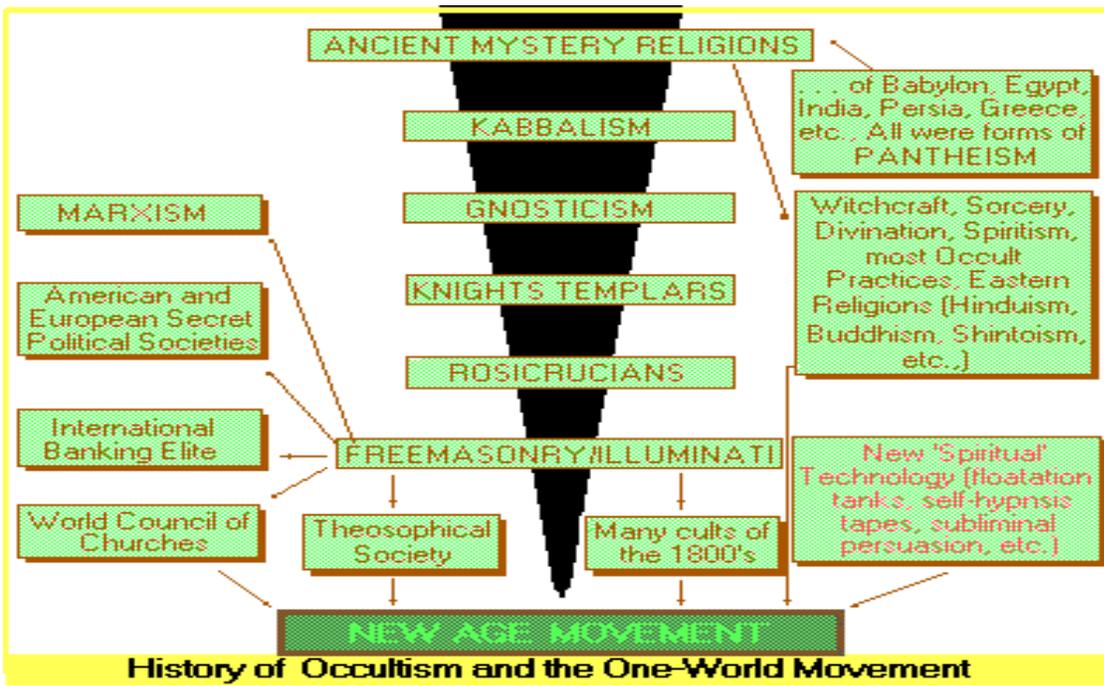


# CASE STUDY: THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT



We are currently living within a global village of great challenges like we have not experienced in the last century that poses a threat in the dissemination of pure morals, ethics and respect for humanity. Further to this I have never seen such intensity within the realms of the “underground world” in contaminating the make up of man which is in direct contradiction of the image and likeness of God in which we have been positioned in the to represent.

We have seen that the strategy of Satan has always been to destroy the image of the man in it seed form since creation. We look at the fall of the first Adam, the seeking of the killing Moses in his seed form, Jesus in era of Herod and then in the book of Revelation the dragon wanting to devour the Man child. There is a great warfare in the realms of the Spirit to distort and contort the diving image of man which is evident in Genesis 1:26

**Gen 1:26 And God said; Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over all the creepers creeping on the earth.**

**Gen 1:27 And God created man in His image; in the image of God He created him. He created them male and female.**

The principle highlighted in this portion of scripture is not only to have the expressed image and likeness of our Father but also to have dominion and govern that which has been entrusted to us as sons of God. It has never been the intention of man to have dominion over another human being but rather that position has only been reserved for the Godhead in His love to “cover” us. This however has been marred by the intense desire by man to rule, manipulate, govern, and restrain another for personal benefit and exploitation. This is why in **Romans 8:19** it says that creation is crying out with birth pangs for the sons of God to be made manifest. Why is this so intense? Its because the very image and likeness of our heavenly Father has been defaced and mutilated by the kingdoms of darkness that so invaded this world and is operative through, just to name a few:

1. Religion
2. Governmental structures
3. The media, music and fashion industry
4. Social structures

In all of the above listed areas of influence there is one key underlying factor and that is man is lost, seeking a true identity and anything that will serve these needs he will in total surrender sell his soul. This true identity is a life hid in Christ. That’s what the earth is crying out for, that there will be an authentic, true and exact representation of who the Father is through His sons of obedience.

