

I. Scriptural Introduction

- A. **ROM 1:16** I am not ashamed of **THE GOSPEL**, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.
- B. **GAL 1:6** I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to **A DIFFERENT GOSPEL**, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert (*metastrepho*) the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel (*aggelos*) from heaven, preach (*euaggelizo*) any other gospel (*euaggelizo*) to you than what we have preached to (*euaggelizo*) you, let him be accursed (*anathema*). 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches (*euaggelizo*) any other gospel (*euaggelizo*) to you than what you have received, let him be accursed (*anathema*). 10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ. 11 But I make known to you, brethren, that **the gospel (*euaggelion*) which was preached (*euaggelizo*) by me is not according to man.** 12 **For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation (*apokalupsis*) of Jesus Christ.**
- C. **MAT 24:4** Jesus answered: "**Watch out that no one deceives you.** 5 For **MANY will come in my name, claiming, 'I am (*the*) Christ,' and will deceive many.**

II. Background of my interest in the New Age Movement.

- A. Christmas gift: "**The Reappearance of the Christ and the Masters of Wisdom,**" by Benjamin Creme, 1980. Newspaper ads announcing the Christ April 25, 1982.
- B. Sister-in-law a Hare Krishna.
- C. Spiritual experience reading The Urantia Book in San Francisco, about 1978. Saved in 1979.
- D. Friend at hospital who is a New Age Movement advocate

III. What is the New Age Movement?

- A. **Definition:** A rapidly emerging and widely held world view or philosophy of life that is effectively a religion. In fact, it is the fastest-growing religious movement on earth. It is being established by a worldwide coalition of organizations and individuals working openly to accomplish 3 ultimate goals:
1. Establish a **New Age one world system or order** (social, political, economic, scientific, educational, etc.)
  2. Establish a **New Age one world religion**
  3. Prepare the way for takeover by a **one-world leader**, known as **the New Age Christ**. Those fervently supporting the New Age Movement philosophy usually do so because of a personal mystical experience or "**enlightenment**" in which they receive powerful and supernatural confirmation of the truth of the philosophy. This New Age Movement is in essence the reestablished religion of Mystery Babylon that was prophesied to occur in end times in Revelation 17.
- B. What are the **astrological teachings about the New Age?**
1. Destiny of the human race and the world is influenced by "energy vibrations" or other such forces related to position of the heavenly bodies
  2. An astrological age or period of such influence is approximately 2,000 years in length, and named after the astrological sign most influential during that period
  3. For the last 2,000 years or so we have been in the age of **Pisces** (the sign of the fishes). This age has been one of great heartache and tragedy, in which Christianity has been the predominate religion.
  4. We are in the process now of moving into the age of **Aquarius**, in which the mystical and occult becomes the predominate religion. This will be an age of peace, love and harmony.
  5. Each age is ushered in by a "Christ" who teaches the ways of living in that Age. The Piscean Age was ushered in by Jesus Christ. The New Age Christ is said by many to be Lord Maitreya, and his followers claim he is already in the earth, soon to be revealed. There is disagreement on who will be the New Age leader. However there is uniform agreement that he will not be Jesus Christ.
- C. What are some of the **basic tenets of the New Age Movement?**
1. **Pantheism:** An ancient Eastern mystical belief that God is All, All is God. All true reality is divine. God is reduced to an impersonal "force" or "energy" rather than a personal deity separate from his creation. Since all of creation is One and is God, good and evil are simply illusions. Since even what appears to be evil is really also part of God, it is really good. (How's that for circular thinking!) Man, too, is one with God and is therefore divine. Man's big problem is simply being ignorant of his deity.
  2. Personal "**enlightenment**" is necessary for one to recognize this truth of individual deity. This "enlightenment" often is a powerful supernatural or mystical experience to the individual, and convinces him of the truth of New Age philosophy. As the individual recognizes that he is God and grows in that knowledge, God-like powers are released.
  3. Various "tools" can be used to assist one in achieving individual "enlightenment". Examples include several practices that produce a state of altered consciousness or mental states, such as **meditation, hallucinogenic drugs, yoga, psychic experiences, etc.**
  4. As each individual experiences "enlightenment" and learns to exercise his spiritual powers, he embraces and works with others with the same consciousness towards achieving the one world system, one world religion and to prepare for the New Age Christ.
  5. **Reincarnation** is a concept closely allied with the growth process to full realization and exercise of individual deity. Just as life (including Man) evolves physically, there is a parallel spiritual evolution of each individual towards deity. More than one life is necessary to evolve through this process. An individual lives a life on earth, during which time

he learns certain lessons along this path. Depending on the balance of good vs. bad in that life, the next life at reincarnation may be upwards or downwards in his individual growth process. This **Law of Karma** keeps unfailing track of the "good" and "bad" in individual evolution. Between lives, the individual lives in a non-physical plane, i.e. a disembodied state. Adherents try to claim biblical support, such as Jesus' discussion with Nicodemus about the requirement of the New Birth to see the Kingdom of God.

