

THE "HIDDEN DANGERS" OF THE NEW AGE

I'm using one main source for this article (noted below), but the authors' view on this subject is corroborated by other sources and references I've used in the past. In my opinion these two men are uniquely qualified to present this information; they are former New Agers who have become Christians, and who are now working "within their own ministries to expose the fallacies of the modern New Age movement." In short, they know the practices, the language, and what to look out for in order to safeguard ourselves against the incursion of New Age beliefs. These beliefs are becoming more and more popular, not only among both secularists and Christians, but are even infiltrating some otherwise conservative, fundamentally based churches.

The book is "The Second Coming of the New Age" by Steven Bancarz and Josh Peck, and is available on <u>Amazon</u> and the <u>SkyWatch TV</u> website. All of their sources and references are well documented. When I cite page numbers throughout this article, I'm referring to that book. If you would like more information on the topics covered here, I encourage you to purchase a copy.

INTRODUCTION

The signs of the times seem to be coinciding with the signs of the end. We see many of the things Jesus warned us about happening in today's world. Nothing remains to be prophetically fulfilled in order for the Rapture to occur, so that is

one thing that could happen any time. (See the Bible Study, "The Rapture of the Church"). In addition, our country is obviously in a state of political turmoil during which anything could happen; we've seen an increase in earthquakes and unusual weather conditions; eruptions of volcanos, increased violence, pandemics (plagues), etc... just watch the news and there's no telling what we might see.

We need to be vigilant and on our guard against things that would confuse us or give us cause to doubt our faith as events begin to unfold in this year and beyond. I want to focus on two specific areas that pose a danger to Christians, and both have to do with deception. One involves deception on a <u>cosmic</u> scale; the other is a subtler but equally sinister invasion of <u>false teaching</u>.

The Cosmic Deception

Most people who watch a certain channel on TV are familiar with "Ancient Aliens". (Admittedly I am one of them, but I watch it with my eyes wide open to its errors; I've mentioned before that they are so close to the truth, and yet so far!) The proponents of the AA theory state that our solar system was visited eons ago by "star people" who either created or colonized the earth, or both, giving humans special knowledge reserved for the gods, especially in the area of technology. The aliens (gods) are expected to return at some point in time, to check out what we are doing to our planet or to further their own agenda, whatever that may be. *

This halfway falls in line with what the Bible teaches about certain fallen angels who came to the earth, mated with human women and produced hybrid offspring called the Nephilim. (See <u>Genesis 6:1-4</u>. and the Bible Study "Why Did God Destroy the Earth with a Flood?") In addition, according to other sources they instructed humans in subjects forbidden by God, such as sorcery and astrology.

The main difference between the ancient alien theory and the Biblical record is that the aliens are in fact spiritual beings and not visitors from another planet or galaxy. Many Biblical prophecy watchers expect these beings to return to the earth and profess to be aliens who have our best interests in mind and are here to help us. They may or may not acknowledge the existence of Jesus, but if they do, they will <u>not</u> acknowledge his identity as the resurrected Son of God (Yahweh, the one true God). Some scholars also predict another incursion of

hybrid beings who may already live among us. These beings may have been created by genetic manipulation.

The spiritual teachings of the ancient "aliens" are "understood as perfectly in line with New Age teachings" as described below.

FALSE TEACHINGS

"A heresy is a belief which stands opposed to primary and secondary essentials of the Christian faith." This is where knowing the Word of God by reading and studying it regularly is all-important. What are some of the essentials of the Christian faith? "The deity of Jesus Christ, the virgin birth, the death and resurrection of Jesus for human sin, salvation by faith and not works..." (page 297).

In the chapter entitled "New Age Infiltrating the Church", the authors of the above referenced book state: "The New Age movement must be addressed ... it is sneaking in the back door of Christianity". (page 295).

The authors admit that there is no one with perfect theology, and there will always be disagreements about <u>interpretations</u> of texts which are not essential to the faith. That's not heresy, even though it may still be wrong. We should be wary of anything that raises a red flag with us according to what we think the Bible teaches, and we should go straight to the Bible for the answer.