It is for this reason that my intention in this discourse, is to look at the rise of **the New Age movement** which is a system that is currently governing all areas of humanity even to the extent that it is a system that has entered the confines of the liturgy of the church so that “seed” can be contaminated thus giving birth to an hybrid generation.

For too long the church has only sought the salvation of souls within impoverished societies, people with a low self esteem and a damaged social structure. This had an impact and will continue however the world has fast evolved into an IT intense and knowledge era whereby there is a clarion call for a serious upgrade in the modus operandi of the church which is the transition and growth from a babe to a mature son of God desiring the meat of the word (**1 Cor 3:2, Heb 5:12-14, I Pet 2:2**) so that the 4 key pillars of impact can be dealt with, challenged and contended for in the midst of great calamity, greed, self will, positional strife and manipulation. The body of Christ has to become highly skilled and knowledgeable in dismantling these erroneous structures within the pillars, namely:

1. Spiritual
2. Mental
3. Social
4. Physical

Old cliché's of:

- Turn to Jesus or face hell
- Jesus loves you
- Surrender to Jesus and all your problems will vanish
- And the Hyper Grace teaching

Is no longer impacting or changing lives. We have to speak in the "GATES" of the city (127:5. There are gates that we need to burst open but these have to be done with great wisdom as we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us and guide us in not only spiritual truth but "ALL" truth and that's includes knowing what is happening with the structure of the world systems.

**Psa 107:15** Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the LORD *for* His goodness, And *for* His wonderful works to the children of men!

**Psa 107:16** For He has broken the gates of bronze, And cut the bars of iron in two.

**Psa 107:17** Fools, because of their transgression, And because of their iniquities, were afflicted.

God through his church is breaking down these gates and this battle is not going to be done in flesh and blood,

**Eph 6:12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the world's rulers, of the darkness of this age, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

Hence we can glean that the body of Christ in the realms of the Spirit has to dismantle these high ranking structures that is fast tainting the image of man.

If we are to contend in the " gates" of the city then we need to understand each gate, their origin, strategy and strongholds. We can no longer pray amiss we have to like Ezekiel watchful of what comes into and what goes out of the city. The church through the leading of the Holy Spirit has a solemn responsibility to bring the humanity into alignment and creation to rest. It is whilst the church is

engaged in good programs and activities that the hordes of darkness is ruthlessly claiming the souls of many that are seeking identity, love and belongingness.

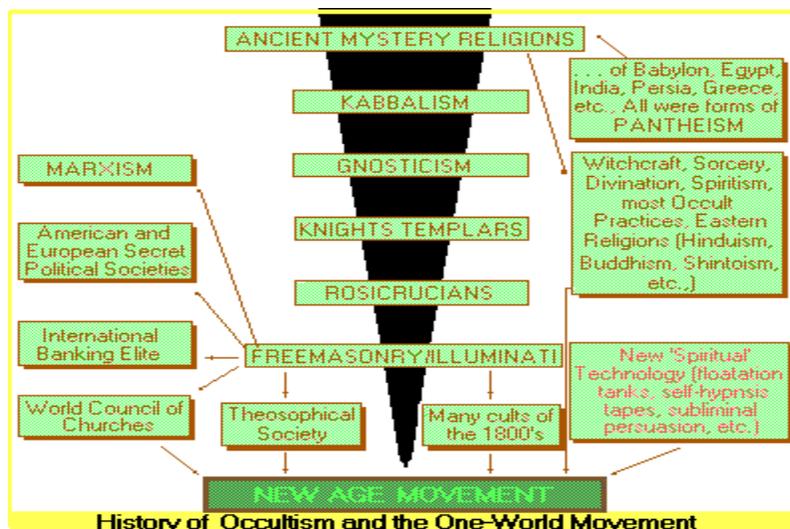
We must arise to counter and disassemble one the systems in that of the New Age order that is dominating and controlling almost every humanistic system.

In order for the church to in wisdom expose and dismantle the movement we need to systematically trace its origin, its history and beliefs and that's is why Christian Apologetics is fundamental and has to be weaved into the very fiber of who the church is as a TRUE representation of our heavenly Father.

