

Preface

If there was any doubt among the general populace in early spring of 2008 regarding where Oprah stands on spiritual matters, there should be none now. What does she believe about a supreme God, Creator of the Universe? Who, according to Oprah, is Jesus Christ? On her TV show she has always seemed to agree with those who professed clear belief in God as Supreme and Jesus as the Divine Savior. In fact, though she does profess to be a Christian, it is now clear she is not really a Christian at all. Her online classes this spring reviewing Eckhart Tolle's book, *A New Earth*,¹ has made a number of tenants of her belief clear.

She is New Age, one who believes that today's humankind is a product of evolution and is destined to a series of life experiences through the process of reincarnation. Though she professes to be a Christian, she insists that Christ is not the only way to God. Any religion is right, any spiritual path is okay. While she may from time to time refer to God, she does not believe in the Supreme personal God of Heaven. She believes God is within each one of us... we each are God. She also believes there is no absolute truth; each person has her or his own truth.

Eckhart Tolle and his book, *A New Earth*, prompted her online classes, one week for each of the ten chapters, during which over two million viewers from all over the world had opportunity to pose questions and interject any thoughts and experience supporting Tolle's New Age philosophy.

The New Age movement is not really new. Its roots in humanism, which has been notably visible for the last hundred years or so, easily reach back to the 14th century. Today, its popularity is gaining strength, and this New Thought philosophy is now worldwide.

1 Tolle, Eckhart, *A New Earth* (2005), Penguin Group (USA), Inc., New York, NY.

My purpose in publishing this little book is to bring together in one work several articles written in review of Oprah's interviews with Eckhart Tolle regarding his book. And it is to answer those who read my newsletter articles on the subject and asked that a composite be published. Since the newsletter, several other articles on Tolle's teaching and the New Age philosophy have been written, which are also included in this book.

Much more could be said of both the good and the evil of Tolle's book. Yes, I believe there are both. My fear is that the attractiveness of peace and tranquility, the promise of strength to cope with anything life throws, and the hope of universal unity that he offers make the book's doctrine appear appealing. Many have tried Christianity and found the lifestyle too strenuous or the participants too hypocritical or the variety of doctrines too confusing and contradictory, and they have become disenchanted. Tolle offers hope, and that has proven to be appealing to millions. But therein is the great evil. It cannot be true. Those things he promises are not possible outside of Jesus Christ, and Tolle is not arguing for salvation in Christ.

The articles in this book are presented in the order dictated by a review of Eckhart's book, chapter by chapter. There are thirty-eight including a few that deal with the New Age philosophy in general. Since this is a critical review, I have purposely quoted a lot and, at times, at length as a means of being fair and accurate in presenting the views of New Age philosophy. Perhaps I should add here that not all New Agers believe the same things on every topic. Still, there is a lot of commonality among believers. And the number of believers is growing dramatically, some with one foot in denominational Christianity, others with ties to a myriad of world religions, and still others who profess nothing but some form of New Age religion.

I trust you will find this material useful as you come to an understanding of New Age teaching, and especially as you may have opportunity to discuss with a friend or relative who may be attracted to or caught up in the movement.

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