

# Christianity and the Ageless Wisdom Teaching

*Historically, at the beginning of every cosmic age (approximately every 2,150 years), or in times of exceptional crisis, great spiritual teachers have entered our world to help humanity take its next evolutionary steps forward. We know them, among others, as the Christ, Buddha, Krishna and Mohammed. Each has given a body of teaching, the central and common theme of which is 'right human relations' as expressed in the following tenets.*

## **Christianity:**

"So whatsoever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; for this is the law and the prophets"

## **Hinduism:**

"Do not to others, which if done to thee, would cause thee pain"

## **Buddhism:**

"In five ways should a clansman minister to his friends and familiars – by generosity, courtesy and benevolence, by treating them as he treats himself, and by being as good as his word"

## **Judaism:**

"What is hurtful to yourself, do not to your fellow man"

## **Islam:**

"No one of you is a believer until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself"

## **Taoism:**

"Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain and regard your neighbor's loss as your own loss"

**It is only by discovering the common source of wisdom from which these faiths, and others, have emerged that we will truly understand our spiritual connectedness as children of the One Father - by whatever name we call Him.**

This common well-spring of wisdom is an ancient body of spiritual teaching handed down from generation to generation and known as the Ageless Wisdom Teaching. The Ageless Wisdom Teaching, or esotericism, as it is often called, is not a religion. It is not, strictly speaking, a philosophy; it is not an art or a science, but it has something of all of these. It is the philosophy, or the science, of the evolutionary process - the evolution of consciousness, not of the physical form. These teachings are as old as humanity itself and come from a group of spiritually advanced individuals who have gone beyond the strictly human stage and have entered the next kingdom, the Spiritual Kingdom. They are the Masters of Wisdom and the Lords of Compassion. They are men and women like us who have expanded their consciousness to include the spiritual levels. There are a large number of these enlightened individuals on our planet, who have been living in the remote mountain and desert areas for thousands of years. From time to time, They release aspects of Their teachings, in so far as we can absorb and use them, to enlighten us. From behind the scenes, these Teachers have guided and shaped civilization after civilization, leading to all the great advances in human endeavor, be they in the sciences, politics, the arts or religion.

The purpose of this brochure is to demonstrate the underlying synthesis between the Ageless Wisdom Teaching and certain tenets of Christianity. The material was originally compiled by Reverend Howard Ray Carey, a Methodist minister for more than half a century. In 1967, while actively serving a Southern California congregation, Reverend Carey was introduced to the Ageless Wisdom Teaching. Recognizing that it in no way conflicted with his long-established belief system, he began to incorporate many of its principles and concepts into his ministry.

In 1980 Reverend Carey was introduced to British artist and lecturer Benjamin Creme, whose information about the imminent return of the Christ opened further doors of understanding. Until his death in 1986, Reverend Carey worked to share this extraordinary message with everyone he met. Carey's writing has been used as reference material in this brochure.

This brochure, like Reverend Carey's original brochure, uses Ageless Wisdom 'keys' to unlock the mysteries of the Christian Bible. The Ageless Wisdom Teaching is equally relevant to all the great scriptures, and is therefore a valuable tool for all seekers after Truth - regardless of religious affiliation.



### Understanding the Bible

The Bible is actually a library of 66 'books,' and its many authors included Old Testament prophets, priests and scribes, some identified by name and some anonymous. Some books of the New Testament were written by apostles of Jesus, such as Matthew, John and Paul, while some were written by their followers or disciples, such as Mark, Luke and Timothy.

### Is the Bible God's word?

Yes, in the sense that God 'speaks' to us through the words of the Bible, and was the source of inspiration for its authors. However, to see the work of God solely in terms of the Bible is to limit our conception of Him. His presence and guidance can also be seen in the lives of those men and women who have stood above the crowd throughout human history; those who have inspired us and directed our aspirations 'heavenward'.