Here are a number of points of New Age teaching taken from the book which are finding their way into churches and the lives of Christians:

- <u>Divination (Christalignment)</u>. This involves everything from "prophetic henna tattoos to energy impartations and spirit-life meditations." (page 302).
 - Jesus Christ is a person, not a spirit; the Holy Spirit is likewise a person, and neither He nor Christ are a mere divine energy. This is New Age language. In addition, "connect with spirit" are words that are "heard over and over in the New Age movement". (page 303).
- Card readings, often called "destiny or intuitive readings" are increasingly popular. "It is ... indistinguishable from the practices Yahweh put the death penalty on in the Old Testament...Card reading is a form of evil because it seeks to create a man-made bridge between man and God

to receive divine insight." (page 305). See <u>Deuteronomy 18:9-12</u> and <u>I</u> Thessalonians 5:22.

- Spirit boards. Just as with a Ouija board, these invite demonic entities into your life. "Don't be fooled with fake Christian terminology." (page 310).
- Yoga. People who attend, or churches who hold, yoga sessions may be innocently unaware of the following truths about yoga:

Yoga is Hinduism. <u>Wikipedia</u> defines it as "a group of physical, mental, and spiritual practices or disciplines which originated in ancient India. Yoga is one of the six orthodox schools of Hindu philosophical traditions. There is a broad variety of yoga schools, practices, and goals in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism."

From the book: "The goal of all types of yoga is...a state of union with the spirit of Brahman, the Universal Supreme Self." (page 312). "Some yoga poses are named after Hindu gods." (page 314).

"The positions people exercise during yoga were **never intended to be stretches.** They are positions intended to shift human consciousness...to objects and entities other than the Triune God..." (page 314).

Note: Ordinary stretching exercises such as those used in physical therapy are not the same as yoga.

• <u>Karma</u>

Karma is the concept of reaping what you sow. "(It) is a spiritual principle rooted in...reincarnation, wherein a person accumulates negative moral debt in their lives that they have to pay off in a future incarnation." (page 317).

Even though we may endure the consequences of mistakes we make on earth (sow and reap), it is not Scriptural to believe that we must spiritually atone for our sins by constant rebirth. It's my opinion that the so-called memories of those who claim to be reincarnated are planted by demonic entities who have the ability to see the past and to impart certain powers to humans. Another device of Satan's main strategy: deception.

"In Christ, one hundred percent of our moral failures were atoned for sufficiently on the cross, meaning God won't make us suffer for something His Son already suffered for." (page 319).

Earth Worship (Pantheism)

This is an excerpt from a letter written by Pope Francis "...on <u>Care for our Common Home</u>":

"Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of us his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth."

This is more than the idea of being good stewards of the earth and its resources. This is "a pagan idea of personifying the earth as a feminine goddess. The earth is personified as Gaia in Greek mythology..." (page 321).

Applying a spiritual identity to an inanimate object is a form of idolatry. The <u>Pope's letter</u> goes on to say: "...Today you (Jesus) are alive in every creature in your risen glory." (End quote)

"The idea that Jesus Christ is alive in His risen glory in the cockroach on my bathroom floor is not only hilariously inaccurate, it's borderline heresy. Jesus made the cockroach, supernaturally upholds the cockroach by the Word of His power, and sees the cockroach when it dies, but Jesus is not inside the cockroach, and neither is the Father." (page 323; also see Colossians 1:16, Hebrews 1:3, Matthew 10:29).

Spiritism

New Age principles are being promoted among Christians and churches by the following means. Some are self-explanatory and others will have a brief description attached (page 324, paraphrased):

- Opening up portals with the mind for "angels" to come through
- Spirit traveling (out of body)
- > Guided meditations
- > Telepathic communications
- ➤ Prayer labyrinths ("This is a single, intricate path that leads to the center of a design, then back out. It is not rooted in Christianity but in ancient mythology.") Pages 329-331.
- Contemplative prayer, also known as centered prayer. It involves emptying the mind, and constant repetition of a "sacred" word (mantra).

- ➤ Near death experiences (If this experience <u>contradicts</u> the words of Jesus, we can make certain alternative conclusions.) **
- Additional teachings from Jesus (These methods are indistinguishable from the occult practices of channeling, automatic writing and overshadowing while the recipient is in an altered state of consciousness. "Jesus is not a person we channel, He's a Lord we follow...Christians are not continuously or periodically being given new basic truths...especially when they conflict with the previous teachings of Jesus and the apostles." (pages 337-338).
- Error in quantum physics theory (Quantum mechanics and the "observer effect" are outlined in pages 324-329. "This false understanding of quantum mechanics is then applied with the functioning of miracles and presence of blessings...which attributes a natural cause to products of faith and prayer instead of a supernatural cause. Borderline blasphemy taught in this work is the statement that Jesus performed miracles by accessing the zero-point quantum field in the universe...The idea that Jesus harnessed quantum power from nature to facilitate His miracles steals glory from the Father, is unscientific, unbiblical, and encourages a false worldview of the supernatural that <u>puts emphasis on human ability to manipulate the universe through special knowledge rather than on</u> the divine person of the Holy Spirit."