- **DAN 11:38** But in his estate shall he honor **the God of forces**: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honor with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.
- **GEN 3:2-5** The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "**For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**"
- **HEB 9:27-28** Just as **man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment**, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

#### IV. **What is the purpose of the New Age Movement?**

- A. The real or final purpose of the New Age Movement is nothing more or less than the formation of **a one-world system or New Age order** and a **one-world New Age religion**, as well as to prepare the way for a **one-world leader, the New Age Christ**. One of the most remarkable observations about the New Age Movement is the unity of its basic beliefs and organization in spite of a tremendous diversity of background of the individuals involved. No one person or group can be identified as organizing the movement. Literally thousands of organizations and individuals are "networking" to form the whole. This, I believe, points out the spiritual organization occurring behind the scenes. (parallel with God's working through disciples, prophets, etc.)
- B. **Seven marks of the Babylonian religion:**
1. Jesus is not the one and only Christ, nor is He God any more than we have the same potential
  2. God is a Force or energy that anyone can tap into, rather than a personal loving & holy God separate from His creation
  3. Man is himself God, for he consists of and is the creator of "the forces". Man only needs to awaken to the inherent power potential within himself. Man in this way is won by flattery.
  4. Man should seek and accept spiritual instruction and direction directly from the spirit world.
  5. All religions and religious teachings lead to the same goal. All are equally of merit.
  6. The "ancient wisdom" of Babyon, Egypt and Greece--not the bible--is the basis of all truth.
  7. Sin and evil do not exist. Peace and love are the ultimate realities.

#### V. **What do some of the people in the New Age Movement say on these topics?**

- A. An example of such a mystical experience leading to enlightenment is described by Shirley MacLaine in her book *Out on a Limb*. The experience occurred while meditating in a hot tub: "My whole body seemed to float. Slowly, slowly I became the water....I felt the inner connection of my breathing with the pulse of the energy around me. In fact, I was the air, the water, the darkness, the walls, the bubbles, the candle, the wet rocks under the water, and even the sound of the rushing river outside." In the ABC mini-series based on MacLaine's book, *Out On A Limb*, a segment showed MacLaine standing before the Pacific Ocean with arms outstretched, chanting "I am God, I and God, I am God."
- B. Guru Sathya Sai Baba states that "...you are the God of this universe."
- C. Swami Muktananda, a guru highly praised by EST's Werner Erhard and by Master Da Free John, tells his listeners, "Kneel to your own self, honor and worship your own being. God dwells with you as you."
- D. Ruth Montgomery's spirit guides teach in *A World Beyond*, "We are as much God as God is a part of us....each of us is God....together we are God....this all-for-one and one-for-all....makes us the whole of God."
- E. This is a perversion of God's first commandment: **EXO 20:3** "You shall have no other gods before me.
1. This rise of selfism was prophesied by Paul: **2TI 3:1-3** But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be **lovers of themselves**, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,
  2. Prophesied by Daniel: **DAN 11:21** And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and **obtain the kingdom by flatteries**.
  3. **GAL 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

#### VI. **What is "Enlightenment", and what are some of the ways it is attained?**

- A. "**Enlightenment**" is a powerful spiritual revelation or experience occurring to an individual that convinces him or her of the truth of New Age teachings. This experience usually occurs during or after performing one or more techniques designed to produce a state of "altered consciousness". The process is a counterfeit "new birth", similar to the Christian conversion experience. Spirit beings from "the other side" in the spirit world can often be contacted in these experiences that help one achieve "enlightenment"
- B. Revelation knowledge to the Christian is comparable to ESP or Paranormal Knowledge in the New Age Movement:
1. **MAT 16:13-17** When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And **Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God**. And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven**.
  2. **1CO 2:9** However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"-- 10 but **God has revealed it to us by his Spirit**. The Spirit searches all things,

even the deep things of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. 13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. 14 **The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.**

2. **ACT 16:16** Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met **by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future.** She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." 18 She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her. 19 When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities.

