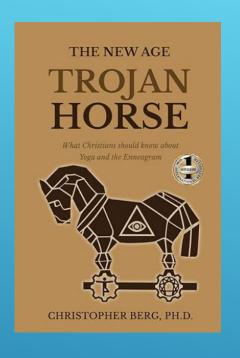
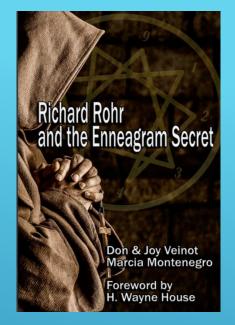
#### THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT



#### RESOURCES





Marcia Montenegro:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqh4XTDVboc

Cultish

https://thecultishshow.com/podcast/tag/New+Age

Alisha Childers - https://www.youtube.com/user/alisachilders

Melissa Dougherty
https://www.youtube.com/results?search\_query=melissa+dougherty

https://www.barna.com/research/competing-worldviews-influence-todays-christians/

Here are a few notable findings among practicing Christians:

- •61% agree with ideas rooted in New Spirituality.
- •54% resonate with postmodernist views.
- •28% strongly agree that "all people pray to the same god or spirit, no matter what name they use for that spiritual being."

27% say the belief that "meaning and purpose come from becoming one with all that is"

#### DEFINING THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

► It is a loosely structured network of individuals and organizations who share...



- ▶ Up to 12 million and growing.
- ► Started in late 1800's, grew in 1960's



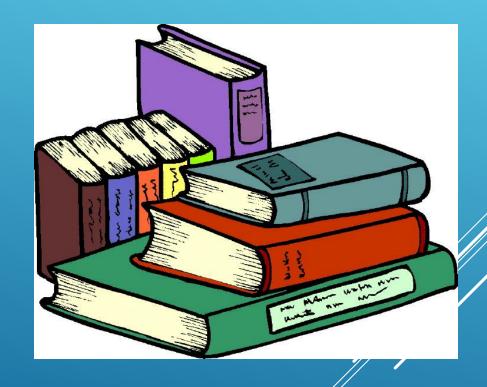


#### NOT A CULT

- ► Cults are exclusivist groups.
- Movements are unified but multifaceted like an umbrella under which a variety of individuals and groups coexist.

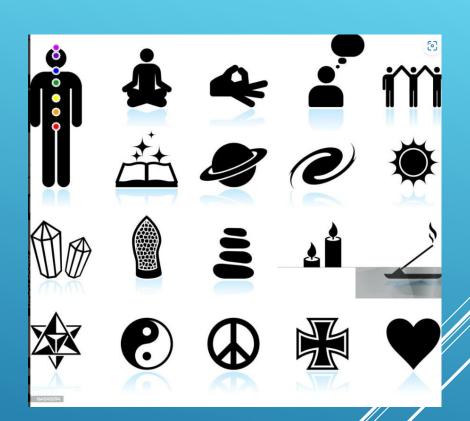
#### 1 — ECLECTICISM

- New Agers draw from various sources of "truth."
- ► Truth is not absolute, but is relative.
- Read Bible esoterically – discover hidden, secret meanings



#### 2 — RELIGIOUS SYNCRETISM

- New Agers attempt to combine and synthesize different religious and philosophical teachings.
- ► The movement is like a cosmic sponge.



#### 3 — MONISM

New Agers see all reality as a unified whole.



- ▶ Life is a divine oneness.
- ▶4 PANTHEISM
- ► New Agers believe God is all and all is God (pantheism).

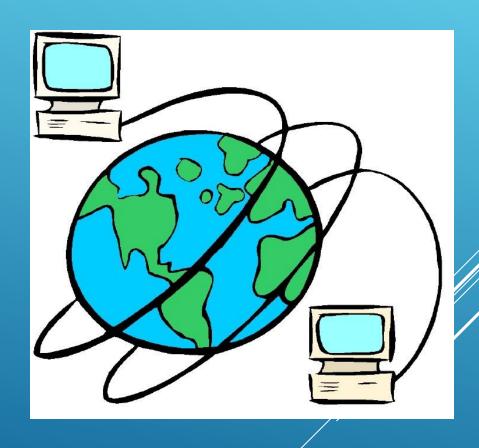
Man is viewed as being divine.

