem True Reality to be radically *other than* and far *superior to* the way things “appear” to us in the evil material world. Thus: The Only True Reality is Pure, untainted SPIRIT.

**Theologically**, this dualism has disastrous results for **Biblical interpretation**. Take two simple examples:

**CREATION.....Good or Evil?**

A Gnostic teacher, interpreting in a Greek-dualistic frame (rather than through the God-given lenses of Hebraic Holism) says that the world of history and phenomenal experience was actually created by a lesser god...an evil god!

Human spirits are trapped here and must be released to rejoin the True God of Pure Spirit.

**JESUS CHRIST.....Jewish Redeemer or Docetic ‘Way-Shower’ and ‘Spirit-Guide’?**

A Gnostic sees Jesus as more of an *avatar* sent to awaken us to the fact that we are divine beings.

**The Christ** didn’t really become a man, for he ‘emerged’ from pure spirit and bodies are inherently evil.

He only *appeared* like a man, so as to deliver his spiritual esoteric teachings.

He also came to repudiate and condemn the earthy ‘carnality’ of Judaism.

Even if you already knew all of the above information, what follows is too often neglected. Yet it is absolutely essential for us to recognize the inherently Anti-Judaic nature of all such esoterica.

**Gnostic Christianity is virulently anti-Judaic and antisemitic!**

Since the God of the Jews is himself deemed to be evil, so is the religion and so are the People! Gnostic Christianity tears ‘**God the Father**’ and ‘**Jesus the Christ**’ apart from each other. This denies God as the Creator. It denies incarnational redemption, and profanes The Holy One of Israel. Such radical dualism pits the “OT vs. NT” covenants *against* each other. It destroys the rich theological continuity of the Biblical narrative, thus setting up grossly exaggerated dichotomies and antitheses such as:

‘Judgment vs. Love      Judaism vs. Christianity      Israel vs. Church  
Works vs. Faith      Law vs. Gospel      Wrath vs. Grace’...etc.

Bishop **Marcion** (In Rome, c 140-160) rejected all of the Hebrew Scriptures (OT) and many of the Apostolic Writings (NT) as too “Judaistic.” He was excommunicated, but his movement lasted for many centuries.

We need to be aware and understand the appeal of Perennial Neo-Marcionism! (They have websites if you dare!)

Educated Christians do know something about the Neo-Gnostic challenge to the true Gospel of *Christ*. But, they are usually ignorant about the deeply *anti-Judaic* nature of Gnosticism. They also fail to see the theological correlation between Replacement Theology and Gnostic anti-historical interpretations of scripture.

Again, without being firmly rooted in the Olive Tree of *Israel* and the historic community of our faith...we cannot have a fully Biblical worldview. **We must keep the *Judeo* in Judeo-Christian Biblical Theism!**

**Whenever Christians are arrogant toward Jews and Judaism...whenever Christians downplay the Hebrew Scriptures or allegorize them away...wherever Christians teach that the Church replaced Israel... Then I’m afraid Gnosticism is alive and well...and Marcion is in our midst.**

Please realize that anti-Judaic Gnostic Christianity is embraced by Neo-pagan ‘New Age’ syncretism. We should also be astutely aware of *why* that is the case! **This insight is a key aspect of a truly Biblical WV!** **If** we come to realize the demonic nature of antisemitism: hatred toward the Jews (God’s Chosen People)...

**Then** we can discern Satan’s ploy to enfeeble the Church by deceiving it into rootlessness.

And we will recognize *why* all efforts to syncretize and ‘paganize’ Christianity today will include infecting it with anti-Judaism and antisemitism!

Satan’s ploys aren’t really *new*...but we always seem to fall for the ‘*Neo*.’



Marcion



Seeking Higher Light



Gnostic Bumper Sticker



Gnostic T-Shirt

**THE GRANDMOTHER AND GRANDFATHER  
OF THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT**



Spiritualist, Authoress, and Founder of the Theosophical Society —

***MADAME HELENA PETROVNA BLAVATSKY***

1831 – 1891

*AND*

Composer, Essayist, Arch-Paganist, and Hateful Antisemite —

***RICHARD WAGNER***

1813 – 1883

## HELENA PETROVNA BLAVATSKY (1831 – 1891)



‘Madame’ Blavatsky was a Russian-Ukrainian aristocrat who fled an unhappy marriage at age 17 and traveled extensively around Europe and India. She discovered she had the ability to be a ‘spirit-medium.’ Holding séances and performing enchanting displays of her psychic powers gained her great notoriety in her own time. ‘HPB’ was a flamboyant character who would be appearing frequently on *Oprah* if she were with us today! But it is *not* for her formidable eccentric personage that she is our choice for the...

**“GREAT-GRANDMOTHER OF THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT.”**

It is because of the lasting impact of her writings, and her Society and its many spawns. Her apartment in New York City (called the “Lamasery”) became a famed magnet for spiritualists, an ‘HQ’ for serious occultists. (Along with other curious decor, Blavatsky displayed a stuffed baboon wearing eyeglasses and holding a copy of Darwin’s *Origin of the Species*!) HPB smoked 100 cigarettes a day and could hold audiences spell-bound with her deep raspy voice, exotic Russian accent and of course, her *astounding* erudition.

In NYC in 1875, along with her faithful companion Colonel Henry Olcott, she established the **THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY**. The term *theosophy* (from: *theo* – god; *sophia* – knowledge) connotes the **Eternal Wisdom of Ultimate Reality**. Of course, to a theosophist Ultimate Reality was the Absolute Cosmic Soul. The wisdom emanating from this Divine Source has become embodied in all kinds of esoteric-gnostic teachings about ‘Ageless Truth.’ And, to Blavatsky, what is this ‘eternal truth’? It is: The “truth” **above all and in all** world religions, combined with the sum-total of scientific knowledge of the Cosmos. *That* is the meaning of HPB’s favorite motto: **“There is No Religion Higher than Truth.”**



*To the Theosophical Society of the United States with HPB's & H.O.'s good wishes London, October 1888.*

HPB penned a magnum opus for her society of disciples claiming that it was ‘channeled’ to her from spirit-entities identified as: **‘The Great White Brotherhood’ (of ‘Ascended Masters’)**. This ‘classic compendium of syncretism,’ published in 1877, has an aptly descriptive title!

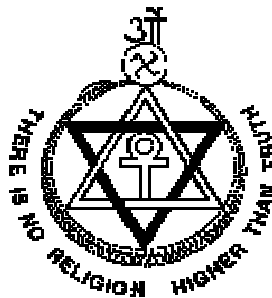
**ISIS UNVEILED: A Master Key To The Mysteries of Ancient and Modern Science and Theology.**



Blavatsky was investigated for ‘fraudulence’ by the British Society for Psychical Research but it really doesn’t matter whether her séances were ‘staged’ or not. What matters is her enduring – and **horrifying** – influence. In 1888 she published **THE SECRET DOCTRINE** and it was a well-marked favorite in Hitler’s library.



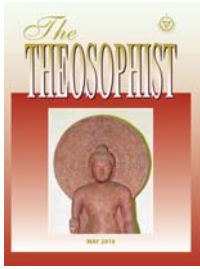
Although blending all of the world religions into one *seems* like a testament to ‘highest truth’ and *seems* like it would be a ‘peaceful’ effort, we must realize the insidious **danger** inherent in such movements. Notice the serpent (symbol of monist-eternity) and the ‘swastika’ (Hindu symbol of life-power) in the Theosophical Society’s emblem.



Her ‘writings’ are virtually canonical to the NAM. Her ‘parental’ significance is proven when we consider today’s heightened interest in *everything* that she espoused! [Neo-Gnosticism. The Occult. Eastern Mysticism. Reincarnation. Atlantis Myths. Racist-Evolution. A Synthesis of Science and Spirituality. And most importantly...**A Luciferic One World Religion!**]

**HPB taught all of that! Her profound impact on paganist worldviews can hardly be overstated.**

The original **Theosophical Society** thrives today (HQ in Adyar, India) and still publishes HPB's works.



As an organization, it has undergone the typical leadership squabbles and schisms... (The Universal Brotherhood, *f.* 1898; United Lodge of Theosophists, *f.* 1907; Halcyon Temple of the People, The Rosicrucian Fellowship ...and a multiplicity of further 'subdivisions' of all those!)

The **TS** has spawned countless organizational offshoots. Syncretistic-occultic teachings are being promoted today by *untold thousands* who were influenced by Blavatsky and by her many spiritual descendents...some of whom are absolutely horrifying.

Of particular importance for this unit on the **New Age Movement** are the following groups and people:

**The "I AM" Activity** ("I AM" comes from the Sanskrit mantra "**SO HAM**" which means "I AM THAT I AM.")

Founded by 'channelers' Guy and Edna Ballard in the 1930s / Now under the Saint Germain Foundation

Considers itself 'Christian' because 'Jesus' is *one of* the Ascended Masters (spirit-beings who have completed their cycle of reincarnations.)! Teaches that we all can become an Ascended Master via affirmations and meditation.

The 'Omnipresent I AM' of Exodus 3:14 is manifest as each person's Higher Self...*We all have a spark of the Divine Flame.*

The blatant **self-deification** of today has roots in such movements. Ms. MacLaine doesn't have anything new!

**Rudolph Steiner's Anthroposophy** / Waldorf School [See also: Archeosophy, Psychosophy...]

**The "Church Universal and Triumphant"** / The Summit Lighthouse

Founded by Mark and Elizabeth Clare Prophet in 1952. Mark had been a Rosicrucian, Elizabeth was brought up in Christian Science. Both imbibed Theosophical ideas of **Ascended Masters**, reincarnation, and religious syncretism.

**The Thule Society** ('Thule' refers to a mythical island, a lost civilization created by a superior race.)

The Mystical Aryan-Racist Occult organization that *personally* groomed Adolf Hitler for leadership.

Thule members were prominent in the infamous **SS**. But, even *before* Hitler and the Nazis, there were many such **Ariosophy Cults** that preached Aryan Supremacy and genocidal antisemitism.

**Note:** Concerned for his 'public image,' Hitler distanced himself from Theosophists and other occult groups even though he was helped and inspired by them! (Nevertheless, Alice Bailey still praised the Nazis!)

People wish to dissimulate the connection between the **TS** and the **Nazi** attempt to annihilate the Jews.

But think about the diabolical worldview that emerges if you blend HPB's Theosophy [which is already a lethal mixture of anti-Jewish Gnostic Christianity, pantheistic-monism, and the Spiritual-Evolutionary **ROOT RACE THEORY** (that primitive races must be eliminated for superior races to advance)] together

with other Aryan mythologies. *In other words, mix Theosophy well and you get Ariosophy!*

[A perennial consequence of man's own quest for divinity is a hatred for the one true God – the God of the Jews.]



Helene Blavatsky



Annie Besant



Alice Bailey

**HPB's successor Annie Besant** (who proclaimed **Jiddu Krishnamurti** as the messianic 'World Teacher.')

But probably *the most important* Theosophist of all was the spiritualist **Alice A. Bailey** (1880 – 1949)

She established the **Arcane School** and the **Lucifer Publishing Company** (now called Lucis Trust.) See **The PLAN**.

## RICHARD WAGNER (1813 – 1883)

You may already know Wagner as the peerless genius who singlehandedly revolutionized **Music History**.

But did you know what else he revolutionized and stirred?

Wagner was also an arch-paganist...an arrogant, hateful racist who horrifically impacted **World History**.

His *Der Ring des Nibelungen* is the lengthiest work in all of music history. (17 hours long!) Some other famed operas are: *Die Gotterdammerung*; *Das Rheingold*; *Die Walkure*; *Siegfried*; and *Parsifal*, which is still performed every Good Friday, even though its hero is a paganist version of Christ! Early in his career, Hitler even said:

*“Out of Parsifal I will build my religion...all the solemnity of the mass without all the theological bickering.”*

Yes, RW was a rabid antisemite whose musical ideology inspired Adolf Hitler like no other predecessor did.

But...would he really have wished to? A very convincing case can be made that indeed, he would have!

Unlike other opera composers, RW penned his own libretti. (The words.)

He created these huge ‘musical dramas’ with intense passion and even with a ‘prophetic’ sense of purpose and destiny. Those fans who think they can distinguish between Wagner’s art and his ideas need to know that he actually detested opera-goers who only attended for an entertaining diversion! He intended to prompt a shift in human history and to ‘reawaken’ Germans to their divine mission. That ‘mission’ was to free mankind from shackles of Biblical morality, to enthrone man’s basic instincts.

His operas are so bombastic and so powerful that it was once believed that they could ‘induce madness’! Tragically, they did. Mad unprecedented terror.

*“I have enormous desire to create acts of musical terrorism.” - RW*

Lest anyone suggest that the racist paganism is a *mis*interpretation of Wagner, his invidious antisemitic philosophy can also be found in his vast corpus of essays and correspondence. (He wrote as many words as music notes! Hitler memorized entire portions from the essays.) These writings extolled the romantic ideals of pure German blood and idyllic earthy existence as over against Jewish materialism and corruption. He conceived of Jews as “the evil demon causing man’s downfall,” he fantastically envisioned their extinction, and he believed that Germany’s superior Aryan civilization would have to ‘save’ world civilization!



His family and followers comprised a kind of ‘cult’ based in Bavaria. It served as a “cultural center” for Aryanism & Antisemitism. His second wife Cosima (Franz Liszt’s daughter!) was the trustee of his estate for 47 years and hated Jews as much as RW did. She and their son-in-law, the racist pseudo-historian Houston Stewart Chamberlain, established Wagnerian ‘cults’ which spread internationally and fanned the flames of genocidal antisemitism. RW’s daughter-in-law Winifred was one of the very first members of the Nazi Party. She was a close patroness who financially supported Hitler’s rise to power and considered him to be the German “savior.” (She provided the very paper that *Mein Kampf* was written on!)

Hitler turned RW’s fantasies into the grizzliest reality the world has ever seen. He believed he was called to do so. No, you don’t get Nazism from *mis*construing Wagner’s ‘art’...but from taking it literally!