## VII. **Spiritism (Spiritualism or Necromancy)**

### A. **Spiritism:** (Webster's Unabridged Dictionary)

1. the belief that the dead survive as spirits which can communicate with the living, especially with the help of a third party, called a medium
2. any practice arising from this belief
3. the philosophical doctrine that all reality is in essence spiritual; idealism

### B. What are some of the means of contacting beings in the spiritual world?

- |                |               |                  |                  |              |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1. Ouija Board | 4. drugs      | 7. visualization | 10. incantations | 13. crystals |
| 2. meditation  | 5. yoga       | 8. table rapping | 11. chanting     | 14. charms   |
| 3. hypnosis    | 6. channeling | 9. sorcery       | 12. card laying  |              |

C. **The Ouija board.** The name Ouija is thought to come from a combination of the French Oui and the German Ja, both meaning yes. This invention is very old. It was used in the days of Pythagorus, about 540 B.C. Ouija is currently a registered trademark of Parker Brothers, the distributor of the game in the United States. William Fuld, the first American producer, founded the Southern Novelty Company in Baltimore, Maryland, later to be known as the Baltimore Talking Board Company. The popularity of the talking board soared during World War I. At the University of Michigan, as reported by the New York Tribune, December 24, 1919, "The mysterious 'talking oracle' has succeeded the Bible and the Prayer Book in fraternity houses and students rooms." In 1966, Parker Brothers purchased the rights for the Ouija board and moved the operation from Baltimore to Salem, Massachusetts. The first full year after their take-over, Parker Brothers sold more than 2 million Ouija boards, topping the sales of their previous best-selling board game, Monopoly.

### D. Examples of Ouija board users:

1. In 1933, a teenage girl claimed while working the Ouija board with her mother, she was instructed to murder her father, because her mother was in love with another man. The Ouija board supposedly gave the girl specific instructions and promised her \$5,000 in insurance money and escape from the law. The girl was sent to State Reform School for six years, and her mother was sent to prison to serve up to 25 years.
2. Users of the Ouija board often "graduate" to other psychical practices. Jane Roberts has gone through such a psychical evolution. She is author of *The Coming of Seth* and *The Seth Material*. She began her psychical experimentation with the Ouija board, and developed a working relationship with her unaccepted Ouija guest. Eventually, she began anticipating Ouija messages, and began visualizing images and evolved into various forms of transmediation. A life changing relationship with the powerful "energy essence personality" that the world now knows as "Seth" quickly emerged. By the end of January, 1964, 20 Seth sessions had taken place and 230 pages of typewritten manuscript had emerged. Since then and from the very beginning verbatim transcripts, usually written by husband Robert have been kept. These transcripts are the basis of Jane's books and articles, the foundation for her continuing research.

## VIII. **Channeling.**

A. **Definition:** **Channeling** is the process whereby a human being willingly gives up control of his mind and body to a possessing or invading spirit. The spirit then communicates information, usually by speaking out of the mouth of the channeler. The channeler used to be called a medium. Channeling is simply the New Age term.

### B. How common is channeling?

1. 1000's in America
2. but millions seek the advice or read the writings given by the spirits
3. estimated 1,000 channelers in Los Angeles
4. growing in popularity throughout western world, including West Germany, Canada and England.
5. Brazil boasts 1 million channelers and spiritists, and millions of followers
6. taught in hundreds of seminars, retreats and workshops. Live programs are taught by the spirits themselves through their channelers.

### C. Who are the Channelers?

1. all walks of life:                      a. professions                                      b. races                                      c. creeds
2. except when in a trance and possessed, they look and act normally

### D. Examples

1. "**Ramtha**" is channeled by a Seattle housewife **J.Z. Knight**. While she and her husband were making pyramids out of paper for preserving food the demon Ramtha appeared as an apparition. Ramtha announced he was a 35,000 year old reincarnated warrior spirit who had come to guide Knight on her journey to divinity. Some quotes from

"Ramtha": "You are God...God the Father is you...Everyone is what you call a psychic...Love yourself...live in the moment, to exalt all that you are...There is no such thing as evil...For 2,000 years we have been called sinful creatures, but we are equal with God or Christ...Do not preach to this world-- the world doesn't need saving--leave it alone...No, there is no Hell and there is no devil."