### Did God dictate what the Bible's many authors wrote?

Many Christians claim that the Bible and its contents came verbatim from God, making it infallible. In considering such a claim, it is important to study the evolution of the Bible. In modern times it does not appear as it did when first compiled. Since its origin, it has seen many editions and undergone numerous re-interpretations. Early church leaders even debated for some time which books should be included. Is it reasonable to accept that all such 'events' surrounding the Bible for the last 2,000 years were divinely inspired?

### Original meanings lost through translation

Those who translate the written word from one language into another warn us that original meanings are often lost in the process. Unless one understands the idioms, customs, psychology and other factors indigenous to a particular culture, accuracy in translation becomes very difficult.

It is widely known that the Bible used in modern times was translated from Greek. It is less widely known, and a subject of disagreement among some scholars, that the Greek translation was actually derived from Aramaic. Even those who translated the Greek New Testament into the King James version during the early 17th century exhibited

a limited knowledge of Greek. If they were thus limited, would it not follow that errors in translation might occur? A comparison between the modern Bible, the Greek translation and the earliest version in Aramaic would no doubt indicate different meanings among them.

### How are we to interpret what is written?

Jesus gave us an important key when He said: "Why do you not judge for yourselves what is right." (Luke 12:57) This is an injunction by Jesus for the listener to decide for himself, not to depend upon another person or outside authority for interpretation. Yes, it would be a mistake to throw out all the research and work of those who are expert in such areas of interpretation. But, at the same time, such expertise should only be used as a guide in arriving at one's own interpretation.

The Bible serves many purposes: it depicts historical events, symbolically represents aspects or traits within each of us, and gives us guidance and parameters within which to conduct our lives. Take for instance the account of Jesus' stilling the storm of lake Galilee, recorded in Mark 4:35-41. If one considers the lake or sea of Galilee as the sea of life, on which we are making our voyage, then the story could represent the waves of our emotional life, tempests which threaten to drown us. Jesus was said to be asleep in the stem of the boat, so also the Christ consciousness often remains slumbering within us until the storms are severe enough to cause us to call on Him for aid. Then we find that He has the power to bring tranquility to our troubled lives and direct us to the desired harbor, toward which we have set our sails.



The Bible uses the term 'God' to indicate the Creator or Supreme Being. "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters... So God created humankind in His image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:27)

In this sense, the Bible and the Ageless Wisdom Teaching agree that there is but one supreme Life, the creator and sustainer of all that exists. And while there is but one God, this divine Life manifests on many levels, human and non-human.

More specifically, in the Ageless Wisdom Teaching, God is seen as the sum total of all the Laws and all the energies governed by these Laws for everything in the manifested and unmanifested universe. God is transcendent and immanent. That transcendent



## Relationship between Jesus and the Christ

God is manifest in every aspect of creation, including ourselves.

We are not separate from that creation — from God. Every human being has the potential of the knowledge, the awareness, of all in creation that we can think of as meaning God.

### Jesus and the Christ explained

In the Ageless Wisdom Teaching, the title "World Teacher" is automatically conferred on the One who serves as the Head of our Spiritual Hierarchy of Masters, called the Masters of Wisdom. They are the group of advanced Beings who, from behind the scenes, have inspired and guided the evolution of humanity since our beginning on Earth.

Maitreya ("the Happy One"), Who embodies the energy we call the Christ Principle, the energy of Love, has held the office of Christ and served as the World Teacher for over two millennia. In Palestine, He manifested himself in the traditional way, through His disciple Jesus, to inaugurate the age of Pisces, then beginning. The method used is called spiritual overshadowing, that is, His consciousness informed and guided the actions and teachings of His disciple Jesus. It was, therefore, the consciousness of the Christ Maitreya, which was seen and experienced by those around Jesus for the last three years of Jesus' life. The events from Jesus' life and His words have been greatly misinterpreted due to this little understood connection between His work and that of Maitreya the Christ. This has given rise to the age-old theological point of contention—namely, whether Jesus was God or man, or perhaps both together. The answer is that Jesus was a man who, as a result of the process of spiritual

evolution, became a Son of God as does everyone eventually. Others had gone before Him and many have traveled that path since. The disciple Jesus of 2,000 years ago has become one of the most senior Masters in the Hierarchy: the Master Jesus. Since 1984, He has lived on the outskirts of Rome. His work is to try to raise the Christian churches out of their state of crystallization and rivalry and, if invited to do so, to lead a newly united Christian Church. By doing so, He hopes to resolve the many contradictions and misunderstandings that have arisen during the course of the centuries about His historic role and the teachings that He then disseminated as a vehicle for Maitreya.