CONCLUSION

We should be especially wary of the seemingly harmless practices which are becoming prevalent in today's world. These practices open portals or gateways through which the supernatural (demonic entities) may freely enter. They're just waiting for an invitation! In the Fringe File, "Extraterrestrials in the New Age", the subjects of ancient aliens and UFOs are more fully addressed.

Let's remember this word of wisdom from authors Bancarz and Peck:

"The Bible, and the Bible alone, is to be our rule of faith and practice as believing Christians."

^{* &}quot;Ancient astronauts" (or "ancient aliens") refers to the pseudoscientific idea that intelligent extraterrestrial beings visited Earth and made contact with

humans in antiquity and prehistoric times. Proponents suggest that this contact influenced the development of modern cultures, technologies, and religions, and even human biology. A common position is that deities from most, if not all, religions are extraterrestrial in origin, and that advanced technologies brought to Earth by ancient astronauts were interpreted as evidence of divine status by early humans.

The idea that ancient astronauts existed is not taken seriously by most academics, and has received no credible attention in peer reviewed studies. Furthermore, it is argued that some ancient astronaut proponents such as Erich von Däniken have fabricated evidence and distorted the facts of archeological research." (WIKIPEDIA)

** Near Death Experiences

The authors are of the opinion that, <u>if differing in any way from Scriptural</u> <u>teaching</u>, these experiences may be explained by the following (pages 340-341) Paraphrased – see the book for more details:

- 1. The person didn't actually die but had a hallucination, possibly guided by a demon, or caused by the release of a chemical from the brain causing hallucinations; "could be the flickerings ... of a dying brain that hasn't fully died".
- 2. The person actually died physically with the spirit remaining in the body and had a hallucination before the return of consciousness, as noted above. (I'm assuming this is someone declared dead in a medical environment who was resuscitated, as opposed to the situation in Number 1, where the person believed him/herself to have died.)
- 3. The person suffered some sort of disjointed memory impairment (a subconscious response to psycho/emotional trauma).
- 4. The person did die and "for some reason God allowed them to have a demonically driven experience outside of their body while their physical body was dead", just as God allows people to have out of body experiences during occult practices.
- 5. The person did not die but "hovered in an intermediary state between consciousness and unconsciousness", similar to a person going into diabetic shock and seeing glowing white lights, etc.
- 6. They are simply making it up!

NOTE: People experiencing this phenomenon may genuinely believe they saw Heaven, saw Jesus, a dead loved one, etc. The authors don't deny this possibility, but because of their familiarity with the way Satan attempts to deceive, they seem highly skeptical of anything "out of body" coming from God. They compare this to the occult practice of astral projection. The authors maintain that a person's brain is "biologically impaired" when in a near death situation or out of body experience (OBE), and anything that contradicts the Bible is blatantly false.

OTHER QUOTES FROM "THE SECOND COMING OF THE NEW AGE":

"New Age and Christianity do not mix." Page 296.

"A major selling point of the New Age spirituality is that it is 'the lost wisdom of the ancients', but this wisdom is nowhere to be found in Scripture...and these 'ancients' were always enemies of God." Page 327.

"New Age is all about glorifying yourself and Christianity is all about glorifying God." Page 308.

RELEVANT WEBSITES:

http://reasonsforjesus.com/

http://joshpeckdisclosure.blogspot.com/2015/12/the-secret-of-new-age-theology-in.html

CHAPTER TITLES:

The Supernatural Reality of the New Age

New Age is Nothing New

New Age and the Occult

Science Falsely So Called

Personal God vs. Impersonal Force

False Christ, False Gospel

Religious Pluralism, Tolerance, and Postmodern Rhetoric

Death and Beyond

Space and Beyond

New Age Infiltrating the Church

Ministering to the New Age Movement ("New Agers mainly want to be understood, respected, and cared for...they only need to be (respectfully) introduced to Jesus."

RELEVANT BIBLE VERSES:

I Corinthians 10:20-21. "...I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons."

I **Timothy 4:1**. "Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons."

Romans 1:25. "...because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen."

I John 4:1-3. "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already."

Jude 1:17-19." But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions. It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit."

James 1:17." Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

John 14:10. "Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works."

II Peter 1:3." His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence."