

So What's The Difference?

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Chapter Ten New Age: The Serpent's Old Lie In An Updated Package



<http://dailywicca.com/2012/05/18/what-is-new-age-anyway/>

PLUMB LINE: 1 Cor. 15:3-4

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures...he was buried...he was Raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

Introduction

- Among the myriad new religions and cults on today's scene, nothing is more far-reaching or hard to define than the **New Age Movement** (NAM).
- Despite a lack of formal structure and organization, millions of New Age activists hope to transform society by bringing about a **reawakening** that will emphasize self-discovery, spiritual growth, and enlightenment.

The New Age Is Not New At All

- New Age concepts find their roots in many **ancient** sources, including the Babylonian mystery rituals, which are supposed to elevate humans to godlike status; nature worship; occult practices and reincarnation.



<http://www.wisdomlib.org/mesopotamian/book/babylonian-religion-and-mythology/d/doc7089.html>

- The New Age draws heavily from Hinduism, which, besides reincarnation, teaches concepts like monism (all is one) and **pantheism** (all is god). Another contributing stream of the New Age movement is Buddhism, which teaches mind control, meditation, and spiritual enlightenment, as well as reincarnation.
- New Age thought also borrows from Taoism (pronounced “dowism”), a Chinese philosophy that teaches that all things are constantly changing (the process called Yin and Yang); and, therefore, nothing is absolute; all is **relative**, including morals and ethics.
- From Gnosticism, the New Age adapts the concept of **esoteric** knowledge, which is supposed to ignite a divine spark and power within and, therefore, negates the need for Christ’s atoning death.
- New Age blends other ideas and phenomena of modern origin, such as unidentified flying objects (UFO’s), extraterrestrial intelligence and psychokinesis (blending objects like silverware into pretzel shapes by applying the mind).
- So eclectic is the NAM that it is **difficult** to describe a “complete” New Ager; some buy into one portion of New Age thinking, while others accept and practice other pieces and parts.

Alice Bayley Made “New Age” Popular

- The New Age label has been around for over 50 years, first popularized by **Alice Bayley**, a British-born Episcopalian who, for a time, followed the teachings of Madame Blavatsky, founder of the Theosophical Society.



<http://amos37.com/2013/02/16/abna1/>

- Many New Age ideas blossomed during the '60s when the nation was splintered by the Vietnam War and the assassinations of political figures.
- LSD; the Beatles who helped introduce **transcendental** meditation™; Eastern ideas; the musical *Hair* (1968-"The Age of Aquarius") all were springboards to the New Age Movement.

How New Agers Define "God"

- There is no **central** New Age organization or headquarters, nor is there a basic authoritative set of writings that present New Age doctrines in 1-2-3 order.
- New Agers tend to hold similar beliefs: monism-the idea that everything flows **together**, that human beings, natural phenomena and even "God," are not separate but actually one.
- **Pantheism**, "all is god," is another concept of New Age doctrine.
- New Agers have no concept of a personal creator who exists outside of and exercises control and authority over his creation.
- The creation is not held together for the New Ager by **Christ** (Col. 1:17)

- Shirley MacLaine, movie star turned evangelist for the New Age movement, said it as well as anyone in her best-selling book *Dancing in the Light*: “I know that I exist, therefore, I AM.
- I know the god-source exists.
- Therefore, **IT IS**.
- Since I am part of that force, then I AM that I AM.

New Agers Find “Salvation” in Themselves

- For the New Ager, salvation is achieving a new “**awareness**” of his or her divinity and oneness with all things.
- Prayer to a personal God is replaced with **meditation**-a journey within. Being born again above is therefore unnecessary.



<http://www.pinterest.com/cjwhmaye/new-age-meditation/>

- The “self” is lifted up to the highest levels and “seen as the cosmic treasury of wisdom power, and delight.”
- New Agers seek to unlock and unleash the divine self **within**, they follow the well-known New Age admonition to “create your own reality.” New Agers almost all agree on one central dogma: *All truth is relative, there are no absolutes, and you find “God” within yourself.*

Channeling-New Age Version Of Contacting Spirits

- Practices of the occult, like spiritism, constitute a major strand of today's NAM.
- Madame Blavatsky and Alice Bayley were both heavily involved in spiritism. Alice Bayley put out two dozen books on occult philosophy between 1919 and her death in 1949.



