

Light Brings Salt

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Iron Range Bible Church

Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God
"Sanctify them in the truth: Your word is truth."



The Spirituality of Oprah

by Ray Yungen

Note: This is an example of some of the New Age spirituality that is spreading like a wild fire though out the land. It is estimated that 30-35 million people are adherents of this kind of false teaching. Sad thing is that it is not just unbelievers being swept up in it, but believers who so little doctrinal understanding to have the discernment to see the error. Ray Yungen has written an excellent book that covers the whole spectrum of New Age teaching that is spreading out there today . The book is titled *A time of Departing*. P/T

Without question, the most influential practical mystic today is talk show host Oprah Winfrey. Her predominantly female audience, numbering in the tens of millions, looks to her as the source of spiritual inspiration--even more so than church, in many cases.

I realize speaking critically of someone as warm and caring as Oprah might stir angry emotions in many of her viewers. Nonetheless, please keep in mind that with Oprah, as with the others I have written about, her obvious good qualities are not the issue here. While I might admire Oprah as a person, I am gravely concerned about what she promotes.

Somewhere during her career, Oprah read a book titled *Discover The Power Within You* by Unity minister Eric Butterworth. In line with Unity teaching, the book expounded on the Divinity of Man as perceived through

mystical practice. Oprah embraced these views so earnestly that she advocated:

This book changed my perspective on life and religion. Eric Butterworth teaches that God isn't "up there." He exists inside each one of us, and it's up to us to seek the divine within.

Her talk show has launched many New Age authors into national super-stardom--authors such as Marianne Williamson, Sarah Ban Breathnach, Iyanla Vanzant, and Cheryl Richardson.

One such author propelled into prominence by Oprah, with regard to New Age teaching, is Gary Zukav. Zukav became a regular guest on the Oprah show following his first appearance in October of 1998. Afterwards, his book titled *The Seat of the Soul* became a constant fixture at the top of the *New York Times* bestseller list for an astounding two years!

The Seat of the Soul, pure and simple, is a spiritual primer or manual for New Age thought. It has gained such popularity even though it lacks the elements that have traditionally attracted a wide readership (i.e., novels, biography, scandal, health, etc.). The book's basic message is, "Dwell in the company of your nonphysical Teachers and guides [spirit guides]."

The Seat of the Soul has struck a resonant chord with an enormous number of people. The notion of "nonphysical guides and teachers" is now considered perfectly acceptable by a vast number in the reading public. When such a book is embraced by so many for so long it means the New Age is already here. Clearly, our society is not

heading toward the cliff concerning New Age spirituality--we are already over it!

Oprah's 2005 book, *Live Your Best Life*, highlights various areas of her philosophies. In the chapter on spirituality there is a story about Spiritual Energy. In it, there is a positive reference to a Reiki master who supports Oprah's view that "we [humanity] are all interrelated." This underlies Winfrey's spirituality, that ALL IS ONE. Despite her charming personal manner, there is little doubt her viewers and readers are still being fed a consistent diet of New Age spirituality.

Who's Really To Blame For \$100 Oil

By INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY | February 20, 2008 4:20 PM PT

Energy: A refinery burns in Texas while politicians fiddle in Washington. As oil goes over \$100 a barrel, we don't have to worry about Hugo Chavez restricting supply. We have the Democrats in Congress to do that.

Suppose you had a ton of money sitting in your bank account but you decided to max out your credit cards anyway. That's the energy policy of the United States as fashioned by the Democrat-controlled Senate.

At these prices, we have a trillion dollars worth of oil sitting under a section of frozen tundra the size of Dulles Airport near Washington, D.C. We could go get it. Instead we prefer to shovel billions of our dollars to thugs like Chavez while the same politicians who lock up our domestic energy praise him when he offers "cheap" home heating oil to states in the Northeast.

Chavez has said he's changed his mind about cutting off supplies to the U.S., but it's because he'd have a hard time selling Venezuela's heavy crude — which requires special refining — anywhere else. He's not doing us any favors. Unfortunately, neither is the U.S. Senate.

Oil futures closed above \$100 for the first time Tuesday after Monday's explosion at Alon USA's refinery in Big Spring, Texas. It

could be shuttered for two months. Yet NIMBYs won't let new refineries be built, and the greenies won't let the domestic oil be refined.

The heads-in-the-tundra crowd is led by Hillary Clinton. She has voted no fewer than nine times to block drilling in a tiny, frozen part of ANWR. Her husband first blocked ANWR development in 1995. After Hurricane Katrina disabled offshore oil platforms, revealing our energy vulnerability, Mrs. Clinton said: "It makes no sense to respond to a disaster in the Gulf by making a disaster in Alaska."

