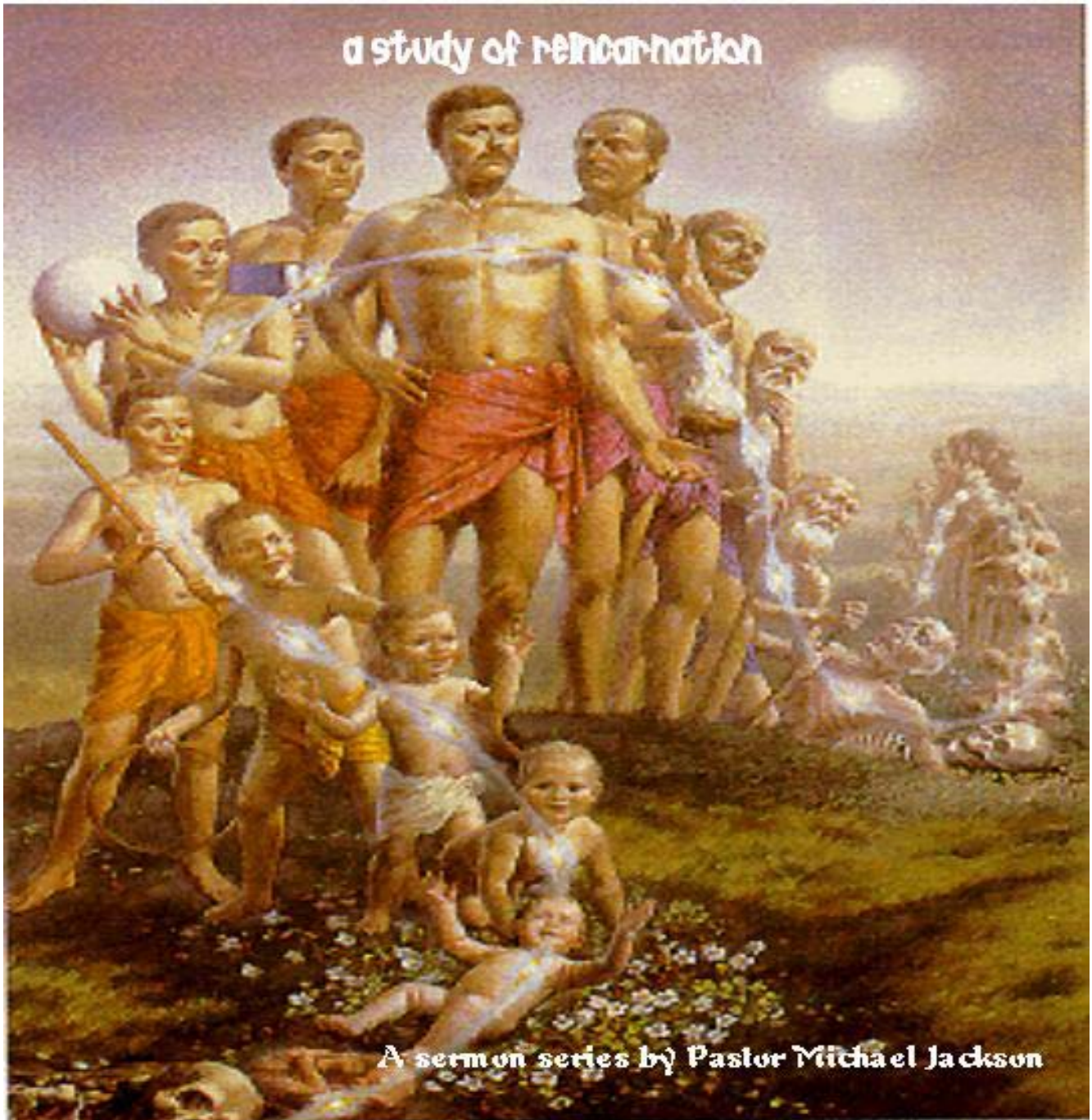


# You Only Go Around Once

a study of reincarnation



A sermon series by Pastor Michael Jackson

## **YOU ONLY GO AROUND ONCE**

I want to begin this morning's message with a question. Please think before you answer. Including Christianity, what are the three most popular worldviews of what happens to an individual after he or she dies?

1. Communism, atheism, or humanism claims that what you see is what you get. This is it. There is no afterlife, no eternity, "no nothing". Those who die simply face annihilation.
2. The second worldview claims that the human soul never perishes or dies, it simply passes from life to life in never-ending cycles. Variations of this view can be found in most of the eastern religions as well as the New Age movement. Here, those who die face Reincarnation.
3. Christianity teaches that death is only the beginning. It is an open door to eternity. The moment a person dies he or she is ushered into everlasting bliss or eternal damnation. Those who die face God.