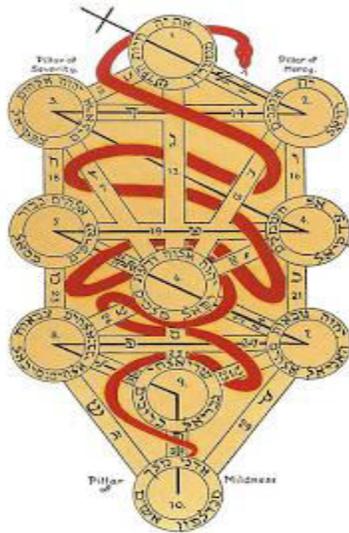
### THE ORIGIN OF THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

New Age is an umbrella term used to describe an organization of diverse groups that share an enthusiasm for the creation of a new era (or "New Age") exemplified by **harmony and enlightenment**. Even though there are no clear boundaries within the New Age community, several common themes unify the movement. It is my intention to briefly explain the basic structure and intent of these systems has the systems highlighted is very comprehensive and quite extensive in explaining on their own. The information reference is to provide a clear perspective of the type of hierarchy that the body of Christ is contending with.

- The first is that the arrival of the New Age will initiate a heightened spiritual consciousness accompanied by social and personal transformation as demonstrated by the eradication of hunger, sickness, poverty, racism, sexism, and war.
- The second unifying theme is that individuals can get a foretaste of this enlightenment through personal spiritual transformation, healing, and growth. The New Age Movement grew in popularity during the 1970s and 1980s through the teachings of David Spangler and other religious groups, but it has existed in various forms since the 2nd century C.E. Beginning with Gnosticism, New Age ideas have continued through a variety of groups.
- I have looked at a rather intriguing diagram below that graphically highlights for us the structure of the New Age movement and the areas of influence.

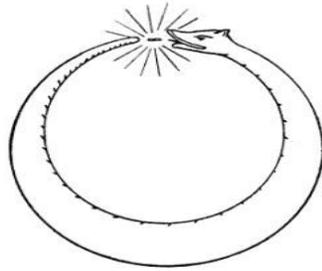


1. **Kabbalism** - is an ancient wisdom that reveals how the universe and life work. On a literal level, the word **Kabbalah** means "to receive." It's the study of how to receive fulfillment in our lives.



The Kabbalistic Tree: The diagram of the sefirot was first published in the Middle Ages, and there have since been many variations on its basic structure. In this 20th-century version from a notebook of the Order of the Golden Cross (a magical fraternity), the ten sefirah are linked together by twenty-two pathways - the number of elemental letters in the Hebrew alphabet. One letter is thus assigned to each pathway, and together with the ten sefirah themselves, this yields thirty-two avenues of wisdom. The nature of each connecting pathway is determined both by the letter associated with it and by the two sefirah that it links together. Superimposed on the sefirot in this occult version is the Great Serpent, which is linked with Kundalini energy.

2. **Gnosticism - Definition:** Gnosticism was a second century heresy claiming that salvation could be gained through secret knowledge. Gnosticism is derived from the Greek word *gnosis*, meaning "to know."



**The Serpent:**

*This is the serpent crown of the ancient Gods. It shows that the two paths or parts of the spirit fire have been united. This crown is the symbol of mastery and the union takes place within the student when the life forces are lifted to the brain. – Manly P. Hall*

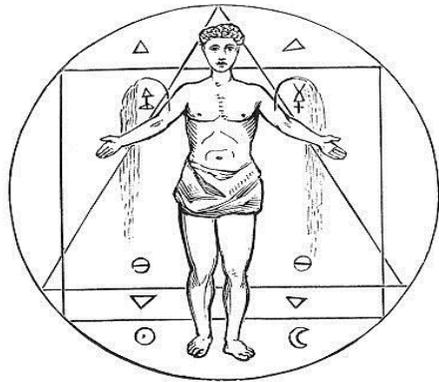
3. **Knights Templars** - The original order consisted of Hugues de Payens and eight knights, two of whom were brothers and all of whom were his relatives by either blood or marriage: Godfrey de Saint-Omer, Payne de Monteverdi, Archambaud de St. Agnan, Andre de Montbard, Geoffrey Bison, and two men recorded only by the names of Rossal and Gondamer. The ninth knight remains unknown, although some have speculated that it was Count Hugh of Champagne himself — despite the Count returning to France in 1116 and documentary evidence showing that he joined the Knights on his third visit to the Holy Land in 1125.