2. Actress **Sharon Gless**, who plays "**Cagney**" on the TV series "Cagney and Lacey," won a 1987 Emmy for her role on the series. In her acceptance speech, she told tens of millions that her success was due to "**Lazaris**," a spirit-entity who speaks through medium **Jach Pursel**.
  3. The spirit guide "Jesus" is the author of the best-selling book **A Course in Miracles** through channeler **Helen Schucman**. Some quotes from "Jesus": "The recognition of God is the recognition of yourself. There is no separation of God and His creation...Sin is the grand illusion...See no one, then, as guilty...[within all] men is perfect innocence. No one is punished for sins [and you] are not sinners"
  4. "**Lilly**" and other spirits are channeled through medium **Ruth Montgomery**.
  5. "**Seth**" is the spirit channeled by **Jane Roberts**. His teachings were written down by her husband in **Seth Speaks**.
- **IJO 4:1** Dear friends, **do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.** 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: **Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,** 3 **but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist,** which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

#### IX. What does the bible say about spiritism?

- A. **DEU 18:9** When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. 10 Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, 11 or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. 12 Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD, and because of these detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. 13 You must be blameless before the LORD your God.
- B. **2KI 17:16** They forsook all the commands of the LORD their God and made for themselves two idols cast in the shape of calves, and an Asherah pole. **They bowed down to all the starry hosts,** and they worshiped Baal. 17 They sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire. They practiced divination and sorcery and sold themselves to do evil in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger. 18 So the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them from his presence. Only the tribe of Judah was left.
- C. **EZE 13:6** **Their visions are false and their divinations a lie.** They say, "The LORD declares," when the LORD has not sent them; yet they expect their words to be fulfilled. 7 Have you not seen false visions and uttered lying divinations when you say, "The LORD declares," though I have not spoken? 8 "Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Because of your false words and lying visions, I am against you, declares the Sovereign LORD. 9 My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and utter lying divinations. They will not belong to the council of my people or be listed in the records of the house of Israel, nor will they enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Sovereign LORD.
- D. **ISA 8:19** When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?
- E. **LEV 19:31** "Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God.
- F. **REV 9:20** The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood--idols that cannot see or hear or walk. 21 Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

#### X. Who are some of the leaders of the New Age Movement?

- A. Marilyn Ferguson, **The Aquarian Conspiracy: Personal and Social Transformation in the 1980's**, 1980.
- B. David Spangler, **Revelation: The Birth of a New Age**, 1976.
- C. Peter Lemesurier, **The Armageddon Script**, 1981.
- D. Robert Mueller, **The New Genesis: Shaping a Global Spirituality**, 1984.
- E. Donald Keys, **Earth at Omega: Passage to Planetization**, 1982.
- F. Alice Bailey, **The Externalization of the Hierarchy**, 1957.
- G. Benjamin Creme, **The Reappearance of the Christ and the Masters of Wisdom**, 1980.
- H. Helena P. Blavatsky, **The Secret Doctrine**, 1888.
- I. John Randolph Price, **The Planetary Commission**, 1984.
- J. Vera Alder, **When Humanity Comes of Age**, 1974.
- K. John Randolph Price, **Superbeings**, 1981.

#### XI. How does New Age philosophy differ from the biblical teachings of Christianity?

- A. **God:** An impersonal force energy that pervades all of creation and is not separate from creation. Since the sun, moon, stars and ourselves all therefore contain God, we can worship them and ourselves. God can be he or she, mother or father, god or goddess.
- B. **Christ:** A reincarnated avatar or messiah, sent by the hierarchy to give the living on earth spiritually advanced revelation. Buddha, Mohammed, Confucious, Jesus and many others were also "Christ," but the greatest of all is soon coming to usher in the New Age.
- C. **Angels:** More commonly called Ascended Masters, Masters of Wisdom, Ancient Masters, spirit guides, inner guides, spirit counselors, one's Higher Self, the Self, Superbeings, extraterrestrials, walk-ins, etc. Collectively called the hierarchy. They are really Demons.
- D. **Salvation**, New Birth, Born Again: We are saved at the time of "enlightenment" when we receive revelation knowledge of the truth of self-deity, and "let go" and allow your inner guide to guide and direct your life and growth in deity.