Of the three worldviews, only the third, Christianity, offers hope beyond the grave. Each of these worldviews has a large following.

This morning and next Sunday morning, I want to focus in on the second group; a group that comprises somewhere between 33% and 50% of the world's population. I want to talk to you about Reincarnation.

Although it is relatively new to America, Reincarnation is not new. In its basic concept, it goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden and to Adam and Eve. When Satan tempted Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit, he seduced her to eat with these words found in Genesis 2:4, "**You will not surely die.**" That lie set the stage for a teaching that was to become popular some 1000 years before the birth of Jesus Christ and yet again remains popular today. That teaching, again, is the subject of this morning's message: Reincarnation. The teaching of Reincarnation became popular in the East and since then it has become vital to classical Buddhism and Hinduism.

### **NOW PASTOR, WHY WOULD YOU TALK TO US ABOUT REINCARNATION?**

Let me tell you why. I dare say that we have people here today as well as people who will be watching on television that are considering the possibility of Reincarnation. Some may have already adopted this particular worldview as their own.

Listen to these statistics:

According to a 2003 Harris Poll, 27% of Americans believe in this doctrine. Charles Colson reported on his radio broadcast that a Gallup poll found that 20% of **born-again Christians** believe in Reincarnation and 26% in astrology. Another Gallup poll conducted several years ago found that:

- 23% of all Americans believe in Reincarnation.
- 30% of college age young people
- 17% of people who attend church
- 21% of all Protestants, and
- 25% of all Catholics.

A *USA Today* (4/20/98), survey noted the increase in certain belief systems. Please notice:

- 1976, 17% believed in astrology. Today 37%
- 1976, 9% believed in Reincarnation. Today that figure is 25%
- 1976, 24% believed in UFOs. Today 30%
- 1976, 4% believed in fortune telling. Today 14%

One more survey. A Luntz Research poll cited in *George* (12/96) found that the percentage of Americans who believe:

- That Elvis Presley is still alive: 10%
- In Reincarnation: 30%
- In ghosts: 39%
- That aliens have visited earth in the past 100 years: 53%

The point is, regardless of the poll, more and more Americans are adopting the idea that Reincarnation might actually be the real deal.

Movies that have focused in on this theme over the past few years include:

- ***Always***
- ***Ghost***
- ***Coming Back***
- ***Dead again*** (A *Time* magazine review of this movie noted: "...nothing quite accounts for this silly movie's surprise success. The idea of having but one life to lead has always been a bummer, but never more than it is for today health-conscious audience. Movies like this one [and "Ghost"] suggest that working and eating right are not in vain. If they can assure immortality, they may at least keep you fit for the second go-around.")
- ***Kundun***. (This movie shares the account of the Dalai Lama's struggle against China on behalf of the people of Tibet. The Dalai Lama is believed to be the fourteenth Reincarnation of the Buddha.)
- The popular movies ***The Mummy*** and it's sequel ***The Mummy Returns*** feature the worship of false gods, Reincarnation, demon possession, and

lots of supernatural action that has nothing to do with our supernatural God.

- The animated ***Pocahontas*** shows the title character as an earth-worshipping pagan who believes in Reincarnation.

The list could go on and on.

Unlike Christianity which is nearly always put in a bad light in popular media, Reincarnation is made to look good, chic, smart. New Age.

Now I don't want to spend a lot of time on this point this morning, however I do want to spend enough time to convince you that this is not some passing lark. Our culture is being immersed in this Hinduistic teaching!

A few noted past and present proponents of Reincarnation include:

- Nostradamus
- Socrates
- Thomas Edison
- Sylvester Stallone
- Tom Cruise
- George Harrison
- John Travolta
- Richard Gere,
- Tina Turner,
- Oliver Stone
- and star of screen violence Steven Seagal.

At the head of the list of entertainers in this country teaching Reincarnation would be **Shirley MacLaine**. She has written that she has lived in many previous lifetimes. She said she knew that she had been a former prostitute, that she had been a royal court jester that had been beheaded by Louis XV of France. And how did she find out about all of this? She said that she found out about her previous lives by consulting mediums, meditation, and at least one case of acupuncture.

One more point here. Have you ever heard of **Annie Kirkwood** and her book, *Mary's Message to the World*? The book which has sold over 350,000 copies, is a compilation of a series of "talks," as given by Mary, the Mother of Jesus, to Ms. Kirkwood. The book deals with such issues as love, truth, and prayer.