This photograph is of a Masonic **Knights Templar** symbol showing a cross within a crown inside a Maltese cross, which has the Latin phrase, “in hoc signo vinces.” The phrase means “in this sign you shall conquer” and was used by Constantine as a military motto in the early 4th Century. The phrase was also used by the original Knights Templar military order that was founded during the Crusades. The Freemasons began using Templar rituals and symbols in the late 1700s.

Little was heard of the Order for their first nine years. But in 1129, after they were officially sanctioned by the church at the Council of Troyes, they became very well known in Europe. Their fundraising campaigns asked for donations of money, land, or noble-born sons to join the Order, with the implication that donations would help both to defend Jerusalem, and to ensure the charitable giver of a place in Heaven. The Order's efforts were helped substantially by the patronage of Bernard of Clairvaux, the leading churchman of the time, and a nephew of one of the original nine knights. The Order at its outset had been subject to strong criticism, especially of the concept that religious men could also carry swords. In response to these critics, the influential Bernard of Clairvaux wrote a multi-page treatise entitled *De Laude Novae Militae* ("In Praise of the New Knighthood"), in which he championed their mission and defended the idea of a military religious order by appealing to the long-held Christian theory of just war, which legitimated "taking up the sword" to defend the innocent and the Church from violent attack. By so doing, Bernard legitimized the Templars, who became the first "warrior monks" of the Western world.

4. **Rosicrucianism** - The Rosicrucian movement, of which the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, is the most prominent modern representative, has its roots in the mystery traditions, philosophy, and myths of ancient Egypt dating back to approximately 1500 B.C. In antiquity the word "mystery" referred to a special gnosis, a secret wisdom. Thousands of years ago in ancient Egypt select bodies or schools were formed to explore the mysteries of life and learn the secrets of this hidden wisdom. Only sincere students, displaying a desire for knowledge and meeting certain tests were considered worthy of being inducted into these mysteries. Over the course of centuries these mystery schools added an initiatory dimension to the knowledge they transmitted. The following is just one of the many symbols of the Rosicrucian movement which is a self centered image of man being in control.



5.

**Freemasonry / Illuminati**— No one knows with certainty how or when the Masonic Fraternity was formed. A widely accepted theory among Masonic scholars is that it arose from the stonemasons' guilds during the Middle Ages. The language and symbols used in the fraternity's rituals come from this era. The oldest document that makes reference to Masons is the Regius Poem, printed about 1390, which was a copy of an earlier work. In 1717, four lodges in London formed the first Grand Lodge of England, and records from that point on are more complete.

Within thirty years, the fraternity had spread throughout Europe and the American Colonies. Freemasonry became very popular in colonial America. George Washington was a Mason, Benjamin Franklin served as the head of the fraternity in Pennsylvania, as did Paul Revere and Joseph Warren in Massachusetts. Other well-known Masons involved with the founding of America included John

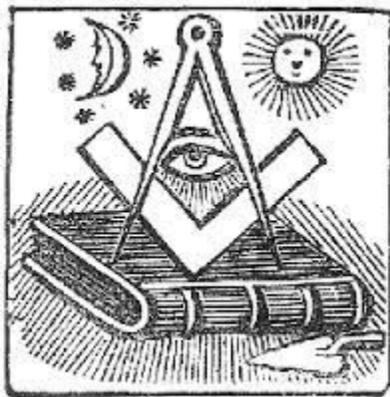
Hancock, John Sullivan, Lafayette, Baron Fredrick von Stuben, Nathanael Greene, and John Paul Jones. Another Mason, Chief Justice John Marshall, shaped the Supreme Court into its present form.

Over the centuries, Freemasonry has developed into a worldwide fraternity emphasizing personal study, self-improvement, and social betterment via individual involvement and philanthropy. During the late 1700s it was one of the organizations most responsible for spreading the ideals of the Enlightenment: the dignity of man and the liberty of the individual, the right of all persons to worship as they choose, the formation of democratic governments, and the importance of public education. Masons supported the first public schools in both Europe and America.

