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Chapter 1 : The New Age Worldview from A Biblical Perspective > The Scholars Corner

John Newport delivers a comprehensive study of the impact of New Age beliefs on contemporary culture - and on Christianity itself - while also offering an effective, biblical antidote to today's worldview crisis.

Definitions[edit] "One of the few things on which all scholars agree concerning New Age is that it is difficult to define. Often, the definition given actually reflects the background of the scholar giving the definition. Thus, the New Ager views New Age as a revolutionary period of history dictated by the stars; the Christian apologist has often defined new age as a cult; the historian of ideas understands it as a manifestation of the perennial tradition; the philosopher sees New Age as a monistic or holistic worldview; the sociologist describes New Age as a new religious movement NRM ; while the psychologist describes it as a form of narcissism. Chryssides suggested that it could be understood as "a counter-cultural Zeitgeist". Lewis stated that it remained a useful etic category for scholars to use because, "There exists no comparable term which covers all aspects of the movement. All manifestations of this movement are characterized by a popular western culture criticism expressed in terms of a secularized esotericism. Through their shared marginalisation within a given society, these disparate ideas interact and create new syntheses. The first, the social camp, represents groups that primarily seek to bring about social change, while the second, the occult camp, instead focus on contact with spirit entities and channeling. Scholars call this new esoteric trend occultism , and this occultism was a key factor in the development of the worldview from which the New Age emerged. In her books *Isis Unveiled* and *The Secret Doctrine* , Blavatsky claimed that her Society was conveying the essence of all world religions, and it thus emphasized a focus on comparative religion. Gordon Melton point out, the New Age phenomenon represents "a synthesis of many different preexisting movements and strands of thought". A variety of small movements arose, revolving around revealed messages from beings in space and presenting a synthesis of post-Theosophical and other esoteric doctrines. These movements might have remained marginal, had it not been for the explosion of the counterculture in the s and early s. The reason for the ready incorporation of such disparate sources was a similar goal of exploring an individualized and largely non-Christian religiosity. He noted that as this happened, the meaning of the term "New Age" changed; whereas it had once referred specifically to a coming era, at this point it came to be used in a wider sense to refer to a variety of spiritual activities and practices. *Healing Self and Society*. Erhard , a transformational training course that became a prominent part of the early movement. The *Convergence* attracted more people to the movement than any other single event. Melton presented a conference paper in which he argued that, given that he knew of nobody describing their practices as "New Age" anymore, the New Age had died. *Spiritual but not religious* and *List of New Age topics* *Eclecticism and self-spirituality*[edit] The New Age places strong emphasis on the idea that the individual and their own experiences are the primary source of authority on spiritual matters. Hess noted that in his experience, a common attitude among New Agers was that "any alternative spiritual path is good because it is spiritual and alternative". The authors of much of this material make claims that, while not necessarily untrue or fraudulent, are difficult or impossible for the reader to verify. A number of other channeled documents address issues more immediately relevant to the human condition. The best of these writings are not only coherent and plausible, but eloquently persuasive and sometimes disarmingly moving.

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Chapter 2 : The New Age Worldview: Is it Believable | Douglas Groothuis - calendrierdelascience.com

The New Age movement and the biblical worldview: conflict and dialogue User Review - Not Available - Book Verdict. A Ph.D. in New Testament studies, Newport delved more deeply into the area of world religions on a postdoctoral fellowship.

Our friends at Summit Ministries have helped us explain the basics of the New Age worldview across ten major categories. A second assumption is that this Ultimate Reality is neither dead matter nor unconscious energy. It is Being, Awareness, and Bliss which is to say, a Hindu conception of God as an impersonal, infinite consciousness and force. The first two assumptions imply two more: Some adherents of Cosmic Humanism resort to channeling, meditation, Ouija boards, or hallucinogenic drugs to contact the god within. The things that we can see and feel are only a manifestation of spirit, and all matter will melt away when universal consciousness is achieved. This view leads the New Ager to believe all matter can be controlled by an enlightened mind, one that is in touch with the god within. Health, wealth, relationships, etc. Thus, the aim of psychology should be to cause each individual to realize that they are fundamentally perfect and therefore should trust their intuitive urges. Various New Age leaders blame different aspects: This results in a rebellion against all traditional values without examining their reason for existence. Any need for laws and legislation will quickly fade away as we grow closer to achieving god-consciousness. The unenlightened people who still believe mankind is inherently evil require laws, but once this outdated concept is exposed as a lie the world will function in complete harmony. This does not mean, however, that New Agers should not have possessions; rather, whatever is necessary for the happiness of New Agers will automatically flow toward them, if they stay true to the voice within. New Agers are assured, by the scientific fact of evolution, that man and all reality are progressing toward a unified enlightenment. Baker Book, , pp. God , the Father, sent His only Son to satisfy that judgment for those who believe in Him. Jesus , the creator and eternal Son of God, who lived a sinless life, loves us so much that He died for our sins, taking the punishment that we deserve, was buried , and rose from the dead according to the Bible. If you truly believe and trust this in your heart, receiving Jesus alone as your Savior , declaring, " Jesus is Lord ," you will be saved from judgment and spend eternity with God in heaven. What is your response?

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Chapter 3 : New-Age Worldviews

New Age Worldview - Conclusion The New Age worldview is a diverse conception of the world from a metaphysical standpoint. The New Age movement combines Eastern-influenced thought systems (such as Hinduism and Buddhism) with Western "lights-camera-action."