When Annie was receiving this information from Mary, she asked and insisted on being given the "really, really, real truth." She wanted to know God's Truth, not man's truth.

One of the questions that Annie posed to Mary involved Reincarnation. Annie wanted to know what Mary thought about the subject. Mary supposedly told Annie, "...in the beginning the 'Church' believed in Reincarnation. It was removed because of man's will and not God's will."

"But pastor, Annie Kirkwood said that Mary the mother of Jesus told her that Reincarnation was right." Friends, Paul warns in 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 of **"false apostles"**, and **"deceitful workmen"** who **"masquerade as apostles of Christ"**. **"And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve."** Mary the mother of Jesus is dead! She is not communicating messages that contradict the clear teachings of Scriptures. Any one who tells you otherwise is in serious error. Reject them. Reject their arguments!

Some notable religious groups that teach Reincarnation include: Unity, The Church of Religious Science, The Church of Scientology, as well as almost all eastern religions.

No doubt the majority of you have heard of the New Age movement. Any major book store will have a large section of books under the heading of "New Age." Then, too, there are New Age magazines, New Age music, and a tremendous number of New Age gadgets from crystals to table games. Astrology, the psychic movement, black magic, and just about anything else in the realm of the metaphysical can be grouped under the heading New Age.

Having said that, I now want to point out, everything, and I mean everything in New Age is written with a tie-in to Reincarnation. I can not think of even one exception! Those who play a leading role in today's New Age Movement simply allow for only one point-of-view -- again that being Reincarnation!

The late Dr. Walter Martin, a long-time expert on the cults observed, "Reincarnation is connected extensively and almost exclusively with the world of the occult."

### **I PROBABLY NEED TO NOW TAKE A MOMENT AND DEFINE REINCAR-NATION FOR YOU.**

One of the great passages of Scripture is found in John 1:14. It says, **"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."** This phrase **"became flesh"** comes from two Latin words, "en" and "caro" which means, "in flesh". From these words we have come to understand that God became flesh – became one with us – and made His dwelling among us.

Reincarnation, now, comes from the Latin, “re” meaning “again, and “caro” means “flesh.” Therefore, Reincarnation means to be flesh again.

So, the basic premise is: there is some aspect of the human being that survives physical death in order to be born over and over again.

- **Socrates** put it this way, "I am confident that there truly is such a thing as living again, that the living spring from the dead, and that the souls of the dead are in existence."
- The famous novelist **Jack London** noted, "I did not begin when I was born, nor when I was conceived. I have been growing, developing, through incalculable myriads of millenniums. All my previous selves have their voices, echoes, promptings in me. Oh, incalculable times again shall I be born."
- **Henry Ford** attributed his success to “the fruit of long experience in many lives.” He said that he “adopted the theory of Reincarnation” when he was twenty-six.
- **Loretta Lynn** wrote in her book *Loretta Lynn: Coal Miners Daughter*, "I believe in Reincarnation.... I was an Indian woman wearing moccasins and a long buckskin dress and I had my hair in pigtails."

**NOW LET ME EXPLAIN SOMETHING IMPORTANT HERE. THERE ARE TWO VERY REAL AND SEPARATE STREAMS OF THOUGHT WHEN IT COMES TO REINCARNATION.**

**FIRST, LET’S LOOK AT THE EASTERN STREAM.**

No doubt, you are aware of the fact that the Hindus of India refuse to eat meat. People are literally starving to death on the streets while T-bone steaks are allowed to walk freely.

According to Hinduism, a soul reincarnates again and again on earth until it becomes perfect. During this process the soul enters into many bodies, assumes many forms and passes through many births and deaths. (This process dictates that one can be reborn as a human, an animal, or even as a plant.)

This idea of one becoming an animal is one of the reason that Hindus are generally vegetarians. They do not eat meat out of concern that they might end up eating the flesh of some dearly departed friend or loved one.

Tom and Bill had been the closest of friends since childhood. They played on the same ball teams, married sisters, and built homes in the same neighborhood.

When Tom died suddenly, Bill was devastated. One evening as Bill was watching a beautiful sunset he felt the presence of Tom nearby. "Is that you, Tom?" he asked. "Yes Bill," came the reply. "What's it like where you are?" Bill asked. "Well, It's kind of nice, I get up in the morning, have some breakfast, maybe go for a swim in the lake. When I encounter one of the lovely ladies, I enjoy some fun and games. Soon it's time for lunch and a nap." "Wow!" says Bill. "I had no idea heaven was like that." "Who says I'm in heaven?" replied Tom.

