



'Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory'
(Psalm 24,10).

The New Age

Central Truth: God is sovereign over all persons and things through all ages.

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A primary mark of the New Age movement is that it is not new. Deuteronomy 18:9-14 condemns many things which are taught by the followers of the New Age philosophy. The New Age is the age-old rejection of God in a modern dress.

It is difficult to address the New Age heresy because it takes so many different forms. There is no single organization or statement of doctrine that identifies the entire movement. Its primary identification is the belief that the world has entered the Aquarian Age of the zodiac (which is idolatry!) when peace will reign on earth because mankind will have come in tune with nature. You will find many (but not all) New Agers among environmentalists, nuclear-freeze proponents, Marxist-socialist utopians, mind-control advocates, ESP cultists, spiritists, witchcraft practitioners, and others who use magical rites. You do not find a single Bible-believing Christian in the New Age.

Ancient Heresies in Modern Dress

We are witnessing the influx of philosophy and theology from India and the Eastern religions. Hinduism (which includes all religious systems) and Christianity (which excludes all religious systems) are face to face in the New Age. They are diametrically opposed to each other. That is why a Christian cannot be a follower of the New Age philosophies.

Deuteronomy 18:9-14 lists many of the practices common in the New Age movement, and they are called “abomination” (verse 12). All that is involved in fortune-telling and spiritualism is strictly forbidden to the follower of God. We do not need wizards or witches. The Lord God has raised up to us a Prophet who speaks to us the very words of God Himself (Deuteronomy 18:18).

The essence of the New Age movement is the rejection of the authority of biblical revelation and the deification of mankind. It is the same temptation Satan offered Eve, saying, *“In the day ye eat thereof then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil”* (Genesis 3:5). Therefore, the one who upholds the New Age philosophy does not need to obey God any longer. The promise of the deification of humans is the greatest of Satan's lies, and he has been telling it since the beginning of time.

God hates the principles of the New Age. King Manasseh of Judah practiced many of the things promoted as “new” from an “enlightened mind” (II Kings 21). And God sent His judgment upon that nation because of her dabbling in such occult practices.

The one thing we learn from history is that we do not learn from history. America is following in the very steps of ancient Judah. The same judgment of God is awaiting us unless there is repentance, revival, and reformation. A secular publication had this sentence: “So here we are in the New Age, a combination of spirituality and superstition, fad and farce, about which the only thing certain is that it is not new” (Time magazine, December 7, 1987). The devil is not very original, so he had to go back to antiquity and find a philosophy of religion and life to attack biblical revelation and deceive people to turn from God.

Doctrines of Demons Versus the word of God

Let us review some of the major doctrines of the New Age. You will notice how contrary they are to Bible doctrines. Read *The New Age Cult* by Walter Martin for a complete review of these doctrines in the light of biblical revelation. It is evident at once that the New Age is neither biblical nor Christian.

God — The New Age teaches that God is not a person but “an energy gestalt” (whatever that means!). It denies that there is even such a thing as God.

The Bible recognizes the existence of God without attempting to prove it. So the sacred record begins, *“in the beginning God . . .”* (Genesis 1:1).

The record of creation calls God by name thirty times in Genesis 1. The Bible is the divinely inspired record of the revelation of God.

What about those who deny that there is a personal God? The Bible answers, *“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good”* (Psalm 14:1). God is the first and the last of all things (Isaiah 44:6). We know God is because we have a personal relationship with Him in Jesus Christ.

Trinity — The New Age speaks of a trinity of Intelligence, Force, and Love. But that trinity is impersonal. It is not like the triune God revealed in the Bible.

The triune God revealed in the Bible is Father, Son, and Spirit. That doctrine is taught in many places. Examine the reference to all three in Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14; and John 14:16, 17. We know that doctrine is true because we are children of the Father through faith in the Son and, as a result, are indwelt by the Spirit.

Incarnation — Has God revealed himself as a human in the person of Jesus of Nazareth? Is Jesus the Son of God? The New Age answers no. It teaches that Jesus was a mere man who, by overcoming temptations and experiencing trials, was fitted to be the agent through which the Christ spirit could manifest itself. Therefore, Jesus is neither the Christ nor the Son of God, according to the New Age doctrines.