The full PDF can be viewed by clicking [here](#). For further information or to subscribe to the Christian Research Journal go to: Harbinger of the Antichrist? A conspiracy myth created by paranoid Christians? Or is it so amorphous and enigmatic that it is impossible to adequately characterize? Answers have varied widely, including, but not limited to, those given above. Discussions of the topic have frequently generated a great deal more heat than light. This article hopes to shed some good light on the subject, and in the process provide a Christian evaluation of some New Age teachings and claims. The New Age movement is not impossible to describe, just difficult. It is a complex sociological phenomenon not unlike the proverbial elephant discovered independently by three blind men: Things that may be true about parts of the New Age movement are not necessarily true of the whole. What is a network? According to New Agers Jessica Lipnack and Jeffrey Stamps who have provided a useful analysis in their book *Networking*, a network is an informal, loosely knit type of organization very different from other types of organizations: Bearing in mind my suggestion that the New Age movement is a network, one more characteristic of networks needs to be noted: Such moments of unanimity are important, because they often reveal the essential common values and bonds that explain the unity among the diversity of network viewpoints. At other times, a network may appear to be a babble of disconnected concerns and interests, or an arena of internecine warfare. The forthright independence of the members keeps the network as a whole from being dominated by any single node. All have their own turf and agendas, yet they cooperate in the network because they also have some common values and visions. New Agers may differ over such questions as when the New Age begins, whether it will be preceded by a worldwide cataclysm, how it will be politically structured, whether there will be a Christ-figure governing it, or who the true avatars god-men or messengers from the spirit world are if there are any. The consciousness movement, the holistic health movement, the human potential movement, all have contributed generously to the New Age movement, as have the followers of many Eastern gurus and Western occult teachers. However, participation in one of these movements does not always indicate conscious or actual participation in the New Age movement remember that networks have fuzzy borderlines. The New Age movement is not a cult by any accepted sociological definition of the term. Some, like the Movement of Spiritual Inner Awareness MISA and the Sufi Order in the West, are more in its mainstream, but only because they are less exclusive, and their leadership less authoritarian than most cults. Cult membership is by far the exception, and not the rule, for New Agers. New Agers tend to be eclectic: Long-term, exclusive devotion to a single teaching, teacher, or technique is not the norm. New Age Journal observes: The stockbroker, for example, who began dabbling in alternative body therapies ten years ago has quite probably gone on to the likes of meditation or the ecology movement of Zen studies by now, and no doubt he notices the aperture in his personal cosmic egg getting wider all the time. Any teaching or technique that facilitates experience is welcome, but there is most often no loyalty to a rigid, elaborate system of belief. Are there any beliefs that are universal, or almost universal, among New Agers? A second assumption is that this Ultimate Reality is neither dead matter nor unconscious energy. It is Being, Awareness, and Bliss which is to say, a Hindu conception of God as an impersonal, infinite consciousness and power. The first two assumptions imply two more: In agreement with all pantheists, New Agers explain that man is separated from God only in his own consciousness. He is the victim of a false sense of separate identity which blinds him to his essential unity with God, and this is the cause of all his problems. How then can man be saved or made whole, as New Agers would prefer to put it? It becomes a matter of spiritual technology. New Agers believe that any or all of a variety of techniques for altering the consciousness including meditation, chanting, ecstatic dancing, and sensory deprivation can enable the seeker

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to consciously mystically experience his supposed oneness with God. Thus, salvation for the New Ager is equated with gnosis experiential knowledge. For the New Agers, experience and intuition are the final authorities. How can there be an objective authority? The very concept of objectivity loses ultimate validity and meaning in such a world view. In addition to the above universal beliefs, almost all New Agers adhere to the ancient Hindu doctrines of reincarnation and karma. By the law of karma it is understood that whatever a person does, good or bad, will return to him experientially in an exact proportion of good or bad. Thus, salvation for New Agers is clearly a matter of works. We will reserve discussion of these beliefs until later in this and the following article. While remaining within the frameworks of humanism and existentialism, New Agers have simply gone on to spiritualize the universe by making consciousness its essence, rather than matter. That is my perspective. Though New Agers have definite beliefs, this underlying utilitarian attitude explains their seemingly careless approach to issues of faith which, to the Christian, have ultimate consequences. Our newspapers, news magazines and television programs suffer from a kind of evolutionary myopia, unable to see a larger context of growth and change in the world around them. If one looks beyond the range of the media, though, and examines some of the activities represented in this book, a different perspective emerges. The Evangelical church has swelled its ranks, thanks to a revived religious instinct, evident in American life over the past 15 years. But many modern seekers for a variety of reasons including poor examples of Christianity prefer more unconventional forms of spiritual expression. A Gallup survey released a few years ago projected that 10 percent of Americans have participated in one of several New Age spiritual movements including Transcendental Meditation, yoga, Oriental religions, and other forms of mysticism. The New Age movement is not a passing fad. It is decidedly a minority within our society, but a mobilizing, active minority. Its fortunes will ebb and flow with the political, economic, and spiritual climate the recent economic recovery has been a setback to the movement. It currently has very little political power,¹⁰ but an ever-expanding social influence. As we proceed in this examination of the New Age movement, we will have frequent occasion to refer to its spokespeople see sidebar. It should be remembered that since the New Age movement is a loosely knit network, and not a tightly run organization, participants are free to dismiss statements made by other New Agers as not representing their own views. Scenarios often differ at points, though the world view is the same. I have generally sought to select quotes that represent the views of the entire movement, but quoting a New Age leader is not the same as quoting a spokesperson for a denomination, sect, or cult. They have been the victims of some rather unfortunate stereotyping, both by secularists and Christians. Secularists have often seen them as little more than flighty visionaries, or as socially indifferent narcissists. Some Christians have viewed them as demonized Luciferians, consciously conspiring to usher in the Antichrist, and have thus regarded them with mixed fear and loathing. Though there may be a limited basis in fact for some of these views, as general descriptions they are grossly misleading. New Agers are generally sincere. Many are also intelligent if one grants their basic world view premises, their beliefs are not as irrational and inconsistent as some think. If in any way it is misleading, it is due to excessive optimism, not sinister subterfuge. And by and large New Agers are genuinely humanitarian, sometimes putting Christians to shame by their willingness to serve humanity. It is not that there is nothing sinister or dangerous about the New Age movement, but we must resist the temptation to try to locate the evil in simplistic, black-or-white categories, for in so doing we will fail to see New Agers for who they really are. This will only reinforce their own misconceptions about us, and our gospel. Let us proceed, then, to seek a better understanding of New Agers, considering both those characteristics that relate them to other movements, and those characteristics that set them apart and make them unique. Life and World Affirming In some respects, New Age religion can rightly be classified as a Western expression of classic monistic Hinduism called Vedanta. Much of the New Age spiritual technology that produces these experiences has come straight from India, brought here and taught since the 1950s by Hindu swamis and gurus. Their followers make up a sizable though by no means dominant contingent of the movement itself. In spite of these commonalities, the New Age movement including its Oriental components is very different from traditional