I'm a moose in Montana."

The cycle of Reincarnation is described in the following verse of Hindu sacred text: "Just as a man discards worn out clothes and puts on new clothes, the soul discards worn out bodies and wears new ones." (Bhagavad gita:2.22) Reincarnation can be an evolutionary cycle that is carried out over millions of years.

Reincarnation is based on the Law of Karma -- good actions lead to good future, and bad actions to the opposite. Work hard, do your duty, practice virtue and your next life will be better than this one. Live selfishly, wickedly, or violently and expect to be reborn in poorer circumstances. It is the process of being born over and over again in different times and different situations, possibly for many thousand times.

### **NOW I WANT TO COME TO THE SECOND STREAM OF REINCAR-NATION. I CALL THIS THE WESTERN STREAM.**

When Reincarnation was introduced to the "Christianized" population of the United States beginning in the late nineteenth century, it underwent considerable transformation. Since the idea of humans being reborn into plants and animals proved largely unacceptable to American tastes, the theory was changed so as to teach that Reincarnation involved only human bodies. Can you imagine **Shirley MacLaine** talking about her past life as maybe a warhog or as a Red-Bottomed Baboon?

I find this point very interesting as well as amusing. As a rule, celebrities see themselves as having been someone special in their past life:

- Cher, for instance, believes that she was a "high priestess of a Pharaoh"
- Sean Connery likewise sees himself as having once been a "tribal prince in the African jungle"

This reminds me of the Apostle Paul's words in Romans 1:21 (*The Message*), **"What happened was this: People knew God perfectly well, but when they didn't treat him like God, refusing to worship him, they trivialized themselves into silliness and confusion so that there was neither sense nor direction left in their lives."**

1 Corinthians 1:20 adds (*The Message*), **"So where can you find someone truly wise, truly educated, truly intelligent in this day and age? Hasn't God exposed it all as pretentious nonsense?"**

### **SPEAKING OF SILLINESS AND PRETENTIOUS NONSENSE, I WANT TO NOW BRIEFLY LOOK AT THE ABSURDITY OF REINCARNATION**

The following quotes are from people who have supposedly gone back into some past reincarnate life by way of hypnosis. These statements came forth while the people were in an hypnotic trance.

- "There is not just one path to God; you can chose your own."
- "There is no Satan, no hell, no demons."
- "There is no personal sin."
- "We are all a part of God."
- "We shouldn't get others to believe in God."
- "The Bible is not the infallible Word of God."
- "The unforgivable sin is forgivable."
- "God makes no requirements of us."
- "Premarital sex is permissible."

Isn't that stuff awful? it sounds as if it was written by Satan himself -- and maybe it was! Nevertheless, these -- each and every one -- are a very real part of the doctrinal make-up of the New Age Movement. It also helps us understand the doctrines that surround belief in Reincarnation.

Do you realize that in the *Aquarian Gospel of Jesus the Christ*, a New Age publication, we are told that the Lord Jesus taught Reincarnation after learning it from the yogis of India?

- When was He in India?
- How did He get there?

This line of thought completely ignores the fact that Jesus didn't come to Earth to minister to the gentiles. He came to Israel; to the Jewish people. As a result He was never in India learning yoga nor, for that matter, was He ever in America, as the Mormons teach.

1 Timothy 4:1-2 notes, **"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by**

**demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.”**

Another example of the foolishness of this evil can be found within the teachings of L. Ron Hubbard's Church of Scientology. This cult teaches that humans cry salt tears because of their previous existence as oysters. The salt comes from the salt water of the ocean and the tears are due to the grains of sand that were lodged in the oyster's shells.

People, this is stupid! The whole thing is stupid! And yet otherwise normal folks believe this and stake their eternal souls on this nonsense!

In Matthew 24 we find Jesus talking to His disciples about the signs of the end-time. Notice now with me their question and His answer: **“‘Tell us,’ they said, ‘when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?’ Jesus answered: ‘Watch out that no-one deceives you....’”** In fact, Jesus warns of deception FOUR DIFFERENT TIMES in the passage. Deception is a major sign of the end-times! Many will simply “fall away” from the truth! A part of this end-time deception will be the popular teaching of Reincarnation.

- Hebrews 13:9 therefore warns us not to be **“carried away by all kinds of strange teachings....”**
- The Apostle Paul again warns in Galatians 1:7-9, **“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!”**

### **SO, THEN, WHAT IS THE ATTRACTION OF REINCARNATION?**

- Reincarnation provides an escape from death
- Reincarnation provides an excuse for sin
- Reincarnation provides an eternal salvation for everybody

Reincarnation is a belief of the person who chooses not to think.