<http://spiritofpn.wordpress.com/2011/01/05/the-challenge-of-madame-blavatsky-2/>

- The spiritism movement that swept the United States a century ago had two goals: (1) to obtain information about the life beyond (would it be happy, sad, etc.); (2) to get in touch with departed loved ones.
- According to New Agers, spirit entities speak through mediums, or channelers.
- One is known as Ramtha, supposedly a 35,000-year-old warrior who channels through a rural Washington housewife named J.Z. Knight.
- Ramtha speaks through her, emphasizing that all of us are God, all of us have infinite potential and that we create our own reality.
- Ramtha advises New Agers never to go against any feeling.
- Ever since Satan told Eve, "Eat the fruit; become like God Himself," men and women have been trying to "do it on their own," or at least with the help of spirits and demons-what Paul calls "the powers of this dark world and...the spiritual forces of evil" (Eph. 6:12).

- It is no coincidence that the Bible firmly **forbids** contacting spirits or getting in touch with the dead (Lev. 19:31; Deut. 18:10-13).



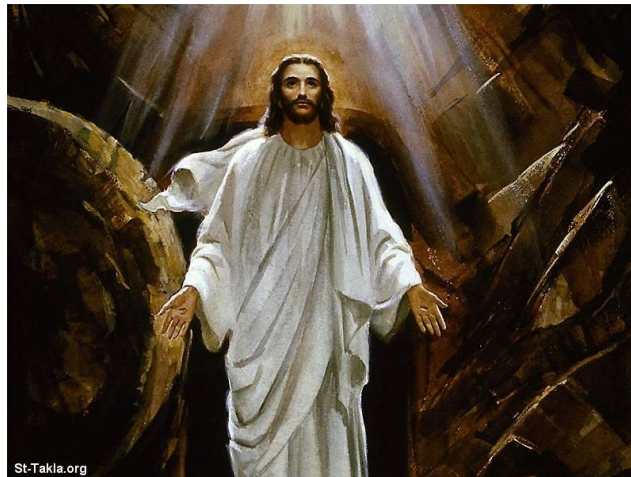
<http://www.huntsvillebible.com/2010/09/334/>

- Other New Age concepts or practices condemned or countered in the Scriptures include:
 - **Many** gods, goddesses, spirits and demons: see Gen. 1:1; Exod. 15:11; 20:2-6; Deut. 6:4; Isa. 45:5, 6, 21, 22.
 - Manipulating or bartering with the spirit world: see Deut. 13:1-5; 18:9-14; 1 Kings 11:33
 - Continuing **blood** sacrifice rituals: see Heb. 7:27; 10:10-13; 1 Pet. 3:18
 - Mythological, unhistorical legends: see 1 Cor. 15:1-8, 12-19; 1 Tim. 1:4; 2 Peter 1:16.
 - Secret knowledge only for elite “knowers”: see John 1:12; 3:16; Col. 2:8-10; 1 Tim. 2:4.
 - **Magic arts**, spells, taboos, astrology: see 2 Kings 17:16-18; Isa. 47:12-15; Acts 8:9-24.
 - Confusion of identity between the creator and the created: see 1 Kings 8:27; Ps. 8:1-9; 24:1-10; 89:5-14; Isa. 40:12-17; 1 Pet. 1:24, 25.
 - Ethics and morals derived from **humans** or the self; no absolutes, everything is relative: see 1 Kings 8:46; Ps. 51:1-4; 143:2; Eccles. 7:20; Rom. 2:14-16; 1 John 1:5-10
 - Reincarnation: see Rom. 6:23; Heb. 9:27.

- Salvation by human effort: see Rom. 4:3; Gal. 2:15, 16.
- Picking and choosing among religions: see Exod. 20:2-5; 23:13; John 1:7-9
- Worshiping other gods, especially **fertility** religions: see 2 Kings 17:9-12; Jer. 2:20; Ezek. 6:13.
- The idea that Christ is optional, only one of many spiritual masters: see John 14:6-8; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5,6

Reincarnation-A Key Part of the New Age

- In New Age thinking, **reincarnation** usually emphasizes progressing upward toward final self-redemption. This is opposed to some forms of Hinduism which can result in one coming back as an animal, a worm or even a rock or a tree.
- Contrary to New Age thinking, the Bible overwhelmingly teaches **resurrection**, not reincarnation (see Ps. 49:15; John 5:25; 6:40; 11:25; 1 Cor. 15; 2 Cor. 4:14; 1 Thess. 4:16).



