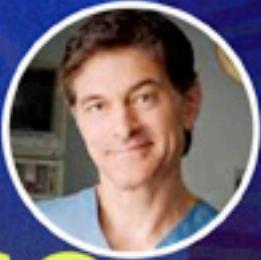


FROM OPRAH TO OZ—AND BEYOND

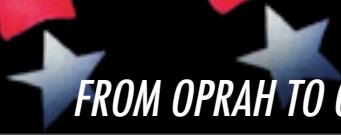
AMERICA The Sorcerer's New Apprentice

*The Rise of
New Age Shamanism*



Berean
The
Call

AUGUST 2011



FROM OPRAH TO OZ—AND BEYOND

by T. A. McMAHON

2012 PROPHECIES • PARADIGM SHIFT • GLOBAL CONSCIOUSNESS



America: The Sorcerer's New Apprentice

Hunt & McMahon—Your friends, your family, your neighbors—and quite possibly, even your church—are wondering: Is America at the threshold of a glorious “rebirth” into planetary enlightenment, peace, and brotherhood? Or have we, as “forward-thinking” Americans in our search for higher levels of human potential, opened a spiritual Pandora’s box? Due to the occult philosophies embraced and advanced by Oprah, Oz, and countless others, Americans are rapidly “awakening” to what is being hailed as a paradigm shift in global consciousness. Many who believe the lie (2 Thessalonians 2:11) equate this phenomenon to a spiritual “rebirth” of humanity in light of ancient prophecies surrounding the year 2012.

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Seven years after publication of the controversial ground-breaking bestseller *The Seduction of Christianity* in 1985, its authors, Dave Hunt and T. A. McMahon, joined forces on another front. They began a ministry for the purpose of encouraging spiritual discernment among those who regarded themselves not just as “evangelicals” but as *biblical* Christians. The primary vehicle for this endeavor was through the publication of the newsletter *The Berean Call*. The ministry and newsletter name is taken from Acts 17:11, in which the writer of Acts commended those in the synagogue of the Greek city of *Berea* for being more fair minded than those in Thessalonica—because not only were they eager to receive the Word, but the *Bereans* also checked it against what the Apostle Paul taught them in order to see if his teaching was according to the Scriptures. Through the publishing and multimedia efforts of The Berean Call (TBC) believers are exhorted to get back into the Word of God instead of being “carried about by every wind of doctrine,” and are equipped with materials to help them walk in the truth. TBC’s stated mission is to:

ALERT believers in Christ to unbiblical teachings and practices impacting the church

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SUPPLY believers with teaching, information, and materials that will encourage the love of God’s truth, and assist in the development of biblical discernment

MOBILIZE believers in Christ to action in obedience to the scriptural command to “earnestly contend for the faith” (Jude 3)

IMPACT the church of Jesus Christ with the necessity for trusting the Scriptures as the only rule for faith, practice, and a life pleasing to God

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THE BEREAN CALL

"[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily, [to see] whether those things were so." —ACTS 17:11

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From Oprah to Oz —And Beyond

T. A. McMahon

If you were asked to name America's most influential spiritual advisor for the past 25 years, what would your response be? Billy Graham? Robert Schuller? Perhaps Rick Warren or Joel Osteen? It may surprise you to learn that none of these men have been as successful numbers-wise as Oprah Winfrey! Her programs drew a daily audience as high as 12.4 million and averaged 7.4 million in 2007, diminishing only slightly when she touted Obama during the 2008 election year. Her closing program had its highest-ever rating, with 16.4 million viewers.

All of this adds up to an incredible amount of influence. What do I mean by including Oprah in this group of "spiritual advisors"? What religion might she have been promoting? Oprah hinted at the answer to those questions on her final program: "People often ask me, 'What is the secret of success of the show? How have we lasted 25 years? I non-jokingly say, 'My team and Jesus.' Because nothing but the hand of God has made this possible for me" (http://www.oprah.com/oprah-show/The-Oprah-Winfrey-Show-Finale_1/1). She then further identified the God to whom she referred: "I'm talking about the same one you're talking about. I'm talking about Alpha and Omega, the Omnipresent, the Ultimate Consciousness, the Source, the Force, the All of everything there is, the One and Only G-O-D" (<http://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2011/05/oprahs-last-show-a-recap-in-quotes/239483/>).

If it's still not clear to you exactly who or what this "One and Only G-O-D" is, you're not alone. All the commentaries that I've read regarding Oprah's farewell program have noted that reviewers also were confused about the deity to whom she paid homage. What *should* be clear is that the "Jesus" and the "God" whom she describes are not the biblical Jesus and God. But that may *not* be so clear for some—especially those who consider themselves Christians and who think that Oprah is talking about the same Jesus in whom they believe.

No matter what anyone has in his or her mind about Jesus, only the Scriptures can set the record straight, and here's why. Mankind has only three options when it comes to our knowledge about God. Either God has revealed Himself to humanity in

both general (His creation) and very specific terms (His words), or man has conjured up his own ideas about God. The third option is by far the most common: it's a mixture of the two that includes bits and pieces of God's revelation combined with mankind's opinions and speculations. Of the three, which one will be the most accurate? Obviously, communication from God himself would be best.

Is that a reality? Well, that's what the Bible claims. More than 4,000 times throughout the Scriptures, God's prophets have written phrases such as "Thus saith the LORD" and "The word of the LORD came to me." If that isn't the case, then they were all lying. That would be amazing because the "lies" were consistent among all 40 who wrote the Scriptures—men who lived during different cultural times over a period of 1,600 years and who reflected quite diverse occupations in life: Moses was raised in the court of Pharaoh of Egypt; others were fishermen or shepherds; one was a tax collector, another a physician, and a few were royalty.

Further proof that God has communicated to mankind through His Word are the miraculous aspects of what He says, especially through prophecy: "Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them....Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them [pagan idols] bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth. Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me" (Isaiah 42:9; 43:9-10).

Only God is omniscient, and He challenges any gods that humans have concocted to demonstrate their ability to foretell the future. In contrast to the failed prophecies of the idol worshipers, the record of the Scriptures contains hundreds of prophecies accurately detailing events foretold by the God of the Bible that would take place days, months, and even hundreds or thousands of years from the time they were issued. Fulfilled prophecy is the *foremost verification* that God's Word is just that: the Word of God (TBC, 8/06; 9/06, et al.).

Oprah's widespread influence on America's spirituality can be attributed to many

factors, from the popularity of the New Age Movement (of which she was a chief promoter, by featuring wannabe gurus such as Shirley MacLaine, Marilyn Ferguson, and Marianne Williamson), to the national rush to psychotherapy as the solution for all of life's problems, to our historic Yankee love affair with self-help theology and practice. All of these, Oprah dished up daily.

The reason for the incredible acceptance of her spiritual teachings, however, must be credited primarily to her ability to make even the most far-fetched Hindu/Buddhist concepts appear to fit with Christianity—a mix that she has fed to viewers who, for the most part, profess to be Christian yet are largely ignorant of the teachings of the Bible. This has effectively disabled their ability to recognize God's direct revelation as the authority for spiritual truth and has opened the door for any mixture of thoughts one has about God (e.g., opinions, speculations, guesses, or whatever a person "feels" regarding the nature of God).

Oprah's own "Christianity" leans heavily upon the Christianity of the Mind Sciences, including New Thought, Religious Science, Christian Science, and Unity School of Christianity, all of which incorporate into their teachings ideas drawn from Eastern mystical religions. Although some feature the Christian name, they are diametrically opposed to biblical Christianity. Oprah is a latter-day composite of Madame Blavatsky and Mary Baker Eddy, the former a co-founder of Theosophy, who popularized Buddhist occultism in the West in the last half of the 1800s, and the latter, who founded the Christian Science cult in New England in the same century. Oprah's background is Baptist, which she left in her late 20s.

She claims that her eyes were opened to the fact that "God" was bigger than the doctrines she had been taught, and she later was excited to discover views that taught that there were many ways to God besides through Jesus. The Cross, to her, was not a matter of Jesus' reconciliation of man to God through His payment for the sins of the world but rather a preeminent lesson in overcoming the obstacles in one's life. She recalls that transition period in her life as the time when she began her search for more than Bible doctrines. She turned to those who have Westernized and homogenized Eastern religious concepts for the American consumer, such as Eckhart Tolle, Gary

Zukav, Deepak Chopra, Iyanla Vanzant, Carolyn Myss, and Elizabeth Lesser.

According to the Scriptures, when people like Oprah either drift away from or reject biblical doctrine, they have turned from God's instructions to the rationalizations of men, at least, and/or to the doctrines of demons at worst (1 Timothy 4:1). She raised false spiritual teaching to new technological heights when she began her series on *A New Earth* with Eckhart Tolle. The initial program reached 139 countries with simultaneous, interactive worldwide instructions and grew from there. Another attraction that drew the multitudes were her celebrity guests with "spiritual insights" that she paraded before her audience (80 percent of whom were women) day after day, including Scientologists Tom Cruise and John Travolta, Unity minister Della Reese, Eckhart Tolle-disciple Jim Carrey, and Kabbalah devotee Madonna, among a litany of others. Tragically, for untold millions, she's paved the broad road that leads to eternal destruction.

Although Oprah and her friends seem to be all over the spiritual map, their beliefs and practices can be simplified from a biblical perspective. They all promote 1) the deification of self, and 2) salvation through good works. Here is what Oprah gleaned from her spiritual advisors: Jesus came not to pay for everyone's sin but to teach Christ consciousness—the idea that each person is a part of God and needs to be conscious of that. Hindus call it "self-realization," i.e., realizing that one's own self is God. That was the ultimate message of *The Secret* (see TBC's *The Secret Seduction*), a book and DVD that millions purchased due primarily to Oprah's endorsement and enthusiastic promotion.

In Oprah's words as she considers one Christian woman's view against a non-Christian woman's path to God: "[There are] many paths to what you call God. Her path might be something else, and when she gets there she might call it the Light, but her loving and her kindness and her generosity, if it brings her to the same place it brings you, it doesn't matter whether she calls it God or not." This is "works salvation," and it is the foundational belief system of all the world's religions. Only biblical Christianity rejects works unequivocally as a path to being reconciled to God: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us" (Titus 3:5); "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that [salvation] not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Scripture is emphatic that no loving act, no kindness, no generosity, or any other "good" deed qualifies anyone for eternal life with God. The problem is *sin*, regarding

which every human (except the sinless God/Man Jesus Christ) is guilty (Romans 3:23), and for which no sinner can do anything to pay off the penalty that God established. Why not? The penalty is eternal separation from the presence of God. Oprah and all her spiritual teachers may reject the biblical teaching concerning sin and its penalty, but the absolute fact is—it *must be paid* in order for God's divine justice to be satisfied and for one to receive the gift of everlasting life with Him: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Their "many paths" statement is a rejection of the most unfathomable act imaginable. In fact, it is so incredible that none of the non-Christian world religions have ever even hinted at such a deed: the Creator of the universe Himself would pay the penalty for His rebellious creatures and would offer the free gift of eternal life to them on the basis of their simply receiving it by an act of faith. Charles Wesley immortalized Jesus' astonishing achievement in song when he wrote, "Amazing love, how can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?"

It's doubtful that Oprah Winfrey will be giving up her pulpit; it is more probable that she'll seek effective ways and means to spread her gospel in other venues. Of her many "apostles" (a.k.a. Oprah's Allstars) whom she has established over the years, it will very likely be Dr. Oz who will fill the gap and keep the bastion of false spirituality thriving on daytime TV.

Mehmet Oz is highly qualified for the job. He is a Sufi Muslim, given more to the metaphysical and experiential than to the legalism of Sharia law, which is practiced by most Muslims. His medical expertise lends credibility to his religious offerings, which reflect the Indian guru Mahesh more than Mohammed.

Oz is a national spokesperson for Transcendental Meditation, or TM, which was introduced to the U.S. in the late '60s by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi (guru to the Beatles) as The Spiritual Regeneration Movement. It was pure Hinduism packaged for the West. However, legal issues related to the introduction of religion into the schools prevented its spread until the name was changed to TM, and it was subsequently repackaged and promoted as a scientific stress reducer that employed the use of meditation.

TM is currently back in the limelight not only for millions on daytime TV but also for evangelicals. Oz and two other medical doctors have been drafted by Rick Warren to "shape up" himself and his Saddleback Community Church, as well as all the thousands of evangelical churches

that partner with Saddleback. Warren's "Daniel Plan" is an attempt to give biblical support for improving the physical welfare of overweight and out-of-shape believers. The "Daniel" reference is to the young man described in chapter one of the book of the Old Testament that bears his name. This is one more example of the biblical illiteracy that has infected the church through marketing, seeker-friendly, and purpose-driven programs that have weaned Christians off the Word of God and have all but completely eliminated their ability to discern what's biblical and what's not. Daniel was hardly an overweight teenager in need of an exercise, nutritional, and meditation program but rather a godly youth whose fear was that he would defile himself before his holy God.

But that doesn't sell today. All three doctors to whom the shepherd of Saddleback has turned his sheep over for their physical well-being feature occult meditation (See TBC Newswatch 2/11; Q&A, 3/11) in their programs under the pseudo-scientific labels of TM and the Relaxation Response (See *America, the Sorcerer's New Apprentice*; also <http://www.saddleback.com/thedanielplan/webcast>).

The spiritual climate of America in the 21st century is neo-pagan in general, neognostic among most professing Christians, and severely lacking in biblical discernment among those who may well be true believers. We are in the throes of rampant spiritual delusion. What can be done to stem the tide? Nothing that the Bible seems to indicate. On the other hand, God has given believers marching orders for these times—orders that appear to be designed more for a rescue operation than for a reversal of widespread apostasy: "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will" (2 Timothy 2:24-26). Furthermore, the Apostle Paul exhorts us to, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry" (2 Timothy 4:2-5).

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58). TBC

Quotable

God-sent ministry, heeded and bowed to, leads to enlargement and blessing; but the Spirit's testimony rejected increases the guilt of him who hardens himself against it, and makes his condition far worse than before. It is ever the case that light refused makes the darkness all the deeper. Hence the need of a tender conscience, quick to respond to every word from God.

H. A. Ironside

Q&A

QUESTION: In Genesis 44:5, did Joseph use divination? If so, was this divination godly, or was it a sin?

RESPONSE: In Genesis 44:4-5, Joseph told his servant to follow after his brothers and, upon exposing the hidden cup, to ask, “Is not this it in which my lord drinketh, and whereby indeed he divineth?” Then, in verse 15 we read, “And Joseph said unto them, What deed is this that ye have done? [Know] ye not that such a man as I can certainly divine?”

We don’t believe that Joseph was actually saying that he practiced divination. We need to remember that he had not revealed his identity to his brothers and they regarded him simply as an Egyptian official who had the power of life and death over them. Furthermore, Joseph had also manipulated events in order to “frame” his brother Benjamin. We know that Joseph led an exemplary life before the Lord during his time in Egypt. Consequently, the “frame” was something that he was doing specifically in order to serve a certain purpose. It didn’t reflect the conduct of his life in anything else.

Therefore, these verses don’t indicate that Joseph used occult divination at all; they merely record what Joseph told his steward to say to his brothers upon overtaking them on their journey home. From what we know of Joseph, according to the Scriptures we cannot imagine that this man who had said that “interpretations belong to God” (Gn 40:8, 41:16) could possibly engage in this occult practice.

His brothers’ response is also interesting in that they give no credence to the pagan practice of divination, but instead Judah says, “What shall we say unto my lord? what shall we speak? or how shall we clear ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of thy servants: behold, we are my lord’s servants, both we, and he also with whom the cup is found” (44:16).

Joseph himself says nothing further about divination, but states, “...God forbid

that I should do so: but the man in whose hand the cup is found, he shall be my servant; and as for you, get you up in peace unto your father.”

The larger question here could be “why did Joseph use deception to determine his brothers’ loyalty?” After suffering treachery and deceit at the hands of his family in the past, this was an effective means of doing so. Furthermore, it wasn’t done with malicious intent or secret glee for trickery’s sake but rather for the purpose of proving their hearts in order to accomplish redemption and restoration. Among many other types of Christ seen in the life and trials of Joseph, his temporary “deception” of his brothers may be compared to the Lord’s veiling of His identity from the two disciples on the road to Emmaus as a means of searching out their hearts and minds. And just as Joseph began to reveal himself to his brothers at a meal, Jesus revealed himself in the breaking of bread after His resurrection: “And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?” (Lk 24:30-32). Isn’t it likely that the hearts of Joseph’s brothers “burned within them” when he arranged them at his table in order of birth (Gn 43:33)?

QUESTION: I know that 1 Timothy 2:10 says that “...prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men” But my question is: since no one can be forced to get saved without their choosing Jesus as their Savior for themselves, what does praying for the lost do? I heard one man say, “My family prayed for me to get saved for 26 years,” etc., but since their prayers didn’t force him to trust Christ, nor did it force God to save him against his will, what’s the practical use of it, other than it being a command here from the Apostle Paul?

RESPONSE: Your question would be even more puzzling if you added the fact that God is omniscient and has known from eternity what a person will pray, how He will answer the request, and what the results will be regarding the person for whom the prayers are being offered. Although that doesn’t help us to fully comprehend how prayer works, it does show us that the value of prayer is for man and not for God. What are the values? When we pray to God, we communicate with Him, and if our prayers are earnest, they involve faith: “He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Heb 11:6). As we see our prayers answered, we grow in our faith and

relationship with God. The more we pray, the more we see Him at work in our lives. The more things we pray about, from the little things to the seemingly impossible things, the more we see His consideration of all aspects of our lives.

What then does that have to do with praying for someone who must, of his own free will, put his faith in Jesus? God already knows who will put their faith in Him and who will not. Prayer will not change the latter, but it will have a tremendous effect on the person who eventually comes to Christ. Ask any of those Christians who knew that believers were praying for their salvation before they were born again. Most of them will say, upon looking back, that they saw God’s influence in their lives.

First Timothy 2:10 is not just “a command from the Apostle Paul,” as if it were only Paul’s considered opinion. In writing about the inspiration of Scripture, Peter identified Paul’s writings as “Scripture” (2 Pt 3:16) and also said in 2 Peter 1:21, “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

Consequently, it is the Lord’s directive that we pray for the lost. Paul’s obedience to this command was clearly seen when he wrote, “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved” (Rom 10:1). Paul knew that though there is coming a time in which “all Israel shall be saved” (11:26), he no doubt recognized that he was unlikely to see that day in his lifetime. Nevertheless, he prayed. Paul’s heart was revealed when he wrote, “For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh” (9:3).

Additionally, the context of the passage that you quote suggests that we not only pray for “kings, and all that are in authority” in general terms but in order to fulfill the will of God, “who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (v. 5). Obedience is the first “practical” fruit of prayer. (If for no other reason, it may be that prayer changes our spiritual posture as much as it changes anyone or anything else.) But as far as how prayer works as an evangelistic tool, we have little information on which to base any scientific inquiry. It is certainly not based in the inherent “power” of words or vain repetition, for that is occultism (Mt 6:7). However, we know that praying for “all men”—even for those who persecute us and spitefully use us (Mt 5:44)—is in accordance with God’s will. And what greater prayer can we offer than the request that God may grant such men (and women) repentance, which is His stated desire throughout Scripture (Jn 3:17; 2 Pt 3:9).

Conversely, Satan seeks to disparage prayer and discourage its use.

So, while we are shielded from the understanding of how prayer “works” in the spiritual realm, we do know that it is a true weapon of warfare (2 Cor 10:4), as Scripture affirms: “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (Jas 5:16b). Fortunately, the effectiveness of our prayer is not dependent on our flowery speech or persuasive words (Ex 4:10, 2 Cor 10:10) but is carried to the throne by the Holy Spirit, who “helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered” (Rom 8:26).

As countless testimonies of individuals affirm—even of those who have been lost for decades and may have at one time spit in the face of God (and of those praying for their salvation)—prayer does work. And while neither prayer nor the Holy Spirit can “force” anyone to receive the truth, it is evident that they work together with the living Word of God (Eph 6:17-18, Heb 4:12) to grant opportunity for spiritual discernment and understanding to all “natural men” (1 Cor 2:14, Jas 1:23). Thus praying for others is not a form of spiritual manipulation, but an act of love, out of concern for the eternal destiny of human souls, in accordance with the will of God.

Finally, regarding the man whom you mentioned whose family had prayed for him for 26 years, God’s answers are not held to a time limit. My wife and I prayed for a relative for more than 20 years. It was only over time that the Lord’s circumstances broke down her idols, played upon her heart, and brought her to the place where she cried out to the Lord for salvation. How many of those circumstances came in answer to prayer? We can’t answer that, but we do know that the consistent message of Scripture is that we are to pray and that God answers all prayers, in His way and in His time.

QUESTION: Christ said, “No man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.” In view of such scriptures, how can you believe in a Rapture and Resurrection at the beginning of the Great Tribulation? Doesn’t Revelation 20:4-5 teach that the “first resurrection” takes place after the Battle of Armageddon?

RESPONSE: Beware of teaching that is built on one isolated verse. What do “first resurrection” and “last day” mean? The answer can only be found in the context of all Scripture. In John 5:28-29, Jesus spoke of two resurrections:

The hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the [1] resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the [2] resurrection of damnation.

Undoubtedly Revelation 20:4-5 refers to the resurrection of life. That the reference is not to the resurrection of all believers, however, but only those martyred by Antichrist during the Great Tribulation, is clearly stated: “them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark....”

Then what about Abraham, David, Peter, Paul, Spurgeon, Moody, and Christians who have died more recently, none of whom was slain by Antichrist? When are they resurrected? At the Rapture, as 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 declares, “the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together... to meet the Lord in the air.” No mention of that in Revelation 20, so it must have already occurred—another argument for a pretrib Rapture.

The only resurrection after Revelation 20:4-5 takes place 1,000 years later and must be what Christ called “the resurrection of damnation.” Those who are raised then are still “dead in trespasses and in sins” (Eph 2:1; Col 2:13): “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened...and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books...” (Rv 20:12). This is the Great White Throne Judgment of the lost. As for Christians, they have already “appear[ed] before the judgment seat of Christ” (Rom 14:10; 2 Cor 5:10) right after the Rapture. In Revelation 19:7-9, we read of “the marriage supper of the Lamb” involving, of course, His bride, the church (Eph 5:23-32).

When and how did she get to heaven? Obviously, at the pretrib Rapture! She is clothed in fine linen, white and clean (v. 8). Next, Christ descends with “the armies which were in heaven...[also] clothed in fine linen, white and clean” (v. 14) to confront and destroy Antichrist at Armageddon. Surely the church comprises that army.

Enoch prophesied that Christ would return to this earth “with ten thousands [i.e., an innumerable company] of his saints, to execute judgment” upon Antichrist and his followers (Jude 14-15). Zechariah 14:4-5 states that when Christ comes to earth to rescue Israel and “His feet stand in that day upon the mount of Olives...all the saints” come with Him. Surely these are not disembodied spirits waiting to be

resurrected! The saints who accompany Christ from heaven (Rv 19) to reign on earth must be in their glorified bodies—and they must have been taken to heaven previously in order to descend from there with Him at Armageddon.

That this resurrection in Revelation 20 involves only “the souls of them” who were martyred by Antichrist is a clear indication that all other saints have been previously resurrected. Then why wait until after Armageddon for these martyrs to be raised?

We are told why. Some of these same souls are seen earlier:

I saw under the altar the souls of them ...slain for the word of God...and it was said unto them, that they should rest...until their fellow servants also...that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. (Rv 6:9-11)

Since all Great Tribulation martyrs are resurrected together—and Antichrist kills believers to the very end—their resurrection must await the end of Armageddon. If the resurrection of believers who lived and died prior to the Tribulation took place seven years previously, why is the resurrection in Revelation 20 of those slain by Antichrist called “the first resurrection”? Clearly, it is in order to show that these martyrs are part of that company which has already been resurrected, the church. It specifically says that they “reign with him [Christ] a thousand years” (Rv 20:6) as do the saints of all ages.

What about Christ raising all believers “at the last day”? This “last day” is surely not the 24-hour period in which these martyrs are raised, for there are many more days that follow. The “last day” is a lengthy period of time called “the day of the Lord [God]” (Is 2:12; Jer 46:10; Ez 30:3; Jl 1:15, etc.) or “the day of Christ” (1 Cor 1:8; Phil 1:10; 2 Thes 2:2). It “comes like a thief in the night” when men are saying “peace and safety” (1 Thes 5:2-3) and do not expect Christ to return or God’s judgment to fall but boast that “all things continue as they were from the beginning” (2 Pt 3:3-4,10).

Clearly this day cannot begin with the Millennium, for it involves God’s wrath upon mankind prior thereto. Nor can it begin “as a thief” in the midst of the Tribulation, for by Revelation 6 the world is in ruins and men are crying out to the rocks to hide them from God’s wrath. It can only start at the beginning of the Tribulation with the Rapture and resurrection. It must also last until the end of the Millennium and the destruction of the old universe, for Peter says, “the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away...the day of God, wherein the heavens...shall be dissolved...we...look for new heavens and a new earth” (2 Pt 3:10-13).

TBC NewsWatch

DOMINIONIST "RESPONSE" DRAWS FIRE

TEXASOBSERVER.ORG, 7/13/2011: RICK PERRY'S ARMY OF GOD [EXCERPTS]—On September 28, 2009, at 1:40 p.m., God's messengers visited Rick Perry.

On this day, the Lord's messengers arrived in the form of two Texas pastors, Tom Schlueter of Arlington and Bob Long of San Marcos, who called on Perry in the governor's office inside the state Capitol. Schlueter and Long both oversee small congregations, but they are more than just pastors. They consider themselves modern-day apostles and prophets, blessed with the same gifts as Old Testament prophets or New Testament apostles.

The pastors told Perry of God's grand plan for Texas. A chain of powerful prophecies had proclaimed that Texas was "The Prophet State," anointed by God to lead the United States into revival and Godly government. And the governor would have a special role.

The day before the meeting, Schlueter had received a prophetic message from Chuck Pierce, an influential prophet [son-in-law and heir to C. Peter Wagner's Latter-Rain legacy] from Denton, Texas. God had apparently commanded Schlueter—through Pierce—to "pray by lifting the hand of the one I show you that is in the place of civil rule."

Gov. Perry, it seemed.

Schlueter had prayed before his congregation: "Lord Jesus I bring to you today Gov. Perry.... I am just bringing you his hand and I pray Lord that he will grasp ahold of it. For if he does you will use him mightily."

And grasp ahold the governor did. At the end of their meeting, Perry asked the two pastors to pray over him. As the pastors would later recount, the Lord spoke prophetically as Schlueter laid his hands on Perry, their heads bowed before a painting of the Battle of the Alamo. Schlueter "declared over [Perry] that there was a leadership role beyond Texas and that Texas had a role beyond what people understand," Long later told his congregation.

So you have to wonder: Is Rick Perry God's man for president?

Schlueter, Long and other prayer warriors in a little-known but increasingly influential movement at the periphery of American Christianity seem to think so. The movement is called the New Apostolic Reformation. Believers fashion themselves modern-day prophets and apostles. They have taken Pentecostalism, with its emphasis on ecstatic worship and the supernatural, and given it an adrenaline shot.

The movement's top prophets and apostles believe they have a direct line to God. Through them, they say, He communicates specific instructions and warnings. When mankind fails to heed the prophecies, the results can be catastrophic: earthquakes in Japan, terrorist attacks in New York, and economic collapse. On the

other hand, they believe their God-given decrees have ended mad cow disease in Germany and produced rain in drought-stricken Texas.

Their beliefs can tend toward the bizarre. Some consider Freemasonry a "demonic stronghold" tantamount to witchcraft. The Democratic Party, one prominent member believes, is controlled by Jezebel and three lesser demons. Some prophets even claim to have seen demons at public meetings. They've taken biblical literalism to an extreme. In Texas, they engage in elaborate ceremonies involving branding irons, plumb lines and stakes inscribed with biblical passages driven into the earth of every Texas county.

If they simply professed unusual beliefs, movement leaders wouldn't be remarkable. But what makes the New Apostolic Reformation movement so potent is its growing fascination with infiltrating politics and government. The new prophets and apostles believe Christians—certain Christians—are destined to not just take "dominion" over government, but stealthily climb to the commanding heights of what they term the "Seven Mountains" of society, including the media and the arts and entertainment world. They believe they're intended to lord over it all. As a first step, they're leading an "army of God" to commandeer civilian government.

In Rick Perry, they may have found their vessel. And the interest appears to be mutual....

[TBC: Ironically, while certain Latter-Rain leaders rightly condemn Freemasonry, they simultaneously incorporate identical occult principles of superstition and numerology in their own ritual "magick."]

* * *

WORLDVIEWWEEKEND.COM, 7/24/2011: BRANNON HOWSE: "WHY I BELIEVE CHRISTIANS SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNOR PERRY'S 'THE RESPONSE'" [EXCERPTS]—In August of 2010, it was Glenn Beck with whom Christians were uniting for his "Restoring Honor Rally".... Even after Beck released his book, *Seven Wonders That Will Change Your Life*, in which he detailed his completely unbiblical worldview; Christians continued to defend Beck stating that he is a good Christian that is teaching truth.

Now, as we approach August of 2011, many Christians are once again jumping on what appears to be the next spiritual bandwagon; a prayer rally being hosted by Governor Perry of Texas and other leaders. The website of The Response, says the reason for this rally is because:

America is in the midst of a historic crisis. We have been besieged by financial debt, terrorism, and a multitude of natural disasters. The youth of America are in grave peril economically, socially, and, most of all, morally. There are threats emerging within our nation and beyond our borders beyond our power to solve....