During the 1800s and early 1900s, Freemasonry grew dramatically. At that time, the government had provided no social "safety net". The Masonic tradition of founding orphanages, homes for widows, and homes for the aged provided the only security many people knew.

Today in North America, the Masonic Fraternity continues this tradition by giving almost \$1.5 million each day to causes that range from operating children's hospitals, providing treatment for childhood language disorders, treating eye diseases, funding medical research, contributing to local community service, and providing care to Masons and their families at Masonic Homes.

The four million Masons worldwide continue to help men and women face the problems of the 21st century by building bridges of brotherhood and instilling in the hearts of men ideals for a better tomorrow.



The figure above represents that man is in control of his destiny and that he is god. The ring in this diagram is worn by those that have been initiated as a freemason. These are visible on the fingers of some of the presidents.

I would also like to briefly make reference to a renown figure by the name of Helena Blavatsky who was also steeped into the New Age movement, whose teachings have forged the pathway for the movement to flourish into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## 6. Helena Blavatsky

In 1889 H.P. Blavatsky published *The Key to Theosophy*, "a clear Exposition, in the form of Question and Answer, of the Ethics, Science and Philosophy for the study of which the

Theosophical Society has been founded," and the devotional mystical gem called *The Voice of the Silence*, containing selected excerpts translated from an Eastern scripture, *The Book of the Golden Precepts*, which she had learnt by heart during her training in the East.

**MEANING OF THEOSOPHY** - any of a number of philosophies maintaining that knowledge of God may be achieved through spiritual ecstasy, direct intuition, or special individual relations, especially the movement founded in 1875 as the Theosophical Society by Helena Blavatsky and Henry Steel Olcott (1832–1907).

In July, 1890, H.P. B. established the European Headquarters of the Theosophical Society at 19 Avenue Road, St. John's Wood, London. From this address H.P. Blavatsky died on May 8, 1891, during a severe epidemic of flu in England, and her remains were cremated at Woking Crematorium, Surrey.

Against the background of her writings and teachings, her life and character, her mission and occult powers, H.P. Blavatsky is destined to be recognized in time as the greatest Occultist in the history of Western civilization and a direct agent of the Trans-Himalayan Brotherhood of Adepts.

We HAVE discovered thus far that whilst these philosophies, studies and interpretations have informed us of past systems. It is also enlightening to note that these practices are very much evident within political, academic, medical, social and spiritual strata of humanity

The New age movement is fast becoming a "den" that is even luring Christians to be involved in the these practices and they themselves don't even know it. My conviction is that any movement outside of the bible and what the word of God establishes is cultic however with that said we have to as Apologists seek earnestly to convince people to change their views and beliefs so that they will ultimately conform to biblical truth and to a saving relationship with Christ the Son of God. In so doing man which lost his inheritance as a son of God will be reconciled to the divine pattern which is, Gen 1:26.

New Age ideas have many different origins from a variety of places, but most of them can be traced to Eastern religious traditions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and other ancient religious traditions. New Age groups are often distinguished by their occult practices of psychic readings, Tarot cards, yoga, meditation strategies, and astrology. Many New Age groups also believe in various natural healing practices and traditional medicines including acupuncture, herbal therapy, natural foods, and spiritual healing. Even though there is no standard doctrine within the New Age Movement, many of their teachings focus on individual autonomy, relativism, and spiritualism.

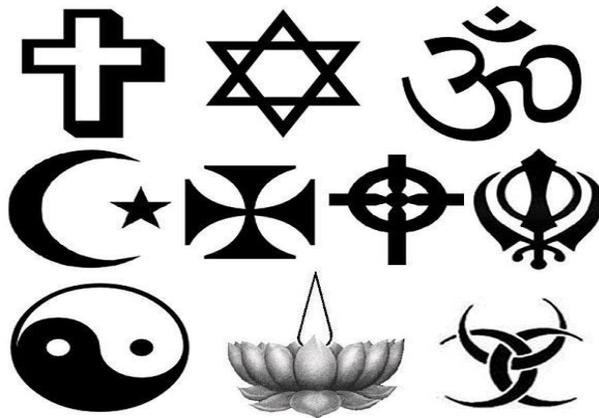
New Agers have no shared symbols that unite the movement, though several popular symbols exist. Practitioners have appropriated most of those symbols from the same religious traditions that they have used as sources in developing their sacred geographies and ritual practices. These include Asian religious traditions and Native American traditions as well as some pre-Christian European religions. Symbols associated with those traditions, such as the Hindu OM, the Chinese yin/yang ideogram, and Lakota (or other Native American) dream catchers have become powerful visual symbols in the New Age. In

addition, New Agers employ astrological symbols such as constellations, planets, the sun, and the moon. Finally, crystals serve as one of the few unique symbols to the New Age religious tradition.