**“I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”**  
**(John 14:6)**

The Christ's statement here, made through Jesus, refers to a duty performed by the Christ as Guardian of the Gates through which all men and women pass on their journey back to the Source of Being. This refers to the first and second initiations, that of The Birth and that of The Baptism, dramatized for us by Jesus as described symbolically in the Bible. As the Teacher for those individuals preparing for one or the other of these two expansions of consciousness, the Christ oversees their tests and when ready, they pass through the gates of initiation.

### Initiation

The Gospel story symbolizes the path of initiation, a story which has been given to humanity over and over again throughout the ages. Each initiation shows control over some level of consciousness. They

are all stages of awareness. The Birth at Bethlehem, the Birth of Jesus, symbolizes the first initiation, the birth of the Christ Consciousness in the cave of the heart. It demonstrates the control over the physical plane. The second initiation is called "The Baptism." It is symbolized by the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan. The initiate demonstrates control over his or her own astral or emotional nature. At the third initiation, the "Transfiguration," the initiate is able to demonstrate control over the mental body, is released from illusion and becomes, for the first time, truly divine. Jesus' "Transfiguration on the Mount" is the symbol for this initiation. The fourth initiation, called in the West the "Crucifixion," demonstrates that the world of matter no longer has any lure. The initiate has overcome, and can give up everything - family, reputation, talents, life itself - and die the death of his or her lower nature. All of that is renounced, crucified, for the higher Spiritual Being. Then comes the great moment of Resurrection, the symbol for the fifth Initiation, symbolized in the life of Jesus when He was resurrected. This initiation makes one a Master, a Resurrected Being, one who has mastered completely the lower nature.

**“The Kingdom of God is within you” (Luke 17:21)**

"Heaven" is an inner state of Being or consciousness. "The Kingdom of Heaven is within," as Jesus himself said. The Ageless Wisdom Teaching teaches that the Kingdom of Heaven is the Spiritual Kingdom, the Kingdom of Souls, the Spiritual Hierarchy of Masters and Initiates, the kingdom immediately above the human. It is entered into through the door of the third initiation, the Transfiguration, at which time the



disciple's consciousness becomes informed by the union of the soul and his/her personality. The mode of achieving that union is meditation and service to humanity, by which the true Being, the higher self or soul and its reflection - the man or woman in incarnation - are fused together in the soul - infused personality.

We are really gods in incarnation. We are each a spark of God. Every religion has postulated this and has kept the idea of our divinity before humanity for thousands of years. But it can be seen more scientifically. Esoterically speaking, the divine spark is so refined in vibration that it cannot manifest directly on the physical plane. It reflects itself, therefore, as the individualized human soul. The soul in its turn reflects itself in the human personality with its physical, emotional, and intellectual bodies. Through the physical-plane personality, the soul enacts its reincarnational process. Eventually, the individual on the physical plane, the man or woman, reflects perfectly the quality of the soul, which is the divine quality of the spark of God. That person then becomes a true Son of God.

## The End Times



Despite all evidence to the contrary, this is not the end of the world, but simply a period in the evolutionary history of planet Earth when all must be renewed.

The Bible says that the "last days" would be marked by wars, famines, earthquakes, and epidemics of deadly disease. (Matthew 24:3, 7;

Luke 21:11) What humanity is experiencing now, the starving millions, endless wars, widespread pollution, and the burning and breaking up of our planet, is indicative of the conflict and chaos that humanity undergoes each time it moves from one cosmic age to another.

