

SYNOPSIS FOR WEEK FOUR:

THE CHRISTIAN MEETS THE NEW AGER: WILL THE REAL JESUS PLEASE STAND UP?

INTRODUCTION

The New Age Movement (called The New Spirituality or Progressive Spirituality) has seen enormous growth since the 1960's in America.

There are views of Jesus in the New Age, he is an ascended master, he is an avatar, he is a guru, and he is a man who was blessed with the divine consciousness. He is called the cosmic Christ.

THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

The Pantheistic world view-all is god and god is all.

Hinduism-is based on pantheism. All is an illusion.

Meditation: Eastern vs. Christian forms

The moral law of Karma

Buddhism-grew out of Hinduism and is also pantheistic based. It is a search for Nirvana.

Zen

Taoism-Ying and Yang, I-Ching

Walter Martin's quote about the New Age Movement-man is divine, all is god, god is impersonal, Jesus was just an enlightened teacher.

The Age of Aquarius

The New Age Movement is of the occult

PRACTICES

Horoscopes, auras, automatic writings and clairvoyance, crystal gazing and crystal healing, mediums and channeling, austral projection, spirit guilds

PAST

1875 the THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY and CHRISTIAN SCIENCE, Yogananda, Alan Watts, Elisabeth Clare Prophet, Shirley MacLaine

PRESENT

Oprah Winfrey, Deepak Chopra, Eckart Tolle, Rhonda Byrne, Helen Schucman, Marie Anne Wilson

Ravi Zacharias's 12 Questions

1. Why is the spiritual side of life so important and what do you personally think the spiritual experience is?
2. If forgiveness is such a key aspect of your thinking, who is it that ultimately forgives the very motives and intents of the human hearts?
3. Gratitude without a person to be grateful to is an incomplete thought. To whom are ultimately grateful?
4. When you use the term "God" to what or whom do you refer? Is it important to be right in your thinking about God?
5. Do you believe God listens to your prayers when you pray?
6. What are your thoughts on the nature of sin?
7. What do you believe ultimately about individual human destiny?
8. Do you believe success has made you happy or is there something greater than that?
9. What is the source of your values?
10. What do you think is the purpose of life?
11. Who do you believe yourself to be?
12. Who do you think Jesus is?

A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO THE NEW AGE

Genesis 3:1-5, the New Age is nothing more than the oldest lie stated.

Isaiah 44:8, God is personal.

Deuteronomy 32:35, Romans 12:19, Hebrews 10:30, God will judge and punish sin

Compassion vs. Karma

"Truth by definition is exclusive."

John 14:6, Romans 3:23, Isaiah 64:6, 2 CORINTHIANS 11:13-15

1 TIMOTHY 4:11, JOHN 3:16, ACTS 4:12

C.S. Lewis-MERE CHRISTIANITY, "I am trying here to prevent anyone from saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: "I am ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic-on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg-or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

SUGGESTED READING LIST

THE CHRISTIAN MEETS THE NEW AGER

BAKER ENCYCLOPEDIA of CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS

EVANGELICAL DICTIONARY of THEOLOGY

WHY JESUS? REDISCOVERING HIS TRUTH IN AN AGE OF MASS MARKETED SPIRITUALITY by RAVI ZACHARIAS

JESUS AMONG OTHER GODS: THE ABSOLUTE CLAIMS of THE CHRISITIAN MESSAGE by RAVI ZACHARIAS

BEYOND OPINION: LIVING THE FAITH WE DEFEND edited by RAVI ZACHARIAS

THE LOTUS AND THE CROSS: JESUS TALKS WITH BUDDHA by RAVI ZACHARIAS

NEW BIRTH OR REBIRTH: JESUS TALKS WITH KRISHNA by RAVI ZACHARIAS

OPRAH, MIRACLES, AND THE NEW EARTH: A CRITIQUE by ERWIN LUTZER

UNMASKING THE NEW AGE: IS THERE A NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMNT TRYING TO TRANSFORM SOCIETY?
By DOUGLAS R. GROOTHUIS

CONFRONTING THE NEW AGE: HOW TO RESIST A GROWING RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT by DOUGLAS R.
GROOTHUIS

THE KINGDOM OF THE OCCULT by WALTER MARTIN

THE KINGDOMOF THE CULTS by WALTER MARTIN

MERE CHRISTIANITY by C.S. LEWIS

WHEN SKEPTICS ASK: A HANDBOOK ON CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES by NORMAN GEISELR AND RON BROOKS

BAD RELIGION: HOW WE BECAME A NATION OF HERETICS by ROSS DOUTHAT

A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE: PUTTING CHRISTIAN TRUTH-CLAIMS TO THE WORLDVIEW TEST by KENNETH
RICHARD SAMPLES

A SPECATOR'S GUIDE TO WORLD VIEWS: TEN WAYS TO UNDERSTAND LIFE edited by SIMON SMART

THE GOD WHO IS THERE by FRANCIS SHAEFFER