- E. **The Second Coming:** Christ first comes to the individual as a Christ-consciousness that assists his transformation into a divine being. The 2nd coming is the return of the New Age messiah (Antichrist) who is to rule the earth in the New Age.
- F. **Heaven, Kingdom of God:** The spiritually cleansed and purified earth in which mankind has achieved "Christ consciousness."
- G. **Hell:** It doesn't exist. Sin and evil don't exist.

## XII. How is the New Age Movement affecting the church now? How will it affect it in the future?

- A. Rev. Laura Cameron Fraser, the first woman Episcopal priest in the Pacific Northwest, quit her job in 1986 when the bishop of her diocese demanded she deny her belief in "**Jonah**", a spirit who she channeled. She plans to found an institute of healing in Seattle to investigate faith and psychic healing.
- B. The Plan of the New Age is to take over every Christian church and every Jewish temple in the world and to turn these great and small architectural structures into centers for the New Age World Religion. This is an absolute fact. They will attempt to discredit the basic doctrines of Christianity.
  1. New Age writer William Thompson writes: "The new spirituality does not reject the earlier patterns of the great universal religions. Priest and church will not disappear; they will not be forced out of existence in the New Age, they will be absorbed into the existence of the New Age."
  2. Kevin Ryerson, the demon channeler for Shirley Maclaine and other celebrities, says his spirits have told him that "the man Jesus studied for eighteen years in India before he returned to Jerusalem. He was studying the teachings of Buddha and became an adept Yogi Himself."
  3. Elizabeth Clare Prophet claims to have come across documents from deep in the Himalayas which describe what Jesus did and said in India, Nepal and Tibet. Her book, The Lost Years of Jesus, "reveals" that the youth Jesus joined a caravan headed for the East, where he studied under wise men who taught him mysticism.
  4. Elizabeth Clare Prophet writes: "...the erroneous doctrine concerning the blood sacrifice of Jesus--which he himself never taught--has been perpetuated to the present hour, a remnant of pagan writ long refuted by the Word of God. God the Father did not require the sacrifice of His Son Christ Jesus, or of any other incarnation for the sins of the world..."
  5. Benjamin Creme writes: "Christianity was really built by St. Paul...and St. Paul made a number of mistakes. He distorted Christianity considerably. He is now one of the Masters of Wisdom...humanity suffered through Paul's mistakes, but the Plan eventually won out. The Plan is ideal."
- C. Ultimately, the Plan makes provision for literal removal of anyone who does not embrace New Age Movement philosophies.
- **REV 6:9-10** When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"
- **MAT 10:26,28** "So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
  1. Ruth Montgomery, Threshold to Tomorrow: "Those who survive the shift will be a different type of people from those in physical form today, freed from strife and hatred, longing to be of service to the whole of mankind...The souls who helped to bring on the chaos of the present century will have passed into spirit to rethink their attitudes." Interviewed by Magical Blend magazine in 1986, Montgomery clarified this key point: "Millions will survive and millions won't. Those that won't will go into the spirit state, because there is truly no death."
  2. Moira Timms, in his book Prophecies and Predictions: Everyone's Guide to the Coming Changes writes: "...the plagues of Revelation are special packages of karma visited upon the obstinate that they might awaken to their wrong attitudes...animals that don't adapt become extinct. Remember? Survival today means understanding and responding to change within the context of the internal "revolution."

## XIII. Occultism

- A. **Definition:** The word "occult" comes from the Latin "occultus", and it carries the idea of things hidden, secret and mysterious. David Hoover, in his book how to respond to the occult, lists three distinct characteristics of the occult:
  1. The occult deals with things secret or hidden.
  2. The occult deals with operations or events which seem to depend on human powers that go beyond the five senses.
  3. The occult deals with a supernatural, the presence of angelic or demonic forces.
- B. Under the designation occult, several items or practices can be included:
 

1. astrology	5. fortune telling	9. tea leaf reading	13. parapsychology	17. witchcraft
2. the black mask	6. palm reading	10. hypnotism	14. psychic surgery	18. Rosicrucianism
3. dousing	7. tarot cards	11. magic	15. satanism	
4. firewalking	8. graphology	12. ouija Board	16. spiritism	

## XIV. Witchcraft

- A. Witchcraft is known as the "old religion" and is an ancient practice dating back to biblical times. Witchcraft can be defined as the performance of magic forbidden by God for non-biblical ends. The word witchcraft is related to the old English word wiccian, "practice of magical arts".
- B. Witchcraft experienced a great revival during the middle ages, when belief in the supernatural and superstition abounded. Roger Hart, in his book Witchcraft, comments: "The people of medieval Europe shared a deep belief in the supernatural. The Kingdom of Darkness, with its devils and evil spirits, was as real and personal as the Kingdom of Heaven. Magic could be as powerful as prayer. The idea of supernatural spirits was universal and ordinary folk everywhere believed in demons, imps, goblins, poltergeists, and other spirits, and in legendary creatures such as vampires, werewolves and unicorns."

