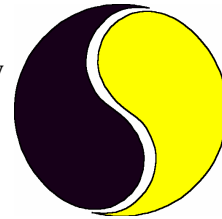


New Age Believers

BASIC NOTES

IDENTIFYING MARKS

- ◆ Few will wear a T-shirt with the slogan, “I am a New Ager,” but many will be looking for a new age to come in this world.
- ◆ Diversity of styles and practices but major beliefs will be the same.
- ◆ Use of symbols such as the yin yang (see right)
- ◆ Gathering together at new age sites such as Glastonbury or new age retreat centres such as Findhorn.
- ◆ Most would be looking for alternative forms of healing and lifestyle.
- ◆ Most will ‘preach’ reincarnation and many will believe they have had past lives and know who they were.



ORIGINS

The ‘New Age’ is not new at all; its principles go back many years. However, there are reasons for giving it such a title. First, new age astrologers believe we are in an approximate 26,000-year cycle and about every 2,000 years a new constellation comes into the ascendancy. Adam began one of these cycles with the Age of Taurus, the life giver. At Abraham, it changed to the Age of Aries. Another 2,000 years saw Christ on earth and so began the Age of Pisces. Now we are a further 2,000 years down the road and the new age is the Age of Aquarius. As each age has had its significant factors, Aquarius is typified by serving, loving, caring and helping oneself. Not only that but also this water bearer will be pouring out the water of healing, cleansing and renewing on this earth.

As far as modern day is concerned there are differences of opinion. Many would say it began in August 1987 however other dates are also put forward and can be anything up to 2050.

MAIN BELIEFS

- The GOD of the new age movement is an impersonal force.
- Everything that exists comes from the same 'life-force'.
- There is no distinction between the Creator and His creation.
- All is an expression of GOD or at least GOD is in everything.
- THE COSMIC CHRIST - Jesus becomes a historical person divorced from the 'Christ principle' within. This 'Christ principle' dwelt equally in Buddha, Muhammad, Confucius and other religious leaders. Consequently, all roads lead to God and Jesus is not unique.
- I do not need SALVATION in a God outside me because I am God or I contain God already.
- The BIBLE is not solely the word of God and you can have a choice of any religious works. Most would lean towards Eastern religions sacred books.
- GNOSTICISM - the belief that we need to be enlightened by some special secret knowledge in order to find 'God'
- SYNCRETISM - the attempt to harmonise diverse and opposite beliefs and practices. It claims that all religions, although teaching diametrically opposed views, would lead to the same God.
- RELATIVISM - There are no absolute standards, everyone is allowed to do what is right in their own eyes. You can pursue your goals in anyway you want providing you do not affect the 'rights' of others.
- TRANSFORMATION - If enough individuals change and be for 'the good of the whole' then the planet will change.
- KARMA - the law of fate that puts everything we do into the positive or negative column of life. This is added up at the end of one's life to see what sort of next life you will have.
- REINCARNATION is the way to deal with the wrong's of past lives. Hopefully after enough new lives we will have paid off the past debts and be able to have some form of 'eternal' reward.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Many New Agers are in the ecology movement because of their interest in plants and the planet.
- ◆ Arranging New Age and alternative type fayres; whether this is a national one such as 'Mind, Body and Spirit' or the one held in the local village hall. Here every form of new age type activity can be found and experienced.
- ◆ Many management-training courses use New Age techniques such as meditation, yoga, regression, positive thinking and finding the true self within.
- ◆ Weekend and weeks of 'experience' will be arranged in places such as Glastonbury and Findhorn. These cater for a variety of beliefs as to the New Ager, all roads lead to the same place.
- ◆ New Age has entered many areas of leisure activity too. Bookshops will often have a large new age section and many music stores will provide new age cassettes, cds, etc. .
- ◆ Some of the most popular films of all time, such as ET and Star Wars are full of New Age philosophy. Star Wars especially highlights the one 'force' that can be manipulated for good or for evil.
- ◆ Many health and fitness programmes are based on new age philosophy and techniques. Many of them seem so harmless but it is necessary to discover the root of where it comes from rather than the fruit of what it appears to be.
- ◆ Channelling is being taken over completely by the spirit and its message. The setting of the dark séance room has been transferred to the spot lit stage. Many people pay a good deal of money for an evening's entertainment, listening to a demon. Still others will not take any important decision without hearing from their channeller.
- ◆ Creation Festivals have been held in many Cathedrals. Here the 'church', and The World Wildlife Fund for Nature invites all creeds and religions to come together to worship their god, because all roads lead to God! All religious groups are welcome except of course those who say that Jesus is the only way!

COMPARISON CHART

EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANITY	NEW AGE
God the Father is omniscient and all powerful	<i>God is a force or power which is in everyone - many believe we are all therefore gods.</i>
Jesus Christ is eternal not created. He is part of the Godhead and is almighty.	<i>Jesus is a teacher to many but he is no different to any other religious leader. They all have the same 'Christ spirit'.</i>
The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead.	<i>There is no understanding of the Holy Spirit - simply a force..</i>
Salvation is a complete finished work that is a free gift - we cannot earn it.	<i>We do not look to God for our salvation rather we need to release the power within us to achieve 'salvation' ourselves.</i>
The Bible is God's unchanging inspired Word.	<i>The Bible is only one out of many religious books and you can choose which one you want.</i>
There is one heaven - God's home.	<i>Man's destiny is different for different people but it is not heaven as Christian's would know it.</i>
Christians are promised a resurrection body and are now new creatures in Christ	<i>There are many reincarnations and only when all 'karmic debt' is paid am I free to go to my final destination.</i>



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