### 5- THEY DO NOT FOLLOW ONE INDIVIDUAL. 6 — TRANSFORMATION

- ► Personal transformation involves attaining "cosmic consciousness."
- Planetary transformation is brought about by a "critical mass" of personally transformed individuals.

#### 7 — NETWORKING

New Agers coordinate their efforts through networking.



#### 8 — ECOLOGICAL

- If it is true that all is one, then humans are interconnected with the world of nature.
- ► They must therefore care for nature.



#### 9 — BELIEF IN A COMING UTOPIA

► New Agers believe a new world is coming.

#### ▶ It involves

- ▶ a one-world government
- ▶ global socialism
- ▶ and a New Age religion.

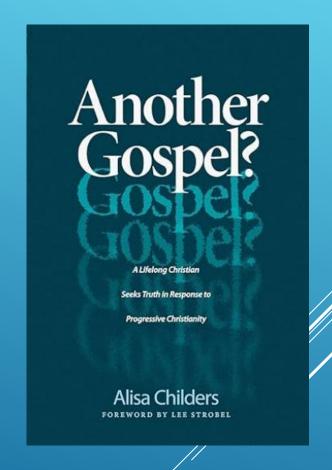
# TWO KEY DIFFERENCES TO NOTE:

A Different Jesus

A Different Gospel

#### **SCRIPTURE WARNS US:**

- ▶ 2 Corinthians 11:4
  warns about those
  who preach
  "another Jesus... a
  different spirit... a
  different gospel."
- ► Galatians 1:8 warns of "a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you."



#### JESUS WAS AN ENLIGHTENED MASTER

- ▶ Jesus was just a human who somehow became the Christ.
- ► New Agers offer different explanations as to how He did this.

#### **MATTHEW 24:24**

Matthew 24:24 warns us about "false Christs" and "false prophets."

## THE "DIFFERENT GOSPEL" OF THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

- ▶ There is no sin problem.
- ► There is no need for salvation.
- ▶ Problem: We've forgotten we are God.
- ► **Solution:** Rediscovery that we're God.

#### MATTHEW 7:15

- Matthew 7:15 warns about "false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves."
- ► False prophets may appear good, but in reality are very bad.



#### Counterfeit Jesus

+

Counterfeit Gospel

CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES

Counterfeit Salvation

#### MAKING CONTACT

- ▶ Dolphins and other animals.
- ▶ Ascended Masters on Planet Venus.
- ▶ Space Brothers aboard UFOs.
- ► Angels.

#### CONTACT THROUGH CHANNELING

- One can contact one's guardian angel through channeling.
- One's guardian angel can provide guidance for living.

#### CONTACT THROUGH PRAYER

- ▶ One can pray to angels.
- ► (God is very busy—too busy to hear so many prayers.)
- ▶ One can buy an angel prayer altar.

#### CONTACT THROUGH VISUALIZATION

- ▶ Visualization can induce an altered state of consciousness ideal for angel contact.
- ▶ In such a state, we can perceive angels.

#### CONTACT THROUGH CRYSTALS



- ▶ Crystals can be charged with angel energy.
- ▶ They will then attract angels in your life.

Melissa Dougherty – New Age – 6 minutes https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=dpsfTMcm-4s

#### CONTACT THROUGH WRITING LETTERS

- ▶ You can write a letter to an angel.
- ▶ It can then be "mailed."
- ▶ An angel can also write a letter to you!

## CONTACT THROUGH COLOR-COORDINATING THE WARDROBE

- ▶ Guardian angels like rose, pink, and soft green.
- ► Seraphim angels like crimson red.
- ► Cherubim angels like blue.
- ▶ Michael likes deep green, vivid blue, gold, and rose.
- ▶ Gabriel likes tan, brown, and dark green.

#### SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

- ▶ Angels can provide spiritual guidance.
- ▶ They help us become "perfect beings."

#### ATTAINMENT OF GOALS

- ▶ We can make a "Declaration" to angels.
- ▶ They will bring about whatever we declare.
- ▶ This is celestial positive confession.

#### BRAIN PROGRAM EDITORS

- ► Angels can edit our brains.
- ▶ They can transform negative thinking to positive thinking.
- ▶ They can rewrite our "software."

#### COMFORTERS

- ▶ Angels can comfort us.
- ▶ They can give us what we want.
- ► They are a "cheering squad" for our higher selves.

#### NEW RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCES

- ► Michael the Archangel advocates free thinking.
- ► He can introduce you to new religious experiences including pagan religions.

#### COPILOTS OF OUR LIVES

- ▶ We are urged to "let go and let angels."
- ▶ Angels can take over our lives if we let them.

## HOW CAN WE RESPOND TO NEW AGE ANGELOLOGY?

## WARNING: DEMONS CAN MASQUERADE AS GOD'S ANGELS

- ▶ In 2 Corinthians 11:14 the apostle Paul warned that "Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light."
- ► He and his demons propagate "doctrines of demons" (1 Tim. 4:1-3), including New Age angelology.

#### GOD'S ANGELS DO GOD'S WILL

- ▶ Angels are sent by God to accomplish *His* will among human beings (Ps. 103:20).
- They are interested not in a man-made New Age but rather in God's kingdom (cf. Rev. 5:11).

## HOLY ANGELS ALWAYS POINT TO GOD

- ▶ The holy angels always point to God.
- ▶ Scripture condemns angel worship (Col. 2:18).
- ► The holy angels reject worship and point to God (Rev. 22:8-9).

### ANGELS ARE NOT MEDIATORS

- ▶ Under no circumstances do angels act as mediators between humans and God.
- ▶ The only mediator is Jesus (1 Tim. 2:5).

## ANGELS CANNOT BRING MEANING TO LIFE

- ► True meaning is found in a personal relationship with Jesus (John 10:10).
- ► The holy angels point away from themselves and toward Jesus (Rev. 22:8-9).

## WE CANNOT INITIATE CONTACT WITH ANGELS

- ► There is no case in the Bible of a believer seeking to <u>initiate</u> contact with an angel.
- ► Rather, angels show up <u>unexpectedly</u>, and cause great fear (e.g., Luke 2:9-10).

### NO CONTACT VIA CHANNELING

▶ God detests spiritism: "Let no one be found among you...who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD..." (Deut. 18:10-12).

## NO CONTACT VIA PRAYER

- ▶ Prayer is to be directed only to God, not to angels (see Mt. 6:9).
- ▶ God needs no help from angels in hearing the prayers of His people (Ps. 34:15; 65:2).

### NO CONTACT VIA CRYSTALS

- ► Crystals are simply rocks created by God (see John 1:3).
- ► However, the New Age use of crystals involves occultism and stands condemned by God (Deut. 18:10-12).

### NO CONTACT VIA LETTERS

- Angels respond to God's verbal commands, not man's written requests.
- ► "Automatic handwriting" is a form of occultism and is condemned by God (Deut. 18:10-12).

## ANGELS ARE NOT BRAIN-PROGRAM EDITORS

- ▶ Our minds are renewed not by angels
  - but rather by feeding upon God's Word (Psalm 119)
  - ▶ and walking in dependence upon the Holy Spirit, who cleanses our minds (Galatians 5:22-23; cf. Titus 3:5).



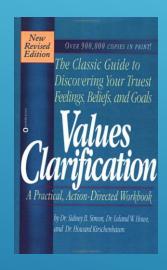
# HOW HAVE NEW AGERS PENETRATED EDUCATION?

## CURRICULUM TEXTBOOKS

- ► Curriculum textbooks have been systematically stripped of Christianity and Christian values.
- ▶ Yet, they include many New Age ideas (and pagan religions).

### VALUES CLARIFICATION

- Seeks to help students discover their own values.
- Values are not to be imposed from without (Scripture) but must be discovered within.
- ► The underlying assumption = there are no absolute truths or values.



## NEW AGE EDUCATIONAL AGENDA

### ► Emphasizes:

- ▶ altered states of consciousness
- Centering
- ▶ Meditation
- ► Relaxation
- ▶ Yoga
- ▶ Biofeedback
- ▶ and personal autonomy.

#### RIGHT-BRAIN LEARNING

- ► Educators say the right brain governs man's creative and intuitive abilities.
- ► The right-brain/left-brain distinction is not New Age per se.
- ► New Agers have appropriated the distinction to promote "right-brain learning techniques."
- ► These include yoga, meditation, chanting, and visualization.

#### MEDITATION

- Meditation is being taught to children in some school districts.
- A book that made its way into a California school district is Meditating with Children, by Deborah Rozman

### CENTERING

- Centering involves certain kinds of relaxation exercises.
- ▶ While "centering" may sound harmless, it is in reality a form of Eastern meditation.
- ▶ It has been taught to children in public schools.

#### GUIDED IMAGERY

- ▶ Guided imagery is also called visualization.
- ▶ It is sometimes used to help students meet an inner "helper," "spirit guide," or "higher self."//

### GLOBAL EDUCATION

- ▶ Involves educating students to think of themselves as global citizens.
- ▶ Includes such ideas as
  - the brotherhood of man
  - religious syncretism
  - and a one-world government.

## THE GERSHON-STRAUB GAME PLAN

► Visualize.

▶Use Positive affirmations.

### CREATE YOUR OWN GOD

Limiting Belief: God is a male figure with a lot of power who will punish me if I don't do the right thing.

► Turnaround: I create God as a loving, kind, playful, wise, powerful friend. We play together co-creating the universe.

## CONTROL YOUR OWN LIFE

Limiting Belief: Spirituality means giving over control of my life to some higher power that's outside of me.

► Turnaround: God's will is my own highest consciousness in this moment.

## CREATE YOUR OWN KIND OF SPIRITUALITY

Limiting Belief: To be spiritual I must follow a code of conduct laid out by a religion/guru/writer of a spiritual book.

► Turnaround: My spirituality grows out of my own self-knowledge. I trust it and found my actions upon it.

### CREATE A NICE WORLD

- ▶ Limiting Belief: The world is full of corrupt, evil people who are leading it down a road of destruction.
- ► Turnaround: I take responsibility to create the world as a beautiful and sacred place filled with beings committed to their own and the planet's evolution.

## THE PROBLEM WITH THIS VIEW...

- ▶ No ethical accountability.
- ▶ Can't condemn people who do evil.

## EVANGELISING NEW AGERS

## DON'T ASSUME ALL NEW AGERS BELIEVE THE EXACT SAME THING

- ► There is great diversity in the New Age Movement.
- ▶ Don't tell them what they believe.
- Ask them.
- ► Then engage in dialogue.

## BEWARE OF CONFUSION OVER TERMINOLOGY

### ▶ Consider this phrase:

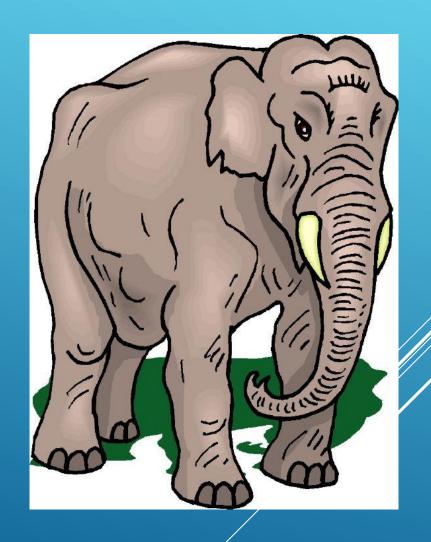
"Jesus Christ is God. He was crucified and He shed His blood, and then resurrected from the dead. Scripture speaks of His second coming."

### EMPHASIZE THAT GOD IS PERSONAL

- ► The God of the Bible is not an impersonal force, but is a personal being who can be worshipped.
- ► One can have a personal relationship with Him.

## USE COMMON SENSE

- New Agers say all religions are "one."
- They give an analogy of six blind men who wanted to know what an elephant was like.