Wieland Wagner

Adolf Hitler

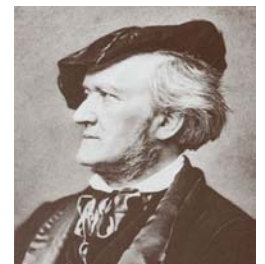
Wolfgang Wagner

*“Hating Jews is as necessary to my nature as gall is to blood.” - RW*

*“Hatred is the purest passion.” - RW*

*“You will never understand Nazism unless you first understand Wagner.”*

- Adolf Hitler



But, the one thing RW said that is true and should awaken us is: \_\_\_\_\_

**ANTI-THEISTIC VARIATIONS ON THE ORIGINAL LIES**

<b>The Serpent said:</b>	<b>Naturalism</b>	<b>Eastern Pantheistic Monism</b>	<b>New Age Paganism</b>
<p>[Read Gen. 3: 1-5]  <b>“You will be like God”</b>                      (So who needs Him? We can take His place.)</p>	<p><b>There is NO GOD.</b>                      Reasonable minds look to other means for hope and survival.                      Humans are sovereign.                      “We are convinced that the time has passed for Theism...we consider the complete realization of human personality to be the goal of life.” ~ H.M.</p>	<p><b>ALL is God and ALL is One.</b>                      “Atman is Brahman”                      “Tat tvam asi”                      (That thou art)                      We are already god or a part of god or the part of us that really exists is god because all that exists is god but what is god...not this, not this, but everything...hmmmm...</p>	<p><b>You ARE GOD!</b>                      “Know that you are God; know that you are the universe.”                      ~ Shirley MacLaine                      “I am now the Life of a new heaven and a new earth. Others must draw upon me and unite with Me to build its forms...I have revealed Myself in new Light and new Truth.”                      ~ David Spangler</p>
<p><b>“You will not die”</b>                      (So death is no big deal and surely, we have no need to fear Judgment.)</p>	<p>“Man is a part of nature and has emerged as a result of natural processes.” Death is part of natural process...merely the cessation of individual consciousness, so nothing to fear.                      “Where you are, death is not. Where death is, you are not.” ~ Epicurus                      “Seek fulfillment in the here and now.”</p>	<p>Bodies are not really real so death is not really real. Atman is eternal but must be continually reincarnated in these illusory but suffering embodiments until it finally realizes that it is and always has been Brahman...</p>	<p>Spiritual evolution into divinity via reincarnation and altered states of consciousness.                      Occultic view of death, dying and the afterlife.                      “Death is my gateway to the light.”</p>
<p><b>“Your eyes will open”</b>                      (So we can have all the knowledge we need to be wise in our own eyes and control the world.)</p>	<p>“We can use the scientific empirical method and autonomous reason to gain ever-increasing knowledge of the universe.                      Technology and socialized education will solve all human problems.</p>	<p>Actually, close your eyes for there is nothing to see, all is illusion...look within and find enlightenment.                      Practice whatever helps you renounce finite existence for the infinite...yoga, T.M., severe asceticism, etc.                      Salvation is enlightenment, nirvana, moksha.</p>	<p>We must seek after esoteric knowledge:                      Gnosticism                      Horoscopes                      Theosophy                      Visualization                      Channeling                      “You are the light of the world.”</p>
<p><b>“You will know good and evil”</b>                      (So we are morally independent from God and can decide for ourselves what is right and wrong.)</p>	<p>Humans alone devise value systems. Morals are relative to culture and era. Situational Ethics will suffice.                      There is no absolute or outside standard to appeal to...we have our common humanity as an absolute.                      Whatever helps us survive is good.</p>	<p>There are no real distinctions. (There is like an eternal moral order whereby you collect negative or positive Karma which determines your next reincarnation.)                      “Good and Evil have no absolute reality.”                      ~ Swami Adbhutananda                      “If God is One, what is bad?”                      ~ Charles Manson</p>	<p>Higher consciousness takes you beyond all distinctions...there IS no such thing as good and evil, or light and darkness.                      “Go ahead! Mix what you call the profane and the profound. See there is no difference...experience all as One. You know the whole truth: You are whole because you are always part of God...”                      ~ Neale D. Walsch</p>

## BE HEARTILY THANKFUL FOR TRUTH BE KEENLY AWARE OF DECEPTION



“Hear Oh Israel: The Lord our God is God Alone. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might.” Deuteronomy 6: 4 *Shema Yisrael, Adonai Elohenu, Adonai Echad!*

“I am the Lord your God... You shall have no other gods before me... You shall not make for yourself an idol in any form (*not even conceptual!*)... You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.” Exodus 20: 2 – 7

“Let no one be found among you who makes his son or daughter pass through fire, no augur or soothsayer or diviner or sorcerer, no one who casts spells or traffics with ghosts and spirits, and no necromancer. (*Necromancy is contacting the dead for oracles and advice.*) Those who do these things are abominable to the Lord. You shall be wholehearted in your service of the Lord your God.” See Deuteronomy 18: 10

“Do not turn to mediums or spiritualists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God.”  
See Leviticus 19: 31 and I Chronicles 10: 13; also II Kings 21: 5 & 23: 24

“When men tell you to consult mediums (*Helena Blavatsky*) and spiritualists (*Alice Bailey*) who whisper and mutter, shouldn't a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? **Go the Torah and the testimony!** If they do not speak according to this WORD, they have no light of dawn.” See Isaiah 8: 19, 20

“They boast of their wisdom but have made fools of themselves, exchanging the splendor of immortal God for an image shaped like mortal man... even like birds, beasts and creeping things... They have bartered away the true God for a false one, and have offered worship to created things instead of the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.” See Romans 1: 22 – 25

“Do not trust any and every spirit, my friends; **test the spirits**, to see whether they are from God, for among those who have gone out into the world there are many false prophets. This is how we may recognize the Spirit of God: every spirit which acknowledges that Jesus the Messiah has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit which does not thus acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is what is meant by ‘Anti-Christ...’” See I John 4: 1 – 5: 5

“Do not think I am giving a new command; I am recalling the one we have had before us from the beginning: Let us love one another. And love means following the commandments of God. ... this is your rule of life. Many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not acknowledge **Jesus the Messiah** as coming in the flesh. These are the persons described as the **Anti-Christ, the arch-Deceiver!** Beware of them...” See II John 4 – 8

“Israel had false prophets as well as true; and you will likewise have false teachers among you. They will import disastrous heresies; disowning the very master who bought them... they will gain many adherents...” See II Peter 2: 1 – 3

“The time has come for the judgment to begin; it is beginning with God's own household.” See I Peter 4.

“Anyone can see the kind of behavior that belongs to the lower nature: fornication, impurity, and indecency; idolatry and sorcery...

...I warn you that those who behave in such ways will never inherit the kingdom of God.” See Galatians 5: 19

“Therefore, since Jesus was delivered to you as Messiah and Lord, live your lives in union with Him. Be rooted in Him; be built in Him; be consolidated in the faith you were taught; let your hearts overflow with thankfulness.

**Be on your guard!**

Do not let your minds be captivated by hollow delusive speculations that are based upon man-made teaching and centered on the elemental spirits of the universe (*Cosmic Energy, Christ Consciousness, etc.*) and not on Jesus. For it is in Jesus the Messiah that the **complete (not still evolving)** being of the Godhead bodily dwells, and in Him you have been brought to completion. Every power and authority in the universe is subject to him as Head.” Colossians 2: 6 – 10

“What will be the sign when fulfillment... is on hand? Jesus said: ‘**Take care that no one misleads you.** Many will come claiming my name, and saying, “I am he”; (*Jiddu Krishnamurti, David Spangler, Benjamin Crème, ACIM*) and many will be misled by them.’ ...

Then if anyone says to you, “Look, here is the Messiah”, or, “Look, there he is”, do not believe it. **Imposters will come...** and they will produce signs and wonders... But be on your guard; I have forewarned you of it all!” See Mark 13: 3 – 8

“... About the coming of the Lord Jesus and His gathering of us to himself: I beg you, do not suddenly lose your heads or alarm yourselves, whether at some oracle or pronouncement, or some letter claiming to be from us, alleging that the Day of the Lord is already here. Let no one deceive you in any way whatever. That day cannot come before the final rebellion against God, when wickedness will be revealed in human form... He is the Enemy. He rises in his pride against every god, so called, every object of men’s worship, and even takes his seat in the temple of God claiming to be a god himself. ... the coming of that wicked man is the work of Satan. It will be attended by all the powerful signs and miracles of the **LIE**, and all the deception that sinfulness brings...” See II Thessalonians 2

**“Every inspired scripture has its use for teaching the TRUTH and refuting error;** and for reformation and discipline in righteous living, so that the man who belongs to God may be equipped for all good works.

Before God and before the Lord Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead...

I charge you solemnly by His coming appearance and His reign – **proclaim the message!**

Press it home on all occasions convenient or inconvenient. **Use argument, reproof, and appeal (and of course, Worldview Studies ) with all the patience that the work requires.**

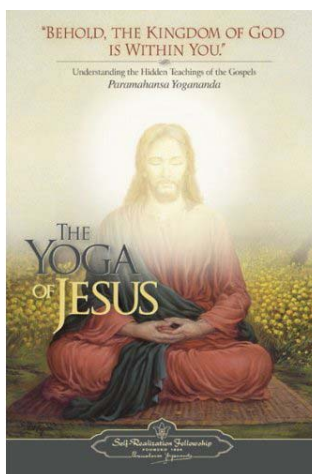


For the time will come (*and it has on TBN and Oprah*) when they will not tolerate wholesome teaching, but will follow their own fancy and gather a crowd of teachers to tickle their ears.

**They will close their ears to the TRUTH and turn to MYTHOLOGY.**

But you yourself must keep calm and sane at all times; face hardship, work to spread the Gospel, and fulfill the duties of your calling.” See II Timothy 3: 12 – 4: 5

“The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.” See I Timothy 4: 1



See also: Ephesians 2: 1 – 11 and 4: 14 – 16. Ecclesiastes 3: 2 and Hebrews 9: 27 (**Not Reincarnation!**) James 4: 7

**NEW AGE**  
**From a Biblical Viewpoint**  
*M. Basilea Schlink*  
(1988)

**Healing for the World?**

New Age – a term giving rise to much comment in newspapers, magazines, television programmes and at conferences. A new age? Yes, this is what mankind desires, because the shortcomings of the present age are becoming more and more evident. In late December 1986 a leaflet entitled World Healing Meditation came my way. Healing for our sick world - isn't this precisely what everyone longs for? Of course, as Christians we know that healing can come from God alone, from Him who created the world and saved it through His Son. The meditation appears to begin in a biblical vein: In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

But then it continues:

Now is the time of the new beginning. . . Let mankind be returned to God kind... The healing has taken place, and the world is restored to sanity. This is the beginning of Peace on Earth and Good Will toward all, as Love flows forth from every heart, forgiveness reigns in every soul, and all hearts and minds are one in perfect understanding. It is done. And it is so.

In a letter accompanying this meditation there were sentences such as: "What great opportunities are opening up! How wonderful to be united universally, transmitting light, love and thoughts of peace into all the world - to one and all, to everything that exists in God." Commenting on this, the sender added the words: "Please pray with us, so that the spirit of Jesus Christ might come into force."

But is this really something by which "the spirit of Jesus Christ might come into force"? What is behind it all? As part of an event known as the World Healing Day or World Instant of Co-operation, the meditation was simultaneously held by New Age groups and centres around the world at noon (Greenwich Mean Time) on December 31, 1986, in order to strengthen the "force field". Among other things the meditator declares:

I am co-creator with God, and it is a new Heaven that comes, as the Good Will of God is expressed on Earth through me... In Truth, I am the Christ of God... God Is all and all Is God. . . I am the Light of the world... And now from the Light of the world, the One Presence and Power of the Universe responds... I am seeing the salvation of the planet before my very eyes, as all false beliefs and error patterns are dissolved.

These few samples of New Age writing, in spite of a Christian veneer, clearly demonstrate what a delusion is at work here.

**New Age - A Closer Look**

New Age - since 1984 I have come across this term with growing frequency. Sensing that this was a major end-time delusion, I paid close attention. But since December 1986 I have felt impelled to study it more thoroughly, because this deception is now taking great strides forward. Information on this topic kept arriving from various countries where branches of our Sisterhood are located.

The spectrum of the New Age Movement is so vast that only the most essential points can be highlighted here. A good source of information about the background and dangers of the New Age Movement is Constance Cumbey's book *The Hidden Dangers of the Rainbow*, to which I shall mainly refer.

**The Nature of  
the New Age Movement**

The New Age Movement is expanding rapidly. In this country, West Germany, it has already acquired an estimated 500,000 followers, as well as countless numbers of sympathizers. A world wide network of many thousands of co-operating organizations, the New Age Movement aims primarily at the formation of a "New World Order" marked by "group consciousness" and "synergy" (combined action). This is the secret behind its "unity-in-diversity".

Basic to the New Age system is the belief in an "inner government" of our planet by a hierarchy of spirits or "masters of wisdom", who are in reality demonic beings.

The New Age Movement is a synthesis of eastern religions and the old "Mystery Teachings", and a combination of gnosticism and spiritism, based on esoteric (secret) teachings transmitted by demonic entities. This accounts for the varied forms of occultism it includes, such as clairvoyance, astrology, hypnosis, UFOlogy and yoga practices, plus mythology, pantheism, the belief in reincarnation and a renaissance of witchcraft. Consequently, the aspired New World Order has no room for the God of the Christians: in His place Lucifer is to be enthroned. Ultimately, the driving force behind the New Age Movement is nothing other than Lucifer's desire to be worshipped as God.

### **Historical Aspects of the New Age Movement**

The New Age Movement traces its modern roots to the Theosophical Society, founded in 1875, in New York, by Russian-born Helena Petrovna Blavatsky. "A basic teaching of this organization was that all world religions had 'common truths' that transcended potential differences." The members "believed in the existence of 'masters' who were either spirit beings or fortunate men more highly 'evolved' than the common herd"<sup>1</sup> - in other words, especially illuminated persons.

One of the main figures to emerge from the Theosophical Society was Alice A. Bailey (1880-1949), an Englishwoman who emigrated to America. She laid the real foundations of the New Age Movement and is regarded as their high priestess. As a spiritist medium she received messages from a so-called master of wisdom, the Tibetan Djwal Khul. These messages, which she wrote under dictation from this demonic being, were published in numerous books. Her secret teachings, which to this day are followed minutely in New Age circles, set forth "The Plan".

### **Coming into the Open**

According to secret instructions the Movement was to keep out of the public eye until 1975. Then it was to come into the open and even disclose the very fact and nature of The Plan for the New World Order. From that point onwards every available media was to be used in spreading throughout the world the teachings of the New Age along with the expectation of a New Age Christ. And this is what has happened.

An initial tactic was to win many sympathizers through pacifist, anti-military activities. The next step was to promote "a sceptical and destructive criticism of personal-immortality religions".<sup>2</sup>

New Age programmes have found their way into the business world and all aspects of society, including the Christian community. Behind a facade of apparently harmless themes, such as healthy eating and fitness, they usually include the following practices, which are nothing more than variations on Eastern occult techniques: meditation - yoga and relaxation therapies - hypnosis - psychic healing - visualization and positive thinking. The latter two are based on the assumption that the mind through suggestion can accomplish and create anything that it believes it can. Positive thinking, in particular, is often used in combination with Bible verses and referred to as faith, in spite of its unbiblical premise that the "primary force" of every person is good.

With its vast range of offers the New Age Movement draws from other sources too. Particularly in the fields of education and counselling, methods are to be found that are rooted in Rudolf Steiner's anthroposophy, for example.

