

Breakfast with Biblical
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JESUS AND THE NEW AGE

Introduction

New Age movement attracting considerable attention today
Much variety within movement
Some forms designed for consumption in West make considerable use of Xn terminology
Most forms have some place for Jesus, but the "Jesus" they picture is a different Jesus than pictured in Bible.

Jesus as Pictured by New Age Teachers

Lots of variety between teachers, within general New Age outlook; here give two examples:

1. Jesus according to Edgar Cayce, "the sleeping prophet":

[see Jeffrey Furst, ed., *Edgar Cayce's Story of Jesus* (New York: Howard-McCann, 1969)]

Jesus **became** the Christ (through acceptance of God's will); the universal Christ-spirit or Christ-consciousness is exemplified by Jesus (16, 42).

Jesus became aware he would be Savior of world when he **fell** in Eden (23).

Jesus had several previous **incarnations**, in which he was: Adam (and even earlier, Amilius of Atlantis), Enoch, Melchizedek, Joseph, Joshua, and Zend (the father of Zoroaster), among others (23, 28, 37).

Jesus **sinned** in at least some of these incarnations (23).

His mother, **Mary**, on the other hand, did not sin in her incarnation as his mother; she had no human father, either! She was earlier Eve, and the twin soul of Jesus (27-28).

Cayce's "gospel": (cp Ron Hubbard, Scientology)

Pre-Adamic spirits became **inmeshed** in creation, by projecting themselves into rocks, trees, etc., and then forgot who they were (34).

Sons of God set about to rescue these spirits by forming bodies of flesh and blood, which became channels for their eventual release from material being, [through our evolution in successive reincarnations] (35).

We need to know about this **previous history** of ourselves (19), recognize we are portions of God (32), and live like it (21).

Eventually we will escape from matter and **become one** with God (44).

2. Jesus according to Benjamin Creme, who gained considerable attention with his ads in the major world newspapers in April, 1982, that the Christ came back to earth July 19, 1977 (RC 24) [see Benjamin Creme, *The Reappearance of the Christ and the Masters of Wisdom* (London/Los Angeles: Tara, 1980); see also Benjamin Creme, Maitreya's Mission (Amsterdam/London/L.A.: Share International, 1986)]

Everything is God (RC 110).

Eventually a **new world religion** will be founded which combines eastern and western religion (RC 88).

All beings are on a **"ladder"** which stretches from below man all the way to infinity (RC 72); we are currently humans, but others ahead of us have become (through multiple reincarnations) ascended Masters; they are currently perfect by our standards, but can see great realms above them of which we know nothing (RC 115).

The Christ is the Master or all the Masters, but He is not God and never claimed to be God; he is a Son of God, but so are we (RC 115).

All religions are (more or less) the same, holding out a promise of **further revelation** to be given by a future Teacher or Avatar: Xns look for the X's return; Buddhists for the Lord Maitreya; Muslims for Imam Mahdi; Hindus, Krishna; Jews, Messiah; those into secret knowledge (like Creme) know these are all one Being, the **World Teacher**, the supreme Head of the Spiritual Hierarchy of Masters, and look for his imminent return as we enter the Age of Aquarius (RC 28).

In every age **Teachers** have come forth from this Sp Hierarchy to enable mankind to take its next evolutionary step. Some of these are Hercules, Hermes, Rama, Mithra, Krishna, Buddha, and the Christ. This plan works out through a hidden hierarchy of Masters who are behind all world events and constitute the invisible government of the planet. These Masters of Wisdom are ahead of us in the evolutionary journey, guiding and helping us to expand our consciousness and to become, like them, Divine, perfected or illumined Beings (RC 28-29).

The Christ is not an individual but an office, currently held (for the past 26,000 years) by the **Lord Maitreya**. He was manifested in Palestine by overshadowing his disciple, Jesus (RC 30). Jesus is not the Christ. He was, and still is, a Disciple of the Christ and made the great sacrifice of giving up His body for the use of the Christ. By the occult process of overshadowing, the Christ Maitreya took over

and worked through the body of Jesus from the Baptism onwards. In his next incarnation (as Apollonius of Tyana) Jesus became a Master. He lives now in a Syrian body which is some 600 years old, and has his base in Palestine (RC 46).

At this point, with the Age of Aquarius dawning, the Masters are **about to return** to the everyday world for the first time in countless thousands of years, to inaugurate the New Age. They will walk openly among us and lead us into the Aquarian experience. They stand now, waiting for us to take, of our own free will, the **needed first steps** in the direction of unity, cooperation, and fusion. Then they will emerge with the Christ at their head (RC 30)

A Biblical Response to These New Age "Jesuses"

Understand What's Happening

Don't be surprised: Biblical warnings re/ false prophets

Matt 7:15 *Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.*

Matt 24:11 *And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many.*

Matt 24:24 *For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.*

2Pet 2:1 *But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.*

1 John 4:1 *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

Some of Creme's picture, in particular, looks like what we might expect to be Satan's program for the end of the age. Can't tell how much of this is Satan's real program for the world, since he is a great liar, and in any case, he not in control of history.

Another Jesus

2 Cor 11:4 *For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear {this} beautifully.*

Another Gospel

Gal 1:6-8 *I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; 7 which is {really} not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.*

Help Others Attracted by New Age Movement

We and they need to know what the Bible says about who Jesus is:

John 1:1-4 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

Col 1:15-20 *And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, {both} in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. 18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything. 19 For it was the {Father's} good pleasure for all the fulness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, {I say}, whether things on earth or things in heaven.*

Heb 1:1-3 *God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in {His} Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high;*

We and they need to understand why only the real Jesus can save:

Only Jesus was good enough:

Heb 4:15 *For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as {we are, yet} without sin.*

Heb 7:26 *For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;*

Only Jesus gave us His righteousness and took upon Himself our sins

2 Cor 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin {to be} sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Eph 2:4-9 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly {places}, in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, {it is} the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

1 Pet 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Thess 5:10 who died for us, that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him.

We need to be able to share the reason for our hope:

1 Pet 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always {being} ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

Ask, "What kind of evidence do these guys have for their beliefs? What kind of evidence do I have, and how can I share it with them?"

- Evidence of fulfilled prophecy about Jesus
- Evidence of historicity of Jesus' ministry
- Evidence of changed lives

We need to warn ourselves and others of the consequences of following the wrong Jesus:

Heb 2:2-4 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, 4 God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.