## WORLD RELIGIONS — CONTRADICTORY

#### Doctrine of God.

- ▶ <u>Jesus Christ</u> Trinity.
- Muhammad there is one God who cannot have a son.
- ► Confucius polytheistic.
- Krishna polytheistic and pantheistic.
- ► <u>Zoroaster</u> religious dualism.
- ▶ <u>Buddha</u> the concept of God is irrelevant,

## JESUS MADE EXCLUSIVE TRUTH CLAIMS

- ▶ Jesus asserted: "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me" (John 14:6).
- ▶ Jesus' exclusivity caused him to warn: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many" (Matt. 24:4-5, 23).
- ▶ Jesus is the "one way" to salvation.

## ENCOURAGE THE GOLDEN RULE OF INTERPRETATION

- ► Interpret others' texts as you would have them interpret your own.
- New Agers would object if a Christian interpreted New Age books so that they came out sounding Christian.
- ► Likewise, Christians object when New Agers read the Bible so that it comes out sounding New Age.

### JESUS INTERPRETED LITERALLY

- Jesus never sought a hidden meaning when interpreting the Old Testament. He interpreted literally, including:
  - ▶ the Creation account of Adam and Eve (Matt. 13:35)
  - ▶ Noah's Ark and the Flood (Matt. 24:38-39)
  - ▶ Jonah and the whale (Matt. 12:39-41)
  - ▶ Sodom and Gomorrah (Matt. 10:15)
  - ▶ and the account of Lot and his wife (Luke 17:28-29).

#### ► QUESTION:

- Was Jesus the "Enlightened Master" right or wrong in this?
- ▶ If He was wrong, why do you call Him "enlightened"?
- ▶ If He was right, why not follow His enlightened example?

## NEW AGE METHODOLOGY YIELDS IRRECONCILABLE CONTRADICTIONS

- ► The New Age approach to the Bible leads to irreconcilable contradictions.
- ▶ The Second Coming is a good example.

## ALWAYS CHECK SCRIPTURE VERSES

- ► New Agers claims Jesus taught reincarnation (John 3:5).
- ▶ Never take their word for it.

## MAN'S PROBLEM IS NOT IGNORANCE OF DIVINITY

- ▶ Man's problem is sin.
- ▶ <u>Denying</u> sin is a primary manifestation of sin.
- ► An accurate cure for man's problem requires an accurate diagnosis.
- ► Sin necessitates a Savior.

## HUMANS LACK DIVINE QUALITIES

- ► God is all-powerful (Rev. 19:6), but man is weak (Heb. 4:15).
- ► God is everywhere-present (Ps. 139:7-12), but man is confined to a single space at a time (John 1:50).
- ► God is holy (1 John 1:5), but fallen man's "righteous" deeds are as filthy garments before God (Isa. 64:6).
- ► God is eternal (Ps. 90:2), but man was created at a point in time (Gen. 1:1, 21, 27).
- Recall the incomparability of Yahweh in the Old Testament.

### JESUS WAS NOT AN ENLIGHTENED MASTER

- ▶ Jesus is the Light of the world (John 8:12).
- ► True "enlightenment" involves believing in and following Him who is the Light of the world.

## BE READY TO DEBUNK REINCARNATION

- ▶ Reincarnation = continual rebirths.
- ► Based on Law of Karma.
- "The strongest support of reincarnation is its happy solution of the problem of moral inequality and injustice and evil which otherwise overwhelms us as we survey the world."
- ▶ So if young child dies, that's just karma!

#### REINCARNATION IS FLATLY UNBIBLICAL.

- ► Hebrews 9:27: Live once, die once, face judgment.
- ▶ No second chances.
- ► People decide eternal destiny in one lifetime (Mt. 25:46).
- ▶ Now is the day of salvation (2 Cor. 6:2).

- ▶ 2 Corinthians 2:11 warns us not to let Satan outwit us, "for we are not unaware of his schemes."
- ► Ephesians 6:11 tells us to take a stand against the Devil's schemes.
- ▶ Genesis 3:1 tells us the serpent is crafty.
- > 2 Corinthians 11:4 says Satan masquerades as an angel of light.
- Acts 13:10 says Satan's human followers are full of deceit and trickery.