Because so many New Agers look to Asian religious traditions as a source for their practices, sacred narratives, and theological concepts, those religions have served as a useful repository for sacred symbols as well. Among such images, the Hindu sacred syllable of OM has become extremely popular among the New Age.

Unlike most other religions, the New Age movement has no individuals who have clearly functioned as founders, and few long-term leaders. Because the New Age lacks a central theology, institution, or a single historical ancestor, a number of individuals might be identified as possible founders. To further complicate matters, most New Age practitioners believe that the tenets of the New Age are perennial and accessible to any person upon serious self-reflection. For this reason, few New Age practitioners understand themselves as part of an historical tradition founded by particular individuals.

The leaders of the 19th-century new religions from which the New Age has drawn most of its theological inspiration provides one set of potential founders of the New Age. New Thought's founder Emma Curtis Hopkins (1849-1925), Spiritualist leader Andrew Jackson Davis (1826-1910), and Theosophy founders H.P. Blavatsky (1831-1891) and Henry Steele Olcott (1832-1907) each authored important writings that contributed to the eventual New Age worldview. Similarly, the Asian gurus who introduced Hinduism and Buddhism to America functioned as important bridges between the traditional Asian and New Age understanding of such important concepts as karma, reincarnation, yoga, and meditation. Below are listed just a few of the symbols for the New Age movement.



The New Age movement includes some of the listed religions but is not restricted to these:

1. Monism – all that exists is derived from a single form of energy
2. Pantheism – all that exists is God, God is all that exists e.g. Hinduism, Taoism, Mormons
3. Relativism – a belief that all truth, knowledge and laws are relative to particular perceptions or situations and do not carry universal authority.
4. Animism, paganism, the old rituals- WICCA
5. Reincarnation of Hinduism
6. Hypnosis
7. New world order as the Age of Aquarius. – “the gigantic leap”

The New Age is focused on Gen 3:4-5 in that Satan sought to disfigure the image of man by the areas of lies in this passage of scripture:

1. “you will not die”
2. “your eyes will be opened”
3. “you will be like God
4. “you will know good and evil”

### **Beliefs**

The following are some common — though by no means universal — beliefs found among New Agers:

- All humanity—indeed all life, everything in the universe—is spiritually interconnected, participating in the same energy. “God” is one name for this energy.
- Spiritual beings (e.g. angels, ascended masters, elementals, ghosts, and/or space aliens) exist, and will guide us, if we open ourselves to their guidance.
- The human mind has deep levels and vast powers, which are capable even of overriding physical reality. “You create your own reality.”
- Nevertheless, this is subject to certain spiritual laws, such as the principle of cause and effect (karma).
- The individual has a purpose here on earth, in the present surroundings, because there is a lesson to learn. The most important lesson is love.
- Death is not the end. There is only life in different forms. What some refer to as an afterlife does not punish us but teaches us, perhaps through the mechanisms of reincarnation or near-death experiences.  
Science and spirituality are ultimately harmonious. New discoveries in science (evolution, quantum mechanics), rightly understood, point to spiritual principles.
- It shares with many major world religions the idea that Intuition or "divine guidance" is a more appropriate guide than rationalism, skepticism, or the scientific method. Western science wrongly neglects such things as parapsychology, meditation, and holistic health.

