WORLDVIEW COMPARISON CHART

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1. The Nature of Reality. An infinite, personal creator God has created a real and originally good spiritual-material universe, which He is involved in and sovereignly controls (Genesis 1–2; Romans 1:25, 9:22, 14:9;

Philippians 3:21; Psalm 104; 1 Timothy 4:4).

- **2. The Problem of Evil.** Human beings rebelled against God (the state of sin), fell from their high position to a degraded state cut off from God, are now ruled by the devil (Lucifer or Satan), and are subject to death (Genesis 3; Ephesians 2:2; John 5:19). Lucifer and his angels were cast down to Earth where they actively assail us (Revelation 12:7–10; 2 Corinthians 4:4, 11:14; Ephesians 2:1–3, 13; Luke 10:18).
- **3. The Nature of Good and Evil.** God is entirely good (1 John 1:5) and did not create evil (James 1:13–15); rather, He created beings that choose. Evil results from rebellion against a perfectly righteous God, and when we do evil, we come under His judgment (2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Peter 3:7; Ephesians 2:3; Revelation 20:11–15). Scripture reveals His moral will (Exodus 20:1–17; Galatians 5:19–24; 1 Thessalonians 4:7).
- **4. The Solution to Evil.** The Incarnation, the atoning death of Jesus Christ on the Cross, and His resurrection were necessary to rescue us from our sin, from death, and from the devil's power over us (Romans 6:5–10; Colossians 2:9–15; Ephesians 2:4–6, 3:10; Hebrews 2:14; 1 Timothy 1:10). Christ came to destroy the devil's work (1 John 3:8).
- **5. The Nature of Jesus Christ.** He is God's only Son, God incarnate (1 John 4:2–3), unique, divine, and eternal, co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. He will **not** incarnate again (Hebrews 9:26), but will return from Heaven in glory to judge the Earth (John 1:1–4; 5:22; Colossians 1:15; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:3; 1 John 4:15, 5:11–12; Revelation 19:13). He is the **only way** to the Father (John 6:29, 44–45; 8:42; 10:7–9).

EASTERN RELIGIOUS WORLDVIEW

- **1. The Nature of Reality.** God, the universe, and all in it are seen as one being (*monism*) evolving in consciousness, infused with an impersonal universal energy often called the *Ki, Chi,* or *Kundalini* force, which is to be mastered and manipulated through various techniques. (Material life is often thought to be an illusion.)
- **2. The Problem of Evil.** This view sees no real problem with evil because ultimately there is no difference between good and evil; there is just the *appearance* of evil. Both evil and good are illusion or *maya*. The concept of *yin-yang* promotes the idea that there are two opposite but equal natural forces that flow back and forth in complementarity, neither being better or worse than the other.
- **3. The Nature of Good and Evil.** Good and evil are seen as opposites, which join as One at a higher plane of transcendence. Hinduism says we perfect our "godhood" through successive rebirths (reincarnation and the law of karma).
- **4. The Solution to Evil.** Since this view holds that evil is an illusion, it "solves" the problem by trying to awaken us to our "true divinity," our oneness with the universe, and our innate spiritual powers. It attempts this through consciousness-expanding techniques, such as Eastern meditation, yoga, self-hypnosis, visualization, spiritism, psychic mind control, etc.
- **5. The Nature of Jesus Christ.** Jesus Christ is generally viewed as (1) a great teacher and not God, or (2) *one* of many reincarnations of "ascended masters" (spirit guides) and gurus to inhabit the "Christ office." The man Jesus is thus split off from the "office" of Christhood, which this view holds all of us can attain through spiritual disciplines. Some teach that during his "hidden years" Jesus supposedly studied occult doctrines in the East.

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