The Bible says that during the last days, human society would suffer a serious moral and spiritual breakdown. (2 Timothy 3:2-5) Our present civilization, built during the Age of Pisces, is coming to an end as evidenced by the fact that our social, political, economic, and religious institutions are corrupt, crystallized and no longer serve the needs of humanity, so people no longer abide by their standards.

In His messages, Maitreya mentions the New Jerusalem, meaning peace, and is referring to the entire planet. (Rev. 3:12 & 21:2) Maitreya is the architect and guide for the New Jerusalem. Humanity, in unity and cooperation, must become its willing builders. The foundation for this "city of peace" will be the divine principles of sharing and justice.

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Share International North, Central and South America,  
Australia and New Zealand:

PO Box 5537, Berkeley CA 94705, USA

United Kingdom: PO Box 3677, London NW5 1RU, UK

Everywhere else:

PO Box 41877, 1009 DB Amsterdam, The Netherlands

[share-international.org](http://share-international.org)





*The Last Judgment, by Michelangelo*

### Does heaven exist?

A. "Heaven" is an inner state of Being or consciousness. "The Kingdom of Heaven is within," as Jesus Himself said. It is entered into through the door of initiation. It is the consciousness which results from the union of soul and human personality. The mode of achieving that union is meditation, which is the means by which the true Being, the Higher Self or Soul and its

reflection - the man or woman in incarnation - are fused together in the soul-infused personality.

There is also another meaning of heaven. Souls not in incarnation spend a greater or lesser length of time in pralaya, a state of unending bliss, while awaiting the call to reincarnate. The Christian concept of heaven, relates to this experience.

### Is the Bible still valuable now that Maitreya is in the world?

A. Most certainly, yes. The Christian Bible is the embodiment of profound teaching and prophecy, symbolically and allegorically expressed. It is not meant to be taken literally, and, if it is, it leads to the present confusion of fundamentalist and orthodox Christians in relation to the reappearance of the Christ. It is not, as Christians fondly believe, the only book of Divine revelation, but for long years to come it will serve many millions of Christians - when its true meaning and purpose is revealed by the physical presence of the Christ (Maitreya) and of the Master Jesus, Who is in charge of the Christian Churches. Freed of the man-made dogmas and doctrines, the Christian Bible will find a new lease on life in the demonstration of the age-old story of initiation through the Gospel account of the life of Jesus. It will serve as a constant reminder of the interaction of God and humanity in our long journey to divinity.

### Will good triumph over evil?

A. Yes! Indeed. The end is known from the beginning. Good will inevitably triumph because it is the will of the divine Being Who ensouls this planet. But we have to make it so. It does not happen by itself. Maitreya puts it this way: "Nothing happens by itself. Man must act and implement his will." It does not matter what ideals we have, how much we would love everybody to be at peace, to have enough to eat, not to have millions starving, no little children with swollen bellies because they have had no food for weeks. None of that any more. It does not happen unless we act and make it so.

### How is the message of the Christ today different from His message given 2,000 years ago?

A. He speaks to a different humanity, so necessarily the emphasis is different. Then He spoke to a relatively few shepherds, fishermen, peasants, etc. They were uneducated, illiterate, totally dominated by the priests, very superstitious. Today, He will speak directly (by modern media) to a vast audience of educated, literate, thinking people who can make their own decisions. Therefore, His function is one of Teacher rather than Savior. The spiritual crisis of today is focused through the political and economic fields and must be resolved there. Otherwise there would be no humanity left to save or teach. Necessarily, His message is one of sharing and justice to bring humanity into a sense of its unity. Yet, essentially, you will find that the message of today is the same as that given through Jesus: humanity is one; we are all children of the one Father; God is Love; Love thy neighbor; the Kingdom of Heaven is within (a state of Being); we are souls in incarnation; know Me (that is, experience Me in your heart) and you will know the Father. "Feed My sheep" becomes "Save the starving millions."