The New Age Movement is successfully popularizing and then utilizing one concern after the other in order to infiltrate our society systematically. Such is the case, for instance, with holistic education, meditation and psycho-training of every shade and description, holistic medicine, health foods, ecology - including the protection of the environment and animal rights - disarmament campaigns, management training courses for leaders in industry and commerce, famine projects, and other social causes.

Marilyn Ferguson's *The Aquarian Conspiracy* has largely contributed to the awareness of New Age teaching among the general public. It can be regarded as the current cult book of the New Age Movement. Lauding the Promised Land of the New Age and the joys of "altered states of consciousness", it propagates the New Age Plan throughout the world.

New Age thought is further expressed in the writings of the Austrian-born physicist Fritjof Capra living in California - particularly in his book *The Turning Point*, published in 1982.

Even children and teenagers are being influenced by New Age ideas through a barrage of fantasy games, videos, films, audio cassettes, comic books, literature, party games and toys. Seven of the ten most popular films in the history of film-

making are classified as fantasy. Heading the chart is E.T., which has given rise to a whole new youth cult -with Star Wars in second place. Seventy-five percent of box-office successes have fantasy themes. Fantasy books are best sellers, with editions running into millions. Hundreds of titles are already on the market, almost always presenting some form of occultism (such as communicating with the dead, conjuring spirits, clairvoyance, telepathy, and levitating objects by the power of thought) and featuring sorcerers, witches and magicians. Magic belts, magic swords and talismans have become a part of a young person's world. Under the heading "Esoteric", bookstores offer occult textbooks containing explicit instructions on how to contact supernatural forces. "Trips Into other realms" can be experienced under guidance at the "psycho-centres" mushrooming in our cities.<sup>3</sup>

Music, one of the most common modern means of influencing the masses, is naturally employed by the New Age Movement for its purposes. According to Alice Bailey, music therapy was to be part of the preparation for the New Age. Specially designed New Age music with its out-of-this-world sounds has already made inroads into the record market as a new style of entertainment music, and the number of its fans is growing.

Also significant is the New Age link with prominent, international organizations, such as the UNO, UNESCO, World Council of Churches, Club of Rome, Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation, Trilateral Commission, Bilderberg Group, the Free-masons and, at the head, the Illuminati. New Age goals are promoted by leading personalities such as Robert Muller, who in his function as Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Council did much towards these ends.

### New Age Philosophy

The New Age Movement aspires after a new and perfect world, but if this goal is to be attained there will have to be a "paradigm shift" (a change in the conventional way of thinking) according to New Age philosophy. Instead of the previous analytic mode of thought, corresponding to the linear and mechanistic conception of the world, there is to be a new holistic perspective, the belief in the interconnected-ness of all things or the "Doctrine of Wholeness". All things are interdependent and accordingly need to be regarded holistically. Every individual feels part of nature and of the whole cosmos - a microcosmos in the macrocosmos. Rational thinking, which proceeds analytically and critically and which formed the basis of scientific method, is to give way to synthetic thinking and intuitive knowledge based on non-rational experience.

New Age philosophy aims at reconciling all opposites: science and occultism are placed on a par. All ethical values collapse: good and evil no longer exist. All is one. This explains the move towards a synthesis of all religions.

For New Agers the highest goal of man is to find his happiness. Performance and output used to be generally considered the criterion for living. Now the main emphasis is on personal satisfaction and success. Fear of coming apocalyptic events is therefore channelled into escapism to a utopian "world society where there are no tensions".

### Goals and Plans of the New Age Movement

The Plan communicated via mediumistic dictations to Alice Bailey consists of the establishment of a New World Order, a New World Government and a New World Religion. The main political goal of the New Age Movement is global control. "The dissolution and/or destruction of individual nation states in the interests of peace and conservation" are openly advocated.<sup>4</sup>

Although world domination is the ultimate goal, there are numerous intermediate goals of a political, social and economic nature, including:

- a universal credit card system
- a world food authority which would control the world's food supply
- a universal tax
- a universal draft [in spite of the Movement's pacifist ideas!]<sup>5</sup>

After the Movement went public in 1975, further details emerged:

3.

- the establishment of a world economic system
- the replacement of private ownership of credit, transport and staple production with ownership by a world directorate
- the recognition of biological controls on a worldwide basis of population and disease
- a minimum standard of freedom and welfare throughout the world.
- a duty of subordinating personal life to that of a world directorate.<sup>6</sup>

Professing peace and love, the Movement has succeeded in blinding many of its adherents to its real goals and deceiving them into supporting:

- Aryanism, i.e. the domination of the Western races; as with Hitler, this is linked with anti-Semitism
- mass planetary initiation, also called "Luciferic initiation", i.e. an act of consecration to Lucifer
- cleansing action, i.e. the extermination of all those who disagree with the Movement's goals
- abortion and artificial insemination
- forced limitation of family size
- genetic control
- death control, whereby a cult is made of death, which is regarded as a euphoric experience and the transition to continuously new life cycles.<sup>7</sup>

#### The Age of Aquarius

These goals of the New Age Movement are to be reached in the so-called Age of Aquarius, which the New Agers want to usher in. The World Instant of Co-operation on December 31, 1986, was supposed to signify a co-operative start. The term Age of Aquarius is taken from astrology. The purely astronomical shifting of the vernal equinox, which approximately every 2000 years passes through a new constellation in the zodiac, is superstitiously interpreted by astrology as affecting the fate of our planet Earth. At the turn of the century the vernal equinox will pass from the constellation of Pisces (the Fishes) to the constellation of Aquarius (the Water Bearer). Some reckon that this transition already took place in 1962. The fish, a sign representing faith in Christ, was often used by the Early Christians as a mark of identification. Thus New Agers maintain that the transition away from the zodiac sign of the Fishes means that the era of Christ is coming to an end.

According to New Age teaching, Aquarius (the Water Bearer) will now pour water over the world to symbolize the coming of a new spirit. With the aid of meditation, yoga, "psychotechnologies", etc., this spirit is meant to lead the people of the New Age to "consciousness expansion". The aspired illumination will enable them to lead a life without any problems and troubles.

#### New Age Religion

Not only does the New Age Movement pursue political, economic and religious goals; it is a religion. It has its own "holy scriptures", prayers and mantras. It has its own spiritual centres, such as the Find-horn community in Scotland (founded in 1962) and the Esalen Institute in California, USA. In the mean time such centres are springing up in many varied countries. Born-again experiences called "rebirthing" (totally different from the Christian experience of conversion); spiritual laws and commandments are part of the New Age Religion. Within the Movement we find priests and gurus, a proclaimed "Messiah", prophets and people with supernatural powers" enabling them to do "great signs and wonders.

The New Age Movement universally proclaims that man is God and "man created God in his own image". True to their belief that "all is one", they consider man to be a part of the Godhead (the "cosmic consciousness" or the "Force"). All he needs to do is to discover and develop his divinity by expanding his consciousness through meditation, yoga and other methods. Ultimately, man is "on his way to godhood". It is even said that one may enter fully into the spirit of the "God of Force".<sup>8</sup> Believing that God is a neutral force, which can be manipulated either for good or evil, New Age occultists are greatly interested in learning the means by which they can achieve this.

In contrast to the Bible, which says that "it is appointed for men to die once, and after that comes judgment" (Hebrews 9:27), death in its finality is denied. Instead the Movement teaches reincarnation, a concept stemming from Hinduism and Buddhism. According to this teaching, man does not really die but is endlessly reborn into new life cycles. The form of reincarnation depends on how one spent one's previous life. This automatic "Law of Karma" remains in effect until a person perfects himself sufficiently to enter "Nirvana", a state in which the individual ceases to exist.

The New Age Movement states clearly that man can save himself by finding his "Higher Self" through consciousness expansion. In other words, faith in man and in the all-pervasive energy or life force throughout the cosmos is at the centre of New Age spirituality. When man desires to "be like God" (Genesis 3:5), he obviously opens the door to Lucifer, who is actually worshipped in the New Age Movement and plays a key role in the New World Religion that the Movement seeks to establish.

David Spangler, a prominent New Age leader and for three years co-director of the Findhorn Foundation in Scotland, which he joined in 1970, wrote in 1978 in one of his numerous books: "Lucifer works within each of us to bring us to wholeness, and as we move into a new age, which is the age of man's wholeness, each of us in some way is brought to that point which I term the Luciferic initiation [an act of consecration to Lucifer], the particular doorway through which the individual must pass if he is to come fully into the presence of his light and his wholeness."<sup>9</sup> Spangler, who frequently made contact with the demonic world, publicly explained that the true light of Findhorn was the light of Lucifer, who is to illumine the world.

At the core of the planned New World Religion is the Initiation (act of consecration), openly termed as "Luciferic" not only by David Spangler but previously by Helena Blavatsky and Alice Bailey in their writings. Various leaders of the Movement have attempted to deify Lucifer. According to Alice Bailey, Lucifer is the "Ruler of Humanity". In any event he is the guiding light of today's New Age Movement.

In addition, masters of wisdom, ancestral spirits and nature spirits are part of the spiritual sources of the New Age Religion. Many pagan gods and goddesses have been resurrected as well. There are New Agers who worship Pan, Buddha or Shiva. A number of new gods have also been created. Witchcraft, too, is a pillar of the New Age Movement. Thus every conceivable source of occult teaching known to mankind is drawn upon in this "religion".

Yet all this is strictly forbidden by God, as we read in Deuteronomy 18:10-12: "Let no one be found among you who... practises divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord" (NIV).

Against this backdrop, the New World Order and World Government aspired by the New Agers are obviously anti-Christian to their core. There are even plans to abolish Christian laws and symbols and to replace Christian festivals with pagan ones.

An essential part of the New Age Religion is the use of certain psychotechnologies. As already mentioned, New Age programmes include the following practices: meditation, yoga, Zen, hypnosis, transpersonal psychology<sup>10</sup> and positive thinking. In some official institutions in the United States, the New Age Movement has already succeeded in implementing its programmes. Constance Cumbey reports that in one state those who dared to oppose such methods were transferred or dismissed.<sup>11</sup>

Drugs, too, are a way of opening people to New Age teaching. Mind-altering drugs such as LSD were promoted by the forefront of the Movement in the United States. To this day drugs are still referred to as "tools for transformation", although their permanent use is not encouraged. They are merely a vehicle to open people's minds, a first step towards initiation and illumination, for the "higher and lower powers" can also be gained through mantras, intense desire or meditation, such as transcendental meditation (TM).

The occult-planning centre of the Movement is the Lucis Trust. Originally established as the Lucifer Publishing Company, the Lucis Trust has many means at its disposal to further the building of the New World. Two of its subsidiaries are World Good-will and the Arcane School. The latter runs correspondence courses for New Age discipleship and leadership. Students are required to keep their participation a secret.

The growing movement of feminism has close links with New Age spirituality, as is evident, for instance, from the campaign against the over-emphasis of the masculine principle. Part of the campaign is to abolish rational, analytical thinking and to eliminate the inequalities between the sexes. The ultimate goal is the dominance of the female principle, which supposedly corresponds to the spirit of the Age of Aquarius. Feminism shows its true colours in its rejection of the God of the Bible and His creative order, especially with regard to marriage, family life and relationships between the sexes.

While feminist theology endeavours to represent the God of the Bible as being both masculine and feminine or even as an exclusively feminine god-head, the radical vanguard of the New Age feminist movement is already demanding that the

Christian faith be replaced by the myth of Gaia, "Mother Earth", whose cult is now being revived and practised. By adopting the ancient practice of equating "woman" with "nature", they deliberately revert to the concepts of bygone pagan cultures and their associated goddesses, such as Iris, Astarte, Demeter and Hera.

The common denominator for the members of the various New Age groups is a counterfeit religious experience: contact with demons through drugs, meditation, psychotechnologies, and other means; and guidance from demonic entities, the masters of wisdom in the planetary hierarchy, from whom the New Age Plan originates. New Agers believe in UFO's and outer-space beings, from whom they reputedly also receive messages. Within the New Age Movement there are groups claiming that Adolf Hitler was one of their number, because he drew his inspiration from the same sources, shared the same goals and employed the same methods.

The symbols used by the New Age Movement are notable. For instance, it uses the swastika, the occult Indo-Germanic sign of good luck adopted by Hitler. Then there is the number 666 (see Revelation 13:18) which, to cite Alice Bailey, possesses "sacred qualities" and which according to New Age teaching should be used as frequently as possible in order to accelerate the progress of civilization and the coming of the New Age. One of its most widely used signs is the rainbow, which is meant to symbolize the bridge between man and the "over-soul" or "Great Universal Mind" - in the final analysis, Lucifer. It is remarkable how frequent the sign of the rainbow has become of late. You can find it, for instance, on promotional gifts, stationery, T-shirts and toys.

### A False Christ

A key figure for the planned New World Government and World Religion is Maitreya. As early as April 1982 the New Age Movement publicized his coming through full-page newspaper advertisements in many countries: "The Christ is now here... pointing the way out of our present crisis... He comes not to judge but to aid and inspire... The World Teacher, LORD MAITREYA, known by Christians as the CHRIST. And as Christians await the Second Coming, so the Jews await the MESSIAH, the Buddhists the fifth BUDDHA, the Moslems the IMAM MAHDI, and the Hindus await KRISHNA. These are all names for one individual. His presence in the world guarantees there will be no third World War ... With His help, we will build a new world."

What in fact is planned when Maitreya comes to power is that he will take control of the world as a man appointed by Lucifer and following his instructions. A universal control system will then be established, for only he who controls distribution and supply can rule the world. In the New Age, permission to trade and do business will be granted only to those who pledge loyalty to Maitreya or, more specifically, Lucifer. Every world resident is to be given a number, which he will be required to use in all financial transactions - including minor purchases - with a universal credit card. Cash money is to be abolished.

Benjamin Creme, a leading British New Ager, is a forerunner and spokesman of Maitreya. According to him, Maitreya is already living in the world. Maitreya is said to possess extraordinary spiritual power and, to cite those newspaper advertisements in April 1982, he was to announce his Identity within the next two months and communicate to all humanity through a worldwide radio and television broadcast.

This did not happen, presumably because the implementing of The Plan was not far enough advanced. As Alice Bailey had laid down earlier, first the general public had to be so familiarized with the idea of a planetary hierarchy of masters that a substantial part of the population would be conditioned to accept their "Messiah". He was to be presented as a specially favoured individual, who had achieved total evolutionary progress, i.e. the "Christ Consciousness", and would therefore serve as head of the hierarchy and "Director of the Kingdom of God on earth".

Through The Great Invocation<sup>12</sup>, an "Invocation for Power and Light", which has been declared valid for all religions, Maitreya, the "returning Christ", is to be brought forth. Published for the first time in 1945, this Invocation has been distributed throughout the world. Similar to the World Healing Meditation cited earlier, it contains deceptive passages about the source of love in the heart of God, and about light and love, but in actual fact it is concerned with the implementing of the New Age Plan.