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Eastern mysticism. The key to this difference lies in the fact that New Agers are life and world affirming. In traditional Hinduism the earthly is set in direct conflict with the spiritual, so that those who are serious about seeking God and salvation are expected to renounce the world of temporal pleasures and responsibilities. The world is maya illusion, and is considered a formidable obstacle to eternal bliss. In the enlightened state, all is seen as God. Events in the world being illusory have no ultimate importance. Historic Hinduism is therefore world denying. In keeping with their Western heritage, New Agers have rejected this aspect of Eastern mysticism. They affirm the value of temporal realities: In fact, contemporary New Age thought represents an effort to graft the fruits of higher learning onto the various branches of mystical tradition. Most New Agers are not romantically seeking to turn back the clock to a simpler time. They embrace the future, with all of its increasing complexity and automation, as long as things are developed along the lines of global peace, unification, and ecological balance. One reason New Agers have rejected the traditional Hindu view of the world is that they have a social conscience. They desire to change the world, not drop out of it. Another reason is that they desire personal earthly as well as spiritual fulfillment. It would also agree with the materialist that on a certain level his perspective is valid. But New Agers argue for a third level, which incorporates both. Objects, events, and self are seen as separate and as flowing into a larger unity. The world, therefore, has value and purpose. The religious state of consciousness is as valid as the others and as necessary to us, for without it we could have no morals, no guidelines for living. In the material state, morality is meaningless. But in the religious state, a moral principle is inherent in the universe, since whatever is done to one part affects the whole. The New Age movement bears a loose relationship, not only with Hinduism and the guru movements that have come from India, but also with the Western counterculture of the s.

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Chapter 4 : The New Age Movement and the Biblical Worldview: Conflict and Dialogue by John P. Newport

The New Age movement is an eclectic religious movement that can be characterized by its lack of absolutes. Because anyone can believe just about anything and fit within the New Age community, it is an extremely hard movement to characterize by example.

The Self as god. Because anyone can believe just about anything and fit within the New Age community, it is an extremely hard movement to characterize by example. Many of the beliefs of the New Age derive from Hindu beliefs, but because eclecticism is the character of the movement, elements of Buddhism, Taoism, and other eastern religions also weave throughout it. David Smith has pointed out common beliefs that seem to predominate the movement as a whole. They are Pantheism, Reincarnationism, Esotericism, and Relativism. The New Age represents a radical transition from a Judeo-Christian worldview, which was the basis of Western society until recently, to a worldview spawned by ancient Oriental religions. The acceptance of an Eastern worldview by a large percentage of our populace has created an environment where Relativism and Tolerance have become the premier values of our culture. And with the rejection of a Christian standard for measuring metaphysical truth, our culture has lost a sense of any absolutes by which religions, morals, and beliefs may be judged. Thus, an agnosticism in the culture over the ultimate issues of faith created an environment where all ideas and religions can potentially be embraced as equally valid. At the same time, Enlightenment Rationalism in Europe created a climate of skepticism, where the historical, religious, and supernatural claims of the Bible were made subject to the Scientific Method of proof. In spite of this great schism, it was the Christian assumptions about the rational order of the world which gave rise to scientific inquiry in the West. Those assumptions of rational order came from the belief in a God who is intelligible and orderly. That belief provided a ground for the advance of Scientific Empiricism, Materialism and Humanism, which came to predominate the worldview of Western society. The study of Creation did indeed reveal a material world that was orderly, which could be measured, and which followed discoverable laws of physics. But with the questioning of the truth of the Bible, society was left with the physical laws of matter, but with no Author. While Judeo-Christian morals and values still governed the laws of the land and the minds of the people, atheism and agnosticism seemed to take over in the realms of academia, politics, and the media. And an elite culture developed in the West that saw as its great purpose the eradication of religion and superstitious prejudices from the minds of the people. Science, it seemed, had all the answers to explain the real world, while religion, a product of ignorance and fantasy, increasingly became a private and personal affair with no direct bearing on public life. As the social order lost a set of commonly held religious beliefs, Christianity was relegated to just one of many unprovable religious beliefs and superstitions. And as religion was separated into its private sphere, any claims it might make to ultimate truth were dismissed as a reflection of the superstitious nature of religious belief. Religion was denied a place of authority in modern culture, and in its place Science stood as the priestcraft of the modern world. It was the presumption of the impartiality and independence of the scientific method which became so devastating to Christianity. Christianity, like other religions, was considered a product of the primitive mind – a mythical worldview adopted to explain the unknowns of nature. This scientific worldview relegated the claims of all religious thought to the backwaters of public discourse. In addition, because of the wars and suffering caused by religions throughout history, Humanism saw its mission as the eradication of the religious impulse in humanity through the enlightenment of a good education. In so doing, Humanists hoped to make the world a better place. Rather than fulfill this humanistic dream, the culture did not remain religiously neutral, nor did the religious quest cease in society. Instead, the vacuum, created by the rejection of Christianity as a majority force in the United States, was quickly filled by all manner of diverse religions, including the New Age, Islam, drug use, and the occult. It seems that people are basically religious. We all want to find some meaning in our lives, and we cannot live productively without it. Science however, cannot provide reason and purpose for the life of the individual because of its

