

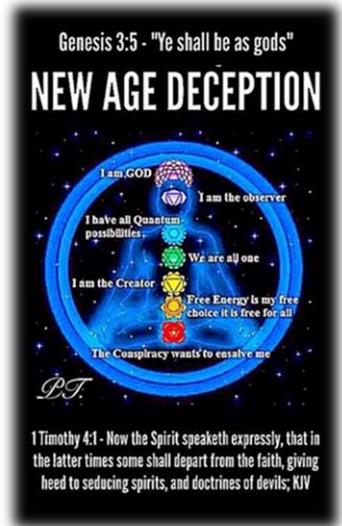
SOVEREIGNHOPE

bible presbyterian church

Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar #04-06, Singapore 409022
 Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
 Website: www.sovereignhopebpc.org
 Rev Dr Jack Sin: 91160948 (hp) / jacksin710@gmail.com
 Elder Loke Tat Luen: tloke822@gmail.com

The Subtle Spiritual Perils of the Age

The author read during the pandemic last year that a witch was operating from a central building of Singapore offering protection and healing services and spells and curses for those who need them but with a hefty fee. She touted that she has a growing business during the health crisis. There are magic jewellerys that can be bought as well that promise luck, health and success for the wearer. There are also psychic services, ritual oils, charged candles, aromatherapy, chakra and spirit companions. An attractive witch is available in person at the store for personal consultations. (see *Ask Me Anything with Bambi The Witch* (mustsharenews.com))



The Rise of Occultism & Eastern Mysticism

The New Age movement affirms the "teachings" found in many Eastern mystical religions and practices. Many New Agers are also enthusiastic supporters of the so-called "hidden arts", witchcraft and the occult, which they see as compatible with Eastern teachings. The occult, they say, is a two-edged sword which can be used for white or black magic. But Christians are to be knowledgeable of the dangers of the occult. (Lev 19: 28-31) There is no such thing as white or good magic as New Agers will find out to their horror one day, but it may be too late. (see *World Religions and Cults: The New Age Movement (Pantheism and Monism) | Answers in Genesis*)

The person who practices the occult arts is a Shaman. Joan Halifax, in her book *Shaman: The Wounded Healer*, states: "Communion with the purveyors of power is the work of the Shaman. Mastery of that power: this is the attainment of the Shaman." (Halifax, *Wounded Healer*, 1982) Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines Shamanism as an Eastern religion "characterised by a belief in an unseen world of gods, demons and ancestral spirits responsive only to

the Shaman." Increasingly, New Age literature has been popularly sold, packed with glowing stories of visualisation, spiritism, sorcery, dark magic, witchcraft, mother earth concepts and some alternative medicine. Some even falsely claimed that Christ is a kind of Mystic.

Douglas Groothuis said *“that another strand of revisionism harks back to a book called The Unknown Life of Jesus Christ, published in 1894 by a Russian journalist, Nicholas Notovitch. This book claims to unveil an ancient Tibetan record of Jesus’ “lost years” (between ages 13 and 29), which he spent studying, teaching and traveling in the mystic East. This Jesus bears little resemblance to the biblical Jesus”.* (see Douglas Groothuis, Ph.D. | Christian Philosopher and Apologist)

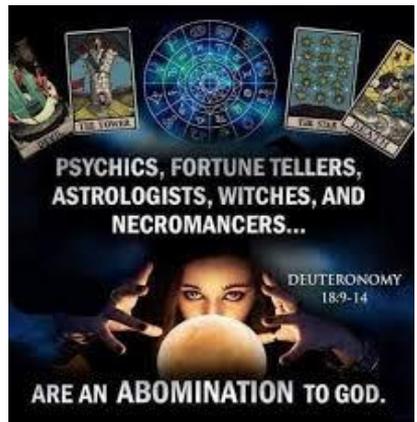
New Agers active in occultism & Eastern mysticism believes one can have higher consciousness and powers derived from a close relationship to hidden spirits and cosmic forces. These powers are said to enable them to work supernatural wonders. It is claimed a person can use 'White magic' (if there is such a thing) to heal sickness, win another's love, lose weight, improve school grades and work performance, memory or achieve other goals. Moses in Lev 19:27 warns believers to avoid such diabolical influences of Old Testament times, that is prevalent today,

Pernicious New Age Panacea

New Age leaders sometimes perform miracles with the power of Satan and wield considerable psychic skills. The Bible tells us that in the last days lying spirits will be able to perform miracles and apparently to emulate the wonders of God, His angels and prophets so well that, if it were possible, the very elect would be deceived (2 Pet 3:1-3; Matt 24:24).