Misleadingly called "the Christ", Maitreya is actually an antichristian figure. In his transmissions he has claimed to be at the head of a hierarchy of gods or masters and superior to Jesus, who is supposed to be one of his disciples and under his guidance. Whereas Jesus is given the lowest place on the "chart of masters", Maitreya is alleged to be an initiate of the seventh degree, the highest level. The New Age, the Age of Aquarius, is to be officially inaugurated by Maitreya. The "sword of cleavage" awaits "all who refuse to accept Maitreya the Christ".<sup>13</sup> Maitreya will seek to make the New World Religion mandatory. Thus the New Age Movement threatens violence and even extermination to Jews and Christians if they are not willing to co-operate with Maitreya and the New World Religion. For all their current talk about the need for

"religious freedom", New Agers vigorously support the view that religious freedom must cease in the New Age. The "new Christ" plans to restructure Christianity. In other words, biblical Christianity will be denied the right to exist.

The New Age Movement categorically rejects Judeo-Christian religious tradition, because Jews and Christians believe in the one God. It is claimed that such an out-dated belief system is divisive and that therefore the world needs to be liberated from these "negative thought patterns". The only solution is to destroy Christianity and all its roots.

We recall the words of the World Healing Meditation for December 31, 1986: "I am seeing the salvation of the planet before my very eyes, as all false beliefs... are dissolved", by which the biblical faith is meant. This is what the new and perfect world of the New Age will look like. We, however, await a different world when we pray, "Your kingdom come."

### The Real New Age - The Kingdom of Jesus Christ

New Agers are not the first to proclaim the dawn of a new age. Adolf Hitler was a forerunner with his Third Reich. He was acquainted with secret teachings that are part of the foundations of the New Age, such as the messages Helena Blavatsky received from a demonic being. An occultist and medium, Hitler associated with clairvoyants and astrologers and was fascinated by the world of Germanic spirits and gods. Like the New Age Movement, he wanted to bring in a new age, the "Thousand Year Reich", which was to be built on these occult foundations. Similarly, Hitler hated Jews and true Christians, although at first he spoke deceptively about "Positive Christianity". His real goal was to put himself in the place of God.

Hitler's Thousand Year Reich, however, was short-lived. After twelve years it inevitably collapsed, because Satan, the father of lies, was behind it all. Not so the Body of Christ. Comprising believers of all denominations and traditions who are united in following Jesus, it abided. Jesus Christ triumphed as the everlasting Ruler, whose kingdom will never perish.

Like Hitler's Thousand Year Reich, the New Age Movement seems to be marching on to victory under the guiding light of Lucifer. Its organizations already extend across the whole earth through a system of networking. But that which bears the seal of Lucifer, that is, of Satan, is doomed from the out-set. Built on lies, it has no lasting foundation, for not Satan, but Jesus Christ, is Lord. Satan is merely His servant, whom He uses as a tool. Jesus needs but speak a word, and everything that Satan has planned and established must collapse.

The downfall of the New Age Movement is as certain as the sudden end experienced by Hitler's Third Reich. After the initial conquests of the Third Reich, all the more shattering was its total collapse, which affected the whole of Europe. God had intervened. A word from Him suffices, and a mighty empire lies in ruins.

Even though the masters of wisdom, demonic beings working for Satan through the New Age Movement, think they can build a new world, this will collapse like a house of cards before it is ever completed. For One alone is Lord, and that is the immortal God, who is enthroned over all and who made Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, to sit at His right hand after the work of redemption was completed. The Father has put all things under the feet of Jesus, who is "far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come" (Ephesians 1:21f.). All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Him (Matthew 28:18). He will triumph gloriously as the mighty Prince of Victory, and Lucifer's world will be destroyed. A single word from Jesus Christ, the Lord of lords, will topple the entire edifice of the New Age Movement, causing it to fall into hell where it came from.

Only Jesus will establish a new age. His kingdom will last for ever, as we read in the Book of Daniel: "His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed" (ch. 7:14 NIV). "The sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him" (ch. 7:27 NIV).

Whoever longs for a new age, an everlasting kingdom, let him give his life to Jesus Christ, let him consecrate himself to Jesus, not Lucifer. Otherwise he will perish along with Lucifer's kingdom and descend to the depths of hell. But whoever belongs to Jesus will rise to everlasting life in the heavenly glory. In Jesus and His kingdom the true light shines forth - ceaseless, pure, deceiving none. In contrast, the light of Lucifer in the New Age Movement is treacherous, delusive and leads into darkness.

It is the kingdom of Lucifer versus the kingdom of Jesus Christ - Satan versus Christ. A mighty conflict has broken out in these pre-antichristian times, the dawn of the end-time era. Hell is more active than ever, marshalling all its vassals in a bid for power.

Hell's plan, however, will never be fully accomplished, because God will intervene by sending judgment. The world is not ripe for the dreamed-of new age of peace, happiness and light. Instead it is ripe for punishment. Sin is crying out to

heaven and provoking divine judgment on a large scale - sin, the very existence of which the New Age Movement fails to mention, but which is dominating the world scene.

This is why at present there can be no kingdom of peace. To think otherwise is a great delusion. There is every indication that a terrible judgement will descend in the form of a world war, and for this we need to prepare. If we live in a state of contrition and repentance, we stand under the grace of Jesus Christ and may hope for His help and protection in the coming judgement. It is futile to dream of a kingdom of peace that will never come under the present circumstances. First mankind as a whole would have to be inwardly renewed through a widespread movement of repentance. Instead of giving free rein to hatred, lust for power, envy and violence, people would have to be transformed in their hearts and filled with love and reconciliation towards one another.

In view of the fact that mankind by and large is sunk in the morass of sin, whoever thinks that a new paradise-like age will now dawn is blind. A new age can begin only if there are new people. And only through Jesus Christ shall we receive newness of life in the power of His redeeming blood when we turn to Him in contrition and repentance.

Consequently, the arrogant talk of a new age, where everything is characterised by brotherhood and sharing with one's neighbour, as promised by Maitreya in the aforementioned newspaper advertisements, is a blatant lie. People are being tricked most cunningly - even Christians, as the New Testament prophesied: "Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by giving heed to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons" (1 Timothy 4:1).

However, he who walks in the light of God's truth and accepts the truth about himself, namely God's verdict that he is sinful, will not be taken in by this lie of a new age where there will be no more war, only peace and joy.

Jesus, and He alone, is the Truth and proclaims the truth (John 14:6). The truth about man today is that his wickedness has brought darkness upon the whole world. The commandments of God are held in contempt. To enjoy life to the full and attain self-realization at all costs is what man wants. Such attitudes are fostered by the New Age Movement, which advocates, for example, abortion, homosexuality, lesbianism and other sexual perversions. Even the killing of the non-cooperative, regarded as a necessity like the elimination of cancer cells, is included in its policy. The words of the Prophet Isaiah are relevant for our times: "The earth is defied by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant" (ch. 24:5 NIV).

The truth is that the holy God must punish sin, so that the earth is cleansed of those who sin so flagrantly. And this will come to pass, as that prophetic passage from Isaiah goes on to say: "Therefore a curse consumes the earth; its people must bear their guilt. . . and very few are left" (ch. 24:6 NIV).

With God, however, judgment is never the end. If the hour of Jesus' return has not come by then, we may assume that after this great judgement upon our sinful world, God will let the light of His grace shine forth again. After the shattering experience of the holiness of God in His power and might as Judge, there will presumably be a movement of repentance and a turning back to God among those who are still alive.

When that occurs, a new period will begin. Instead of the diabolical light of Lucifer flooding the earth, people will accept the divine light of Jesus Christ. They will give glory to God the Father and Jesus, the crucified Lord; and once again the commandments will be regarded as binding. It will be a foreshadowing of the kingdom of Jesus Christ, which will be manifested fully at His return.

His kingdom, with which none can compare, is filled with love, light, glory and radiant beauty - a kingdom where righteousness and everlasting peace reign. Jesus will have the final say. He will gain the final victory, for He is the First and the Last. All other kingdoms will come to an end, but His kingdom will endure. Triumphantly the Lamb will destroy Satan's power on earth, and through His out-poured blood at Calvary the world will yet be made completely new.

Yes, Jesus will be victorious as the Lamb. Together with His small band of loyal followers, He will overcome the satanic forces when He comes again and establishes His rule over the world (Revelation 17:14). And who are His followers? They are the meek, the merciful, the peacemakers, who walked in the spirit of the Lamb and adhered to the truth. They will make up the new, everlasting kingdom, the real new age, the age of Jesus Christ, the King of kings. He alone is King and Lord. All demonic spirit beings and masters of wisdom will be bound and deprived of their power. And Jesus will triumph as the Lord and everlasting King, to whom all power is given.

To God in His immortality, omnipotence and holiness, all these large-scale plans and intrigues of the New Age Movement and its worldwide organizations are absurd. A mere nothing before Him in their supposed power, they will return to the darkness from which they came. The light of God, however, will endure, shining for all eternity. "Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One. 'Let us break their chains,' they say, 'and throw off their fetters' The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them" (Psalm 2:1-4 NIV).

### An Either-Or Situation

Having seen the New Age Movement for what it is, we now need to take appropriate steps before it is too late. Let no one be deceived by the counterfeit light of Lucifer. Let no one succumb to the seductive teaching that without repentance and a turning from sin it is possible to create a paradise here on earth.

It is plain fear of suffering that makes people try to escape from reality and opt for an Imaginary paradise-like new age. There is a reluctance to face up to the fact that a time of judgement and cleansing must come upon our world in answer to man's impenitence, his wanton and persistent sinning individually and collectively. Sin has assumed untold proportions. It is wishful thinking to assume that a new and perfect world can be brought forth without a turning from sin. Such a plan can only come from Satan, and therefore it is a lie and will not succeed.

"Disaster will come upon you, and you will not know how to conjure it away... Keep on, then, with your magic spells and with your many sorceries... All the counsel you have received has only worn you out! Let your astrologers come forward, those star-gazers who make predictions month by month... There is not one that can save you" (Isaiah 47:11-15 NIV).

Yes, the programme of the New Age Movement is a deception. It leads to the kingdom of Satan, and all who believe in it will be swept along.

Let us therefore alert others: Turn away from these fabrications! Whoever knows the eternal, holy God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whoever knows Jesus as his personal Lord and Saviour, cannot at the same time worship Lucifer, revere demons and do their bidding. Holy Scripture says, "What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with Idols?" It then concludes: "Come out from them, and be separate from them" (2 Corinthians 6:15-17).

We are faced with a decision. Either we separate ourselves from everything associated with the New Age Movement, or not. If we don't, this means we are on the side of Lucifer, that is, Satan, and shall reap destruction and untold misery. Again today the challenging cry of the Prophet Elijah rings out: "How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him" (1 Kings 18:21).

It is an either-or situation, a matter of life and death. Whoever takes part in the Luciferic initiation is doomed. But whoever consecrates himself to Jesus and thus to discipleship of the cross will partake of divine life. Only cross-bearers will inherit the Kingdom of God. Here and now, amid the sufferings of this age, they will experience the love of Jesus and have a foretaste of His kingdom, and in the life to come they will be with Him forever, filled with great joy.

Jesus wants to save souls, and we are meant to help Him save as many as possible. Most New Age followers or sympathizers are deceived. The scales need to be removed from their eyes, so that they can see that they have fallen into Satan's trap. Some would be helped if we were to pass on - wherever possible - literature showing the truth about the New Age Movement and giving a clear testimony of our biblical hope. This movement is like an epidemic; it is spreading at an alarming rate. Therefore, we need to act now before it is too late and thousands more succumb to the deception.

Save souls! Rescue them! is the cry in these dawning end times when Satan continues to extend his rule. God wants to rescue many more who are in Satan's grip, and we are called to assist Him. This is something each of us can do through our prayers. We need to oppose the New Age power of deception with the power of prayer. The kingdom of light is warring with the kingdom of darkness, Jesus Christ with Satan. And in this battle Jesus is counting on His faithful followers. They loyally fight at His side, and with their prayers they move the arm of God to draw many more souls out of the web of deception.

It is not just that people are being enticed to sin. They are actually coming under the control of Lucifer. When Satan has achieved this, they experience hell not only in this life but for all eternity.

However, if those who have been deceived turn back to Jesus, He offers them a world of peace and joy, which no one can take from them (John 16:22). Let us hear His voice! He is the Good Shepherd. He does not lead us astray. His path does not end in the kingdom of Satan but in the light and glory of God.

We may come to God, who is our Father in Jesus Christ and not some neutral force that can be manipulated either for good or for evil. How thankful we can be! - we have a personal God. We insignificant human beings may approach the great and almighty God as our loving Father, who guides us and cares for us and comforts us in His love.

How thankful we can be! We are not under the power of Maitreya, a world dictator and messiah sent by Lucifer: we are under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, who loved us so dearly that He laid down His life for us. As our Redeemer He has

overcome sin and paid our ransom. He redeems us from every sinful trait and bondage. He is our Saviour and Physician and brings healing to our bodies and souls. He loves each one of us personally and we may love Him in return.

What a priceless treasure we have in God our Father, in our Lord Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen Prince of Victory, and in the Holy Spirit, our Counsellor and Comforter! Who would want to exchange the Triune God for the New Age god? Who would want to live from an "energy force" and have Lucifer as his guiding light? Who would want to follow Lucifer who leads into darkness, when Jesus says, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me ... will have the light of life" (John 8:12)?

Let us therefore hear the voice of Jesus: "Come, follow Me!" Yes, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:27f.).

#### Notes

1. Constance E. Cumbey, *The Hidden Dangers of the Rainbow, The New Age Movement and Our Coming Age of Barbarism* (Shreveport, Louisiana: Huntington House, Inc., 1983), p.44.
2. H. G. Wells, *The Open Conspiracy - Blue prints for a World Revolution*, as quoted by Cumbey, op.cit., p.123.
3. Skambraks, op.cit.
4. Cumbey, op.cit., p.63.
5. Cf. Cumbey, op. cit., p.20.
6. Cf. Cumbey, op.cit., p.124.
7. Cf. Cumbey, op.cit., p. 56.
8. E. Dowling, in the introduction to *The Aquarian Gospel of Jesus the Christ*, as quoted by Cumbey, op.cit., p.83.
9. D. Spangler, *Reflections on the Christ*, as quoted by Cumbey, op.cit., p.139.
10. Trans-personal psychology pertains to experiences reaching beyond the limits of the individual, that is, beyond the limits of the personality and personal consciousness. During such experiences the person sacrifices his independent personality and allows himself to be ruled and manipulated by the psychotechnician in order to "regress into prior lives" or "submerge into other worlds".
11. Cumbey,op.cit., p.127.
12. For complete text of *The Great Invocation*, see Cumbey, op.cit., p.200f.
13. B.Creme, as quoted by Cumbey, op.cit., p.83.

