



The fish is an early Christian symbol and contains the short creed: Jesus, Christ, God, Son, Redeemer. Christians believe that with the arrival of Christ the end times have begun. They do not expect a New Age, but the second coming of Christ

New Age and Christianity

- Christianity in its institutionalised form has no place in New Age thinking, because any kind of dogmatic claim of truth is rejected
- For Christians it is not possible to believe in a New Age, since they believe, that in Jesus Christ the time has been fulfilled. Christians know they live in the end times and only expect the fulfillment of history in the coming of Christ.
- On one hand New Age means a return to old gnostic ideas with their ways of self redemption, on the other hand New Age promotes an inner hollowing out of the Christian faith, since it encourages and welcomes an amalgamation of religions and cults. Not just a few Christians of our days have succumbed to this trend.
- Christians do not search for a way of an inner ascension towards the divine, since they believe in God, who has come down to them in Jesus Christ.
- Christians do not believe in ways of self-redemption by spiritual techniques, but they believe

In its quintessence New Age thinking is diametrically opposed to Christian revelation.

in the gift of salvation through the cross of Christ

- Christians believe that there is an enduring difference between God, the Creator and His creatures. The highest goal of man is not to develop divine potential, but to live perfect love in its fullness. Christians know they are called to an eternal dialogue of love.
- Christians cannot agree to the relativistic understanding of religion, since they are committed to the One who has said: „I am the way, the truth and the life: No one can come to the Father except through me.“ (Jn 14,6)

On the subject of New Age, there is an informative document issued by the Church:

“Jesus Christ, the bearer of the waters of life”. Considerations on New Age from a Christian viewpoint. Rome 2003. This document can be downloaded via the following internet address: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/interelg/documents/rc_pc_interelg_doc_20030203_new-age_en.html

Other writings on the subject:

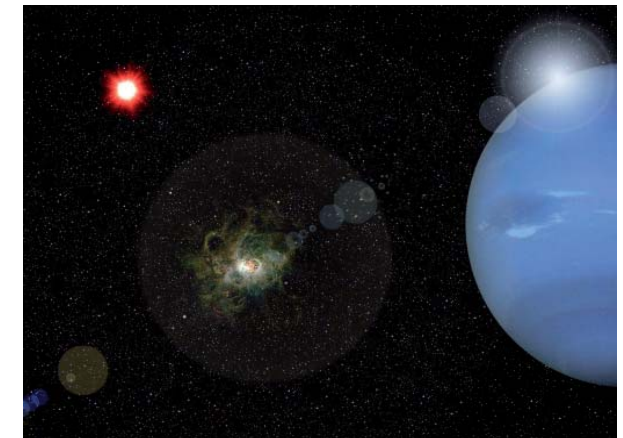
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Catchword

New Age

Since the late ,60ies of the 20th century, one cultural trend - known as New Age - has increasingly influenced our society. According to a contemporary astrological view, the coming age will also be known as the „Age of Aquarius“. After a 2000 year period where the Christian Age, the „Age of Pisces“, has influenced or shaped human history and culture, we are now supposed to stand at the beginning of a new era. What is this new era to bring and how do we Christians confront the teachings of the New Age?



New Agers believe, that the beginning of a new Age is announced by the stars.

The New Age Vision

- The New Age era is supposed to bring peace and harmony to the world. Each form of division will be overcome
- In the New Age, the nations will be gathered together within one world religion, there will be one world wide nation under one world wide government.
- A world religion will come, within which the diverse religious and spiritual traditions will come together and will be merged into a united whole.
- After the patriarchally influenced era will now come a gentler age, influenced by a more feminine spirituality.
- Man and nature will live in a new harmony, nature will again be recognised in its divinity. In a new ecology „the holiness of nature“ will be allowed for.
- There will be no more dogmas and no absolute truth, everyone follows „his or her own truth“.



In New Age perception everything is alive and possesses self consciousness. Even to the water is assigned the ability to understand speech and to interpret it. It is claimed that this is possible to be seen within the shapes of the ice crystals.

- Within the framework of New Age, old esoteric ideas and practices will become the general public's common property
- The enlightenment's rationalistic, intellectually oriented thinking, will be overcome. Intuition and feelings will be important above all.
- Symbol of the New Age is the rainbow, which unites in itself all colours of the spectrum



Under the influence of the New Age Movement, many turn to old, pre-Christian cultures and religions, in order to revive them. Celtic cult locations are enjoying great popularity.

Notions of God and of Man

- The thinkers of the New Age prefer a pantheistic view of God. The cosmos itself is supposed to be divine. Everything is one within the divine cosmos.
- The earth itself is supposed to be a living organism - „Gaia“ – and mankind living on it are like cells of her body.
- New Age proclaims the „New Man“, the enlightened man, who has acknowledged his godhead.
- The more people wake up to their divine nature and are beginning to mentally link to each other, the sooner the onset of the New Age will begin.
- Within the environmental milieu of New Age, many believe in reincarnation. Over the course of many rebirths on earth, man has developed into a divine super human.
- New Age is no religion, but a syncretistic movement. Elements of the most diverse religions are mixed together and merged. Eastern beliefs like Buddhism, Taoism, Hinduism, but also Shamanism, Indian religions, Gnosis, Cabbala and many more, bring an essential influence to bear. Within New Age all pagan traditions, already present in Europe prior to Christianity, will be revived again.

Who is behind the New Age Trends?

- The idea of a coming golden age is not new, but was already known in the ancient world.

At the root of the modern New Age Movement stands above all the theosophical society. It was founded by Helena Petrovna Blavatsky in 1875, when leading stimuli were put in motion, which are still effective in our days.



- The aim of this and similar groups is to transform society in line with New Age thinking. In a process which was meant to take place over several decades, the new age thinking was supposed to be introduced subliminally into society, so that it would finally become the determining world view.

Helena Petrovna Blavatsky (1831-1891), together with H. S. Olcott, founded the Theosophical Society in 1875.

- Within the New Age environment milieu, practices, linked to the relevant philosophies, are the ones which are preferred and disseminated. (This happens in all areas of daily life: health, career, education, leisure time, through practices like Tai Chi, Qi Gong, Mandalas, Homoeopathy, Bach-Flower Therapy, Precious Stones Therapy, Kinesiology, Transcendental Meditation, Yoga, Zen, Reiki and many others)



Within the seal of the Theosophical Society can be found religious symbols of diverse cultures.

- Important representatives of New Age are Marilyn Ferguson, Fritjof Capra, Ken Wilbur, David Spangler.