# BEWARE OF SATAN'S SCHEMES

	Christian	New Age
Trinity	Yes. He exists eternally in three persons: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit, who are one in essence and equal in power and glory. Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Isaiah 43:10, Is 44:6, Is. 44:8, Isaiah. 45:5, 1 Timothy 2:5	Denial. God is impersonal force and the universe
Creation	There is one being of God who is creator and maker of the universe. Genesis 1:1; John 1:3; Col. 1:16-17; Ps. 102:25-27; Psalm 33:8-9; Psalm 148:5; Rev. 4:11	God is all and all is God. Pantheism
D:11	The 66 books of the Bible is the inspired Word of God, His revealed truth and is the infallible rule of faith for our lives and the standard we test truth claims. We affirm the Chicago Statement on Inerrancy. 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Peter 3:16; 1 Corinthians 14:37; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; Deuteronomy 18:18; 1 Corinthians 2:18; John 14:26; John 16:13; Acts 17:11; Matthew 15:3	One of many holy books communicating revelation and spiritual knowledge. They seek secret and spiritual meanings of the Bible. Not infallible. The voice within is more authoritative.

	Christian	New Age
Human Sinfulness	Tempted by Satan, he separated himself from God by voluntary disobedience. As a	Man has ignorance of divinity. Humans are divine and have unlimited potential they need to awaken. Since man Is God, God is within, man is already saved. They do affirm positive and negative karma.
Salvation	sin, which is eternal death, by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ and in repentance of sin. Man cannot earn nor work for his salvation. When one is saved he is said to be "born again" by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. We affirm the 5 Solas: sola scriptura (Scripture	Loose structured network of individuals and organizations who share a comon vision of a New Age of enlightenment and harmony (the Age of Aquarius") and who subscribe to a common set of religious and philosophical beliefs. Common beliefs is: Monism-all is one, pantheism (all is God), mysticism (the experience of oneness with the divine.
Virgin Birth	Yes. Matthew 1:18	Denial

	Christian	New Age
Humanity of Jesus	Yes. He is fully man in his human nature. John 1:14; Heb. 2:17-18; Heb. 4:15; Was born-Luke 1:35; 2:6- 7; needed food Luke 4:2, needed rest-John 4:6; Needed sleep Luke 8L23; Died-John 19:33	Jesus was a mere human and the Christ is divine. It could have been a divine entity that dwelt in Jesus body. He was a spiritual leader or guru.
Deity of Jesus	God has revealed Himself to man in the person of Jesus Christ. He is fully God and fully man. John 1:1, Titus 2:13; Jer. 17:10/Rev 2:18; Ps. 102:25-27/Heb. 1:10-12; John 1:14	Jesus is human, Christ is divinity.
Substitutionary Atonement	Yes. Isaiah 53:5; Hebrews 1:3; 1 Cor. 5:21' 1 Pet. 2:24;1 Pet. 3:18;	N/A there is no sin. Balanced world karma

	Christian	New Age
Bodily resurrection of Jesus	Yes. Mark 16:19; Matthew 28;Luke 28:6,9;Luke 24:31-43;Matt. 25:1-30; John 20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8	Denial
Return of Christ	The Lord will come visibly again for both	Varies. Some feel second coming are fulfilled with the coming of a specific individual named Maitreya. He is a leader of a group of ascended masters who guide humans spiritual evolution and have been living among us. Other new agers say the second coming is a cosmic Christ spirit on all of humanity. they will realize the spiritual presence within them.

	Christian	New Age
The Church	spiritual body by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13) at the moment of regeneration (Tit. 3:3-6), when an individual place their faith in the Lord Jesus as their savior (Acts 16:31). If still on earth they are members of a local church that meet regularly (Heb. 10:25) for edification (Eph. 4:12), worship (John 4:24), and participation in the ordinances. Paul addresses most of these in his epistles (e.g. "to the church of God which is in Corinth"- 1 Cor. 1:2). The local building is the physical church and the invisible Church is the Spiritual House – Christ is the chief cornerstone and the apostles are the foundation. 1	Loose structured network of individuals and organizations who share a common vision of a New Age of enlightenment and harmony (the Age of Aquarius") and who subscribe to a common set of religious and philosophical beliefs. Common beliefs is:  Monism-all is one, pantheism (all is God), mysticism (the experience of oneness with the divine
Eternity	forever. One will either exist	Reincarnation to work off bad karma and then absorption into the world soul.