New Age Movement (NAM)

**WHAT IS THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT?**

* No Church
* No Bible
* No single leader
* No list of members
* Umbrella movement that embraces a wide range of beliefs and practices
* Grew out of the American countercultural movement of the 60’s and 70’s {Hippies, Jesus freaks, Woodstock}
* It is like a sponge
* Collects different ideas from different:
* Religions
* Cultures
* Philosophies
* WHY??? To bring these different approaches to life into one unified whole

**IS THE NAM A CULT?**

* Sects (Christian cults) Sects and so-called Christian cults are groups of people who have broken away from generally accepted orthodox Christianity.
* They have at least one major disagreement (heresy) in their teaching which normally centers around the deity of Jesus Christ and the place of the Bible as a rule of faith.
* Cults (non-Christian cults) A religious group which is usually considered to be extreme and heretical by mainstream Christianity.
* Often live in unconventional ways
* Under the grip of an authoritarian charismatic leader.

**NEW AGE WORDS**

* Holistic (characterized by the view that a whole system of beliefs must be analyzed rather than simply its individual components)
* Holographic (a method of recording and showing a three-dimensional image of an object using a photographic plate and light from a laser)
* Synergistic (in Christian theology, the doctrine that the human will and the Holy Spirit work together to bring about spiritual regeneration or salvation)
* Unity (the combining or joining of separate things or entities to form one)
* Oneness (the quality of being one as opposed to many)
* Harmony (a situation in which there is friendly agreement or accord)
* At-one-ment (indicating the condition or state that somebody or something is in)
* Transformation (a complete change, usually into something with an improved appearance or usefulness)
* Personal growth
* Human potential
* Awakening (a revival or renewal of interest in something, especially religion)
* Networking (the process or practice of building up or maintaining informal relationships, especially with people whose friendship could bring advantages such as job or business opportunities)
* Consciousness (the state of being awake and aware of what is going on around you)
* Energy (the ability or power to work or make an effort)

**IDEAS AND PRACTICES WITHIN THE NAM**

* Making the most of one’s spiritual dimensions
* Using holistic medicines
* Belief on reincarnation
* Belief that events in the world are influenced by the stars
* Following the general ideas of Eastern religions
* Engaging in occult practices(relating to, involving, or characteristic of magic, witchcraft, or supernatural phenomena)
* Practicing nature worship

**THE “AGE OF AQUARIUS”**

* Taken from astrology
* New Agers believe that this time has dawned
* “We are about to make a great step forward in consciousness and spiritual discovery”
* This will result in “peace and enlightenment”
* Humankind will be “re-united with God”
* They believe that we must “seek the divine that is within us and in so doing, usher in the new millennium as a revived people

**NEW WORLD ORDER**

Variously described as:

* New Age Religion
* One world government
* Global socialism
* Characteristics of this NOW is – self realized righteousness
* New Age are still not think that humanity is completely separated from God
* They think that all you need is more understanding about the true nature of God, and reality
* New agers do not believe that humanity is cut off from God because of sin

(see Isaiah 59:2)

**SHARED NON-CHRISTIAN CONCERNS.**

* Care for the environment.
* Criticism of the materialism of the West

**PANTHEISM**

* everything is a part of God
* humanity is a part of everything
* therefore, men and women are a part of God
* God is said to be the great “ oneness of being”
* these ideas have been taken from Eastern mystical religions
* anything which can be said to have metaphysical roots is labeled as God
* the New Age God is not a moral being or even a supreme being
* they think of God as an impersonal and amoral force
* they teach that we are all (see Isaiah 44:24)

**NAM VIEW OF SALVATION**

* Salvation means to “be in tune with the divine consciousness”
* Being in harmony with reality & with whatever you perceive to be true
* “Sin” is not in their vocabulary
* They do not acknowledge sin or sinfulness
* Therefore there is no need of a Redeemer
* Jesus as Savior is seen as unnecessary
* They say, “All you need to do is realize your own divine nature”
* Salvation consists in thinking the right way
* WHAT YOU NEED TO BE SAVED FROM IS NOT SIN, BUT IGNORANCE
* If you understand your own godlikeness and goodness you are saved.