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presumed agnosticism about metaphysical matters. Yet it is only the postulate of an ultimate design to Creation wherein mere matter can attain a transcendent purpose. Yet the striving for meaning and purpose remains hidden beneath the surface and is not entirely satisfied by the answers given through the secular culture. As a result, New Age thinking is on the increase in society. The rapid rise of New Age thinking in our culture and the precipitous decline in Christian morals has led many to wonder if this New Age movement is a unified conspiracy? The desire to escape guilt and responsibility has opened the doors to a worldview devoid of judgment and of God as judge. The loss of a religious standard, mentioned above, has created a pluralistic climate which assumes the plausibility of all ideas. We shall see how these ideas fit into a consistent pattern of New Age philosophy below. But it should be noted that this New Age environment is indeed influencing our political, social, educational, and cultural life, and threatens to become the dominant view in our cultural and our laws! So in the first instance, the New Age is not a conscious, global conspiracy of human powers instituted by premeditation. However, I do believe that in the spiritual realm, the rise of the New Age is satanically motivated and may be according to a demonic scheme 2 Cor 2: There is too much similarity among the various religious movements to be purely accidental. How much control satan has in this is another matter, for it is only by the allowance of the Father that satan has any advantage. Common Characteristics of the New Age. We have spoken of the historical factors and present environment which have give opportunity to a New Age worldview. It would be helpful to identify common threads of belief and practice that signify such an allegiance of heart and mind among the movement. While there is no evidence of an overt conspiracy to all these New Age movements, there seems to be underlying principles which allow such an affiliation of diverse beliefs, practices, philosophies, and morals under one common umbrella. Individuals, as gods, create their own reality through the projection of emotions like fear or joy and thoughts of the mind. What Enlightenment Rationalists would call the real, where to material world, the New Agers might classify as illusion. There is no such thing as an objective reality or objective truth, and there especially is no absolute Creator God in the traditional Christian sense who is a source of ultimate definitions of reality. Morals also vary from person to person, so homosexuality, fornication, and abortion may be right for one person but wrong for another. The only sin is claiming to know the absolute truth that is true for all, for that is the sin of intolerance. Christians, with their claims to know the only true God, are by definition, intolerant bigots; especially when they, with their views of morals informed by their scriptures, presume to promote those views for public governance. The first two characteristics of the New Age movement, relativism and tolerance, can just as easily attributed to Liberal Political philosophy as to anything specifically New Age. The thought is that if we only realized we are perfect and that we are gods who create our own reality by our thoughts and expectations, then we would learn to control our world and end pain, suffering, and the illusion of sin. Perhaps the most dangerous aspect of the New Age is the belief that through alteration of consciousness we are opened up to a Gnostic salvation, a salvation through knowledge of deeper truths, reality, and the escape from ignorance and illusion. And the means by which New Agers seek insights into reality is through occult practices: There are many manifestations of this particular search, among which are Transcendental Meditation, Yoga, biofeedback, and visualization, and investigation of the paranormal senses. The various doctrines and beliefs that result from such unholy practices cannot reflect anything other than the corruption of sin. The tragedy is that the United States has become so open to such spiritism. But few openly discredit Jesus. The Christ consciousness that was in the man Jesus is seen to be available to all. Jesus is often redefined as a New Age Ascended Master. He is stripped of his significance as a Jewish Messiah and is remade in the image of a Gnostic exemplar. He is then classed as an equal of other enlightened masters such as Buddha, Krishna, Muhammed, etc. For some reason, in blatant denial of the marks of evil that have dominated the modern world, New Agers persistently give voice to a hope in a coming universal order of peace and tranquility, ushered in, not by the return of Jesus Christ, but by the raising of world consciousness and often by the revelation of a new Ascended Master on the earth. But it is with great regularity that unwitting teachers, fresh from a conference or from college, implement innovative techniques for learning that correspond to a New Age worldview. They often have the