- It is a belief of the person who seeks simple answers to hard questions.
- It is a convenient tool for the person who is incapable of accepting self-responsibility for his or her actions.
- It is also a belief that is used to promote bigotry, prejudice, discrimination, and starvation.

The doctrine of Reincarnation again is based on flawed reasoning. It is quite simply put, an evil pretension as well as a great counterfeit.

- It is not good.
- It is not wise.
- It is not consistent.
- It is not provable.

### **ON WHAT HAVE YOU BASED YOUR ETERNAL HOPE; YOUR EVERLASTING FUTURE?**

God's way or man's way? The salvation that is freely offered through Jesus Christ or the New Age mumble-jumbo of Reincarnation?

The choice is clear and unmistakable:

- One life or many lives?
- One death or many deaths?
- One hope or no hope?
- Man's way or God's way?
- Reincarnation or Jesus?

The choices are clear. There can be no compromise. Which way will it be for you? Choose carefully, for remember, you only go around once!

## **YOU ONLY GO AROUND ONCE**

### Part 2

**(VIDEO)** Show video clip from the movie "Patton": (Two minutes)

Once again, I want to talk to you about Reincarnation. General George Patton obviously believed in it. In fact, he thought he was an incarnation of one of Napoleon's generals and as seen in the video clip, claimed to be able to tell

intricate details of battles once fought and long forgotten. Patton also believed that he once fought as a legion commander in Caesar's army. He also was present when the Greeks built the great Trojan horse that led to the fall of Troy, and rode alongside of Richard the Lion-Hearted in the Third Crusade.

Patton was not alone in believing in Reincarnation. As I noted last week, between a third and a half of the peoples of this world accept this doctrine as truth. Also, as I pointed out in my last message, somewhere between 23% and 30% of all Americans including 20% of all “born again” Christians believe in Reincarnation.

It has permeated the entertainment industry. Notice these words from the second verse in a popular love song:

***THIS I PROMISE YOU***

***I'VE LOVED YOU FOREVER,  
IN LIFETIMES BEFORE***

*And I promise you never...*

*Will you hurt anymore*

*I give you my word*

*I give you my heart (give you my heart)*

*This is a battle we've won*

*And with this vow,*

*Forever has now begun...*

Then too, it is a bedrock to the New Age movement. It is taught in a number of different churches including Unity, The Church of Religious Science, The Church of Scientology, as well as almost all eastern religions. This is big stuff.

Unlike Christianity which is nearly always put in a bad light in popular media, Reincarnation is made to look good, chic, smart. New Age.

Reincarnation, now, comes from the Latin, “re” meaning “again, and “caro” means “flesh.” Therefore, Reincarnation means to be flesh again.

So, the basic premise is: there is some aspect of the human being that survives physical death in order to be born over and over again.

According to Hinduism, a soul reincarnates any number of times until it becomes perfect. During the process the soul enters into many bodies, assumes many forms and passes through many births and deaths. (As I will explain a little later on this morning, this process dictates that one can be reborn as a human, an animal, or even as a plant or a rock.)

Those who believe in Reincarnation like to sum the teaching up with this little catch phrase: "many lifetimes, many faces, many voices, always me".

Notice how this is borne out in the slide that I have up on the screen. On the upper level you see a person evolve from one life as a human being into another life as a human being. On the bottom level you can see how the fish evolves into a bird, a horse, a cow, bear, then to a man, then back into another animal, and so on.

When Reincarnation was introduced to the "Christianized" population of the United States beginning in the late nineteenth century, it underwent quite a transformation. Since the idea of humans being reborn into plants and animals proved largely unacceptable to American tastes, the theory was changed so as to teach that Reincarnation involved human bodies and human bodies alone.

**HAVING SAID THAT, LET ME GIVE YOU SEVEN MAJOR ERRORS OF THE DOCTRINE OF REINCARNATION.** (We will cover three this morning, four next week.)

**1. REINCARNATION OFFERS A PERSON A SECOND CHANCE**

Notice this picture. Again you can see the evolution from one life to another:

- No judgment.
- No standing before God.
- No heaven or hell.

Just simply more of the same.

The idea is that if a person doesn't get it right the first time he or she journeys though life, then the person gets another opportunity in an upcoming life. The person keeps going through life again and again until he or she begins to move up the scale. He is born into richer families, more noble families, until ultimately he reaches the state of mental peace or perfection known as Nirvana.

