

New Age Worldview

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1. A New Age is Dawning:

- 1.1 The present age is that of Pieces (fish=Christianity). In it rationality, empiricism and material realities and power have been emphasized. Inner occult knowledge and power have been devalued. The result is wars, alienation, ecological damage and human oppression.
- 1.2 The New Age is that of Aquarius, and begins about 2000 A.D. [an age lasts 2,200 years]. It is an age of humanism, inner power, love, peace and unity of all life. Jose Arguelles argues (The Maya Factor: Path Beyond Technology) that the New Age began August 16, 1987, when three planets were lined up with the new moon.
 - 1.21 Some look for the coming of a new messiah, Lord Maitreya [from Buddhism]. First proclaimed in public papers in 1982 as the founder of a new world order, government and religion. Benjamin Creme claims he is the Christ returned, now living in East London, awaiting the time when people will recognize him.
 - 1.22 Some believe we must realize the messiah in each of us. Barbara Marx Hubbard teaches that each of us has a Christ or cosmic consciousness within.

2. "You will be like God"

2.1 All is One: [Monism]

All dualisms are rejected: God/human; spirit/body; culture/nature. We must seek holism. Jonathan Stone writes: "I feel that there is coming a World Order in which science will merge with monistic philosophy and all the world will be swept up in a new consciousness."

2.2 All is "God":

God is a spiritual energy field, a life force, not a being to whom we relate.

2.3 We are all gods: [pantheism]

Betty Galyean writes, "Once we begin to see that we are all God, that we all have the attributes of God, then I think the whole purpose of human life is to re-own the God-likeness within us; the perfect love, the perfect wisdom, the perfect understanding, the perfect intelligence, and when we do that, we create back to that old, that essential oneness which is consciousness."

2.4 We are all connected to one another, and to the universe.

2.5 We create reality with our minds. The concept of a real external world is an illusion.

Mind is over matter. The method we seek is, therefore, mind control and self-realization, not external salvation.

2.6 We can all be healthy, wealthy and happy if we only discover the power of our mind to create reality.

3. "You will know good and evil":

- 3.1 Evil and good are one--two sides of the same coin. There is no ontological sin for which we must seek forgiveness. All sense of guilt is therefore an illusion based on our ignorance.
- 3.2 The problem is ignorance, not evil. Ignorance is the feeling that I am trapped in the finite limitations of my body and myself. If we only know who we really are, we can be perfect and fulfilled.
- 3.3 Salvation is enlightenment.
- 3.4 All religions lead eventually to enlightenment, but some are further along the path of enlightenment than others. The lower paths require gods to save you. In the higher ones you realize you are on your own. You must find enlightenment yourself.

4. "You will not die":

- 4.1 Death is not the end, but a step to a higher level of consciousness. We need not fear it.
- 4.2 We have lived many times before [transmigration]. We can recall the past through hypothesis, vision, recall or regression. Doing so helps assure us that we will continue to live.
- 4.3 Our lives are a progression towards full enlightenment. Each life is above the previous one (New Age wedds the Hindu worldview with the modern worldview of evolutionary progress).
- 4.4 The end of this cosmic evolution is a New Age when everything will be peace and perfect.

5. "Your eyes will be opened"

- 5.1 Truth lies not in empirical realities, but inside you. Subjective realities are to be trusted more than external, empirical ones.
- 5.2 Enlightenment is not based on knowledge or reason. These, in fact, are often part of the problem because reason keeps us from seeing the truth.
- 5.3 Enlightenment is an inner explosion of light and recognition, an "a ha" feeling that comes when we recognize the truth--it comes through the "inner eye" and "inner light" or the "inner voice," not our material eyes and ears.
- 5.4 When we are enlightened, we realize our oneness with everything. This "cosmic consciousness" brings us total inner peace and tranquility. When enough people realize cosmic consciousness, then the society turns towards good, peace and happiness.

5.5 Most of us need a guide or *guru* to reach enlightenment. These are the ones who have been enlightened, and who want to show us the way. Jesus is one of the many *gurus* we can follow.

5.6 We can choose our own guru and path to enlightenment.

5.7 When we are enlightened, we must help other people to reach it too. In the end we will become one world spirit.

A Comparison of New Age and Christian Worldview

New Age	Christianity
Ultimate reality is a field	Ultimate reality is a being
Human reality is rooted in experience which is inner and self validating	Human reality is rooted experience which must be tested against history, reason and revelation
All is one--monism. All is part of one field and is interconnected	God is eternal, the universe is real but eternally dependent on God--contingent dualism
All is God	The universe is eternally distinct from God, and dependent on him
I am God. Therefore I am in control of myself and my reality. I can make things happen through mind over matter (visualization, command, etc.) I am my own creation	God is God, I am creation, therefore I must submit to God and seek his guidance. I must live in relationship to other people and nature that exist apart from me. I am created in the image of God.
Evil is ignorance, I am good but ignorance of my true reality	I am a sinner because of a broken relationship with God, and therefore in broken relationship with other humans and nature.
Salvation is to be enlightened--to see myself as I really am. It is self-discovery	Salvation is to confess my sin, accept forgiveness, and be reconciled with God.
I live many lives, and progress towards enlightenment. This may take many lives.	I live one life, and then face God's judgment. The result is heaven or hell

Enlightenment is personal, so everyone must choose his/her own way

There is only one way of salvation--Christ. All must enter through him

All religions are ways to God, and so are relative

Only Christ is the truth

To be enlightened, we need a *guru* or teacher. Jesus is one of many *gurus*

To be saved we need a savior. Jesus is that savior who died so that we might be saved

Communication with others is to recognize my oneness with them--to vib, touch, feel, and merge with them

Communication with others is to relate to them as distinct beings other than myself. This involves listening, speaking and hermeneutics

Community is to "feel" the oneness I have with all other persons and things through an inner experience of oneness

Community is to work at relationships and to build a community of free, autonomous beings through Love and mutual submission to one another

Death is a transition to a higher level of consciousness. It is not to be feared

Death is the end of existence in this world and entry into eternity

Truth is personal, existential, relative and subjective

Truth is universal, eternal and objective

Our hope lies in the New Age which is dawning

Our hope is in the return of Christ, and his new creation

The future of humanity depends on our willingness to accept our role as creators of reality. We must bring about global unity and the oneness of all

God is in charge of human destiny. History moves to its culmination according to His will. God is our hope for the future

Our ministry is to help people achieve their full potential through self-realization. They are all basically O.K.

Our ministry is to reconcile people to God and one another and nature. They are sinners in need of forgiveness and restoration of fellowship