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children sit on the floor and visualize or practice Eastern relaxation techniques. We have had to battle in our schools on numerous occasions where the teachers, usually non-Christian and sometimes hostile to our interference, have wanted our children to participate in some New Age consciousness raising. Since these teachers invariably do not understand their psycho-somatic techniques as religious in nature, they do not see either the danger nor understand our concern or objections based upon our Christian principles and convictions. Yet we are hearing of reports throughout the country on a regular basis of this very same conflict of worldviews between Christians and the public schools. Even the science of medicine has felt compelled to investigate holistic medical practices, some of which are not bad in themselves, but when coupled with Eastern religious explanations, these practices become bearers of more than just empirical evidence,¹⁵ they become media for inculcation of Eastern theologies. In conclusion, the pluralism of our modern world, with its loss of consensus and its loss of a comprehensive worldview, places the Church in the United States in exactly the same position the early church faced when it encountered the pluralism of the Roman Empire. The lack of meaning in and the moral decay of the culture provided an open door for the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the Only way. The lack of conviction of our secular age creates an opportunity to witness whereby we can bring clarity and perspective to an age that is despairing of understanding or direction. Not all will receive, that is true, but the fault of Relativism is that people being to understand that if all things are true, then nothing is true. And this lack of moorings creates a deep seated anxiety in the populace that only totalitarianism or Christ can fill. We have our work cut out for us. Let us not fail to take advantage of the opportunity God has created for us. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, Mich. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Section II on Philosophical and Political Roots which shows how the Liberal assumptions of political theory led to an understanding of the State as agnostic on matters of morals.

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Chapter 5 : What is the New Age movement?

In this urgently needed work, Newport delivers a comprehensive presentation of the New Age movement and the impact of its beliefs on contemporary culture and Christianity, while also offering an effective, biblical antidote for today's worldview crisis.

What have you been thinking about? The New Age Worldview: Eastern spirituality is a popular trend in American culture today. Groothuis addresses these beliefs and delves into whether or not they sync with Christianity. The God Within Us You are not good. You are not evil. So intones a woman in her late 50s, speaking in a strange accent, because she is in a trance. Her name is J. Knight, one of many talking heads that punctuate a surprisingly popular film, *What the Bleep Do We Know?* This movie is a surreal account of one distressed woman who finds inner peace through taking control of her difficult life. Although the audience is not told until the end of the film, J. Knight is channeling a spirit entity named Ramtha. Along with several scientists, philosophers and others who provide cameos in the film, Knight expounds an ancient message: We are divine part of a universal energy, all is one, we create our own reality through our consciousness, and there is no difference between good and evil. To put it in philosophical terms, the worldview of this film is pantheistic all is divine, monistic all is one, and relativistic we create our own reality. Millions of Americans are buying into these beliefs. But should anyone believe such things? Are these claims true? At the time, many writers myself included spoke of this phenomenon as "the New Age movement", although I never claimed that it ever rose to the level of a unified movement, let alone a conspiracy. New Age thinkers drew from Eastern religions particularly Hinduism, ancient occultism, avant-garde trends in psychology, and speculations in physics to cobble together a worldview that placed the self at the center of the universe. Deepak Chopra promises in his many best-selling books and high-priced seminars that by tapping into the divine within ourselves we can find enlightenment and perfect health. He promises an "ageless body and timeless mind". Americans by the millions are taking up yoga which means to be "yoked with the divine", a practice rooted in Hindu mysticism. The ever-present Oprah Winfrey has probably done more than anyone to promote this form of spirituality. Her television program often features and endorses authors such as Deepak Chopra, Marianne Williamson, Gary Zukav, and many others. Nevertheless, the worldview she and so many others promote is both remote from biblical faith and illogical as well. Christianity, rooted in the Jesus Christ of history Luke 1: While many invoke Jesus as a mystical master, guru, yogi, or swami who espoused a universal spirituality at one with the supposedly deeper levels of all religions, Jesus in fact stands out from the crowd in what He taught and how He lived. Far from teaching that everything was divine, Jesus claimed uniquely divine prerogatives for Himself Jesus affirmed the reality of one Creator God who is a personal and moral being to whom we are accountable Matthew Jesus knew God as "Our Father in heaven" Matthew 6: He believed that God can be known through divine revelation in history, through Scripture, and supremely in the person and work of Himself. Far from teaching that everything was divine, Jesus claimed uniquely divine prerogatives for Himself, which were applicable to no one else. Jesus also claimed to be "Lord even of the Sabbath" Mark 2: Since God instituted the Sabbath Genesis 2: In a dispute with some religious leaders, Jesus scandalized them when He said that "before Abraham was born, I am" John 8: Jesus claimed not only to have existed much longer than His age as a human being, but to be the God revealed to Moses. Not believing His statement, the religious leaders tried to stone Him for blasphemy see Leviticus The Jesus of history never called people to find the divine within themselves or to create their own reality. Instead, He called people to repent, to turn from their vain attempt to be lords of their own reality, and to turn toward Him as the only Lord of life. He came to save us from ourselves and from losing our souls: He backed up these claims by His matchless teachings, His compassionate and just character, His miracles and exorcisms, and supremely through His death and resurrection whereby He secured the forgiveness of sin and life everlasting for those who would put their trust in Him. This is true spirituality. This new life received by faith in what Jesus Christ has done for us is not