Well somebody might say, "What happens if you live a worse life your second time through?" A noted Hindu teacher put it this way, "When a man dies, his soul comes out of his body and immediately enters the body of a newborn babe. If the man has led a good life, he is born again into a better life. If he has led a bad life, he is born into a worse life. He could be born sick and suffer all of his life as punishment for his previous deeds. Some of our people believe that deeds could be bad enough to cause rebirth as an animal -- a dog, for instance, or a bird, a worm or a fly."

One problem with this is, what if you never get it right. Take somebody such as Elizabeth Taylor, who has now been married eight times. It seems to me that just because a person goes through something again and again doesn't mean that he's going to do it any better off the second or third time than he or she did the first time.

I would have to say concerning my own life, I know that I am never going to reach perfection here. One life, a thousand lives, it wouldn't matter. I simply don't have it in me. Romans 3:10 declares, **"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one."** That **"none righteous"** includes me; includes you.

Most of us would appreciate the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 7:18-20, **"I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it."** Paul was saying it didn't matter how much he tried, he could not be perfect in and of himself.

What is the answer then? Paul goes on to note in verses 24-25, **"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!"** The answer to his dilemma was not some tragic succession of births and deaths; rather the answer was found in our risen and blessed Savior.

Romans 10:9-10 promises, **"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."**

1 John 1:9 confirms, **"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness."**

Hebrews 1:3 adds in part, **"After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven."** Jesus took care of our sins once and for all on the Cross of Calvary.

The song writer wrote:

*Jesus paid it all,  
All to Him I owe.  
Sin had left a crimson stain.  
He washed it white as snow.*

What the Lord accomplished on that old rugged Cross did in a moment of time what new age followers, Hindus, Buddhists, and the others in that crowd hope to achieve in hundreds of lifetimes in karma and Reincarnation.

The one who trusts in Reincarnation has no such hope; he no offers no such confession. Let me ask you:

- If Reincarnation is the answer for past sins or mistakes, why is it that no one ever remembers his or her past life in enough detail to really profit from it?
- Why isn't a full vision given of what the person was before, complete with all of his or her flaws, so that the necessary corrections can be made? No one in his or her right mind would want to be demoted to a slug, a plant, or a rock!
- If the plan works, why don't we see more people who seem to be somewhere near completion of the cycle? I don't know of many people at all that seem to be anywhere near a state of perfection! Do you?

Reincarnation is sadly a hopeless lie that offers eternal sameness rather than everlasting blessedness. It offers a second chance, but it can not back up the offer.

## 2. REINCARNATION DENIES HELL AND ETERNAL JUDGMENT

George Bernard Shaw once observed, "The statistics on death are impressive. One out of one dies." True.

Speaking of death, I must show you a couple of the latest funeral gadgets. Please understand, these products are real.

First, I want you to notice "**The Talking Tombstone.**"

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, there are some sixteen models to choose from. The one that I have displayed on the slide features a standard stone memorial complete with a built-in speaker. A recorded announcement is triggered by an invisible beam, so that every time a visitor comes near the grave a metallic voice declares from the headstone...

"Hi! I was Jane Smith. I died at 10:15 AM, Thursday, November 5th 1994. Thanks for coming to see me. Have a nice day." Should you care to tape a message before you die, a recording of your own voice will broadcast from the tombstone.

This deluxe model also features video which displays pages of text, photographs, family trees and all the other things you'd just love to browse through while sitting on your loved-one's grave. The price for this tasteful granite-and-bronze memorial? Just \$4995.00 (batteries included).

Next I must show you the so-called Art Caskets.

- Here is the **“Return To Sender”** model. It is for the person who wants to turn their final send-off into a bumper-sticker slogan.
- Next, you will see the casket that a golfer would die for. It is the **“Fairway to Heaven”** model. It is for the golfer who has teed-off for the last time.
- Third, my personal favorite is **“The Last Supper”** casket, with Jesus and the disciples covering the side.
- Finally, I know that we have a number of NASCAR fans that attend here. This one is just the thing for all of you good old boys. It is called **“The Race Is Over”**.

If you are interested in the services of Art Caskets, you can give them a call at 1-877-ARTCASKETS. They want to put the fun back into “funeral.”

- On a more serious note, James 4:14 states, **“Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”**
- Job 14:1-2 adds, **“Man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He springs up like a flower and withers away; like a fleeting shadow, he does not endure.”**
- Hebrews 9:27-28 likewise notes (*King James Version*), **“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”**

Did you hear even the slightest hint of Reincarnation in any of these verses? In spite of these Scriptures, and many more just like them, Reincarnation completely rejects any thought of divine judgment following this life. In fact the words “hell and judgment” are only found in the teachings on Reincarnation as they relate to events in the here and now.