The Response, as this event is being called, is being promoted as a time of prayer and repentance. However, how can Christians and Christian leaders gather together in a spiritual

enterprise and a spiritual service, with individuals that embrace a theology and doctrine that teaches a different Jesus and a different gospel? I, and thousands of pastors and theologians, believe that the Word of God reveals that the teaching of the New Apostolic Reformation, (NAR) the Word of Faith movement and the prosperity gospel is completely unbiblical....

Some would try and accuse me of guilt by association. However, I do not believe those participating in The Response, and other such projects, are guilty by *association* but guilty by *participation*. I believe they are guilty of giving credibility to false teachers by choosing to unite with false teachers. Ephesians 5:11 says, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them." 2 Timothy 3:5 says "and from such people turn away."

Dr. Robby Dean of West Houston Bible Church...wrote:

The delegation of the administration of this event, called, "The Response," (<http://theresponseusa.com/>), is to a Christian group with ties to what is in my opinion, one of the most radical, fringe, quasi-cultic groups I have ever investigated.... The most distressing fact is that this event is being run by people from the International House of Prayer (IHOP) which has its roots in a movement called the Kansas City Prophets....

One of the key heresies...at the core of the thinking of the IHOP movement, is based on a misuse and abuse of a passage in the Hebrew Scriptures, Joel 2:15-16. This passage is at the core of a heresy which calls upon present day Christians to fulfill a passage that has nothing whatsoever to do with modern events. In their view this passage is twisted to be call for spiritual elites, the so-called "Joel's Army," to take over the United States and then to purge it and bring in a Christian kingdom. Unfortunately, in a display of theological naiveté, Gov. Perry was duped into using this passage as the rationale for his call to a Day of Prayer: "In the spirit of the Book of Joel, Chapter 2, Verses 15-16, I urge a solemn gathering of prayer and fasting. As those verses admonish: 'Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly... Gather the people, consecrate the assembly....'

This is what happens when theologically uninformed politicians get duped by advisors whose religious agendas are not obvious. Few Christians are even aware of this movement, its heretical theology, and its political agenda. Governor Perry is not the only one who has been taken in by their pious duplicity... Prayer is important, prayer for a nation is important, political leaders who recognize this are vital to our national health. But a right thing done in a wrong way is wrong. The end never justifies the means!

(continued next page)

It appears that the religious right in America has openly embraced, for the sake of political pragmatism, the New Apostolic Reformation, the Word of Faith Movement, and the proponents of the prosperity gospel....

When Christians compromise the gospel and unite with false teachers in spiritual and political enterprises, regardless of the political outcome, we will have lost because we gave credibility to false teachers and their false gospel. I believe this is Satan's strategy. Satan has moved his false teachers into our camp as a religious Trojan horse and Christian leaders have embraced the Trojan horse of false teachers....

A WAY THAT SEEMETH RIGHT...

CHRISTIANPOST.COM, 7/17/2011: GOD NO LONGER 'FATHER' FOR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST [EXCERPTS]—The left-leaning United Church of Christ now wants to be even more politically correct, and to do so its deliberative body has replaced the reference to "Heavenly Father" with the gender neutral term, "triune God," in the denomination's constitution.

"In the process of revamping its decades-old constitution, the Protestant denomination's General Synod endorsed an eye-catching change: It deleted the term 'Heavenly Father,' replacing it with 'triune God,'" Courier Journal reported Saturday....

The UCC, considered more liberal than most other Christian denominations, also allow ceremonies to sanctify same-sex unions.... However, some congregations did not support the resolution.

* * *

BBC.CO.UK, 7/22/2011: CHURCH IN WALES INQUIRY AFTER RECTOR BURNS BIBLE PAGES [EXCERPTS]—The Church in Wales says it is investigating after a Gwynedd rector burnt some pages from the Bible. The Reverend Geraint ap Iorwerth of St Peter ad Vincula Church, Pennal, also cut up pages from the King James Bible to create an artwork. Unveiling it at a church event, he said it revealed a "cruel and vile God."

Mr ap Iorwerth told BBC Wales he had burnt scraps of [the] cut up passages at the public event because he had been making a statement as part of an art experiment. He said he had had nothing but support from people at the church near Machynlleth, close to the Gwynedd-Powys border.

He revealed his controversial piece of art at an event to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible.

He said: "I find it highly offensive that people would think I have given my life to serving that type of God and that I would regard the words of the King James Bible as sacred truth.

"I cut out all the nasty bits of that Bible, the language of which is being celebrated all over the place this year, because I don't think you can separate that language from the God it is representing.... My version of God is Jesus, who was pure compassion and unconditional love.

"The King James Bible should be praised for its language but not for the God it represents—the two need to be separated." He said he burnt the pages, which were the remaining scraps of those he cut up to make the display, as a "symbol of all the suffering in the world."

"The point being that some people are more concerned about destroying a few bits of pages than about those who have died after suffering."

He said he had not yet heard anything of an investigation against him and will be pursuing his own "evangelical" investigation after the summer into "how such a cruel God has so prominent a place in national life." He said he also planned to create a "wall of shame" at the church naming all of God's "cruel actions."

[TBC: This is just one more example of today's trend in refashioning God and His Word according to a way that seems right to a man, which the Bible tells us leads to destruction (Proverbs 14:12). Not only is it contrary to the Scriptures—it is completely irrational. How could the King James Version be at fault when the words used are the same in the Hebrew and Greek texts? Furthermore, the rector probably hasn't read the Book of Revelation, which features other perfect qualities of Jesus that he would find at odds with his view of "pure compassion."]

* * *

FOXNEWS.COM, 7/21/2011: WILLOW CREEK SPLITS WITH EXODUS INTERNATIONAL [EXCERPTS]—Willow Creek Community Church's formal relationship with Exodus International has ended

While the decision to part ways dates back to 2009, news that the South Barrington megachurch had cut ties with Exodus, the world's largest ministry [to ex-gays, encouraging believers to "come out" of] homosexuality, did not surface until late June.

Scott Vaudrey of the elder response team said in writing that Willow Creek's decision was not intended as a social or political statement, but rather an indication of "a season of reviewing and clarifying some of our affiliations with outside organizations."

Alan Chambers, president of Exodus, disagrees. "The choice to end our partnership is definitely something that shines a light on a disappointing trend within parts of the Christian community," he said....

Chambers said he sympathizes with Christian organizations that deal with social, political, and financial backlash, but added, "Biblical truth is unpopular, and when you're supporting unpopular truth, you are unpopular too; which means, some days, getting upwards of 10,000 phone calls and emails, and it can be overwhelming."

Willow Creek had been heavily targeted by the group Soulforce, Chambers said, and he believes that the group's 2008-2009 campaign (which included a meeting with pastor Bill Hybels) led to the disassociation.

* * *

FOXNEWS.COM, 7/21/2011: CAMPUS MINISTRY DROPS 'CHRIST' FROM NAME [EXCERPTS]—One of the nation's most prominent Christian ministries has decided to take Christ out of its name—a move that has generated cries of political correctness from within the evangelical community.

Campus Crusade for Christ International announced this week that it will change the name of its U.S. Operations to "Cru" in early 2012.

"We felt like our name was getting in the way of accomplishing our mission," said Steve Sellers, the vice president for Campus Crusade, noting that the ministry will still be committed to "proclaiming Christ around the world."

Sellers said researchers found that 9 percent of Christians and 20 percent of non-Christians were alienated by the name Campus Crusade for Christ.