- C. Up until a couple of decades ago, and for previous centuries, there were no admitted witches anywhere. Today, as a massive spin off from the culture-wide interest in the occult, this has all changed. Tens of thousands across America, some with university degrees, are dabbling in witchcraft, satanism, voodoo, and other forms of black and white magic. Witches appear openly on television. Every high school is said to have its own witch. There are an estimated 200,000 practicing witches in the United States today. Some think it is simply a fad. Unfortunately, much of it isn't. Murder after murder has been linked to this craze, with the murderers openly admitting that they worship Satan. Police more and more frequently are finding grim evidence of both animal and human sacrifices.
- D. Basically, witchcraft constitutes a set of beliefs and techniques held in secret which the novice must obtain from someone familiar with them. The traditional means for obtaining such information is through another witch who knows the secrets. This can be done through initiation into an existing witch coven or by being told the secrets by someone active in the craft.

#### XV. Satanism

- A. The worship of a personal and powerful devil is essential to traditional Satanism. Those involved reject Christianity, yet choose the Lucifer of scriptures as their God. The Occult Source Book comments: "Traditionally, Satanism has been interpreted as the worship of evil, a religion founded upon the very principles which Christianity rejects. As such, Satanism exists only where Christianity exists, and can be understood only in the context of the Christian world view. Things are, so to speak, reversed. The Christian devil becomes the satanist's God, Christian virtues become vices and vices are turned into virtues. Life is interpreted as a constant battle between the powers of light and darkness, and the satanist fights on the side of darkness, believing that ultimately this will achieve victory.
- B. Satanic witchcraft is found in this category of Satanism, where witches are involved in the darkest side of evil. The recent onslaught of drugs and sexual perversion is closely associated with devil worship.
- C. The Church of Satan was founded in San Francisco in 1966 by Anton Lavey. It currently has a membership of many thousands, and has established itself as a church throughout the United States. Anton Lavey is also author of The Satanic Bible, published in 1969. Several hundred thousand copies of this book have reportedly been sold. The Church of Satan is strongly materialistic as well as being anti-Christian. Pleasure-seeking could well describe their philosophy of life. What the world has to offer through the devil is taken full advantage of in the church of Satan. Lavey himself describes Satanism as "a blatantly selfish, brutal religion. It is based on the belief that man is inherently a selfish, a violent creature, that life is a Darwinian struggle for survival of the fittest, and that the earth will be ruled by those who fight to win".

#### XVI. Parapsychology

- A. Parapsychology is a new branch of either the occult or psychology, depending upon who you ask. It is a discipline that attempts to put many of the supernatural phenomena associated with the occult on sound scientific ground.
- B. One of those popular areas of study in parapsychology in recent years has been ESP. ESP is the term applied to an ability to know something without the aid of the senses. It includes precognition, telepathy, which is awareness of the thoughts of a person without the use of the senses, and clairvoyance, the awareness of objects or objective events without sensory aid. Another area of study in parapsychology is psychical research. This includes systematic scientific inquiries concerning the nature, facts, and causes of mystical phenomena. The actual existence of these powers is being carefully documented. The problem, however, is in interpreting where these powers come from.
- C. As the 1960's drew to a close, parapsychology won a substantial victory in its 90 year old battle for scientific respectability. On December 30, 1969, the Parapsychological Association was officially accepted as an affiliate member of that most distinguished body of scientists, the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Many universities now have departments of parapsychology, and, under the guise of science, study supernatural or "paranormal" phenomena.
- D. World renowned psychic investigator Dr. Milan Ryzl, formally of the Czechoslovakian Academy of Science, has summed up the implications of recent laboratory discoveries in parapsychology in these words: "Apparently we are heading toward the finding that the "physical" Universe is only a part of a more extensive reality...[Hoyer] the former contradictions between "matter" and "spirit" disappear... We can further assume... parts of the human personality that exist outside the material universe... [which] could survive even after the material part has been destroyed by death. There are indications that what we know as the "material world of physics" is only a part of a far wider reality... In deriving such evidence, science has moved into the spirit dimension, where it is not equipped to venture. In spite of increasingly sophisticated scientific instruments and computers, scientists are no less vulnerable to spiritual deception than anyone else. Parapsychologists may well emerge as the new high priests of the coming world religion. Through blindly following the latest discoveries of science, the entire world could be swept up into a psychospiritual deception that will compel humanity to follow the anti-Christ".