This should not be at all surprising to any of us. You see, almost every major cult out today does the same thing. The Apostle Peter spoke of those in the last days who would **“allure through the lusts of the flesh.”** One way that this is done is by appealing to that which the flesh wants to see, to hear, or to feel.

- Denying hell and judgment feels good.
- Denying eternal punishment has a pleasant ring to it. It makes God nice again. It takes much of the offense out of the Bible. The flesh likes that!

Reincarnation offers only a demotion until you learn to live better and then you start back up the scale one life at a time until hopefully you finally reach Nirvana. Mankind can live with that; after all, that is fair; politically correct. Eternity in hell isn't. Nonetheless, a literal burning hell is mentioned over 100

times in holy Scripture. The words judgment or judgments are found another 419 times in the *King James Version* of the Bible.

Jesus staked his credibility on the reality of hell. He dealt with the topic more often than anyone else. In 12 of His 36 parables, He pictured the lost person as being:

- judged,
- condemned,
- and punished for their sins!

In His Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew 5:29-30, Jesus warned, **“If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.”** Christ's words require us to conclude that the suffering in hell will be far worse than anything the body could endure here on this planet. He used various word pictures to note that it is worth any sacrifice a person can make in order to avoid going there.

Matthew 10:28 likewise adds, **“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”**

Paul the Apostle wrote in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 (*The Living Bible*), **“...When the Lord Jesus appears suddenly from heaven in flaming fire with His mighty angels, bringing judgment on those who do not wish to know God, and who refuse to accept His plan to save them through our Lord Jesus Christ. They will be punished in everlasting hell, forever separated from the Lord....”**

The truth is, therefore, brothers and sisters, that Reincarnation is another futile attempt to get around the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ that ultimately the lost will stand before Him some day in judgment.

**FRANK SINATRA PASSED AWAY SEVERAL YEARS AGO.** I remember well his trademark song “I Did It My Way.” A few of the words go like this:

*And now the end is near  
And so I face the final curtain.  
My friend, I'll say it clear,  
I'll state my case of which I'm certain.  
I've lived a life that's full, I've traveled each and ev'ry highway  
And more, much more than this. I did it my way.*

The song is pretty. To be honest, I like the melody. But in my years of ministry, I have seen way too many lives bruised, broken, and destroyed by that life philosophy.

- I've heard husbands and fathers say, "I did it my way!" as they left a brokenhearted wife and bitter, grieving children in their selfish wake.
- I've heard young women say, "I did it my way!" and then they went on to spend the rest of their lives dealing with the consequences of an awful affair.
- I've heard teenagers say, "I did it my way!" as they made choices that crippled potential, robbed them of joy, and limited their service to the Lord.

Frankly, friends, there is a better way than man's way -- God's way! Proverbs 16:25 (*The Message*) warns, "**There's a way that looks harmless enough; look again—it leads straight to hell.**"

Reincarnation is a prime example of man's way. Again, it is devoid of God, hope and salvation! It tackles the tough issues of life such as death, pain and suffering, injustice and more without the Bible or the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is proud, humanistic, and empty. I find it ironic that in denying judgment, those who hold to this error actually sentence themselves to the very judgments that they deny.

