

CONCEPTS OF TRUTH

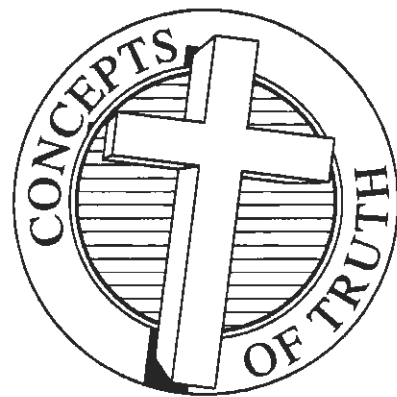
THE NEW AGE IS NOT SO NEW

A STUDY ON THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT AND
THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY'S QUEST FOR SURVIVAL

A THREE PART STUDY
by BRANNON HOWSE

"AND YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH,
AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."

John 8:32



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Preface

Together we shall embark on a study of a movement that claims to be new, but certainly is not. As we will discover in this study, the New Age philosophies have been around since the Garden of Eden. Satan, taking on the form of a serpent, deceived Adam and Eve into believing they could be a God. Even today, Satan, the master mind behind this New Age Movement, still desires to deceive both the saved and unsaved through this destructive and deceptive apostasy. Let us not be misled because of ignorance. Instead, recognize the beliefs, goals, and plans of the New Age promoters. This recognition and understanding of the New Age Movement will enable you to recognize the subtle ways of deception.

Indeed, the New Age Movement does have a plan. In fact, some popular New Age authors of the 1800's told followers to keep "the plan" secret until 1975.^A Certainly, various aspects of the plan became evident before 1975, but since 1975, the world's acceptance of the movement's plans and goals has been startling. An example of an early glimpse of the Movement was given through the famous 1960's musical, "Hair". The theme song was "The Age of Aquarius," otherwise known as the Age of New Beginnings. This is exactly what those in the New Age Movement are striving toward as they struggle to bring about a new government, religious, and economical structure.

It is important to remember that this study presents the basic beliefs of the New Age Movement. The beliefs of the New Age are limited only to what each individual follower desires to believe and practice. In fact, most New Age followers pick and choose their beliefs with the idea that, "if it feels good and works for me, it must be all right." Therefore, the New Age beliefs presented in this study may or may not cohere entirely with the beliefs of all New Age followers. However, the New Age beliefs and philosophies which are presented in this study are the most popular and publicized of all the New Age beliefs.

I in no way desire to mislead or frighten anyone into believing that the New Age Movement is more organized than is true. Currently, there is no organized New Age board or council, nor is there an organized New Age church headquarters. Nonetheless, this movement is real and is growing in popularity. The potential for a well organized board or council is there, but let us not become so over zealous with our study that we allow fear to cloud the facts. May God give us understanding and insight as we study this New Age Movement. May we also develop a deeper commitment to Jesus Christ and His inerrant Word, as we continue as faithful soldiers combating the destructive and deceptive devices of the enemy.

In His Service,
Brannon S. Howse



Teacher's Guide

Dear Instructor,

We at Concepts of Truth are pleased that you have chosen to use our curriculum as you study, prepare, and teach on the New Age Movement. We desire for your presentation to be the very best possible. Therefore, we have included a few tips to help you to this end. Please review these tips and incorporate them into your study and teaching time.

1. Begin to study and review the teaching material long before the presentation. This enables you, the teacher, to become so familiar with the content of the study that you are not totally reliant on your overheads for each and every word. If possible, it is very effective to have committed various points and quotes to memory, thus giving you the freedom to walk about the front of the room making eye contact with your listeners. Aside from giving a more personal feel to the presentation, it will give the following appearance:
 - A. You took the time to prepare for this study; you really know your material and you are not just reading the overhead.
 - B. You think this study is interesting and very important, even to the point of memorizing sections of the presentation.
2. Be willing to admit that even though you have studied the New Age Movement to some depth, you don't know everything there is to know about the New Age, because the New Age Movement proclaims that you can believe whatever you desire. You see, in the New Age, you are only limited by your imagination. Therefore, aside from the much publicized New Age philosophies that we shall study, the New Age is a self-made religion, making it impossible to know everything about the New Age.
3. Don't move too fast. Give the participants the opportunity to fill in the blanks in their workbooks from the master overheads.
4. If necessary, be willing to cover the material in more than three sessions. You might find this necessary especially if those participating in the study do not have a firm grasp on basic Biblical doctrines. If this situation arises, we suggest that you teach part three first, slowly explaining the differences between the New Age doctrines and the Biblical doctrines of Christianity. This is also a wonderful time to work in the plan of salvation.
5. It is very important to begin each session with prayer. Stress to the participants that Satan is completely against this is a study. Pray that:
 - A. Satan would be bound from causing any distractions that would hinder

5. It is very important to begin each session with prayer. Stress to the participants that this is a study that Satan is completely against. Pray that:
 - A. Satan would be bound from causing any distractions that would hinder the effectiveness of the study.
 - B. If anyone participating in the study is involved in the New Age Movement, that their eyes would be open to the truth they haven't understood before.
 - C. If anyone participating in the study has not accepted Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, that through this study, they will come to a saving knowledge of Him.

6. We have included a test that each participant may take at the conclusion of the study. Telling the participants that there will be a test at the conclusion of the study will cause them to pay special attention. If there is not enough time to administer the test during the structured three part series, then we suggest the following:
 - A. Let the participants take the test home to complete, as well as an answer key with which to check their answers.
 - B. Extend your study into four parts, and use part four to administer and grade the test. Either allow the participant to grade their own test, or exchange tests. Using the answer key, read aloud the correct answers.

7. If you are an instructor in a private school, and you are using this curriculum in a Bible class, or if you are home schooling, you might find the following schedule helpful:

Monday:	Presentation of Part I.
Tuesday:	Presentation of Part II.
Wednesday:	Presentation of Part III.
Thursday:	Conclusion of Part III, if not completed on Wednesday. Have a time for questions and answers and review for the test.
Friday:	Test.

The test and answer key has been included in your teacher's guide. You are free to make as many copies of the test as you need.

8. You will notice that under each blank line is a corresponding number. The numbers have been provided so that if a participant should miss a word or words while listening to the three part cassette recording, video tape or live performance, they may refer to the answer key at the back of the student manual and obtain the needed information.

If necessary you may use Thursday night to finish part three, however, we encourage you to try to conclude the study in three nights and use Thursday night to do the test that is included in the study guide.

We at Concepts of Truth pray that this study will be beneficial for both you and your participants. May God richly bless you as you continue to faithfully serve Him.

Sincerely,
Brannon S. Howse
President, Concepts of Truth.