# UNIT 9

## *POSTMODERNISM*



## WELCOME TO UNIT 9

### POSTMODERNISM

**READ:** Sire, Ch. 9

*Postmodernity: Understanding Our Generation's Thought-Life* by Jerram Barrs

Postmodernism is very difficult to define and to understand. It is not a full-fledged worldview but an emerging conglomerate of views that subvert or supersede all traditional paradigms. It is a pervasive phenomenon that challenges the very possibility of having meaningful discourse about worldviews. **This course is decidedly not “postmodern”!** Our questions and our criteria are not conditioned by any era; they are timeless. We need to address the impact of the postmodern mindset upon all worldviews, and upon our world.

As a cultural phenomenon, **“POMO”** is analyzed and debated in many ways. It is seen by some as a *liberator from* Modern oppression and by others as the *inevitable result of* Modernism. Most agree that the Modern era was dominated by Naturalism and Humanism, Science and Reason, and our faith in what we can know.

The Postmodern mind-shift comes down to us along many routes. In style, there is now a deliberate eclecticism with a radical reinterpretation or re-contextualization of earlier styles. In academia, literary criticism has become deconstructionism, and philosophy has rejected metaphysics and embraced linguistic analysis, post-structuralism, and existentialism. Things are fragmented. A Neo-Sophism seems to be in vogue. (Persuasive rhetoric is more useful than truth-seeking argumentation.) Due to these programs, postmodern academia is generally characterized by subjectivism, relativism, quasi-nihilism, epistemological agnosticism, the repudiation of grand theories, a derisive distrust of metanarratives, the denial of accessible objective reality, *and* a scorn for **truth**.

It is crucial for us to see the cultural fall-out from academic postmodernism to “POMO” pop culture. Our society is plagued by conceptual as well as moral relativism. Truth as a concept has been utterly eroded. A recent survey taken by the Josh McDowell Ministry reveals that 74% of the young people polled said that they are trying to find meaning and purpose in life. And yet, elsewhere in the survey, 91% say that they don't believe there is any absolute truth. The teens who don't believe in absolute truth are 600% more likely to commit suicide. People need meaning and will try to find it anywhere. In your extra required reading for this unit, what does Jerram Barrs say about Gen-X?

***The question of Truth cannot be avoided without serious consequences for humanity.***

As for the 7 Basic Questions, since POMO is quasi-nihilistic and not a full worldview, look at the questions and think of typical POMO responses. Remember, **language** is just a self-referential game, there are **no objective standards** to anything, no answer can be wrong, and right answers are whatever your peers will let you get away with saying!

## ANSWERS TO SEVEN BASIC QUESTIONS

According to 'MetaNarrative' of: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What Is **ULTIMATE REALITY**? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What is the Nature of **EXTERNAL REALITY**? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What is a **Human Being**? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What Happens to a Human at **Death**? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Postmodernity: Understanding Our Generation's Thought-Life

By Jerram Barrs

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## COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY ONLINE RESOURCES

*“The days are coming,” declares the Sovereign Lord, “when I will send a famine through the land – not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord. Men will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the Lord, but they will not find it. In that day the lovely young women and strong young men will faint because of thirst.” AMOS 8: 11-13*

What is Postmodernism? We can think of it as the way the younger generation, **Generation X**, thinks!! It cuts across cultural and social barriers, from the brightest young college students to drug users on the streets. A friend of mine in St. Louis sat down with a group of non-Christian students at a prestigious university one day. The next day, he spoke with a group of African-American youth with no money. Although the groups were very different, they thought about life in exactly the same way. Both lacked idealism, were reluctant to commit themselves to anything and were irreverent toward everything sacred and all authority.

They were apathetic, skeptical and bored. What produces young people with these attitudes?

The word Postmodernism is commonly used in three different ways. People use the word “Postmodernism” to talk about style, literary criticism and philosophy. We will look at all three sides of this crude triad – distinct, yet the same.

### Postmodernism and Style

When the word “Postmodernism” is used in reference to style, it means a mixing of styles. Postmodern architects use every style of architecture throughout the history of building design. In art, Postmodernism brings us a mixture of Mickey Mouse and Picasso next to each other. In Postmodernism there is no high culture or low culture. Anything or everything can be art. The American artist Andy Warhol would sell Campbell’s Soup cans as great works of art. We look at some of this and smile, but when we look deeper, we see what Postmodernism is actually saying, “There are **no standards**. Nothing is better than anything else.” We cannot look at architecture, or art, or music, or anything else and say, “Here is something which gives us a standard and authority with which to judge other things.”

### Postmodernism and Literary Criticism

The second level to consider is Postmodernism and literary criticism. Often, literary criticism is one of the most influential disciplines in our universities. The question is, “How do we read a text?” or “How do we read a play by Shakespeare or a passage from the Bible?”

The traditional approach to answering this question would be, “What was the intent of the author? What did Shakespeare have in mind when he wrote this play?” But, as we look at the development of literary criticism in this century, we find a series of shifts away from this question.

The first shift denies meaning in the author’s intention and establishes meaning in the text itself. This position is known as New Criticism or Structuralism. This theory states that every writer, as they write, is bound by conventions in their culture. If we understand the conventions in the particular culture in which the author wrote, then we can understand the text.

Let’s take an example from Shakespeare’s play *Much Ado About Nothing*. If you read this play using New Criticism, you might ask, “What was the society in which Shakespeare lived when he wrote this play?” “What were the conventions which controlled the relationships between men and women?”

You might end up with a radical Feminist reading or a Marxist reading depending upon which questions you choose to ask about Shakespeare's society. **Shakespeare's intent** would be considered completely irrelevant.

The next shift follows necessarily from the last. It acknowledges what is called "Reader Response Theory," which states that the meaning of the text rests completely **within the person reading**. If we had a room of 100 students, all reading Hamlet, each student could come up with a completely different reading of this play each time he or she reads it, and Reader Response Theory would say every reading is just as good as every other. Imagine trying to teach literature to children allowing them to read any text exactly as they wanted!

These shifts have brought us to the Postmodern stage of literary criticism which tells us that the text can have no meaning. It says we can never know the author's intentions or the conventions of the age in which the author wrote. If we examine the parable of the good Samaritan, Postmodernism would say it is impossible to understand Luke's intentions. Obviously this completely destroys literature, and because literary criticism is often one of the most influential disciplines at any contemporary university, especially affecting the History Department, it destroys the possibility of what we once called a Liberal Arts education.

### **Postmodernism and Philosophy**

We come now to Postmodernism and Philosophy, particularly the Philosophy of Knowledge, or Epistemology. Epistemology asks the question, "**How do we know** anything about a particular something?" Take my eyeglasses for example. How can we know anything about these glasses? A pre-modern person looking at my glasses would have said, "Things have an objective existence; they really exist. Their objective existence is upheld by some transcendent reality." Thus in the pre-modern view, things have an objective existence, but they are upheld by something above.

In the modern understanding of knowledge, the time from the Enlightenment until the recent past, things have been acknowledged to have objective existence, but the truth about them is discovered by observation. The Modern view has complete confidence in the power of reason and science. Reason and science are completely adequate to help us understand the world and come to a true knowledge of it.

Postmodernism sets itself completely **against** confidence in reason. The Postmodernist believes that things **have no objective existence**. Things are simply a construction of the community in which we live. This means that true knowledge is always *beyond* us. This is the very heart of Postmodernism – there is no objective reality. This may sound very abstract, but the results are concrete...the consequences are all too real.

## **RESULTS OF POSTMODERNISM IN SOCIETY TODAY**

### **Rejection of Truth**

Postmodernism says that nothing can be known by reason. There is no objective truth. This is the common view of people in America today — 67 percent of all Americans believe there is no such thing as absolute truth. Over 80 percent of Generation X says there is no absolute truth; instead they say there is only personal truth. "You have your truth, and I have mine." Living in a pluralistic society reinforces this. It's very easy to think that Christianity is the truth if everybody around me is a Christian, but if I live on a street where one of my neighbors is a Hindu and another is a Muslim, it is much harder to think that Christianity is the truth.

The problem is, if we say there is only personal truth, we are saying there is no ultimate meaning. I have three sons, all in university, and most of their friends believe there is no truth. In fact, they feel it is not worth looking for; it does not even enter their minds that there might be meaning in the world. As an example, the music they listen to, "alternative rock," is deeply pessimistic. Five years ago in America, "alternative rock" was listened to mostly by college students, but today alternative rock is popular for high school students as well. Musicians like The Beautiful South, Morrisy, The Cure, and James write some of the most interesting music today. Yet, while interesting, their lyrics are often tragic.

## Rejection of Authority

The second consequence of Postmodernism is the rejection of authority. Postmodernism believes there is no book, no idea, no person and no social structure which could command/deserve respect. This leads to a profound irreverence. We find attacks on everything once held to be sacred. Madonna attacks the family, traditional views of sex, religion, the Pope and whatever else, yet she has sold more records than any woman recording artist in history. You might say she delights to shock, and that is the essence of Generation X. This brings us back to the point I made earlier about style. If there is no authority that commands respect, then *all styles are equally valid*. There is no “high” culture. Mickey Mouse is considered the same quality as the art of Picasso, because there is no measure against which I can judge these things.

## Moral Relativism

The third consequence is moral relativism. For Generation X and the Postmodernist, there can be no transcendent or binding commandments. Nobody has the right to tell anybody else what to do. Democracy was once understood as the people electing their representatives. It is now the people voting on what their morality should be. So we have referendums every year on abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality, etc. It is the fulfillment of novelist William Golding’s words, *“If God is dead; if man is the highest; good and evil are decided by majority vote.”* There is no moral objective standard by which we can judge any thing. This has resulted in a loss of respect and rational discussion in the public square. In America we have culture wars between different groups in the community who no longer understand each other and can no longer communicate with each other. Because we have lost a shared understanding of what is right and wrong, we can no longer talk to each other.

## Practical Idolatry

The fourth consequence is practical idolatry. People have to live for something, and that thing will completely control their lives no matter how irrational it may be. In fact, they don’t even ask the question, “Is it reasonable?” With no passion to fill them, and no commandments to guide them, they try to find meaning and direction in anything — sex, money, pleasure, ambition or whatever. America is an idolatrous society; people are consumed by the pursuit of things and pleasure. If there is nothing in heaven to worship, they have to worship something on earth.

## Paganism

Last is the return of paganism. People may give up pursuing a reasonable religion, but they are still religious. God has set eternity in their hearts, and so they become open to any religion that will help them ‘feel spiritual.’ In America, people pursue every kind of neo-paganism and every sort of New Age Religion, but they never seem to bother asking the question- **“Is it true?”**

**Instead, they ask, “Does it make me *feel* spiritual?” “Does it fill the vacuum in my heart?”**

These are the practical consequences of Postmodernism and the challenges we face as we seek to communicate Christianity in this present time. As stated by the prophet Amos in the passage quoted at this article’s beginning, there is a famine of hearing the Word of the Lord, and the younger generation of men and women faints for thirst without it.

# UNIT 10

## CONCLUSION

### Choosing the True Worldview



**WELCOME TO UNIT 10**  
**CONCLUSION TO THE WORLDVIEW CRITIQUE**  
**CHOOSING THE ONE THAT IS TRUE**

**READ:** Sire, Ch. 10

“Anything must be true before it can claim other merits. Without Truth, all else is worthless.”  
Ernest Gellner, *Postmodernism, Reason and Religion*

If someone tells you that there are *many truths*...you have no reason *to* believe them.

If someone claims that there is *no truth*...you have reason *not* to believe them.

If someone says that *they alone* have absolute truth...you have reason to be watchful & wary.

If someone says that *they find their own truth within*...

...you have nothing reasonable to discuss with them.

If someone says that *ultimate truth is ineffable*...

...they should just keep silent and you should keep on searching.

If someone is *searching for Ultimate Truth with a humble heart*...discuss and seek together.

If Someone said: ***“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life...”*** and there is abundant evidence that they supported those claims with a perfect life, matchless teachings, a sacrificial death, and a miraculous resurrection...you have *every* reason to believe them, and you can begin the journey of faith. ***Hold on and never let go.***

**Jesus said:**

***“If you hold to my teachings, then you are really my disciples.  
Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”***

John 8: 31, 32

**STUDY AIDS:**

“Truth vs. Lies” (About Who **Jesus** is.)

“Responses” (Some typical responses, student comments, and **JCBT Revisited**.)

“The Course Personally Relevant for Your **Existence!**” (An Abbreviated Table of Contents.)

## TRUTH vs. LIES

We have already demonstrated that the Law of Non-Contradiction *does* apply in matters of religious claims, *and* in questions of Ultimate Reality. One crucial test is: ‘What is being said about the person and the ministry of Jesus Christ?’ We know that ‘false teachings’ *about* Jesus have been around *since* the time of Jesus! We also know that conflicting claims about exactly *Who He is* cannot all be true.

**Therefore we must ‘test’ what is being ‘claimed’ about Jesus. I John 4: 1-6**

The scriptures are clear about the **uniqueness** of Jesus, and scholarly integrity should uphold scriptural integrity. Ergo, the words ascribed *to Jesus*, and the apostolic preaching *about Jesus*, should not be taken **out** of their original Judaic context and given Neo-Platonic or ‘esoteric meanings.’ Neither should the scriptures be ‘added to’ with alleged ‘new revelations’ derived from pagan WVs! Religionists are truly ‘Christian’ only insofar as they are ‘in Christ,’ and they are ‘Biblical’ only insofar as they are true to the Biblical witness. True disciples know the Master’s voice.

“We cannot be right in the rest unless we are right about Him. **Christianity is Christocentric.**

If we are wrong at the centre, we are wrong at the circumference.

If right at the centre, we should not depart there from.” William Evans

The Gospel of John witnesses faithfully to the uniqueness of Jesus Christ:

*Jesus* is fully God, co-eternal with the Father. John 1:1-3; 3:13; 8:58; 10:33.

*Jesus* is fully Man by distinct historical incarnation. John 1:14; 19:7.

*Jesus* is fully God and Man in unique revelation. John 20:30, 31.

*Jesus* lived a Torah-true sinless life. John 8:46; 9:16; 18:38; 19:4, 6.

*Jesus* died in atonement for our sins. John 1:29; 3:14-16; 6:51; 10:11; 12:27.

*Jesus* died a real death, and was resurrected bodily. John 2:18-22; 20:24-28.

In contrast to this apostolic witness, compare the ancient ‘false preachers’ along with the ‘religious alternatives’ (cults!) popular today. With non-biblical worldview assumptions, Gnostics and others ‘teach’ of a ‘Jesus’ that **cannot** genuinely be reconciled with the Jesus of scripture.

You may reject Gospel claims about Jesus Christ, but at least do not pretend that all views are alike and equally valid. **Test** the message you hear against an authentically interpreted scriptural account of Jesus and see if it is indeed ‘another messiah’ being offered to you.