Witchcraft and witch covens are also a growing movement in the East among pagan New Agers, who claim that witchcraft is a legitimate religion which has strong similarities to the Eastern religions: Harry Potter books and movies, Pokemon, Halloween promote it recently causing some to think it is harmless and is deceived into joining it with serious consequences.

The Bible warns us to avoid the dangers of practising witchcraft magic and occultism. We read in Deut 18:10-12, *“There shall not be found among you anyone that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an*



abomination unto the LORD. "(also see Gal 5:20 and Rev)

Today we have no lack of alternative forms of New Age panaceas or cures meant for all kinds of spiritual and psychological ills of our times. Many New Age therapists are dishing out outlandish remedies for sickness, ranging from cancers, kidney stones, strokes, to some common maladies like migraine, depression, insomnia, stress, PTSD, phobia and other compulsive obsessive behaviour and have attracted many adherents to their beliefs. Troubled souls flocked to these seductive cures and are easily enthralled by extraordinary claims of successes by these new age therapists. Aromatherapy, Yoga for children and babies too, Reiki, Transcendental Meditation, Feng Shui, Crystals, Hypnosis and other appearances are employed to buy spiritual healings, vitality or wellness to the soul as claimed. Christians are not spared as Churches and Christian colleges also market them in their messages or classes with questionable and practices infiltrating the Churches and even Bible colleges. There is a preponderance of New Age spiritual practices and wares including hypnotherapy, Geomancy and yoga are available at the marketplace to all who are seeking.

Biblical Admonitions

The Bible warns us of spiritual deception in these last days when the evil one will try to mislead and seduce many into spiritual darkness. Jesus warns in Matt 24:3, 4, And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, *Take heed that no man deceive you.*"



In 2 Pet 2:1-2, it says, "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." One needs to be vigilant and informed of the potential dangers and spiritual entanglements with the forces of darkness. **This includes the latest occultic games on the internet ie Diablo, World of Warcraft) and mobile phones with its special effects in Artificial Intelligence and some Occult movies, (soon to be in the Metaverse) played up horror in diabolical and violent Netflix or television programmes and movies (ie Lucifer Rising and Dances Sacred and Profane, etc).**

Transformational Evolution

The New Age teaches and promotes man centred evolution as opposed to biblical creation. An addition to the theory of evolution is the concept of "punctuated equilibria". According to this theory, species can develop quickly over time. It does not take millions of years of random selection, as Darwin proposed, for a new specie to evolve. Instead, an entire new species can arise over a brief period of only tens of thousands (not millions) of years. (see *Punctuated equilibrium: come of age? (creation.com)*)

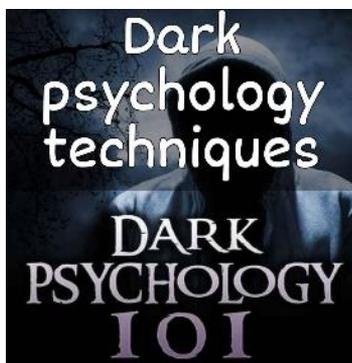
Some New Agers subscribe to this theory that empirical evidence supports a young earth. They believe that an evolutionary leap can occur instantaneously. This theory of spontaneous, super-rapid evolution has become known as transformational evolution. New Age teachers and gurus are fascinated by the idea that modern man might be on the precipice of an incredible evolutionary leap to a level of superhuman higher consciousness. He will then apparently be a god and rule this universe.

They believed that as more and more racially superior human beings become aware of their divine nature and their latent powers within, New Age doctrine holds that a critical mass of energy will develop, and a new Cosmic Consciousness will envelop the globe. Transformed into Superbeings (ie the latest Anime heroes of the Japanese cartoon shows), Homosapien will become a race of gods.

There is speculation that Enlightened man shall rule the universe, unite with it and he and it shall become one. New Agers often quote Lama Govinda, an Indian mystic who taught that the entire cosmos is but an extension of the human mind. Said Govinda, "*To the enlightened man... whose consciousness embraces the universe, to him the universe becomes his physical body, while his physical body becomes a manifestation of the universal mind*" (Texe Marr, *Secrets of the New Age*, 193). This is the devil's deception, and many have been fooled into believing it.

The Malevolent Abuse of the Powers of the Mind

Mental health is a major concern here and there is a legitimate place for it but it can be affected by some who think they can unlock with super natural forces in their minds to perform healing of the mind and soul without God. The emphasis on psychotechnology and the mind sciences by New Age advocates reflects their pre-occupation with self. Satan's goal is to confuse or separate man from God's Word and seduce and deceive them into defective practices and to lead some to eternal destruction. Therefore, the New Age World Religion focuses on the



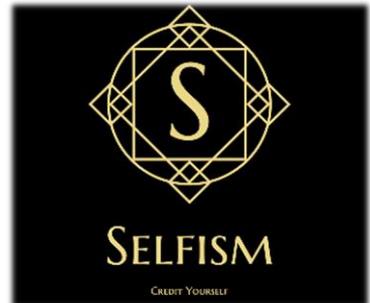
individual. Its seductiveness and attraction lie in its promises to make believers divinely powerful and give them absolute control over their lives. The individual is held up as either a god or a potential god whose latent, godlike power can be unleashed through self-help application or the use of psychedelic drugs to alter one's consciousness and release the powers of the mind. The New Age believer is convinced that through diligent self-help and by invoking spirit guides (ie Shirley Maclaine supposedly had a 9,500 year old spirit in her called Rama) can link his own psyche to the Universal Mind. In this way, he can create his own reality. Health, wealth and happiness are thought to be self-created.

New Age psychologists and teachers successfully appeal to many potential unsuspecting Christians with a "psychological gospel" and claim that man can attain a godlike mind power. A number of New Age healers and ministers practise psychic healing and claim to demonstrate other supernatural phenomena. "Anyone can do it" is the bait that lures people and many are seduced by it. (*Texe Marr, Dark Secrets of the New Age, 193*).

Selfism & Deification of Man

Satan told a lie and deceived the first woman to believe she can be a god, Satan teaches self-love and self-worship and that we may forget all about the true God in heaven. Contrary to popular belief, the Bible does not teach self-love or self-esteem but self-denial in Luke 9:23 and temperance (that is, self-control in Gal 5:23).

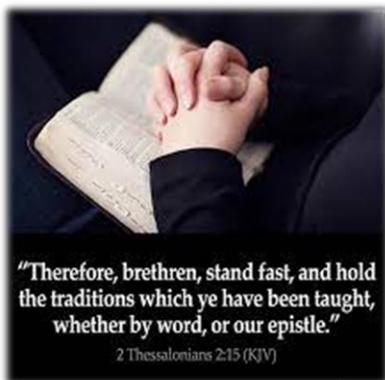
Today's New Age leaders are emphatic about the man-centred focus of their religion, attributing to man a divine dimension within us. Some proclaim that at the very heart of their heretical doctrine is the teaching that man-is-a-becoming-god. This is the essence of some proclaimed Muktanada, a guru tells his listeners: "Kneel to your own self, honour and worship your own being- God dwells with you as you!" This is a subtle form of self-idolatry prohibited strictly in the First Commandment (see Exod 20:1-5). (see About Swami Muktananda — Baba Muktananda)



The seductive concept of selfism aligns New Age religion with contemporary lifestyles. Some Famous Psychologists, fashion experts, beauty advisors and inspirational speakers (ie Anthony Robbins, Zig Ziglar, Dr Oz) some of even so-called Christian minister (ie the late Norman Vincent Peale and his positive thinking), exhort us to put self first, to love ourselves and to seek, before all else, to be smart, beautiful, self-sufficient, rich, successful. That is why some flock to make themselves feel and look good for success. The attainment of "self-esteem" or self-actualisation is touted by some psychologists to be the primary and most important ingredient in a contented and happy life but have left many till depressed and unsatisfied while treated with these remedies.

Conclusion

Believers need to be vigilant, alert and discerning in these last days where false prophets and spiritual charlatans abound with their spiritual wares (2 Pet 3:1-2), even denying the deity of Christ and the Trinity. The evil one is successfully deceiving and misleading many unsuspecting and credulous believers into new age malevolent practices like Yoga, Reiki, Tarot Cards, Feng Shui, Crystals and Spell-Casting. Paul in 1 Thess 5:21-23 warns, *“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* Note Paul in 2 Thess 2:15 says, *“Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.”* Test all spirits and be forewarned of greater spiritual deception in the days ahead.



Jack Sin

(NB. Works consulted include Kerry McRoberts New Age or Old Lie, Hendrickson Publishers, 1989 and Edmond Gruss, Cult and Occult, Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1974 and Texe Marr, Secrets of the New Age, Crossway Books, 1987)

THE HOLY SPIRIT & THE BELIEVER TODAY

Lord's Day Programme for Oct-Dec 2022



OCTOBER

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|----|--|----|---|
| 2 | The Work & Nature of the Holy Spirit
(John 14:16-31) | 23 | Walking in the Spirit
(Galatians 5:1-16) |
| 9* | The Holy Spirit & Regeneration
(Titus 3:1-8) | 30 | REFORMATION SUNDAY
Why We Should Persevere
in Our Reforming Spirit
(Jude 1-9) |
| 16 | The Holy Spirit & Prayer
(Romans 8:20-34) | | |

NOVEMBER

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|-----|--|----|---|
| 6 | The Filling of the Holy Spirit
(Ephesians 5:15-21) | 20 | The Holy Spirit & Sanctification
(2 Peter 1:1-11) |
| 13* | The Fruit of the Spirit
(Galatians 5:1-23) | 27 | The Holy Spirit & Witnessing
(Acts 1:1-11) |

DECEMBER

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|-----|--|----|--|
| 4 | The Holy Spirit & Worship
(John 4:20-30) | 25 | CHRISTMAS SERVICE
When the Heavenly King Condescended
(1 Timothy 3:1-16) |
| 11* | The Holy Spirit & the Charismatic Movement
(1 Corinthians 13:1-13) | 31 | WATCHNIGHT SERVICE
Guidelines for End Times Living
(Mark 13:20-37) |
| 18 | The Gifts of the Spirit
(Romans 12:1-12) | | |

SOVEREIGNHOPE
bible presbyterian church

PASTOR JACK SIN +65 91160948 | SOVEREIGNHOPEBPC@GMAIL.COM
WWW.SOVEREIGNHOPEBPC.ORG | 160 PAYA LEBAR ROAD, ORION@PAYA LEBAR #04-06 SINGAPORE 409022

BRING A FRIEND!

SOVEREIGNHOPE
evangelical presbyterian church

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

*When the Heavenly King
Condescended*

COME AND FIND OUT THE TRUE MEANING
OF THE FIRST COMING OF CHRIST AND
ITS LASTING IMPACT IN OUR LIVES TODAY

BY REV JACK SIN

DECEMBER 25,
10:00 AM

VENUE : SOVEREIGN HOPE BP CHURCH
160, PAYA LEBAR RD, ORION
@ PAYA LEBAR #04-06, S(409022)

All Are Welcomed

THOSE INTERESTED TO INFORM
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*Jesus
IS THE
Reason
FOR THE
Season*



SOVEREIGNHOPE
evangelical presbyterian church

WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

**Guidelines for End
Times Living**

BY REV JACK SIN

DECEMBER 31
8:00 PM

VENUE :
SOVEREIGN HOPE BP CHURCH
160, PAYA LEBAR RD, ORION
@ PAYA LEBAR #04-06, S(409022)

THOSE INTERESTED TO INFORM
DN YUE KAY AT 97450311 BY 20 DEC 2022

Memory Verse

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Sunday Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor speaks this morning on "***The Holy Spirit & Spirit & Worship (Jn 4:20-30)***", continuing the quarterly series on "The Holy Spirit & The Believer Today".
3. Pastor will be preaching next Sunday on "***The Holy Spirit the Charismatic Movement (1Cor 13:1-13)***".
4. The following Sunday School classes continue after worship service:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith – Pastor
 - Addressing Objections to the Gospel – Joseph Wee
 - Studies in 1 Chronicles – Dn Kwong Leen
5. **Christmas Day Worship Service on Sun morning 25 Dec 2022** will be an evangelistic outreach. Pastor will preach on "***When the Heavenly King Condescended***" and brother Alvin will share his salvation testimony. Bring someone to hear the Christmas message and the gospel of Christ.
6. **Watchnight Service** will be held on **Sat 31 Dec 2022, 8pm**. End the year with worship, thanksgiving and reflection of the past year and heart preparation for the new year 2023.
7. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. Included in the programme is a video study on Fundamentals of Theology on alternate Sundays. Join us for a time of profitable learning.
8. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church.
9. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 6 Jan 2023, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
10. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
11. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**