* * *

THEAUSTRALIAN.COM, 7/28/2011: BLAIR SEES THE REAL POWER IN FAITH [EXCERPTS]—Former British prime minister Tony Blair has a different and challenging view of the 21st century: he argues that religion will replace the clash of political ideologies as the dominant issue of the coming age.

Blair's further message is that the growing aggressive secularism in the West is the wrong response. It misreads and misconceives the nature of the 21st century and the best path to social harmony in a more globalised world....

Blair, a youthful 58 and three-time elected British Labour PM, now divides his time between his responsibilities as Middle East peace envoy (he has made 67 separate visits to the Middle East since leaving office) and the Tony Blair Faith Foundation focusing on the interaction between faith and globalisation.

"In some ways I'm more interested in religion than I am in politics," [said] Blair....

"Some years ago people thought that religion was on the decline and that inevitably as societies developed they became more secular," Blair says. "Actually, this is not what's happening. What's happening, in fact, is that around the world religion is on the rise and that's not just in the anticipated places.

"For example, the fastest growing part of the world for Christianity is China. You've got major evangelical movements starting in Latin America and obviously you've got the expansion of Islam; there will be a doubling of the Arab population over the next 30 years.

"So religious faith is important and it's growing. Yet at the same time globalisation is throwing everyone together."

This leads Blair to his intellectual conclusion and current career preoccupation. "The issue is this: if faith is becoming a badge of identity and it says: 'I am what I am in opposition to you,' then that's when religion is dangerous.

"If, on the other hand, faith becomes a humanising and civilising set of values it can play an important role in making globalisation work."

Speaking Schedule

Aug 12-13	TBC Conference Bend, OR (800) 937-6638
Sep 9-10	Calvary Chapel Appleton (TA) Appleton, WI (920) 735-1242
Oct 15-16	Cohocton Assembly of God (TA) Cohocton, NY (585) 384-9113

Dear Dave Hunt,

Two years ago I watched the *God of Wonders* DVD on TBN. I was so impressed that I ordered a few for...my family and friends...through your ministry, and since then you have been sending me *The Berean Call*. I thought it was an intelligent magazine, just like ancient Bereans were, until I read your article "New World Religion" excerpted from *Occult Invasion* in the [February issue].

It had some true criticism for organizations like [the] World Council of Churches and [the] National Council of Churches....But [it was] very, very negative. You called Kenneth Copeland and Benny Hinn false prophets....They are best loved pastors on TBN and are very nice Christian leaders who are doing great work for the Lord....You didn't even spare old Pastor Schuller for being positive. Jesus Himself was positive. He said everything is possible for those who believe....And shouldn't we all respect Pope John Paul II, if it is for one reason only? He was the only Catholic Pope who, fragile and old like he was, at the end of his life, walked to the Western Wall in Jerusalem and put the letter of apology in the crack...apologizing to Jewish people for [the] Holocaust...that [the] Catholic Church failed to protect them.

I also think your book was written before 9/11...the world [has] changed a lot since then. People changed, their thinking changed. The world in general doesn't hate Jesus anymore....More and more people love Him. Millions [are] coming to Him every day. Christianity is [the] world's fastest growing religion today. Even Muslims [are] coming to Him in great numbers. The world can see that Jesus is their only hope....Instead of cursing the darkness, it's better to light a candle to spread a light and pray for each other to join with fellow preachers on TBN....If you will continue being negative, please don't send me anymore *Berean Call* because I hate to see some of those pastors and ministries that I support [being] put down. Thank you. AG (NY)

Dear Friends,

May God bless you richly for your faithfulness in ministry. Thank you for

reprinting *Occult Invasion*....Even though it was written a few years ago, as your reprint in [a recent] *Berean Call* shows, it is such valuable history for today and was very prescient when written! LC (WA)

Dear Dave,

I just wanted to say *thank you* for your podcasts. We are missionaries in Northern Uganda and have found great encouragement and exhortation from your ministry. Even our children enjoy listening. Blessings upon you as you boldly speak the truth in love! MU (Uganda)

Mr. Hunt,

You and your people are by no means Bereans. You have taken away very important truths of the Bible and have replaced them with falsities. First, let me point out that "faith without works is dead." A dead faith will get you nothing from the Lord. God is the "God of the living and not the dead." Eternal life is a gift but requirements must be met, such as: "Keep my commandments and live saith the Lord." This is a requirement. Not by faith alone is one saved but by keeping God's commandments. If anyone of us wants eternal life we must "work" to fulfill our part of the agreement. We are saved by grace through faith. This grace is *not* given to anyone who does not keep our Lord's commandments. Grace is given to the obedient *not* the rebellious. We must "work to show ourselves to be approved" just as Scripture says....The Bereans knew the Scriptures. You teach that faith is all one needs. Nowhere in the Bible is this taught....I hope this has helped you to see the light! WS (OR, prisoner)

Dear Dave,

I just finished *Cosmos, Creator, and Human Destiny*. What an elegant, logical apologetic! To think that you accomplished this in spite of all your physical pain and the sadness of your daughter's cancer and death. I am sorry for your loss and I continue to hold up you and *The Berean Call* in prayer. I have followed Answers in Genesis for 15 years and read many of their books and viewed their tapes, but your book is the best I've read on the subject. Also, your defense of "The Faith" has been such an encouragement to me since 1986. P.S. Doesn't it seem like a good time for the Rapture? ML (email)

Dear Dave,

When I read the letter from BC (CA) in your April 2011 *Berean Call*, and Wesley Bailor's "Meeting Dave" reflection, I was so convicted because I have never contacted you to tell you how much your book *Seduction of Christianity* has meant to me. I was a Roman Catholic nun for 10 years,

then left the convent and became involved with Self-Realization Fellowship (a Hindu/Christian based religion). The transition from Catholicism to SRF was easy because both religions include mysticism, contemplative prayer, meditations, asceticism, and Jesus' words; plus, Hindu deities like the "saints" and "Jesus" pictures sat on my home altar.

Five years after I left the convent...a Christian witnessed to me and, by the mercy and grace of God, I placed my faith and trust in Christ as my Savior. The following Sunday, I attended a Christian church service. Norman Grubb gave the sermon which seemed to me to be peppered with Eastern spirituality. Shortly after that, a friend gave me your book *The Seduction of Christianity*, which cleared up the confusion and, today, after 34 years of being saved, I still refer to it when opportunities present themselves. I am so grateful that the Holy Spirit used the Word of God, my life experiences, and your book to form a rock solid foundation for discernment. I meet a lot of Believers who don't recognize how Eastern religious views and Roman Catholicism are encroaching into Christianity today....So a huge thank you, Dave, for having the wisdom from the Lord to write that book so many years ago. *The Seduction of Christianity* is as relevant today as it was when I first read it. I too look forward to greeting you in Heaven. PB (email)

TBC Notes

Whatever Pans Out??

Although it's true that one's belief in the doctrine of the Rapture, or lack thereof, doesn't affect one's eternal salvation, it does have ramifications regarding a believer's life in Christ. For example, if someone believes that Jesus could return for him at any moment, his life very likely will be quite different from someone who thinks that it won't happen until a certain event takes place later in time.

Eschatology is the study of doctrines related to the last days. More specifically, premillennialism, amillennialism, and postmillennialism are believed by many to be both nonessential and of little practical value. The Lord willing, in our September issue we will address how an erroneous eschatology has led believers to unwittingly contribute to the plans of the Antichrist.

