

REINCARNATION



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by:

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REINCARNATION

Is reincarnation taught in the Bible? Should Christians believe in reincarnation? Why do many Christians reject reincarnation? Why are an increasing number of Americans accepting reincarnation?

WHAT IS REINCARNATION?

A dictionary definition of 'reincarnation' is:

"The rebirth in new bodies or forms of life; esp.: a rebirth of a soul in a new body."

Reincarnation is not a new belief. It has been around for centuries. **Its roots** are in Hinduism. Hinduism is an eastern religion from India that is influencing the western world. As Christianity is increasingly being watered-down and biblical teaching is compromised the door is opening wider to error and false beliefs. **The caste system of Hindu India would crumple** without its belief in reincarnation. **Reincarnation is believed by the occult, spiritism, witchcraft, goddess religion, many nominal Christians and nearly all New Agers.** A significant number of Protestant theologians advocate and promote this false eastern teaching. Hollywood seems to be enamored with reincarnation.

Psychics teach that the spirits of the dead surround the living. They believe that contact with the dead is possible. **Jesus Christ**, on the other hand, taught that **the spirits of the dead** are either in heaven [dead believers] or in Hades [present abode of the departed unbelieving dead]. **See - Luke 16:19-31; John 8:21.** There is **no** middle plane, **no** purgatory, **no** floating about in the air of the souls/spirits of those who have died. The Bible teaches the existence of demons [fallen angels whose allegiance is to Satan]. **Demons are able to masquerade as the spirits of people** who have died. **Demons, as spirit beings, are knowledgeable** about the past life of everyone

who has ever lived. **Demons are able to present facts** as well as to imitate the voices of those who have once lived and are now dead. **Demons are called "familiar spirits"** in Scripture. God's people are commanded to have **nothing** to do with familiar spirits.

See - Lev. 19:31; 20:6,17; Dt. 18:9-13; 1 Sam. 28:3,7-9; 2 Kings 21:6; 23:24; 1 Chron. 10:13; 2 Chron. 33:6; Isa. 8:18-20; 19:3.

A future resurrection awaits **all** who have died. Believers **will** receive a resurrected body. **See - 1 Corinthians chap. 15.** When Christ was crucified, He died. **Three days later** He rose in the body from the grave. The four gospels record His bodily resurrection. That He rose in the body, not simply as a spirit, **is vital** to basic Christian teaching. In fact, it is **the bodily resurrection of Christ** that distinguishes authentic Christian faith from all of the religions of the world. **See - John 20:24-29.** Note what the apostle John recorded in **Revelation 14:13.** Unbelievers face an eternal separation from God's presence. **See - Rev. 20:11-15; 1 Pet. 3:18-20.** Upon death the spirit of the believer enters into the presence of God. **See - 2 Cor. 6:6-9.** **We decide** where we will spend eternity; whether in heaven or separated from God. There is **no second chance**, no coming back in another form, another life or another body; no reincarnation.

IS DEATH REAL?

Mind-Science and New Age philosophy teach that death is unreal. According to the popular writer **Elizabeth Kubler-Ross**, there is no death. It should be noted that *Dr. Kubler-Ross*, whose writings are widely read and used by many Christians, **is a spiritist.** Satan was the first one to promote this idea. **See - Gen. 3:1-4.** **Death is a real enemy.** However, death **will be finally defeated** because Christ **overcame** the power and penalty of sin, death and hell with His death, burial and bodily resurrection. **See - 1 Cor. 15:54-58.**

THE CLINICALLY DEAD

You may be wondering, **"What about people who have been declared clinically dead and have returned to this life?"** Satan is **the** master of deceit. Those who have been declared clinically dead **have not crossed over into eternity.** Satan is deceiving humans to believe that some have died, only to return to their body and to this life. Remember, Satan appears **"as an angel of light."** A person in a deep, deep coma or as **Dave Hunt** writes in his book, *The Cult Explosion*, "demonic manipulation of the brain cells as any other altered state of consciousness," may explain the clinically dead.

So-called **"out-of-body"** experiences, visits to other plains, etc. are **contrary** to biblical teaching. **Some charismatics are deceived in this area.** There is **a segment** of the Charismatic Movement that **borders** on occult practices. Satan is far more cunning than we imagine him to be. He is out to deceive and take the power and authority that belongs to God alone. **Satan is powerful but not all powerful.** God alone is all powerful! Never forget, Satan is **the** master deceiver. He is **the** father of lies.

Reincarnation cannot be Christianized.

The Old Testament Book of Job records, **"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another."** (Job 19:25-27). This promise is for **all** believers who will one day be resurrected and given a new body.

Reincarnation offers a false and misguided hope. *Where does it end?* If reincarnation is true, then the atoning sacrificial death of Christ was pointless and His death would have been in vain. The biblical doctrine of salvation would be false and Christians would

be duped into believing a lie if reincarnation were true. However, reincarnation is a lie. We need to prepare for eternity now! Faith, rather than fate, karma or luck is the principle by which we are to live life. Decision to personally receive Christ must be made now before death. After death is too late for our destiny is already set.

WHAT IS NIRVANA?

According to Webster Nirvana is, "the final beatitude that transcends suffering, karma, and sam-sara and is sought esp. in Buddhism through the extinction of desire and individual consciousness. . . a place or a state of oblivion to care, pain, or eternal reality."

What a contrast the pagan Nirvana is with the hope of the authentic Christian in a literal heaven (John 14:1-6). Nirvana offers the hopelessness of reincarnation whereas Christ offers hope and assurance of eternal life with God. Revelation chapters 21 and 22 present a glimpse into the glory that awaits believers. Christians have an assurance that no religion can offer. The believer's hope, assurance and faith is rooted in Christ. The essence of this hope is based upon the bodily resurrection of Christ from the dead. Jesus was not reincarnated but alive and in the same body that went to the grave. We are saved because of our Lord's death and body resurrection. Heaven is the promised destination for all who have personally received Christ as Savior and Lord. Being an bona fide believer is not necessarily synonymous with church membership. Believers are assured of heaven and eternal life without a reincarnation of body, soul or spirit. See - 1 Peter 2:9-11; Hebrews 11:6; 1 John 3:2-3.

Everyone faces physical death. When believing Christians die they enter into the presence of God. When non-believers die they are separated from God's presence. Believers

are promised a new body. This resurrected body will be a perfect one without any and all defects. See - 1 Corinthians 15 again.

Do not be deceived by religion and false beliefs. Religion is Satan's deception. "There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way to death" (Proverbs 14:12). Religion leads to spiritual death (Matt. 7:21-23). God's way leads to eternal life. See - John 14:6; 3:36; 5:24; Acts 4:12; 16:31. You can have the assurance of eternal life by receiving Christ into your life as Savior and Lord.

Reincarnation is false, deceptive and offers no hope. Those who accept this false teaching are being deceived and misled. God's plan of salvation is offered to all people regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, economic or educational status. Won't you consider the claims of Christ upon your life? Don't accept false belief and miss out on eternal life because of the inconsistency of some professed Christians. Biblical salvation is yours by personally receiving Christ into your heart and life. Why not open your life to Him right now? Contact us for information regarding salvation or other vital matters dealing with life.

We invite your inquiry about this ministry.

OLIVE TREE MINISTRIES

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