### The mission of Jesus and Maitreya

Maitreya is so advanced, so pure, that He embodies in Himself the divine principle of Love. He was the first to reveal the true nature of God. Through Jesus, Maitreya was able to demonstrate the Love of God in its perfection in a man for the first time.

The manifestation of His Christ Consciousness helped to open the door to the Kingdom of God for humanity. Many great souls over the past 2000 years have entered the Kingdom of God and have gone on to become Masters and great initiates.

Until Maitreya came and lived a life of Love and Service and gave humanity the command to love one another, there had been very little emphasis on God as Love in any of



the world's Scriptures. Goodwill, the lowest aspect of Love, is now developed in the hearts of countless millions.

When Maitreya was in Palestine, centuries ago, He said, "No man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 24:6). As the dispenser of the "Waters of Life," Maitreya's major task in the Age of Aquarius will be to take masses of humanity into the Kingdom of God through the portals of initiation. The world is approaching the first initiation (the birth of Christ Consciousness in the cave of the heart). The crisis humanity is going through at this time is preparation for this expansion of consciousness.

### Rebirth and reincarnation

To many Christians, rebirth is a spiritual idea, reflecting a belief that as a person accepts Christ into his/her life, that person dies to their old life and is reborn into a spiritual way of living more reflective of Christ's teachings and precepts. The Ageless Wisdom does not deny that rebirth can encompass this new way of living, but it is also more than that.

In a wider context, rebirth means that a person, as the Soul, returns to earthly existence life after life with the purpose of eventually manifesting the inner divinity that is the birthright of all people. Other religions of the world refer to this process as reincarnation, or the Law of Rebirth.

Although few, the Bible does contain references to the Law of Rebirth. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus is speaking to his disciples who ask him, "Why, then, do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" He answered them, "Elijah is indeed coming and will restore all things. But I tell you that Elijah has already come, yet people did not recognize him and treated him just as they pleased. In the same way, the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that he had been speaking to them about John the Baptist. (Mark 9:10-13)

In coming to a full appreciation of the Law of Rebirth it is necessary to understand the law of cause and effect, or karma. The two laws work together hand-in-hand. British author Benjamin Creme said that it is because of the working of the Law of Cause and Effect that we reincarnate again and again. Throughout our incarnational experience we create karma, set in motion certain causes, that tie us to the physical plane and draw us back into incarnation repeatedly until this karma is resolved. Paul speaks to the idea of karma in his letter to the Galatians, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Gal. 6:7).

### Sin and the forgiveness of sins

According to the Ageless Wisdom teachings, sin is imperfection. The idea of being saved and the forgiveness of sins, is a self-initiated

process, resulting in release from the imperfection. There is a close connection between this process and the workings of the Law of Rebirth and the Law of Cause and Effect, or karma.

Through the process of rebirth we 'work off' our karma and become more aware of who we are as the Self, the Soul. We release ourselves from imperfection and enter into perfection - knowing who we are. As Benjamin Creme said, "Saving is knowing. When you become and are the Self, you are saved." The act of being saved is not about a Savior coming into the world to save us from the results of our sins. Being saved is about self-transformation. Through changing ourselves, we engage the process of saving ourselves. "Nobody can do it but oneself."

### The antichrist: energy of the Will aspect of God

From the perspective of the Ageless Wisdom, the anti-christ is not a person, but an energy, the Will aspect of God. It is a destructive force which is deliberately released into the world by the Lord of the World to break down the structures and institutions that are unjust, corrupt and crystallized. For example, at the end of an age or civilization, the great Lord operating with "Divine Indifference," administers this energy, destroying old forms, to prepare the way for the advent of the World Teacher - the Lord of Love. This energy was manifested in Roman times through the emperor Nero, and in modern times through Hitler and six of his associates.

This energy has come and gone. It has done its destructive work. Lifting humanity above the level where these 'materialistic forces' can be used or contacted, is the work of Maitreya and the Masters in the Age of Aquarius. Maitreya is here to help humanity create a brilliant new civilization based on the divine principles of brotherhood, sharing, justice, and peace. In this sense the anti-christ does indeed precede the Christ.