T. A. MCMAHON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Can human beings create or choose their own reality?

PARADIGM SHIFTING AND HUMAN POTENTIAL

BY DAVE HUNT AND T. A. MCMAHON ~ EXCERPTED FROM AMERICA: THE SORCERER'S NEW APPRENTICE

ENCOURAGED by New Age apostles such as Fritjof Capra (*The Tao of Physics* and *The Turning Point*) and Gary Zukav (*The Dancing Wu Li Masters*), the belief is growing that modern physics and ancient mystical traditions have striking parallels that lead to similar views of reality and thus justify a merger between the two. The facts are quite the opposite. Rather than supporting Eastern mysticism because it is so similar, modern physics actually has little in common with it.

In addition to his claim that he has a direct experience of the essence of the universe (which science denies is possible, as we have just seen), the mystic also claims to "experience" the unity of all things, including his own "oneness" with the cosmos, as though the universe were his own body and the expression of his mind. In contrast again, the physicist declares that the universe is a separate reality and therefore this experience of "oneness" with the All is a deception. Mysticism denies any reality external to the mind, while the physicist declares that the external world is in fact real and that we have no way of comparing our mental impressions of the universe with its true character and essence. For these reasons Ken Wilber declares: "What an absolute, radical, irredeemable difference [separates science] from mysticism!" Most physicists disagree with the thesis of Capra and Zukav, which would not be the case if it followed from the evidence. In fact, Capra admits that his theory (which is so popular among New Agers) did not result from insight gained through scientific observation, but actually came about through a powerful mystical experience he had in 1969 "on a beach in Santa Cruz [California]." In *The Tao of Physics* he writes:

Five years ago, I had a beautiful experience which set me on a road that has led to the writing of this book. I was sitting by the ocean one late summer afternoon... when I suddenly became aware of my whole environment as being engaged in a gigantic cosmic dance.... I "saw" the atoms of the elements and those of my body participating in this cosmic dance of energy, I felt its rhythm and "heard" its sound, and at that moment I knew that this was the Dance of Shiva, the Lord of Dancers worshipped by the Hindus.

Presumably this religious experience of "cosmic consciousness," or the "oneness of all," that is attained in an altered state provides an insight into the actual reality underlying the universe—a reality that we do not ordinarily recognize because our perception is flawed. Before accepting such a thesis, however, one cannot help wondering how and why, if all is perfect, our perception could be imperfect. From what source did this imperfection arise to mar the perfection of the All? If all is indeed one, then how could we even have the illusion of separation from the universal consciousness and unified whole, of which we are allegedly an intimate part? And why is there so

much conflict within the individual human heart and so much jealousy, hatred, greed, and antagonism exhibited toward fellow members of the race?

Whether the altered state of consciousness that brought "enlightenment" came about through drugs or Eastern meditation, the fact remains that Capra's present obsession is not the result of scientific investigation or evidence but of a classic Hindu mystical experience. In *The Tao of Physics* and *The Turning Point*, Capra argues for an integration of Eastern and Western thought in order to bring about what he perceives as a necessary "revolution in all the sciences and a transformation of our world view and values." It would not seem advisable, however, to base such a "revolution" in scientific thinking upon a religious insight such as Capra experienced in an altered state of consciousness.

Sir James Jeans demolished the view of Capra, Zukav, et al., long before it became popular. Jeans demonstrated that there is in fact an objective world and that this would not be the case if reality were the creation of individual minds. He did this very simply by presenting three criteria that are essential for objective reality: *surprise, continuity, and change*. What he meant is easily illustrated.

Twenty million people are suddenly awakened from a sound sleep by an earthquake in Mexico City, an earthquake that kills many of them by collapsing the homes and apartments they occupy. The fact that so many people were surprised by this event, indeed, awakened by the shaking and roaring of an earthquake that they certainly were not even dreaming of, is evidence enough that an objective reality imposed itself upon its victims. It would be madness to suggest that a hurricane or a fire that guts a hotel was created in the minds of those who experienced it. Yet new-consciousness gurus continue to promote and sell various techniques for creating one's own reality, and the customers are still eagerly paying for seminars that will supposedly teach them to develop this amazing human potential.

Such ideas are being taken seriously even by our top government officials. Consider, for example, the statements of ex-astronaut Edgar D. Mitchell in a [1980] address to members of Congress and Congressional staff on behalf of the Congressional Clearinghouse on the Future:

Within ten years, psychokinetic functioning will be reasonably well accepted. It knocks down the previous model of the human; there is something more fundamental than the material we are made of. We can control, external to our bodies, the matter that is around us, and control internally the functioning of our bodies, by the way we think.

Mitchell's projected ten years for this new paradigm to be in operation [have come and gone] and we are no closer than we

were, 3000 years ago when the same ideas were being taught by Yogis in India. Consider Jeans's second reason why this dream must forever remain a delusion: the *continuity* of objective reality. After a 20-year absence, you return to your high school for a reunion. The same rooms in which you once attended class are there, complete with desks, blackboards, and cracks in the ceiling—everything that you had never given a thought to during the 20-year interval. Everything has remained in place without your mind supporting its existence.

Such continuity proves the objectivity of the world independent of human minds, a continuity without which life would be impossible. Imagine the chaos if reality were in fact the product of billions of individual minds of independent and forgetful (or even insane) nature. Whose "reality" would be dominant, and how often would one person's self-created "reality" suddenly be overturned by another's imposing itself? There have also been many *changes* at your high school during your absence. The old gymnasium has been torn down, and a new and much larger one stands in its place. Change such as this, coming without our knowledge in places we have forgotten, clearly has occurred without our minds creating it. This, too, demonstrates the objectivity of the physical universe about us. So Jeans argues that these three elements—surprise, continuity, and change—prove that the world about us is not created by our minds but has in fact an objective reality of its own, independent of anything we may think or do.

Nevertheless, the universe seems more like a great thought than a great machine. Consequently, Jeans concluded that it must subsist "in the mind of some Eternal Spirit," who is in fact its Creator. Far from mentally creating reality, mankind has been struggling to discover the incredible secrets of a universe that is at once so awesome in size and yet so intricate in minutest detail that it reflects the genius of a Designer whose mind is infinitely beyond human capabilities. The theory that we can create our own reality would seem to represent the envy and rebellion of little minds with delusions of grandeur who have an insatiable desire to play God.

Nevertheless, the belief that we have already conspired to create the delusion we now call reality, and from which our imaginings can deliver us, grows ever more popular. In *Shifting Worlds, Changing Minds: Where the Sciences and Buddhism Meet*, Jeremy W. Hayward argues that everything we see and experience in the world about us is mere illusion. The mere fact that the universe obviously existed before homo sapiens came along to "create" reality with his imagination ought to be sufficient to end such theories, yet they persist....

In spite of its obvious folly and impossibility, the delusory dream of playing God is so appealing that few people can resist the temptation when this carrot is dangled in front of them.... As we have already indicated, highly educated Westerners are embracing, as science, a Hindu gospel that must take much of the responsibility for making India one of the poorest, most superstition-bound countries in the world. This gospel offers to Calcutta's one million beggars who have been born and live and will die in its streets the good news that their running sores, gnawing hunger, and poverty do not really exist, but have been created by their own "negative" thinking. There is no suffering, disease, or death; one merely misperceives what is actually there. All one needs to do to change one's experience of life

is to change the way one perceives it. In that same address to Congressional leaders, Edgar Mitchell declared:

Our physical and emotional well-being is totally under our control and we can train ourselves to control ourselves. It puts responsibility for health and well-being on the individual. I am not a victim. I choose on some level, whatever happens to me. Within ten years, the AMA will endorse this viewpoint.

