

WHO DO THEY SAY THAT HE IS?
#9: Who Do the New Agers Say That He Is?
August 19-21, 2006

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. ⁷Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. ⁸“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. ⁹“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. *Isaiah 55:6-11 TNIV*

⁵For there is one God and one mediator between God and human beings, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.

1 Timothy 2:5-6 TNIV

Introduction: Examining what other religious groups profess about Jesus Christ can help us understand better what we believe about him. Proponents of the “New Age” believe that they can redeem the world by reawakening human beings through self-actualization.

- I. The Basics of The New Age
 - A. Not so much a “religion” as a disparate collection of syncretistic movements sharing a world view that draws on Babylonian mystery rituals, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Gnosticism, science fiction, and appropriated Christianity.
 - B. The term “New Age”—and the seed of the modern movement—grew out of the teachings of Alice Bayley, a British Episcopalian and follower of Madame Blavatsky, the famous founder of the Theosophical Society.
 - C. The movement flourished in the counterculture of the 1960’s, claiming “The Age of Aquarius” from the popular musical *Hair* as its theme-song.
 - D. Common to nearly all new age movements are beliefs in nature worship, monism (“all is one”), pantheism (“all is God”), moral and ethical relativism, astrology, and some form of reincarnation.
 - E. The central tenet of the New Age is that salvation lies within each person, and each person can be elevated to godlike status.

F. In New Age movements, God is more a cosmic reality than a divine, loving, Creator with whom humans can have a personal relationship; in this view, humans ARE part of god. “I know that I exist, therefore I AM. I know the god-source exists, therefore, IT IS. Since I am part of that force, then I AM that I AM.” – Famous New Ager Shirley MacLaine in *Dancing in the Light*, 1985

- G. New Agers do not seek salvation from a fallen, sinful state, but a new “awareness” of their own divinity and a oneness with everything that is, a concept summed up in the widespread statement, “You create your own reality.”
 - H. Common to most New Age movements is the practice of spiritism, or the channeling of past beings through mediums to attain secret knowledge about life and afterlife.
 - I. Also common to most New Age movements is a belief in the circularity of life, or reincarnation to other life-forms.
- II. Who Do They Say that Jesus Is?
 - A. New Agers do not consider Jesus to be the Second Person of the Trinity, but merely one of many “cosmic Christs,” including Buddha, Moses, Elijah, and Mohammed.
 - B. Jesus is thought by New Agers to have been an amazing self-actualized human being in touch with his own divinity.
 - C. Many New Agers consider Jesus to have been a medium through which spirits were channeled.
 - D. Since New Agers believe that “revelation” comes from many sources, they regard the Bible, especially the Gospels, as trite mythology that has likely been altered to remove truth.
 - E. Since New Agers believe that humans are neither good nor bad, but “open to continuous transformation, they do not believe that relationship with Jesus Christ yields salvation.
 - III. Who Do We Say That He Is?
 - A. We believe that we are mortal and marred by sin, and that Jesus offers us forgiveness through the cross. (Romans 3)
 - B. We believe that Jesus is the only “medium” between human beings and their Creator, God. (Hebrews and 1 Timothy)
 - C. We believe that we have only one life to live, after which believers in Jesus Christ receive the reward of heaven.

Conclusion: A great example of New Age is found in books and a movie called “The Secret” (www.secret.tv), “the secret” is “the law of attraction” purportedly channeled by a group of spiritual teachers calling themselves “Abraham” through spirit channeller, motivational speaker, and author Esther Hicks. This one example proves the great fallacy of the New Age: we are not our own gods. God’s thoughts are not our thoughts; only He is good!