#### XVII. Drugs

- A. The Greek word for sorcery in the original manuscripts of the New Testament is "pharmakia". Hallucinogens, such as Psilocybin, derived from the "sacred mushroom", have been used as sacraments for thousands of years in Pagan religions. Sorcery is the practice of contacting the spirit world through drugs in order to gain supernatural powers.
- B. Brad Green was typical of the youths that formed the counter culture during the 1960's. As a teenager, he rebelled against the society that had spawned him, having developed a deep scorn for its plastic values. Brad was empty and searching for spiritual answers. Dropping out of high school, he began to "turn on and tune in" to a whole new universe that opened up to him through drugs. Here he relates his experience in detail: "When I first took acid (LSD), I took weak enough doses just to have fun and see colors and psychedelic patterns. But when I started taking really heavy doses, I entered into a relationship with some spirit being...I got a spirit guide.

After that, whenever I took psychedelic drugs, I was always guided by my spirit beings. I had spirit teachers showing me lessons, making diagrams right in front of me...one of the first times I took a strong dose of LSD, I had a

lesson in astrology...I saw all the signs of the zodiac and how they related to the planets and how that affected my life...I had never read anything about astrology. Maybe I had seen something in a paper, but I had no interest...now I was awed; the whole thing was laid out in living color, big charts...information being printed right out in front of me by spirit beings...I heard their voices, but I didn't see any of them at that time.

The spirit beings didn't say who they were... I would just hear voices, like the Beatles described. They would explain and teach, and I didn't ever question who they were. I just figured that this was the wisdom that was woven throughout the universe, that this was the Universal Soul that Jung talked about. That's how it identified itself--sort of a Universal Mind. I accepted everything that the spirits taught me because it had to be truth coming from the universal self. I began to believe that was what God was. I started to believe that God was the OM and that the Universe was just Maya, an illusion...

- C. The mystical experiences drug users on their "trips" even change the thinking of psychologists who studied and treated them. Clinical psychologist Dr. Helen Wambach, for example, now believes thoroughly in such Hindu doctrines as reincarnation, and she specializes in regressing patients through hypnosis back to supposed prior lives. Dr. Wambach was converted to Hinduism by the addicts she treated. According to her, "the young addicts particularly reported having out-of-the-body and past-life experiences." Dr. Wambach has reportedly regressed about 4,500 people under hypnosis into "past lives".

#### XVIII. Hypnosis

- A. There is overwhelming evidence that the hypnotist is not the only one in control of the subject's mind. This is proven by the hypnotized person's ability in countless laboratory tests to fluently write & speak foreign languages, even ancient & obscure ones, which neither he nor the hypnotist understands. Hypnotized subjects are able to produce all kinds of other factual data that could not possibly have come from the conscious or subconscious mind of either the hypnotist or his subject.
- B. Scientists are increasingly recognizing the possibility of alien minds influencing humans. Most scientists, however, would prefer to eliminate demons and to confine this possibility to extra-terrestrial intelligences (ETI).
- C. Dr. Milan Ryzl no doubt had this in mind when he said, "we can reasonably assume that in the vast universe, there may be beings or civilizations far more advanced than our human civilization [who] could, for example, have under control...ESP and PK. They could thus influence humans telepathically."
- D. Dr. James Hyslop, Professor of Logics and Ethics at Columbia University, stated the scientific basis for this possibility when he said: "If we believe in telepathy, we believe in a process which makes possible the invasion of a personality by somewhat at a distance. It is not at all likely... that sane and intelligent spirits are the only ones to exert this influence...there is no reason why others (evil spirits) cannot do so as well."
- E. It is significant that most cult members are convinced that they are following the "truth" on the basis of an inner feeling or mystical experience. The touch Guru Maharaj Ji or Baba Muktananda produces a sudden "enlightenment" so convincing that no objective argument can sway those who have experienced it. Mormons place a very heavy emphasis on what they call a "testimony" or a "burning bosom".