As [Oprah Winfrey, Dr. Oz], and many other motivational speakers would persuade us if they could, anyone can change his entire world by changing his thoughts. Now this is either the most wonderful truth or else it is the cruelest hoax imaginable.

Who could reasonably doubt that it is the latter? Yet this delusion, surprisingly, continues to grow in popularity in spite of the obvious fact that no one (not even a patient in a mental hospital) lives in his own mentally created reality separate from the rest of the world.

Who walks in sunshine while others all around him are in the rain? Or who continues to fly safely through the air on a plane that the other passengers and crew, because of their negative thinking, "imagine" has sustained a powerful explosion and is falling from the sky? Or who can (by positive thinking) cause a stock that he or she owns to maintain its value, when, to everyone else's perception and according to the figures coming out of the New York Stock Exchange, that particular stock has drastically fallen in value? Nevertheless, millions are persuaded by gurus of the new consciousness that they have such "potential" and are purchasing and practicing various techniques for cultivating altered states in pursuit of this pot of gold at the end of the New Age rainbow.

Mystical fantasies in altered states aside, the daily experience of all mankind has always demonstrated that there is a common reality shared by all human beings upon planet Earth regardless of whether they are positive or negative thinkers. Ecological disaster or nuclear war, for example, do not threaten only those negative people who are pessimistic enough to believe in such horrors. The possibility of World War III is just as much a threat to those who display "Visualize Peace" stickers on their car bumpers, practice Transcendental Meditation faithfully, and think nothing but positive thoughts day and night as it is to anyone else.

Nor can it be argued that the majority belief is imposed upon the minority. This idea forms the basis for the attempt to mobilize hundreds of millions of people to meditate for peace in the hope that a "critical mass" of peaceful thinking will be reached and will thus tip the scales in the Universal Mind itself and bring about peace upon earth. If it requires millions or even billions of persons thinking the same thought together to effect such changes, then obviously one person could not possibly create his or her own individual reality in competition with billions or even thousands of other minds.

In March, we announced that Dave & Tom's book, THE NEW SPIRITUALITY, would soon be available. It's now here, but we're releasing the book under its original title, AMERICA: THE SORCERER'S NEW APPRENTICE, which we're pleased to offer this month as part of our expanding "Dave Hunt Classic" library.



IS JESUS THE ANSWER? WHY LOOK ELSEWHERE?

FROM CHAPTER ONE OF MARTIN & DEIDRE'S BOOK: 12 STEPS TO DESTRUCTION

IF JESUS IS TRULY THE ANSWER to life's problems and indeed the very source of life, why are both nonChristians and Christians looking for answers elsewhere?

NonChristians turn to the vast recovery movement because the programs offer hope, help, and promises of recovery. And there is no encouragement to believe in the God of the Bible, whom they have never understood or known. They don't turn to Christ because they have accumulated plenty of reasons not to. They remind themselves of Christians who have failed. Some have heard pastors say what they didn't want to hear. Furthermore, they cannot understand a God who might condemn anyone or offer such a narrow way. However, beyond all of the human excuses, the actual reason nonChristians do not turn to Christ is because their eyes and ears are closed to the merciful grace of God.

But why do Christians look for answers outside the Bible and their relationship with Jesus Christ? Paul wrestled with this problem in his letter to the Galatians. The Galatians had started out well in the Christian walk, but then, under the influence of the Judaizers, they lost confidence in the sufficiency of the gospel. In his salutation Paul reminds them of what Jesus had already accomplished for them:

Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Galatians 1:3-5)

Then Paul presents his concern:

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. (Galatians 1:6-7)

The Galatians were attempting to be justified by the works of the law rather than by faith in what Jesus had accomplished for them by dying in their place and giving them new life through His resurrection. And this is true today.

Paul admonishes them and all who fall into this error:

O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? (Galatians 3:1-3)

In adding requirements, they entered into bondage. They evidently did not understand that just as they were saved through faith in the finished work of Christ, they were to live by faith in the finished and ongoing work of Christ in them. Therefore Paul reminds them and us: "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith" (Galatians 3:11).

People confuse the works of the law with the works of faith. Works of the law undermine a person's ability to please God, because they are limited to self-effort. Works of faith, however, are the fruit of faith that grow from the Holy Spirit who indwells and empowers believers to obey and please God. Trying to keep

the law by way of the flesh leads to bondage and death, because no one can keep the law. The way of the Spirit is freedom to please God and leads to life eternal.

Just as the Galatians, some Christians start out well and then shift into works. They lose confidence in the efficacy of the gospel and the Holy Spirit. When they sin, they may admonish themselves and try to change through trying harder, rather than responding through faith (1 John 1:9). Or, when they sin, they may not think it really matters that much since they already have the righteousness of Christ. One slips off course by trying to do it on his own, and another doesn't bother to obey. Both responses lead to disaster and bondage; both are bondage to the world, the flesh, and the devil. Therefore Paul presents the solution to both errors:

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. . . . For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. . . . This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. (Galatians 5:1,13,16)

Just as Christians are saved by grace through faith, they are to walk by grace through faith. The very source of walking in the Spirit comes through the profound relationship of the believer to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Another reason why some who call themselves Christians may be looking for some program in place of (or in addition to) Christ is that they have misunderstood the gospel and what it entails. The gospel might not have been presented clearly. Rather than recognizing their need for a savior to save them from their own sins, they may have been looking for a savior who would save them from their circumstances and/or who would make life easy and pleasant. They may have misunderstood the need to die to self and thought that Jesus was there to make them feel better about themselves, build their self-esteem, and cater to their desires. While Jesus meets every true need for the believer, and while life in Him holds a marvelous new dimension of peace with God and the hope of eternal life, all problems do not simply vanish. Jesus being the answer to problems of living does not mean that He necessarily takes them away. He gives strength and purpose, and He even uses problems to make a believer more like Himself. Three well-known sections of Scripture speak to this issue: Romans 5:1-5; Romans 8:28-29; and 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Christians who expect God to take away problems and change circumstances may begin to think poorly of God and even begin to blame Him for allowing bad things to happen. They may resent God for letting them down. Those feelings come from a misunderstanding of the character of God, the sinful condition of man, and the influence of "the prince of the power of the air" on the circumstances of this world. Rather than getting angry with God or forgiving Him, which some wrongfully teach, Christians who have an erroneous view of God need to have their vision restored by the Word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit. God is holy, pure, righteous, and full of compassion and mercy. He has provided salvation for the lost through the death of His only begotten Son. And He fulfills all His promises.

— MARTIN & DEIDRE BOBGAN

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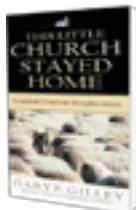


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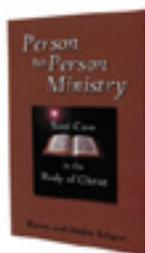


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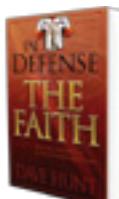
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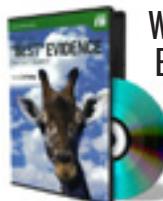
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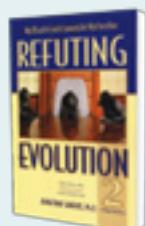
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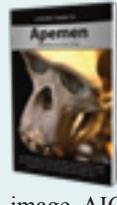


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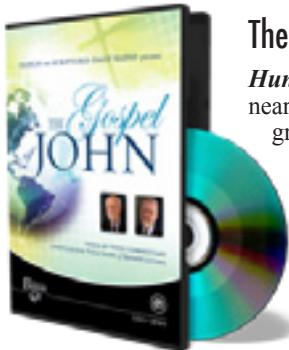
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