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available through our own resources John 1: It is illogical, as well. A New Form of the Same Old Deception First, in this film, a theologian of all people , decries the terrible idea that there is such a thing as evil in the world. However, if the idea is so terrible, then the idea itself would be an evil. So, evil would exist after all. Thus the expert contradicts himself inexcusably, and the premise of his argument cannot be trusted. Moreover, no one "outside of a sociopath" can consistently live out this amoral worldview beyond good and evil. If you do not reckon the September 11, attacks on America as evil, there is simply something radically wrong with your perception of reality. If you do not take rape, child molestation and racism to be objectively evil, then you are radically out of step with reality. The Christian worldview, however, can account for evil as rebellion against God. In fact, God took evil so seriously that Christ was sent to bear its brunt that the world might be restored Isaiah Second, if we create our own reality, why are we so horrendously bad at it? Why does one of the experts a chiropractor struggle with his postnasal drip every time he speaks? Knight the medium for Ramtha aged so terribly in the past 15 years? How can gods fail to live up to their deity? Why are we gods such underachievers? This simply makes no sense. What does ring true, however, is that we are finite and fallible creatures. We are in severe need of redemption from someone outside of ourselves. We should not forget that cult leader Charles Manson thought he had transcended the duality of good and evil. On that basis, he commanded his deluded followers to murder at his whim. One of their victims was a young actress, Sharon Tate, and her unborn child. While all who believe that they create reality may not go to these lengths of evil, there is nothing in their worldview to stop them. The new spirituality cannot deliver on its promises. It cannot be harmonized with the reality of Jesus Christ, and it is flatly illogical to boot. Besides, this spirituality is not new at all, but ancient. It is all traced back to the original lie of the serpent in the garden, who promised a better life by disobeying God and making oneself the center of reality Genesis 3: But the way out of that perennial snare is to follow Christ on the narrow path that leads to life eternal Matthew 7: Notes [1] For an introduction to the teachings and life of Jesus from a philosophical perspective, see Douglas Groothuis, On Jesus Wadsworth, This resource is used by the kind permission of the author. It was previously available on the Denver Seminary website. He is the author of Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith.

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Chapter 6 : New Age Movement and the Biblical Worldview (edition) | Open Library

The postmodern claim that secular science, materialism, and traditional Christianity are defunct has produced a worldview crisis for contemporary society. Into the void has stepped the New Age movement to offer a widely held and growing alternative. According to John Newport, the influence of New.

The primary vehicle for this transmission of ideas has been the New Age Movement. Statements by movie stars, the growth of Eastern cults, and the popularity of films like the Star Wars trilogy testify to the growing influence of New Age ideas. Here, between you and me. Yes, even the land. Although most refer to it as the New Age Movement, many in the movement do not like that label, and many others would not even consider themselves part of the movement, even though they may hold to many of the core beliefs of the New Age Movement. Accurately defining the New Age is a formidable task for several reasons. First, the New Age Movement is eclectic and diverse. It is not a cohesive movement but is exceedingly diverse in its composition and ideology. The unifying factors are shared ideology rather than a shared organizational structure. Second, the New Age Movement is difficult to define because it emphasizes and encourages change. The New Age Movement is syncretistic and therefore evolutionary in its nature. Many proponents change their perspectives, and so it is frequently difficult to pin down the major beliefs of the New Age Movement. Major Tenets of the New Age Even given the diversity and transitory nature of the New Age Movement, there are still a number of major tenets generally held in common by most groups within this movement. First is the belief in monism. Ultimately there is no real difference between humans, animals, rocks, or even God. Any differences between these entities are merely apparent, not real. Second is the belief in pantheism. All of life and even non-life has a spark of divinity within. The third major tenet of the New Age follows as a logical conclusion from the other two. Fourth, we discover our own divinity by experiencing a change in consciousness. The human race suffers from a collective form of metaphysical amnesia. We have forgotten that our true identity is divine and thus must undergo a change of consciousness to achieve our true human potential hence the name, the Human Potential Movement. A fifth tenet is reincarnation. Most New Agers believe in some form of reincarnation. The Western version of reincarnation held by many New Agers places much less emphasis on bad karma and postulates an upward spiral towards perfection through reincarnation. A final major tenet is moral relativism. New Agers think in terms of gray, rather than black or white. Denying the law of non-contradiction, New Agers will often believe that two conflicting statements can both be true. The New Age is really old occultism in new linguistic garb. Many of these concepts can be found in basic form in Genesis 3. Notice these statements made to Eve in the Garden: First, a Christian view of reality rejects the concept of monism. Second, Christianity is theistic, not pantheistic. New Agers teach that God is an impersonal force, while the Bible teaches that God is an imminent, personal, triune, sovereign God. God is separate from His creation rather than merely a part of the creation as pantheism would teach. New Agers teach that we are gods and thus have divinity within our humanity. Fourth, New Agers flirt with the occult in their attempt to achieve a change in consciousness. Although these practices are frequently described in benign terms such as parapsychology, they involve direct contact with spiritual entities. The Bible warns against the danger of these practices and lists such activities as divination and spirit channeling as detestable practices Deut. Fifth, the Bible teaches resurrection of the body 1 Cor. Likewise, the doctrine of karma is foreign to the gospel. Salvation comes from grace, not through the works in this life Eph. We will not be reborn after death. God has clearly communicated to us his moral law Ex.