- There exists a mystical core within all religions, Eastern and Western. Dogma and religious identity are not so important.
- The Bible is considered by some, but not all, to be a wise and holy book. Many important truths are found in the Bible, or are referred to only very obliquely. Some say that Jesus was an Essene, or that he traveled to India in his youth to study Eastern religions. Others say that Jesus was a later avatar of Buddha.
- Feminine forms of spirituality, including feminine images of the divine, such as the female Aeon Sophia in Gnosticism, are viewed as having been subordinated, masked, or obliterated by patriarchal movements that were widely practiced when sacred teachings were first committed to writing. A renaissance of the feminine is particularly appropriate at this time.
- Ancient civilizations such as Atlantis may truly have existed, leaving behind certain relics and monuments (the Great Pyramid, Stonehenge) whose true nature has not been discovered by mainstream historians.
- There are no coincidences (see Synchronicity). Everything around you has spiritual meaning, and spiritual lessons to teach you. You are meant to be here, and are always exactly where you need to be to learn from what confronts you.
- The mind has hidden powers and abilities, which have a spiritual significance. Dreams and psychic experiences are ways in which our souls express themselves.
- Meditation, yoga, t'ai chi, and other Eastern practices are valuable and worthwhile.
- The food you eat has an effect on your mind as well as your body. It is generally preferable to eat fresh organic vegetarian food.
- Ultimately every interpersonal relationship has the potential to be a helpful experience in terms of our own growth.
- We learn about ourselves through our relationships with other people by getting to see what we need to work on ourselves and what strengths we bring to the other party in order to help them in their life.
- All our relationships are destined to be repeated until they are healed, if necessary over many lifetimes.
- As Souls seeking wholeness, our goal is eventually to learn to love everyone we come in contact with.

Hence the intention of the New Age is that man is the author of his destiny, it propagates that man is God and denies the deity of Father, Son and Spirit.

## **Paul McGuire in his book FROM EARTHQUAKES TO GLOBAL UNITY**

\*We must actively speak out for the Christian faith in the marketplace of ideas. Christians must actively participate at all levels of society and bring Biblical truths into the "marketplace of ideas." Local Churches must continue to evangelize their communities because if they do not the New Age, cults and occult will be there to fill the spiritual Vacuum. In the entertainment industry, Christians must create Alternatives which communicate Biblical concepts to a secular culture. Tragically, there is a tendency in the Christian culture to remove itself and exist in its own evangelical culture. Yet, Christ not only commanded us to "go into all the world and preach the Gospel," but He also exhorted us to become salt and light. The reason that New Age Philosophies have spread throughout our nation is simply because their followers are out there in our communities, media, educational systems, and businesses.

There is a waging and intensifying battle in that if we as the church will not arise in this final hour, if we do not shift from our cocoon world then it will be the New Agers that will evangelize and recruit many souls to a Christless eternity.

We are living in a time where is a great uprising of evil and chaos hence we as the sons of God must bring restoration to an ignorant humanity that's has become so gullible to all winds of doctrine and erroneous teachings.

We must **CONTEND** for our Faith.

**Isa 60:1** Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of Jehovah has risen on you.

Isa 60:2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness *the* peoples; but Jehovah shall rise on you, and His glory shall be seen on you.

Isa 60:3 And the nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawning.

We have to in love, sincerity and from a deep conviction reach out to the areas of influence that God has placed us in to govern, rule as His sons so that the curse of the nations will be averted.

Mal 4:5 Behold, I *am* sending you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of Jehovah.

Mal 4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the sons, and the heart of the sons to their fathers, that I not come and strike the earth *with* utter destruction.

**Assignment.**

1. Define the New Age movement
2. List the different types of New Agers and explain briefly their structure.
3. Are governmental structures apart of the New Age movement. If so, explain in 10 lines.
4. How is fashion, music, media linked to the New Age and what is the impact upon Christian youth.
5. Choose one New Age movement from the diagram below and discuss in detail.
6. Do you know of any friends that could possibly be involved in the New Age practice, what are they doing?
7. The New Age movement has also impacted on the global church. List the areas of concern w.r.t New Age practices within certain churches.
8. The New Age is focused on Gen3: 4-5. What are the 3 areas of deceit that it focuses on.
9. How does divine model of Father and Son deal with this spirit of the New Age movement.  
Reference:
  - Rom 8 – read the whole chapter
  - Mal 4:5-6 – is there a curse that has already entered humanity.
  - John 17 – read whole chapter.
  - Read 2 Jhn – read the chapter.
10. Prayerfully and with a deep conviction after completing this study, list the areas of your life that you want changed as you allow the Holy Spirit to guide and lead you.

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