The Bible says when the beginning began the Word already was. He was very God of very God. The Word became flesh (what He was not before His incarnation) and lived among men as a man. Those living at that time beheld His glory, which was the glory of the only begotten of the Father. God, who had never been seen, was revealed in the Word. (Read the biblical record in John 1:1-18.) Jesus of Nazareth is the eternal Word. He is revealed to us as the only begotten Son of God (John 3:16). Yes, God “has come in the person of Jesus, living in human flesh as God-Man, in order to bring us salvation.

Atonement and Salvation — The New Age teaches that God does not hold any evil deeds against us. Hence, there is no need for atonement. It teaches that man is in the image of God and is already saved with an everlasting salvation.

On the contrary, the Bible says, *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned”* (Romans 5:12). Jesus warned, *“Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish”* (Luke 13:3, 5). The only way to be delivered from death into life is through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ (I Peter 1:18, 19;

2:24; 3:18). There is redemption in His blood, but in nothing else (Ephesians 1:7; Acts 4,12).

End Times — The second coming of Christ is rejected. Anything which draws the “new order” out of the old is said to be the second coming. And since the reality of sin and judgment is rejected, the idea of a heaven for the righteous and a hell for the wicked is rejected also. Belief in the reincarnation of the human soul (one dying here and being born as another person there) undercuts the idea of eternal things. If one works out his own salvation under the law of rebirth, Jesus is not needed.

But the Bible is filled with teachings concerning the return of our Lord and the eternal states of the righteous and the wicked (see I Thessalonians 4:13-17 and Mark 9:43-48, for instance). And He says one can be born again only by the Holy Spirit (John 3:3-5). There is absolutely nothing in the Bible to support the idea of reincarnation. It is pagan superstition.

Wrong Use of Right Means

Followers of the New Age movement are trying to unite all religions. They are trying to develop a one-world government. That would be great if all religions were joined in belief of the truth as revealed in the Bible, and if all governments were under the rule of Jesus. But that is not their goal. They want unity in their beliefs, not in the truth of God.

There is a weakening of many churches by subtle deviations from Bible doctrines. Since the church is the “*pillar and ground of the truth*” (I Timothy 3:15), the New Age must undermine it before the new / old heresy can progress very far.

There is an invasion of this heresy in the public school system. “Value clarification” classes are often teaching vehicles for this anti-Bible philosophy. Businesses are falling into it in many training sessions held for their employees. Christians must be informed and combat this serious menace.

God's People Versus Satan's Lies

Prepare through much prayer. This is a spiritual battle. It is more than an intellectual contest of competing ideas. You will not stand against it except in the power of the Lord (Ephesians 6:10). Pray for God to protect our children against this spiritual plague.

Witness in love. Take a stand for the truth. Combat these doctrines when you hear them stated. But always practice “*speaking the truth in love*”

(Ephesians 4:15). Notice how gentle Jesus was with sinners. Reflect His spirit as you stand for the truth.

Stay with the Bible, whether others believe it or not. It is living, powerful, and sharper than a two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). It is “*the sword of the Spirit*” (Ephesians 6:17). The Bible does not need to be defended, just declared.

Present Jesus as man's only hope. “*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me,*” according to His own testimony (John 14:6). There is no other name under heaven, given among men, whereby people can be saved (Acts 4:11, 12). You can never argue a New Age person out of his error into the truth of God. But you can present the Word of God, and it will do God's work. God is sovereign over all persons and things in all ages. Bear witness to the truth and leave the results to Him.

Questions for Discussion

1. What is the New Age movement?
2. How is it related to the paganism of the zodiac?
3. How is the New Age simply an old heresy in new dress?
4. What does Deuteronomy 18:9-14 say about the doctrines of the New Age?
5. How does the New Age reject the Christian concept of God?
6. Why does the New Age reject doctrines of heaven and hell?
7. Why is the New Age wrong in its belief in reincarnation?
8. How are New Age teachings a problem in schools and churches?
9. How should you deal with people who hold New Age doctrines?
10. How can you protect your loved ones against this growing heresy?