Never mind that the caribou and other critters have thrived despite drilling in Prudhoe Bay, which recently delivered its 15 billionth barrel of oil through the Alaska pipeline. Oil from ANWR could meet all of New York's petroleum needs for 34 years, yet the state's junior senator opposes getting it.

"ANWR would supply every drop of petroleum for Florida for 29 years," said former Interior Secretary Gale Norton, "New York for 34 years, California for 16 years or New Hampshire for 315 years." It could also supply Washington, D.C., a place where there's no shortage of hot air, for 1,710 years.

In 2005, the Senate voted twice by narrow margins on amendments authorizing ANWR drilling to a budget resolution bill (March 16) and a budget reconciliation bill (Nov. 3). Forty-one Democrats voted against both. Twenty-three of them were around to have voted against ANWR in 1995.

Barack Obama, who has voted twice against drilling in ANWR, has noted that a "large portion of the \$800 million we spend on foreign oil every day goes to some of the world's most volatile regimes." Still, he says that "we cannot drill our way out of the problem." Call this the audacity of helplessness.

In his book "The Audacity of Hope," Obama writes: "Instead of subsidizing the oil industry, we should end every single tax break the industry currently receives and demand that 1% of the revenues from oil companies

with over \$1 billion in quarterly profits go toward financing alternative energy research and infrastructure."

Yet he'd subsidize the ethanol industry, which contributes to rising food prices and hurts the environment through increased agricultural runoff. He would feed the world, but he'd have us put ears of corn in our cars.

We are not against alternative energy. America is going to need all the energy it can produce — from all sources. We just don't like leaving energy in the ground.

The Democrats promise hope and change. Let's hope we develop our domestic energy sources, starting with ANWR. Now that would be a real change.

News Note; Disturbing Trend

The colonization of America by Islam has far reaching ramifications that are incompatible with the U.S. Constitution and American laws where what is considered by U.S. laws as discrimination, assault and murder are deeply ingrained in Islamic culture and Islamic religious law. Take for example the so-called "honor killings" of two teen aged girls in Irving, Texas on New Years Day. The Muslim girls, who family members say were abused by their father, were found dead in their father's taxi cab, allegedly murdered by their father because he suspected they had boyfriends. According to human rights groups, there are thousands of honor killings each year, committed mostly in Islamic countries.

Imam's and other Islamists commenting on this particular set of murders try to discount them as just another case of family violence. They say that honor killings are not part of the Islamic religion, just part of Islamic culture. This has become an all too familiar argument. The 911 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, for example, were not part of Islamic religion, just extremists acting out. Yet these crimes of individual and public terror occur most frequently, almost exclusively, at the hands of

Islamists. In Islamic nations, honor killings frequently go uninvestigated and unpunished. Culture or religion, murder and terror is directly tied to Islam.

As Islam is allowed to colonize Western nations under the banner of freedom of religion, there will be a growing chasm between Islamic law and Western law. Islamists will try to play both sides of the religious freedom argument. Where they need to have religious freedom to establish their philosophy, they will demand it. Where they need to use murder and terror to accomplish their goals, they will blame it on culture not religion. They already are doing this in America. Soon, Islamic law and culture will run in parallel with American laws and eventually they will replace American laws with Islamic laws or actually enforce their own Islamic laws in the name of religious freedom.

Islam cannot long peacefully exist in America. America's laws are based on Judeo-Christian Biblical law, of which Islam religion and culture is the antithesis. The Koran 8:12 says, "I will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve. Therefore strike off their heads and strike off every fingertip of them." Jesus says in Matthew 5:44, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." There is no practical common ground between Islam and Christianity. Allowing Islam to colonize America under the banner of freedom of religion may be deadly.

Should the Sun Spin Faster?

Psalm 74:16

The day is yours, the night also is Yours; You have prepared the light and the sun.

According to evolution, some explanation for the sun, stars, and planets must be found which does not include God as Creator.

One of the most popular theories today is that the sun and the planets of the solar system each

formed as a single cloud of dust and gases were drawn together by gravity. As this material was drawn together, it began spinning faster and faster like a giant twirling skater pulling his arms toward his body. According to this theory, the amount of angular momentum - which we will simply call "spin" - among the planets must equal the amount of "spin" the sun has.

As we have gradually learned more about the solar system, we have been able to more accurately compute this energy. Figuring in the mass of the planets, their orbits, and the mass and rotation of the sun, scientists have concluded that 98 percent of the solar system's "spin" is in the planets - only two percent, not 50 percent, as expected, is in the sun. So, modern science has confirmed - probably as much as it can in this case - that the earth was created independently from the sun. Of course we know that Scripture clearly states that the earth was created four days before the sun. Here a scientific mystery for evolution is no mystery at all for those of us who respect the Bible!

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