<http://www.australianmarianacademy.blog.com/2011/05/23/christ%E2%80%99s-resurrection-conquered-wall-of-spiritual-death-pope-explains/>

- New Agers like to think they have all kinds of time to “get it right” as they progress toward some kind of self-induced salvation. The Bible clearly says you get **one** chance and after that comes the judgment (see Heb. 9:27)

Syncretism: All Religions Lead To the Same Place

- One of the key concepts of New Age thought is **syncretism**, the idea that all religions are one and they all lead to the same place.
- Jesus states, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through **me**” (John 14:6).

Is The NAM A Worldwide Conspiracy?

- That everyone connected with the NAM is in on the “conspiracy’ and is following the **Plan** like a recipe is hard to prove. A number of hard-core New Agers are, however, definitely in favor of the Plan and of having **one** world government led by one great leader.



<https://joynews.co.za/the-united-nations-wants-a-one-world-government-in-less-than-twelve-years/>

The “Ostrich Mentality” Is No Answer

- In responding to the New Age, Christians might be tempted to use the turtle shell or **ostrich** mentality, which views New Age as something so far that no one in his right mind would consider it.
- New Age concepts can be seen in many areas of everyday life, including the following:
 - Some forms of holistic care that feature “the power to heal **yourself**.”
 - The corporate arena, where major firms pay huge sums to offer motivational seminars designed to help employees tap the “**divine energy** source within.”
 - Music and films: *ET* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (extraterrestrials are good, helpful and even lovable); *Star Wars* (May the force be with you.)
- There are some things New Agers talk about that Christians can agree with, to a point.

- Saving the **environment**, trying to end war, terrorism, racial and gender discrimination, etc.

Summing Up Major Differences Between New Agers And Christians

Regarding God and Jesus Christ

- New Agers say, “God is **us** and **we** are God”; and Jesus Christ was just one of a “line of spiritual teachers.”
- Christians believe God is **separate** from His creation, and that only He can be called God (Isa. 45:12; Rom. 1:25); that Jesus Christ is God, the only mediator between God and man (John 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:5)

Regarding revelation (the Bible)

- New Agers claim revelation has always come from **different** sources.
- Christians believe that revelation is contained only in the Bible, God’s inspired, infallible and final Word (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Jude 3).

Regarding sin, salvation and reincarnation

- New Agers say human nature is neither good nor bad but open to **continuous** transformation; salvation is enlightenment.
- Christians believe all mankind is born in **sin** and stands condemned before a righteous, hold God (Rom. 3:9-11, 23).

Salvation by Faith



<http://sethsoasis.wordpress.com/2011/01/15/thoughts-on-prayer/>

- Salvation comes by putting **faith** in Jesus Christ's atonement for sin on the cross (Rom. 3:24, 25; Eph. 2:8-9).
- The Bible does not teach reincarnation. Man has one life and then is judged (Matt. 7:13; Heb. 9:27).



<https://www.turnbacktgod.com/september-14-triumph-of-the-holy-cross/>

Group Discussion Questions

Week Ten-New Age

Discussion Questions

1. It is the desire of those involved with the New Age movement to transform society by bringing about a reawakening that emphasizes self-discovery, spiritual growth, and enlightenment.
 - A. Why do you think it is important for those in the New Age movement to emphasize self-discovery?
 - B. Why is “enlightenment” so important to the New Age movement?
2. Jesus states in John 8:12, “...I am the Light of the world: he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of Life.”
 - A. Why doesn't the New Age movement recognize Jesus as being the light of the world?
 - B. Why do you think the New Age movement has become so popular in modern societies?
3. Jesus states in John 14:6, “...I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the father but through Me.”
 1. How does the above verse compare with the New Age belief that everything flows together and that human beings and God are one?
 2. Why are people so afraid of the Gospel when the Gospel brings life, forgiveness, and purpose?
 3. Have you ever encountered New Age beliefs? Explain.