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Chapter 7 : New Age Theology

The New Age Movement and the Biblical Worldview is a home run and can be recommended to everyone, even if only for the sheer fascination of the human quest for fulfillment and happiness that fills, for better and for much worse, its every page. .

However, the New Age movement Cosmic Humanism differs from Christianity, Islam, and the secular worldviews in that it embraces neither theism nor atheism. Cosmic Humanism begins by denying the preeminence of any purported special revelation over any other. Every person is encouraged to acquire this same level of consciousness. How can anyone hope to achieve such a divine consciousness? Because everyone is a part of God. Cosmic Humanists believe that we and God are ontologically one. God is the interlinking of yourself with the whole. And once you know the answer to that question there are no more to ask And to that question there is only one answerâ€”I am God! Inner soul-searching becomes the only significant means of discovering truth. By asserting that man is God, the Cosmic Humanist grants each individual the power of determining reality by creating or co-creating truth. New Age Theology â€” All Is One It is important to understand that the belief that every individual is God and God is every individual is tied inextricably to the concept of consciousness. The body may pass away, but the soul will continue its quest for godhood in other bodies. Had she, in fact, been one herself? Had she, in fact, ever been my mother? Was her one-hour-old face housing a soul perhaps millions of years old? New Age Theology â€” Everything is God Reincarnation, however, is not the only logical consequence of a theology based on the unity of God and man and the concept that all is one. If we cannot delineate between God and ourself, how can we be certain that we can delineate between other living or dead things and God? Indeed, if all is one, perhaps everything that exists is God. And so it is. Cosmic Humanists worship the creation and the creator at the same time. For them, there is no difference. The belief that everything is God and God is everything is known as pantheism. This ancient concept forms the theological foundation of the New Age movement. Does that mean that everything that everybody ever says about God is right? Does that mean that God is everything? God is everything great and small! God is everything far away and near! God is everything bright and dark! And God is everything in between! If everything is God, God is the last leaf on a tree, if everything is God, God is an elephant crashing through the jungle. I wanted to use those motifs to deal with issues that exist today I see Star Wars as taking all the issues that religion represents and trying to distill them down into a more modern and easily accessible construct In this way, New Age mysticism was thrust from the big screen into the consciousness of countless viewers, young and old. While most viewers enjoyed this film saga for its entertainment value, producer Lucas sees his role as an educator as well as entertainer. God is the creation. God is experienced as flow, wholeness God is the consciousness that manifests as Lila, the play of the universe. God is the organizing matrix we can experience but not tell, that which enlivens matter. If we fail to realize our godhood in this lifetime, never fear! Ultimately, every person will achieve godhood, and total unity will be restored. New Age theology, like fairy tales, guarantees a happy ending. Rendered with permission from the book, Understanding the Times: All rights reserved in the original. Findhorn Publications, , Cited in Ray A. Ray Yungen, , Bantam Books, , Health Communications, , Tarcher, , Harvest House, , Box , Berkeley, CA Ferencz and Ken Keyes, Jr. Vision Books, , Simon and Schuster, , Firefly Books, , According to Prabhupada, Hare Krishna or God descends to earth once every eight trillion, six hundred million years. Bhaktivedanta Book Trust International, , xviii, God , the Father, sent His only Son to satisfy that judgment for those who believe in Him. Jesus , the creator and eternal Son of God, who lived a sinless life, loves us so much that He died for our sins, taking the punishment that we deserve, was buried , and rose from the dead according to the Bible. If you truly believe and trust this in your heart, receiving Jesus alone as your Savior , declaring, " Jesus is Lord ," you will be saved from judgment and spend eternity with God in heaven. What is your response?

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Chapter 8 : What is 'New Age' Religion, and Why Can't Christians Get on Board?