What follows is a brief description of some non-Biblical views of Jesus. As you study them, remember Jesus’ own pointed question. It is the most important question you will ever answer.

### **Jesus asks: “Who do YOU say that I am?”**

**DOCETISM** – From the Greek word ‘*dokein*’ (*to seem, or to appear to be*) this Platonic-dualistic view sees matter as essentially evil and spirit as good. Divinity, as Pure Spirit, would have to be completely impassible and immutable. Ergo, docetics could not believe in the incarnation, death and resurrection of Jesus. Rather, they taught that Jesus only ‘appeared’ to be a man and was merely a spiritual apparition! In contrast to this Greek philosophical view, the apostles emphasized the true humanity of Jesus.

**GNOSTICISM** – From the Greek word ‘*gnosis*’ (*knowledge*) gnosticism refers to a vast variety of religious groups, teachings and writings. One thing they had in common was a dualistic philosophy of **matter** (evil) *versus* **spirit** (good.) Docetism is related to Gnosticism.

These ideologies plagued the early Church because they taught that salvation was secret knowledge of the truth that we are all sparks of pure divinity trapped in material bodies. They believed in more of a ‘spirit guide’ or ‘wayshower’ Jesus than in a biblical Redeemer who died for our sins. They also tended to be quite anti-Jewish, and held a low view of the Creator God of the Hebrew Scriptures. Gnostic thought is enjoying a widespread revival today in the New Age Movement, and it is easy to see why! Salvation is not about what a Holy Transcendent God does for us through Jesus Christ...it is about “looking within and seeing that we are divine.”

**ARIANISM** – From ‘*Arius*,’ the name of the 4<sup>th</sup> century Christian priest from Alexandria who taught that Jesus was a created being, ‘begotten by’ but NOT ‘coeternal with’ God the Father. Alexandria was an important city in Arius’ time, and was a hotbed of Greek philosophical-religious **syncretism**. Arius’ ‘logic’ stems from the Greek dualistic tendency (found in Platonism and Gnosticism) to posit ‘intermediary beings’ between an eternally impassible God and the creation. In genuine Biblical thought, there is no need for subordinate spirit beings because God Himself is the Redeemer! Genuine Christian belief is that Jesus *is* fully God Incarnate. This may be mind-boggling to the Greek rationalistic mind, but it is indeed the Biblical witness. ‘Subordinate Christologies’ caused great conflict in the early Church, and the controversies were essentially worldview problems!

**JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES** – The JW’s teachings about Christ are similar to Arianism. The Logos is not God but the Son of God...a ‘god’...more like an archangel. Jesus was put to death as a man, but raised as a spirit being of the highest order of divine nature. The ransom given by the man Jesus does not guarantee everlasting life to anyone. JWs also deny the doctrine of the Trinity, making the Holy Spirit a mere ‘force.’

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE** (and other ‘*New Thought*’ groups) – In some of the alternatives listed above, the inability to accept Jesus as truly God Incarnate was due to the Platonic-Gnostic worldview of ontological **dualism** and its disgust for matter (physical existence.) Now we will see a different problem, one that comes from **monism**’s denial that matter even exists! *New Thought* ‘Mind Science’ is based on a kind of spiritual or mental MONISM. All that exists is Divine Mind and nothing else is real. If you start with *that* assumption and try to open the “key to Scripture” you will obviously not be teaching a kosher view of Jesus!

**Christian Science** denies the incarnation, claiming that the ‘Virgin Mother’ conceived of ‘Christ’ as a spiritual *idea* and gave it the name Jesus. Jesus did not die on a cross for our sins because He did not have a body and there is no death! Thus, there is no real redemption in Christian Science, but that’s fine because there is no sin either! Sin is merely an error of thinking. Evil, disease, disharmony, and death are not real! Humans only exist as ‘ideas of God’ so we are ‘already eternally saved.’ Similar views can be found in many groups such as: “The Church of Religious Science” and “Unity School of Christianity.” **Religious Science** alleges that ‘Christ’ is merely the manifestation of the divine in all consciousness...thus we are all ‘Christs’ in our true inner selves. Similarly, **Unity** teaches that ‘Christ’ is an idea of God that exists in the ‘higher self’ or spirit of everyone! In all these views, sin doesn’t actually exist and salvation is merely realizing the divine already within us. You will find this anti-theistic concept of ‘Christ’ in the widely popular “*A Course in Miracles*.”

**MORMONISM** (Latter Day Saints) – Being a worldview blend of Gnosticism, occultism and polytheism, Mormonism’s view of Jesus is the most garbled of all. Because their view of God the Father is unbiblical (God was once a man with a body who ‘became’ God...as we all must become) so the view of the Son is unbiblical. It is taught that Jesus is Lucifer’s brother and that he was married to several women. Salvation in Mormonism comes from membership and obedience to its ordinances.

**LIBERAL RECONSTRUCTIONS** – The post-Enlightenment era’s inability to take the Bible at face value gave rise to a so-called ‘search for the *real* or the *historic* Jesus.’ What was usually intended by such ‘research,’ *which set out with anti-supernaturalistic presuppositions*, was to find the human Jesus stripped of any ‘myths’ about his divinity. Such scholars implied that Jesus’ own disciples ‘deified’ him after the crucifixion. (As if first century Jews would do that!) Just as the 18<sup>th</sup> century Deists (who thought the incarnation ‘unreasonable’) saw Jesus as merely a social reformer or good moral teacher, 19<sup>th</sup> century naturalists (who thought the incarnation ‘impossible’!) offered a variety of **humanistic** interpretations. Such trends continue today with the pseudo-scholarly headline-grabbing “Jesus Seminar” and other popular fiction books offering messiah figures cast in their own images. We have seen, for example, the Gay Magician Jesus, the Faith-healing Charlatan Jesus, the Misguided Revolutionary Jesus, the Socratic-subversive Sage Jesus, the Me-generation Identity-Crisis Jesus, the Apocalyptic Failed-Messiah Jesus, and so on. The best casting would only ever be a “man for others,” a Jesus who taught ‘self-sacrifice’ who can be a symbol or model for *any* cause.

Neo-orthodox theologians, seeing the bankruptcy of the humanistic figures, chose instead to emphasize the ‘Christ of Faith’ over against the ‘Jesus of History.’ But they did so without understanding that what makes Jesus unique and makes the Gospels trustworthy is the incarnational truth that *God acts into history* and that there IS no need to separate the real **Jesus of History** from the supernatural **Christ of Faith**. If you do separate them because of your non-biblical presuppositions and dubious hermeneutical methodology, you end up with neither!

**“COSMIC CHRIST”** (and other **“New Age”** views of Jesus) – Some people prefer a more ‘mystical’ view of Jesus to the unsatisfying ‘humanistic’ views. Something as syncretistic and amorphous as the New Age Movement has no consensus on who Jesus was or is, ergo, many different ‘Christs’ are proclaimed. You might hear that the first century Nazarene was merely one of a myriad of spiritually adept religious figures who channeled the cosmic mind, “holy” or divine consciousness. Or you might even hear someone claiming to channel new revelations from Jesus that reinterpret the Biblical worldview along the lines of paganism, mysticism, monism or Gnosticism.

A typical New Age teaching is that the “Second Coming of Christ” will *not* be a literal historical event, but will occur when we all attain “Christ Consciousness.” Some teach that Jesus is lower on the hierarchy of ‘spirit beings’ and we await the Coming of a World Teacher identified as “Lord Maitreya.” (This could actually be the “Anti-Christ” warned about in the apostolic writings!)

More than ever, we need to proclaim the untainted “Gospel Truth” about Who Jesus is, and heed the warnings about ‘false prophets’ and ‘false Christs.’ Apostasy may abound today, but the truth of the Lord will stand forever. Which will you choose? **[Who do you say that Jesus is?](#)**

THIS PHILOSOPHY COURSE IS ALL ABOUT QUESTIONS

BASIC QUESTIONS OF REALITY

*QUESTIONS THAT SEARCH FOR WISDOM AND TRUTH*

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS OF EXISTENCE

OF HUMANITY

OF LIFE AND DEATH

OF KNOWLEDGE AND REASON AND SCIENCE

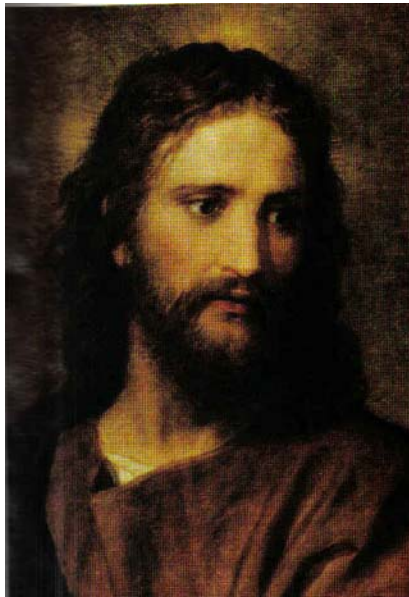
OF GOOD AND EVIL

OF THE MEANING AND PURPOSE OF ALL THINGS

*BUT SURELY*

THE SINGLE MOST SIGNIFICANT QUESTION EVER ASKED:

*“WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS IS?”*



## RESPONSES

People tend to react in recognizable ways to the mystifying array of worldviews and religions. Some simply cling to their pet opinions, perhaps for comfort. Others seem to be rather proud of being 'non-judgmental' or 'non-committal,' having fallen for the false view of **tolerance** pervading our society. They try to **shun** the **logical-critical thinking** necessary for examining basic assumptions. These unhelpful responses fit into (and can be described by) the following "isms":

**ABSURDISM** - In this response they are so overwhelmed by the plethora of contradictory choices that they may conclude: **NO ultimate truth exists**. So they embrace Absurdity as an end-all; and then try to cover *that* emptiness with all manner of: dark-side delving, black humor, 'shock-jock' talk, alcohol, drugs and hedonistic lifestyles.

**Reply:** Engage this view the same way we would respond to **Nihilism**: "What do you *mean* 'there is no meaning'?" We may also ask: "How long do you think you can live that lifestyle without horrible consequences?" As to the exasperating array of WV choices, we must 'get down to basics.' There *are* self-evident rules for the evaluating the validity and meaning of our choices, and there are actually *very few* BASIC views from which to choose!

**SKEPTICISM** - People 'balk.' They say we cannot honestly know about Ultimate Reality. They think this is a healthy or positive stance. But the **result** of prolonged skepticism is not only doubt about religion and morality, but broad pessimism about all WV issues. Agnosticism usually leads to apathy. And apathy becomes **despair** as life drags on.

**Reply:** This view has all the problems of **Naturalism**, which *if consistent* leads to utter **Nihilism**. It is always helpful to be critical about *new* ideas. Such 'positive skepticism' can be used for discernment. But, skepticism as a *presupposed truism in negation of truth* is not helpful at all! It is self-refuting *and* self-destructive.

**PRIVATISM** - In this response you may say: "Oh, all these WV issues are matters of private faith or personal belief. I know what I believe and I don't care to discuss it...it's nobody's business but my own." **Or** - "What is 'true for me' is true for me and what is 'true for you' is true for you. These things cannot be proven or disproved by critiquing WVs!"

**Reply:** This view *may be* an attempt to avoid the question of truth. It's also symptomatic of our self-centered times. The problem is, although religious views *can be experienced* as intensely personal, the assumptions that under-gird all worldviews *must* be open to scrutiny. And, we can respectfully help each other in that important human endeavor. To retreat into 'privatism' actually puts the finite self as the highest arbiter of truth in the universe! Thus, it has all the same '**traps**' and problems as **Atheistic Existentialism**. Worse, it so erodes the concept of 'truth' that even your own personal-private views would have no genuine chance of being meaningful!

**SYNCRETISM** - In this response, which is similar to privatism, people believe they can have *their own* private faith by holding an "eclectic hodgepodge of beliefs." They typically start a sentence with saying "To me, God is like ...." They also almost inevitably say: "I'm not religious, I'm spiritual," which can be just another way to say: "I don't want to think, I just want to feel." (Problem is — there is no discernment that comes with 'just feeling.') ((**And** there is no protection from very real **spiritual deception**!))

**Reply:** This view has the same problems as that famous nonsense statement: "All Roads Lead to the Same God." You **cannot** 'syncretize' mutually exclusive truth claims and maintain your intellectual integrity. Period.

**FIDEISM** - We can't know, reason, or prove anything about God. We can only 'accept it on FAITH.' God is not apprehended, honored and served by reason...but by 'faith alone.' Reason precludes or destroys faith.

**Reply:** This is *not* a Biblical concept of faith and reason! And, it offers no way to handle challenges, internal or external, to the Faith. Fideism, though seemingly pious, will have all the same problems as **Theistic Existentialism**. Recall that **T Ex** was too subjective, and too dismissive of the **objective grounds for** belief and the life of faithfulness. God has graciously provided solid evidence for 'belief over non-belief' *and* for Biblical belief over other 'religions' and their alleged 'revelations.' (Such as the historically and textually baseless claims of Mormonism.) And, Fideism comes dangerously close to the incoherent mysticism we found in **Pantheistic Monism** where the idea of God is one of a 'Being *beyond* knowing.' (Such as the inexpressible *Brahman-Soul* invoking 'an austere silence'!)

## SOME OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY STUDENTS

 "Well, it's really **arrogant** to think that my worldview is the **only true one.**"

But, believing in Jesus should make us humble not arrogant. (We should mind Him, not market Him!)

Also, why is it never deemed arrogant to insist on the 'politically correct truth' that 'no one WV *can* be true'?!)

Besides, WV Study is not a competition but a commitment to Something Being Ultimately **True!**

And without *that* commitment, we are thrown to the **Ultimate Arrogance:** the Nietzschean **Will to Power!**

 "Well, I think everyone has the **sacred right to believe whatever they want.**"

That nice-sounding sentiment, if taken uncritically and literally, would have dangerous consequences for human society. We are not trampling anyone's '**rights**'...rights *are* God-given and they *are* sacred! We can disagree about what *is* true without throwing truth as a category out the window!

So think! Remember those two similar-sounding but crucially different ideas we discussed?

**"The right to believe anything..."**

and

**"The belief that anything is right..."**

We *can* live with the first one, but not with the second! A world in which 'anything anyone believed' could be 'equally valid and true' would **not** be a world we'd want to live in! It would be a 'Cosmic Madhouse.'

(And, we all have the responsibility to live with the consequences of our beliefs as well. People act upon their beliefs.)

 "It's **not** for me to **judge** what others believe....we should just **love** people."

We are surely not to judge people, but we simply **must** make judgments about beliefs. Is it respectful to be indifferent to the other 'Universes Next Door'? That's not 'Loving One's Neighbor'!

Would you really let people you love believe something false, or unhealthy, or even fatal?

 "It's all too confusing because there are **way too many choices** out there..."

