

JESUS AND THE NEW AGE

By

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In ;here book, *The Reappearance of the Christ*, Alice Bailey, the occult writer, stated “to hate, to be separate, and to be exclusive will come to be regarded as the only sin...” (From *Exposing New Age Philosophies* by Barbara Hanna and Janet Hoover). Already we are seeing Alice Bailey’s prediction being fulfilled. On every hand we are being told that we live in a plural society and, therefore, we must acknowledge that one man’s religious convictions are as valid as another’s. We have heard it all our lives that it doesn’t matter what you believe as long as you are sincere, and that we are all headed for the same place. Another term for his is Universalism, the doctrine that no one will be finally and totally lost, therefore, all will be saved.

According to New Age philosophy Christ is only one of many great leaders and no matter which one you follow you may eventually find some kind of dogmatism, that is, any belief that there is one revelation from God which we must follow exclusive of others. Rather we must all cooperate and work for a universal world religion as well as world government.

New Age advocates hold that “all is one, all is God, and we are God.” Before you scoff at this as a ridiculous idea, just remember that it is featured in such movies as “Star Wars,” “poltergeist,” “Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom,” and many others and has been presented in some public school classrooms where children were put through exercises in “guided imagery,” that it is the theme in much of the popular rock ‘n roll music of our day, and has been used in Erhard Seminars Training (EST) and Silva Mind Control and many other popular programs.

While the New Age philosophy has preached tolerance and pluralism for many years, the bottom line is that the God of the Bible is not to be tolerated. Jesus Christ can be accepted only as one of many mystic masters bringing people together to know the “god within.” Ultimately the new Age writers envision a world with no room for the doctrines of Christ as revealed in the new Testament.

Alice Bailey wrote, “All who seek right human relations will be gathered automatically to Him (Him here refers to “the Christ,” who she says will “reappear”) whether they are in one of the great world religions or not; all who see no true or basic difference between religion and religion, or between man and man, or nation and nation will rally around Him; those that embody the spirit of exclusiveness and separativeness will stand automatically and equally revealed that all men will know them for what they are.” (*The Reappearance of the Christ*.) Modern writers have echoed this concept that those who are exclusive and separate, who do not accept the New Age religion, will have to be exterminated somehow in order for there to be “one world” with peace for all.

Unity is a major doctrine of Christ “that they may all be one” but it has to do with unity of Christians. The command is clear that we are to “be not unequally yoked” with unbelievers. If Jesus was dogmatic about anything, it was that there is opposition between the children of God and the children of darkness, between the kingdom of this world and the Kingdom of God’s dear Son, and that we are not traveling the same direction.

As in the case of Ishmael and Isaac, the children of bondage are inclined to persecute the children of promise.

In the aftermath of the Bolshevik takeover of Russia, the one thing that condemned Christians was that they were different and could not be assimilated into the anti-God system of Communism. The think that condemned Christians in Nazi Germany was their separatism; they could not be pressed into the lock-step socialism that made the state sovereign over all.

The one think that makes Christians enemies of the New Age Movement is the fact that we cannot believe Christ and believe the other religious leaders at the same time; we cannot follow Christ without rejecting and resisting all religion that opposes Him; we cannot join Christ without being separate from the universal one-world religion. In the eyes of the world, our very conformity to God's will is the ultimate sin.

The New Age Movement is not a new cult, but a movement incorporating many cults and religions from ancient backgrounds. New Age advocate Marilyn Ferguson states: "Broader than reform, deeper than revolution, this benign conspiracy for a new human agenda has triggered the most rapid cultural realignment in history" (*The Aquarian Conspiracy*).

New Age religion promises spiritual power to the individual — "self-realization" and access to God. We all are God, as Shirley MacLaine exclaimed in her TV version of the book *Out on a Limb*, "I am God." It offers world peace by the new consciousness that "all is one."

Political advocates of a One World government have been quick to latch on to New Age doctrines and slogans because it breaks down the religious barriers to world government. If a world religion became a reality, the logical next step would be world government. This is the reason the Planetary Initiative, one of the bulwarks of the new Age Movement, has received the endorsement of the Club of Rome which ahs a cross-membership with the Trilateral Commission and with the P2 Masonic Lodge advocates of world government.

Modern churches have helped pave the way for the New Age. In the effort to attract the world and make the church grow, religious leaders have convinced members that the gospel is welcome to the world, and if presented without any negative thoughts, but in a positive and attractive manner, it will become popular and the world will embrace it. Any Biblical fact or statement of Jesus that is contradictory to popular religion or which puts any pagan philosophy in a negative light has been carefully screened out so that the Christian preacher might be looked upon as a positive irenic leader. In other words the door has been kept wide open for the infiltration of every pagan doctrine that has come along in the past forty years. In the name of tolerance and pluralism, the church has accepted anything and everything until the New Age advocates find it quite easy to bring professing Christians into their movement with very little difficulty. In a 1986 message, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie, elaborated on the benefits of "interfaith dialogue," meaning interfaith with other religions. "Inter faith dialogue can help to remove barriers between us by creating conditions for greater community fellowship. This will mean that some claims about the exclusiveness of the church have to be renounced, but also that past and present prejudices about other religions have to be overcome, and ignorance and contempt actively resisted."

I predict that the New Age Movement will fail. God is sovereign, and I do not believe He will allow such a pagan concept to rule over His world. But whatever is allowed, we who are Christians stand under the orders of our King Jesus. He had a great deal to say about pluralism and the way of the world. For example, He said, “Enter you in at the straight gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby. Because straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leads to life, and few are they that find it” (Matt. 7:13–14).

Jesus is the example of One who deliberately and intentionally separated Himself from all other religious beliefs and systems. Rather than uniting with them, He judges them. “For neither does the Father judge any man, but He has given all judgment unto the Son” (John 5:22).

Plainly the way that is traveled by the majority is the way of destruction, and Christians are to avoid that way as a matter of life and death.

The New Age religion is not new but is founded on the original lie of Satan: “Thou shall not surely die...You shall be as God...” It must be exposed and opposed by Christians.

Rather than being afraid to stand alone against the current, the child of God is afraid to stand with those who band together under Satan’s pluralist banner.

Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me” (John 14:6).

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