#### XIX. UFO's

- A. Eric von Daniken was not so far off the mark in his book Chariot of the Gods. Just he has suspected, the innumerable idols of Paganism are not empty symbolism. There is an inspiration behind them that is not of this earth. Von Daniken "Gods" were not astronauts, however, but demons who have appeared to be in various forms since the beginning of human history. Eric von Daniken believes that there is a connection between idols and UFO's; that ancient appearances of astronauts inspired pagan beliefs in gods and goddesses, and that idols were fashioned in their honor.
- B. UFO expert Brad Steiger had a powerful mystical out of the body experience in 1974, which he believes was caused by the Egyptian love goddess Sekhmet. He credits the goddess with giving him revelations of the future and providing him with the basic concepts and structure of at least one of his books on UFO's, Gods of Aquarius.
- C. Even investigators of the UFO phenomena are eventually lead to cult-occult connection. As Dr. Jacques Vallee, astrophysicist, computer scientist, and the worlds most credible Ufologists, has said: "A few investigators, notably Ray Palmer, John Keel, and Salvatore Freixedo, have suggested both in public statements and in private conversations with me that there may be a link between UFO events and "occult" phenomena".

At first view, the very suggestion of a such a link is disturbing to a scientist. However... the phenomena reported by UFO witnesses involved poltergeist effects, levitation, psychic control, healing and out of body experiences... familiar themes...of occult literature...found in the teachings of the Rosicrucian Order, etc...which have inspired not only the witchcraft revival, but also..."psychic writers" and "scientific parapsychologists".

- D. Whitley Strieber, author of Communion, a #1 bestseller said to be an account of his experiences of being abducted by UFO aliens, led by a goddess-like creature.
- E. After 18 years of careful investigation of UFO's, Dr. Vallee comes to some startling conclusions in Messengers of Deception, his sixth book on the subject.
  1. The UFO's are real, but probably not physical.
  2. They are part of some evil scheme for the victimization of earthlings.
  3. That one of their major purposes is to manipulate human consciousness & to program us psychologically for some ultimate deception.
- F. Commenting on the further evidence of some unified plan behind the entire UFO-cult-occult scene, UFO expert Brad Steiger has said: "Nearly every observer of the contemporary spiritual scenes seems to agree to that there is some kind of new Pentecost going on at this time, some kind of spiritual awakening process at work." "And a good many of these observers feel that this growing mystical consciousness may have something to do with the last days".

#### XX. Where do New Age Movement ideas come from?

- A. 1TI 4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith & follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

B. These concepts are actually taught by demons through individuals. These people yield themselves as channels or mediums for the demonic spirits to communicate Satan's teachings to the physical world. This communication may come in various forms:

- |                                      |                          |                      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. channeling of voice communication | 3. hearing music         | 5. visions or dreams |
| 2. automatic writing                 | 4. art, such as painting |                      |

- **1JO 4:1-3** Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.
- **MAT 4:9** "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."
- **2CO 4:3** And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
- **REV 12:9** The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.
- **MAT 7:15** "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?"
- **2PE 2:1** But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves.
- **JUD 1:3** Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. 4 For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

**XXIII. How should Christians react to the New Age Movement?**

A. Not with fear; through Christ we are the ultimate winners.

1. **LUK 21:28** When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."
2. **REV 20:10** And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. 11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
3. **2TH 2:8** And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.
4. **ROM 8:1** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.
5. **ROM 8:35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
6. **DEU 31:6** Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."
7. **DEU 33:26-27** "There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, who rides on the heavens to help you and on the clouds in his majesty. The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemy before you, saying, 'Destroy him!'

**Conclusions:**

1. There is only one gospel---"the gospel"	4. This faith is unchangeable---"once for all delivered"
2. There is only 1 Jesus. False prophets preach 'another Jesus'	5. Christians are to "earnestly contend" for that faith
3. There is only one faith---"the faith"	6. There are enemies of the faith

Although there are many religious movements in the world today, they can be summed up in two different messages. The one offers salvation as a work of man, or man's cooperation with God. The other--true Christianity--attributes salvation to God alone, as that which God has accomplished for man. It is a free gift.

- **EPH 2:8-9** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast.
- **TIT 3:5** he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,