Yes, if you mean the vast pantheon of **Religions** (and their countless 'denominations' and sectarian splinter-groups) and the stupendous complexity in all those **Philosophies** (and their hairsplitting subtleties...) and even the diverse array of **Worldview Categories** and their brand-name variations...

...it is easy to become bewildered!! How could you not be overwhelmed!?

But...take a deep breath and remember what we said at the start of this course:

**On the level of 'most basic assumptions' there are really only so many choices possible. Very few!**

And the indispensable Laws of Thought demonstrate that they cannot possibly all be true.

So we can start on some pretty solid ground and build carefully from there.

*Do not grow weary in the pursuit of truth.  
Without it, nothing else matters.*

# JUDEO-CHRISTIAN-BIBLICAL THEISM REVISITED!

Reconsider **JCBT** as a full-orbed view of reality **revealed** to us by the only true God. The self-disclosed God of the Bible is a Personal Being. A Being **unique** among all ideas and conceptions of “**Ultimate Reality.**”

**JCBT** hallows a God who has definitive **Character**. He is distinct and knowable because He told us His Name and He calls us to **Relationship** with Him. This exquisite WV proclaims the One who is the infinite-personal, transcendent-immanent, holy and loving creator-sustainer-redeemer God. **JCBT** is the *only* worldview that has such an unimaginably awesome yet graciously self-offering God. The *other* great ‘Monotheistic’ religion, **Islam**, has only superficial similarities with the Biblical Faith. It actually functions as **Fatalism** and *lacks* the true character of **JCBT**. Islam has **no** comparable narrative of free-will, relational redemption, atonement, love, mercy and grace.

Because of the supernaturally revealed answer to [Q1]...**JCBT** is the **ONLY** WV THAT ---

[Q2] -- describes a **Reality** that is good but fallen. **Nature** has spectacularly majestic wonders to behold but groans and suffers from evil and disease. But Nature as we see it now, marred and scarred, is not the way it will be forever. The World is in the process of being **Redeemed**.

[Q3] -- has the most *humble* view of the **Human Being** without self-abnegation, and the *highest* possible view of the **Human Being** without self-deification! For we are creatures made for fellowship with a Holy God. We are sinful and rebellious, yet redeemable by God’s Grace through Yeshua!

[Q4] -- not only answers the otherwise unbearable question about **Death**, but ultimately **defeats death!** We neither euphemize death nor glorify dying. We can weep over mortality, but we can also believe in Resurrection. Yeshua assures it. Other WVs have a hopeless end...we have an endless hope.

[Q5] -- *can solve* the epistemology dilemma because God has created us with faculties which are capable of **Knowing** the External Reality He has created. We are even capable of ‘knowing our own selves’ in a self-transcendent way! No other philosophy, religion or science has ever ‘made sense’ of *why* we ‘sense’! No other WV can even explain the Mystery of Human **Consciousness!**

[Q6] -- *saves us* from the devolution of humanistic/relativistic **Ethics**. In **JCBT**, and in this worldview alone, an unutterably HOLY God gave us His **Torah** (teaching, instruction) as a gift of love and grace. We not only have an absolute standard for right and wrong, in *Yeshua the Living Torah* we have a perfect example to follow, and through His Spirit, we are enabled to do so! Also, it is the **ONLY** world religion that tells a real story of Grace, not of what we have to do to ‘earn salvation’ or what we have to practice so as to ‘attain esoteric knowledge of the infinite’!

[Q7] -- reveals and sanctifies ‘**the Purpose of Human History**’ as restoration unto the living God. Here is where the astonishingly beautiful coherence of the Biblical Tapestry (our Metanarrative!) can be glimpsed. We do not see every thread from the beginning to the end. Neither do we presume to comprehend all of God’s ways and means. But we can completely trust His flawless character for the ‘big picture.’

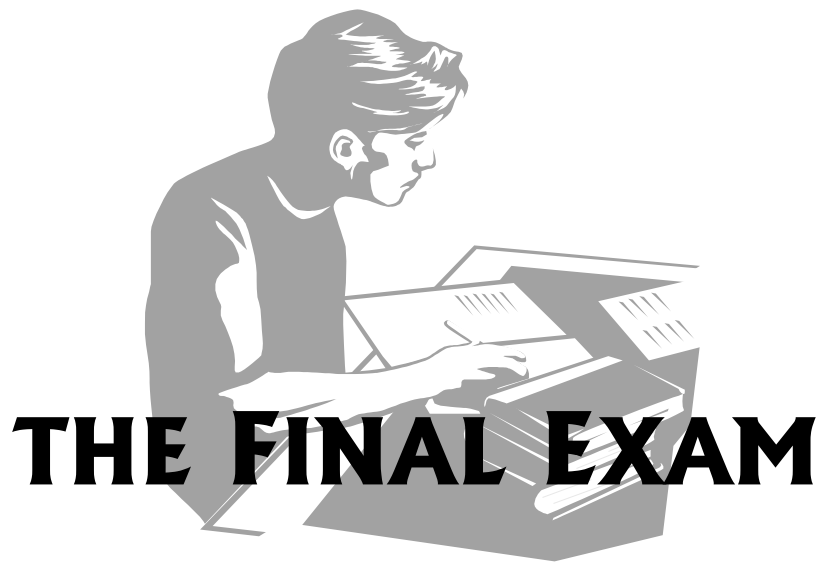
**Personal Note:** In the deepest anguish and grief I have ever experienced, I still affirm that the answers summarized above ring absolutely ‘true to what is.’ **JCBT** is an incomparable narration of **love**. It is a view to hold *and* a life to live. This I believe with all my heart, soul and mind. *God Bless You.*

**Please see the dedication page at the close of this course manual.**

*B’Shem Yeshua, Amen.*

## MAKE THIS COURSE PERSONALLY ‘EXISTENTIALLY’ RELEVANT

<b>1</b>	Worldview	<b>“Why EXISTENCE at ALL?”</b> (I want to know how to view the world and how to live.)
<b>2</b>	Theism	<b>“God Exists. I exist. We can talk!”</b> (Because of His <b>character</b> I can know that <b>relationship</b> is possible.)
<b>3</b>	Deism	<b>“God Exists. I exist. Not much more to say.”</b> (It isn’t about relationship, just reason. Isn’t that enough? No, it’s not.)
<b>4</b>	Naturalism	<b>“I exist. God does not!”</b> But I have an awful lot to say for an evolved machine! But how did life, consciousness, and free choice arise from deterministic or random nonliving nature? How does ‘machine-speak’ count as knowledge?
<b>5</b>	Nihilism	<b>“I say there is nothing to say!”</b> (There’s no meaning.” “You don’t mean that.” “Yes, I do” “oops.”)
<b>6</b>	Atheistic Existentialism Theistic Existentialism	<b>“I exist</b> condemned to freely create my own meaning.” <b>“I exist</b> in need of God so must leap in faith to Him.”
<b>7</b>	Eastern Pantheistic Monism	<b>“God Exists. I do not!”</b> (All is God and All is one, the separate ‘self’ is an illusion.)
<b>8</b>	“New Age”	<b>“I AM God!”</b> (Whatever I say is reality...I AM evolving into divinity.)
<b>9</b>	Postmodernism	<b>“Whatever <i>Anyone</i> says about Existence is valid.”</b> (But, say the above statement is invalid, now what?)
<b>10</b>	Which to Choose?	<b>Only One Truly Satisfies. I must say...</b> <b>“Father, into your hands I commit my Existence!”</b>



**Ah, for a moment there it suddenly all made sense!**

# YOUR PHILOSOPHY AND WORLDVIEW FINAL EXAM

## TRUE OR NOT TRUE, THEREFORE FALSE:

1. Rightly or not, the **Eastern** Approach to Religion was seen by many in the **West** to provide a much deeper WV and a meaningful *way out* of the rationalistic maze of contradictions.
2. In 1893, **Swami Vivekananda** eloquently described **Hinduism** as the *newest and truest* religious approach.
3. Eastern Religions are full of techniques and rituals to guide you into a **personal-divine and unique selfhood**.
4. Physical **death**, *as it is the loss of an individual*, is mourned as the ultimate tragedy in Hinduism, therefore the God of Death, called **SHIVA**, is rarely honored.
5. To chant a **mantra** is not to express any rational idea, but to try and *become* what the sound *symbolizes*.
6. In **ADVAITA** (non-dual) Hinduism, the eternal "**ONE**" is conceived of as *undiversified*, *formless* and **IMPERSONAL**.
7. In **Pantheistic-Monism**, there *is* but **ONE** supreme **GOD** over **ALL**, who is distinct from this evil mundane world.
8. **Reincarnation**, the **Law of Karma**, and the **Samsara Cycle** are all connected in Hinduism and other Eastern WVs.
9. To the perennial question: "**WHY does anything at all** (seem to) **exist** (other than Brahman, who *IS* the All) a Hindu replies with **Maya** or even **Lila** as a possible but insupportable answer.
10. There *is* evidence for the tradition that the apostle **Thomas** preached the gospel in India and was martyred there, but there's **no** evidence that **Jesus** "*achieved godhood*" by traveling to India and learning from gurus.
11. The **NAM** is a deceptive spiritual counterfeit so consumed with *inner-self* that it has no real *agenda* for the *world*.
12. **Isis Unveiled**, published in 1877, was allegedly 'written' by The Great White Brotherhood of Ascended Masters *via* 'channeling' to the spirit-medium and New Age 'High Priestess' **Alice A. Bailey**.
13. The **Bible** explicitly **denies** the existence of disembodied evil spirits, demons and ungodly powers.
14. A 'Messianic Personage' heralded for the New World Order and One World Religion is called **Lord Maitreya**.
15. The **Gaia Hypothesis-Theory** has been *embraced* by New Agers because it supports pantheism *and* paganist expressions such as goddess-worship and nature-worship.
16. Postmodernism's critical distrust for the autonomous sufficiency of human reason *presupposes* the *autonomy* and *sufficiency* of human reason, and *that* is a WV flaw!
17. Postmodernists, because they hold **the rejection of all metanarratives** as a *basic* principle, are *not* committing a self-contradiction (according to Sire.)
18. The Postmodernist critique of Modernism's optimistic Humanism & Scientism **is valid** criticism.
19. Sire does mention other WV options, such as **Hedonism** – which would be considered a sub-category or a mere variation of Naturalism.
20. According to your professor and Sire: **IF** examined honestly and critically, **every WV except for Biblical Theism** contains logical inconsistencies, incoherence and fatal systemic flaws...and some even end in utter **Nihilism**.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

21. **Pantheistic-Monism**, if understood and taken seriously, completely **obliterates** the concept(s) of:  
A. Actual Moral Distinctions    C. The finite self as a creature made for relationship with Creator  
B. A Transcendent and Holy God    D. Personality    E. All of the aforementioned concepts
22. In Eastern Thought, 'Everything is Eternal,' ⌚ 'Time is Unreal' (merely *maya*) and so **HISTORY** is:  
A. Boring    B. Cyclical    C. Teleological    D. Eschatological    E. Soteriological    F. Magical
23. The innumerable Americans who embrace **Eastern Thought** are probably MOST **attracted to**:  
A. **Richard Gere**, only kidding. To: its antiquity, complexity and bewildering difficulty ...  
B. its detachment, ashrams, caste system, extreme poverty, widow-burning ...  
C. its charming riddles, haiku poetry, quietude, pacifism, and meditative stress relief ...  
D. its asceticism, self-denial, austere disciplines, strict diets (near starvation sometimes) ...
24. The **ontological line** we draw between **Q1 [Ultimate Reality]** and **the remainder** of reality maintains:  
A. An essential distinction between the Creator *and* Creation  
B. The key difference between Monotheism's *and* Pantheistic-Monism's idea of 'God'  
C. **Both A and B**, but not D  
D. The Platonic-Dualistic line between spirit *and* matter, real *and* less real, perfection *and* imitation  
E. **All of the above**
25. **Zen Buddhist Monism** holds that **Final Reality** is:  
A. **Not no-thing, not some-thing, not a thing at all.....a "VOID"**  
B. Siddhartha's very last incarnation when he appears to give a **Final Exam**  
C. Attaining final knowledge about the Buddha-Nature so 'that everything **finally** makes sense'  
D. A luscious Paradise where all desires are satisfied so as to **finally** negate craving-*thus*-suffering
26. "**All rivers flow to the ocean. Flow and let others flow too...**" said the god/man **Sri Ramakrishna**.  
What he, and his most famous disciple Swami Vivikananda, **most likely meant to teach us** was:  
A. "Do not build dams nor damn others..." Meaning: 'We should all just go with the flow.'  
B. "Truth is One; Do not argue doctrine..." Meaning: 'All streams flow into the One.'  
C. "Follow your bliss to whatever floats your boat..." Meaning: 'Live and let live.'  
D. "Everything is essentially composed of water..." Meaning: 'Ah, you see? Thales was a Hindu!'
27. One major off-shoot from Hinduism that flourishes **all over** the 'Orient' (India, China, Korea & Japan, *etc.*)  
and also has many popular forms **throughout** the Western world is:  
A. Buddhism    B. Jainism    C. Sikhism    D. Shintoism    E. Shankaraism
28. **YOGA** means **yoking** (uniting with god; becoming One with Brahman.) In **HINDUISM** there is/are:  
A. **One and Only One Way** to become One with the One and Only Reality...  
B. Many different types of Yoga, (Jnana, Bhakti, Raja, Hatha, Tantra...) **but** they're all are for becoming One...  
C. Nothing 'spiritual' about Yoga, because it is **only** practiced as exercise for 'physical discipline...'  
D. **No** association with 'enlightenment'-liberation-salvation.... (attaining *Moksha* from *Samsara*!)  
E. **No** sly attempt to 'sell it' to westerners as mere exercise devoid of religious ramifications.