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The New Age NAM movement has many sub-divisions, but it is generally a collection of Eastern-influenced metaphysical thought systems, a conglomeration of theologies, hopes, and expectations held together with an eclectic teaching of salvation, of "correct thinking," and "correct knowledge. He is viewed as divine, as co-creator, as the hope for future peace and harmony. A representative quote might be: It needs but this to let salvation come to all the world. For in this single thought is everyone released at last from fear. Unfortunately for the NAM, the fear from which they want to be released might very well be the fear of damnation, of conviction of sin, and it is even, sometimes, fear of Christianity and Christians. Though the NAM is tolerant of almost any theological position, it is opposed to the "narrow-mindedness" of Christianity that teaches Jesus is the only way and that there are moral absolutes. The NAM is difficult to define because "there is no hierarchy, dogma, doctrine, collection plate, or membership. It is supposed to bring in peace and enlightenment and reunite man with God. Man is presently considered separated from God not because of sin Isaiah The New Age Movement is a religious system with two basic beliefs: Evolutionary Godhood and Global Unity. What is Evolutionary Godhood? It is the next step in evolution. It will not be physical, but spiritual: For the most part, the NAM espouses evolution, both of body and spirit. Man is developing and will soon leap forward into new spiritual horizons. Many New Age practices are designed to push one ahead into that horizon. Evolutionary Godhood also means that mankind will soon see itself as god, as the "Christ principle. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath," Eph. It teaches that since man is divine by nature, he then has divine qualities. This is an important part of NAM thinking. Because the average New Ager believes himself to be divine, he can then create his own reality. They can each have a reality for themselves that "follows a different path. I am the LORD, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself," Isa. The New Ager who believes in his own divinity and ability to create, usurps the authority and position of God. He also is still listening to the lie of the devil who spoke to Eve and said she would be like God Gen. Reincarnation Though not all New Agers adhere to reincarnation, most believe in some form or another. And, many believe the Bible was changed to remove any verses that might have taught reincarnation. But this accusation only shows the limitation of their knowledge. The Bible never had any references to reincarnation. Reincarnation opposes the Word of God which says that it is appointed for man to die once, and after this comes judgment Heb. The second major element of the New Age Movement is Global Unity which consists of three major divisions: The NAM teaches that we will all learn our proper divine relationship with one another and achieve harmony and mutual love and acceptance through the realization and acceptance of this divine proper knowledge. Within this hoped-for harmony is economic unity. The average New Ager is looking for a single world leader who, with New Age principles, will guide the world into a single harmonious economic whole. It is also hoped that this leader will unite the world into a spiritual unity; that is, a one-world religion. The New Age hope is reminiscent of the Scriptures that speak of the coming Antichrist: Man must then get in tune with nature and learn to nurture it and be nurtured by it. In this, all people can unite. New Age philosophy generally seeks to merge with those philosophies that put man and nature on an equal level. We are no more or less important or different than our cousin the animal, bird, or fish. We must live in harmony with them, understand them, and learn from them, is the general philosophy of the New Age. God will hold Christians responsible for the stewardship that has been entrusted to them. The New Agers have a name for the earth. Gaia is to be revered and respected. Some New Agers even worship the earth and nature. This opposes the Scripture that says we are not to have any other Gods before God Ex. Man with God Since the NAM teaches that man is divine by nature, all people, once they see themselves as such, will be helped in their unity

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of purpose, love, and development. The goal is to fully realize our own goodness. It is obvious that this contradicts Scriptures, c. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. The New Age god is impersonal. An impersonal God will not reveal himself nor will he have specific requirements as to morality, belief, and behavior. This is why reincarnation appeals so much to them. With it, there is no judgment, there is a second chance, a third chance, and fourth, etc. It should be noted that because the New Ager seeks to elevate himself to godhood, he must lower the majesty and personhood of the true God. There are no moral absolutes in the New Age. Therefore, they claim to have a spiritual tolerance for all "truth systems. To say that there are no moral absolutes is an absolute in itself which is self-contradictory. Also, if morality is relative, then stealing may be right sometimes, along with lying, adultery, cheating, etc. Living in a world of moral relativism would not bring a promising future. It would follow that if reality is relative and truth is too, then driving a car would be difficult. After all, if one New Ager thinks the light is red and another thinks its green, when they collide, their different realities will come crashing down on them. The New Age movement does espouse honesty, integrity, love, peace, etc. It just wants to do it without the true God. It wants to do it not on His terms, but on its own.

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Chapter 9 : New Age - Wikipedia

Thoroughly discussed are New Age consciousness, spiritism and channeling, magic and witchcraft, neopaganism and Satanism, New Age ecology, the New Age movement's influence on personal healthcare, New Age teachings on business and prosperity consciousness, New Age perspectives on education and science, and much more.

What is the New Age movement? One only has to realize it. New Age thinking has its roots, then, in Eastern mysticism, which attempts to bypass the mind. There is a new organ of perception—the “third eye”—which gives spiritual light. Neil Anderson in his book, *Walking Through the Darkness*, writes this: Anderson goes on to summarize New Age thinking pages 22–24 as follows: The belief that all is one and one is all. If all is one, including God, then one must conclude that all is God. It is pantheism—trees, snails, books, and people are all of one divine essence. If we are God, we need to know we are God. We must become cosmically conscious, enlightened, or attuned to the cosmic consciousness. The essential is not whether we believe or meditate, but whom we believe in and what we meditate upon. Christ is the true, personal, objective reality, as He said that He is the way, the truth and the life, and no one comes to the Father except through Him John. There is a New Age coming. There will be a new world order, a new world government. New Age thinkers believe that there will eventually be a progressive unification of world consciousness. This, according to the Bible, is a counterfeit kingdom led by Satan himself. Christ has the true kingdom, and He will one day rule on earth with peace for all who accept Him as Savior and King Revelation 5: They believe they can create reality by what they believe, and, by changing what they believe, they can change reality. All moral boundaries have been erased. There are no absolutes because there is no distinction between good and evil. Nothing has reality until one says that it is reality or says that it is truth. If finite man can create truth, we are in desperate trouble in our society. Unless there are eternal absolutes from the eternal God, man will eventually be his own destruction. This is the kingdom of darkness of which Satan is the head. Those involved in this kind of activity are in contact with a world that is totally opposed to the biblical God revealed to us in Jesus Christ, who defeated Satan Matthew 4: The New Age movement is a counterfeit philosophy that appeals to the feelings of individuals, leading them to think that that they are God and can enhance their lives through their own person. The reality is that we are born, grow up, live a while on planet Earth, and die. We can never be God. We need someone greater than we who can provide us forgiveness and life eternal. Praise the Lord for the God-man, Jesus Christ. Through His death and bodily resurrection, He has won for us what we desperately need: Read John chapter 3. Ask Christ to be your Savior. Your life will be transformed, and you will know who you are, why you are here, and where you are going.