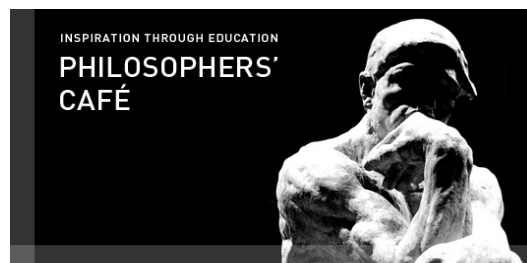
29. In Taoism, (pron: DOW-izm) the interacting energy modes or ‘complimentary forces’ are called the...  
 A. Tao / Jones    B. Yin /Yang ☯    C. Feng / Shui    D. Ch’an / Ch’ing    E. Zen/ Yen
30. New Age **SYNCRETISM** is subtly ‘conditioning’ our minds, *and* preparing us to **accept**.....  
 A. our human responsibility to be better stewards of the globe *and* better citizens locally  
 B. that all religions have some truth to them so they should all be encouraged to stay true to themselves  
 C. a universal vision and common consciousness, so as to birth a one world religion / new world order.  
 D. a new international diplomatic forum that will continue to respect the sovereignty of nation states.
31. Which of the following statements about **WAGNER’S Operas** is absolutely **FALSE**??  
 A. He wrote the music *and* the libretti to awaken Germanic Volk to their divine Aryan Destiny /Mission.  
 B. They are musically powerful and bombastic, but were written *only* for a diversion, with *no* ‘agenda.’  
 C. They were Adolph Hitler’s favorite operas...(Hitler claims that Wagner inspired his ‘life mission.’)  
 D. They helped fan the flames of the 19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> c. pagan revival *and* ignited racist occult movements.
32. Which statement is **not quite true** about the famous and influential **Madame Helena Blavatsky**?  
 A. Her books are *revered in New Age circles*, considered to be of supernatural origin and to contain timeless truths.  
 B. She *syncretized East & West*: blending gnosticism, occultism, spiritual–evolution, mysticism, & Hinduism.  
 C. She founded the *Theosophical Society*, which spawned numerous offshoots and cults *still* thriving today.  
 D. She *attracted famous men* (Thomas Edison, William Butler Yeats, Piet Mondrian) *due to her astounding beauty*.
33. The terms “Timeless Bliss” “Satori” “A.S.C.” “Nirvana” “Brahmic Bliss” *etc.*, are various aliases for:  
 A. *Cosmic Consciousness*    B. Age of Aquarius    C. **The Beatific Vision**    D. Shirley MacLaine’s dog. 🐕
34. Not all proponents of “The New Consciousness” are ‘New Agey’ & ‘Occultic’ in the *usual* sense, but like **Ken Wilber**, they **do** ...  
 A. Consult tarot cards, crystal balls and clairvoyants when no one is watching!  
 B. Believe in only one higher truth and one way to god.  
 C. Accept *as equally valid* the languages of *all* systems of reality: sorcery *or* science, witchcraft *or* philosophy!  
 D. Accept *only* the traditional paradigms of the modern sciences.
35. Where can the very oldest version of **New Age Lies** be found? (Such as: *You are Divine–Consciousness, You can attain esoteric knowledge, You can define and transcend good and evil, You will not die, etc.*)  
 A. In Thetan Texts that ‘Cruised’ to earth 75 million years ago with an Evil Galactic Emperor.  
 B. The Gnostic Gospels and other heterodox writings from the late Hellenistic Period. (2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> c.)  
 C. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of the First Book of the Torah  
 D. The First Edition (1888) of Blavatsky’s *The Secret Doctrine*, Volume 1: **COSMOGENESIS**
36. The Judeo – Christian Bible does **not** offer an extensively descriptive **Angelology** probably **because**:  
 A. We might try to contact, use and even bow to them. God alone should be our object of worship.  
 B. The human Biblical authors didn’t believe in Angels, nor should we, as they are only allegorical.  
 C. The original texts contained Angel mythologies but the medieval Popes excised those passages.  
 D. In the Bible, Angels appear only *in dreams*, so they don’t really exist. *Unless dreams are real, umm...*

37. Postmodernism is notoriously hard to define, but a good **general description** would be:
- A. A **psychological** analysis that predicts more people will be **going postal** in the new millennium.
  - B. A **cultural** analysis that isn't a WV, but critiques WVs and impacts them, yet doesn't offer a better one.
  - C. An **artistic** analysis that says ultra – modern style is too square and eclecticism is more fair.
  - D. A **scientific** analysis that tries to surpass or ratify modernism's certainties of objective reality.
38. Postmodern dissolution of standards, reason, and objective knowledge has had serious consequences for today's society. Which of the following was **NOT** mentioned by Jerram Barrs as a **result of POMO**?
- A. Practical idolatry and the return of pagan spiritualities
  - B. The Rejection of "Truth," and acceptance of moral relativism.
  - C. Turning to Authority Figures for social betterment and political activism.
  - D. "GEN – X's" feelings of cynicism, apathy, skepticism and boredom.
39. Although **Postmodernism's** influence is *now* pervasive, it *used to be* mostly associated with **which** of these University Departments and professional fields?? (Not just the *term* POMO but the PROGRAM!)
- A. Mathematics and Science, especially Theoretical Physics
  - B. Art and Design; Music Theory; Drama and the Fine Arts
  - C. Traditional Philosophy; Systematic and Historical Theology
  - D. English, Literary Criticism, Linguistics; and Sociology
40. **Judeo-Christian-Biblical Theists** should *never* be arrogant, triumphalistic or coercive, **EVEN THOUGH** they do believe that their WV is **the only true worldview...BECAUSE:**
- A. The Bible does *not* command us to **FORCE** people to convert to Christ...
  - B. J-C-B-Theism isn't just a WV to Hold but a Life to be Lived...in humility, grace, and love...
  - C. Our Holy God *has* graciously revealed sufficient Truth, but He has *not* given us omniscience... nor should we seek self – certitude...
  - D. Arrogance, pride, *and* self – righteousness are *sins* in the Bible!
  - E. ALL of the above! ♥**

*"In your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, and do this with gentleness and respect."* 1 Peter 3: 15

*"Love the Lord your God with all that you have and all that you are, and love your neighbor as yourself. All the rest is commentary. Go and learn."* Rabbi Hillel

 **BUT FINISH THE EXAM FIRST ...** 



## SHORT ANSWER PORTION

 Please (re)write your answers **NEATLY** on an Answer Sheet

41. To exclaim *Tat Tvam Asi* (THOU ART THAT) means *what* exactly?? (*Why* do Hindus say it??)

---

42. After 'uttering' the first 3 sounds: **A** (*APTI* — Attaining; Awake, Enjoying the 'gross elements' of outer life )

**U** (*UTKARSHA* — Uprising; Asleep, Dreaming 'subtle elements' of inner-consciousness )

**M** (*MITI* — Measure; Deep Dreamless Sleep; no desires; silent consciousness )

You then emit the 'holiest' sound in the Cosmos, attain pure consciousness; becoming One with the Supreme Being.

What is that 'eternal syllable'? \_\_\_\_\_ (Be able to explain the **symbol** for that syllable as well!)

43. Although most Christian critiques of the N.A.M. neglect this aspect, N.A. ideology contains the diabolically genocidal **prejudice** called " \_\_\_\_\_," a particularly lethal anti-Biblical spirit. (This was *especially* seen in Richard Wagner, but also in Blavatsky and her many 'spin-offs'.)

44. Who was the famous protégé of Sigmund Freud who has become very important to the N.A.M., *especially* as popularized by Joseph Campbell? \_\_\_\_\_

45 — 47. The New Age has influenced art, style and advertising in our culture. True devotees might consider a lot of what gets sold in Sedona as "kitsch," but it sells extremely well! It may even help to spread New Age ideology! Their beliefs, symbols, terms and fads are now ubiquitous. Almost anywhere you go you find **tangible** New Age influence (practices, techniques, mottos, labels, images, even 'goddess' names like Dharma, etc.!).

Give a few specific **examples**: (not of beliefs but of tangible things.) Think of some **you've** actually seen!

45. \_\_\_\_\_

46. \_\_\_\_\_

47. \_\_\_\_\_

48 — 50. **List** some political agenda items and programs that will be implemented and **enforced** by the "New World Government" according to "**The Plan**": (Don't list *ideas*, but **policies**, etc.)

48. \_\_\_\_\_

49. \_\_\_\_\_

50. \_\_\_\_\_

## 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY LINGUISTIC – ANALYTIC PHILOSOPHIES

### TRUE OR FALSE

51. British “**Realism**” basically *agrees with* the metaphysics of Hegelian “**Idealism.**”
52. What *sense data* had been for the Empiricists and *pure reason* had been for the Rationalists (*the foundation for certainty*) was for Moore — *Common Sense*.
53. George E. Moore’s list of “**propositions he knew with certainty to be true**” was composed to demonstrate that we can attain great amounts of knowledge, *and* that such certainties are usually startling and highly fascinating to us.
54. Moore’s work to clarify meaning was a **TURN** in philosophy, aiming it back to being search for Truth, wisdom and personal fulfillment.
55. *Principia Mathematica* gives a lengthy defense of Gottlob Frege’s thesis that all of arithmetic is an extension of the basic principles of logic.
56. Atheist Bertrand Russell would not utilize “Ockham’s Razor” in his analyses and theories because William of Ockham was a Franciscan monk of the 14<sup>th</sup> century!
57. Logical ‘Positivism’ began with a circle of ‘**positive thinking**’ artists in Vienna.
58. Rudolf Carnap wrote that *Metaphysics* is dangerously deceptive, as it gives the illusion of offering KNOWLEDGE, when it is merely ‘expressive’ like poetry & art!
59. Although rejecting *Metaphysics*, Carnap and A. J. Ayer held that Moral statements and ethical imperatives (such as “Lying is Immoral”) were *logically true concepts*.
60. The Logical Positivists’ dictum: “**All propositions must be either analytic, synthetic, or nonsense**” was logically shown to have the status of an indubitable ‘analytic’ truth, which happily put the ‘wind back in their sails’ and ‘patched their philosophical ship.’



## MORE MULTIPLE CHOICE

61. Ludwig Wittgenstein wrote:

“What **can** be said at all can be said clearly; and what we **cannot** *talk* about...

- A. “...we must *write about*, after intensive *Philosophical Investigations*.”
- B. “...we must *only render into the symbolic signs* of logic or math.”
- C. “...we must *consign to silence*.”

62. The first line of Wittgenstein’s famous *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* is:

- A. “The world is tractable, logical, and can be taken philosophically”
- B. “The world exists as a totality of facts, not of objective things.”
- C. “The world is all that is the case.”

63. Wittgenstein, at first, inspired the Logical Positivists in their search for “protocol sentences” because he—

- A. always endeavored to use ‘proper syntax and logical protocol.’
- B. said the world consists of ‘atomic facts’ that can be asserted and used as ‘tools of analysis’ for more complex things.
- C. said that the world consists of myriad positive ‘atomic-energy’ charges.

64. The *Tractatus* says some amazing things. A good *Theist* could actually agree with this one:

- A. “God does not reveal himself in the world.” (6.432)
- B. “The solution to the enigma of life in space and time...  
... lies outside space and time.” (6.4312)
- C. “Most of the propositions and questions found in philosophical works are not false but nonsensical.” (4.003)

65. After his sojourn in the  Alps, Wittgenstein returned to  Cambridge, but his philosophy was soon noticed to have *changed*...as it had:

- A. *lost* its positivism & mysticism, (but was *still* about language and meaning.)
- B. gotten a lot *easier* to understand and to take ordinary lecture notes on.
- C. become less about *language* and more about resolving *social* dilemmas.

66. ⌚ In saying that his philosophical aim was “to show the fly the way out of the bottle,” Wittgenstein really meant that:

A. He had finally abandoned Philosophy to go study Entomology!



B. He could actually *solve* many philosophical problems by telling ‘linguistic jokes’ and making ‘absurd allusions.’

“Socrates and Plato went into a bar...”



C. He would “not *solve* philosophical problems but *dissolve* them by showing that they are the result of **deviating** from **ordinary language** usage.”

The professor deviating from ordinary language usage!



67. Which “ism” would **NOT** describe the analytic philosophy of W. V. Quine?

A. epistemological holism B. radical physicalism C. empirical reductionism

68. With “**Structuralism**” we see 20<sup>th</sup> century philosophy being influenced (and being done) by \_\_\_\_\_ *rather than* by traditional philosophers.

A. Builders, community organizers, architects & sculptors.

B. Bureaucrats, Democrats, Technocrats & Plutocrats.

C. Linguists, anthropologists, psychoanalysts & sociologists.

69. According to **Saussure**, *language* is a system of arbitrary \_\_\_\_\_.

A. signs (sounds + concepts) B. grammatical laws C. fixed essences D. functions

70. Jacques **Lacan** believed that the **unconscious mind** is structured like a:

A. Neural Network B. Language C. **Nightmare** D. Cartoon Bubble



*Jacques Lacan*

I don't know about YOUR mind, but *my* mind, oh never mind...

## THINK ABOUT IT

71. The upshot of 20<sup>th</sup> c. Philosophy is that *language* cannot point to fixed essences, and *meaning* is infinitely deferred. Ergo, the **POMO Truth Dilemma** is that:
- A. **Truth** about the world *as it is* can not be attained; all statements about it are relative; thus there is no 'real' hope for finding and communicating meaning.
  - B. **Truth** & meaning can be found in the tremendous 'freedom of expression' and by our very *acts* of communicating and hoping we create a better world.
  - C. **Truth** will continue to be sought by highly symbolic logic and linguistic manipulation...to hopefully find a basis for communication and meaning.
72. Whether it is Wittgenstein's resignation *or* a Hindu's 'austere silence' ... (whether secular or religious mysticism)...*lack of knowledge* about Ultimate Reality borders on metaphysical nihilism, and the **only way out of that abyss** is...
- A. The precise *certainty* of *scientific knowledge* at least about phenomenal reality.
  - B. A self-disclosed God who wants us to *know* Him. '*He is There and He is NOT Silent!*'
  - C. The *knowledge* that we can speak, write, sing and create *meaning* for ourselves.
  - D. Attaining that '*higher truth*' where it isn't about *knowing at all*, it's about *being!*
73. Where might you find **the single most crucial question ever asked?**
- A. The ancient and *venerated* Hindu *Vedas & Upanishads*.
  - B. The *venerated* **Final Exam** in a 400-level Philosophy Course.
  - C. Matthew 16: 15. (And Mark 8: 29 & Luke 9: 20)
  - D. *Hamlet's Soliloquy* ("To be or not to be...") as interpreted by *Albert Camus*.
74. Platonic Dualism (matter *vs.* spirit) spawned heretical Christologies such as in:
- A. Gnosticism
  - B. Docetism
  - C. Arianism
  - D. All of the above
75. Name any person or group that '*paganizes*' Christianity by making a *syncretistic blend* of Biblical Theism & New Age 'Spirituality' or Eastern Pantheistic-Monism.  
(If you 'accuse' a new *teaching / trend* of infiltrating the Church with 'alien metaphysics', be sure you have researched it accurately!)
- PLEASE BE SPECIFIC HERE! AND DO SPELL IT CORRECTLY.**
-

THIS ENTIRE COURSE IS LOVINGLY DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF

**MICHAEL BLAINE BOVILLE**

May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1987 – July 14<sup>th</sup> 2010



**'LOVING, ENERGETIC, FUNNY, ALWAYS SMILING, UNSELFISH AND KINDHEARTED'**

**HE SERVED THE LORD AND OUR COUNTRY WITH IRREPRESSIBLE DEDICATION**

**HE WAS A DELIGHT AND JOY TO EVERYONE WHO KNEW HIM**

**IN OUR DEEP ANGUISH WE MISS HIM**

**IN TRUTH WE ARE ASSURED THAT WE WILL SEE HIM AGAIN**

**WE GRIEVE, BUT NOT AS THE WORLD**

**FOR WE KNOW THERE IS THE REALITY OF RESURRECTION**

**B'SHEM YESHUA AMEN**