### 3. REINCARNATION DENIES THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST

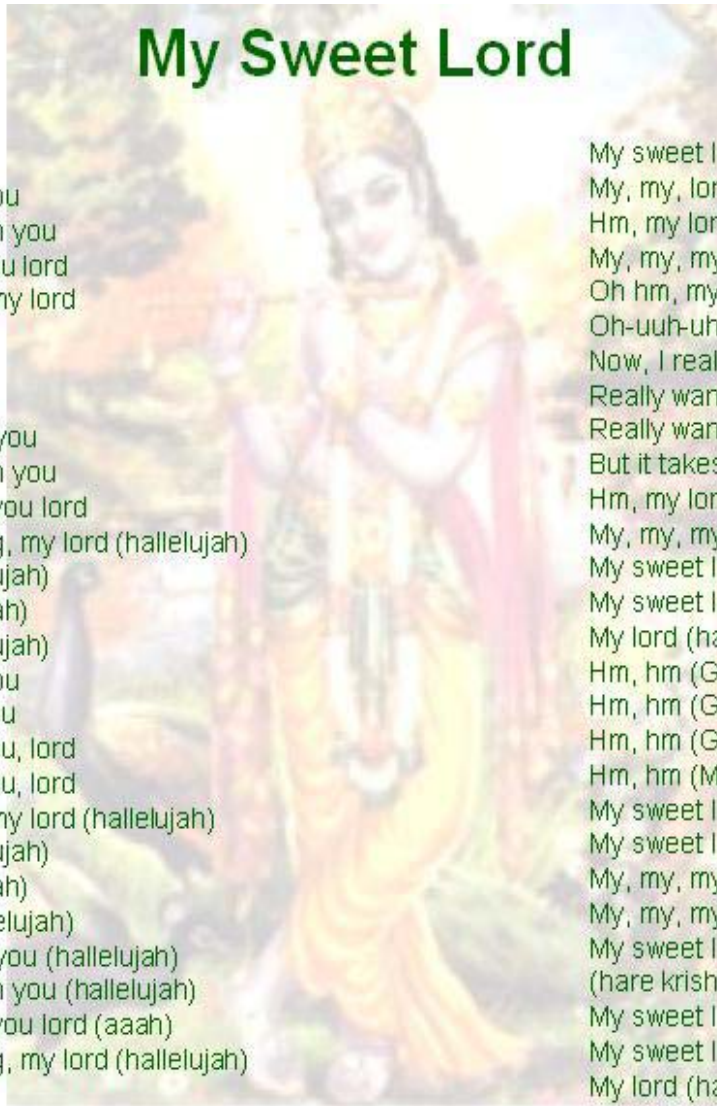
Don't get me wrong, those who believe in Reincarnation refer to God, to Jesus, to heaven, to spirits, but they never come forth with a declaration that Jesus Christ is the Savior, the Son of the Living God. To them, Jesus is **A** god not **THE** God.

Think with me here. When we hear someone say Jesus we naturally think, oh good, that person is talking about the Savior. When we hear someone mention God, again we quickly jump to the conclusion that they are speaking of the Creator God; our Heavenly Father. They may be speaking of Jesus and God but then again, they might not be. They might be speaking of an entirely different Jesus or an entirely different God than we know. Let me give you an example.

Do any of you remember the old Beatle's song "**My Sweet Lord**"? I remember it well. Many Christians really got into that little number. Christian radio stations played it. I heard people testify that George Harrison (the lead singer in the song) had found Christ and the song was his testimony! Believe me when I say, nothing could have been farther from the truth! The church heard the word "Lord" and immediately thought of the Lord Jesus. However, Harrison wasn't singing of Jesus, he was singing of his lord -- Hare Krishna.

## My Sweet Lord

My sweet lord  
 Hm, my lord  
 Hm, my lord  
 I really want to see you  
 Really want to be with you  
 Really want to see you lord  
 But it takes so long, my lord  
 My sweet lord  
 Hm, my lord  
 Hm, my lord  
 I really want to know you  
 Really want to go with you  
 Really want to show you lord  
 That it won't take long, my lord (hallelujah)  
 My sweet lord (hallelujah)  
 Hm, my lord (hallelujah)  
 My sweet lord (hallelujah)  
 I really want to see you  
 Really want to see you  
 Really want to see you, lord  
 Really want to see you, lord  
 But it takes so long, my lord (hallelujah)  
 My sweet lord (hallelujah)  
 Hm, my lord (hallelujah)  
 My, my, my lord (hallelujah)  
 I really want to know you (hallelujah)  
 Really want to go with you (hallelujah)  
 Really want to show you lord (aaah)  
 That it won't take long, my lord (hallelujah)  
 Hmm (hallelujah)



My sweet lord (hallelujah)  
 My, my, lord (hallelujah)  
 Hm, my lord (hare Krishna)  
 My, my, my lord (hare Krishna)  
 Oh hm, my sweet lord (Krishna, Krishna)  
 Oh-uuh-uh (hare hare)  
 Now, I really want to see you (hare rama)  
 Really want to be with you (hare rama)  
 Really want to see you lord (aaah)  
 But it takes so long, my lord (hallelujah)  
 Hm, my lord (hallelujah)  
 My, my, my lord (hare Krishna)  
 My sweet lord (hare Krishna)  
 My sweet lord (Krishna Krishna)  
 My lord (hare hare)  
 Hm, hm (Gurur Brahma)  
 Hm, hm (Gurur Vishnu)  
 Hm, hm (Gurur Devo)  
 Hm, hm (Maheshwara)  
 My sweet lord (Gurur Sakshaat)  
 My sweet lord (Parabrahma)  
 My, my, my lord (Tasmayi Shree)  
 My, my, my, my lord (Guruve Namah)  
 My sweet lord (Hare Rama  
 (hare krishna)  
 My sweet lord (hare Krishna)  
 My sweet lord (Krishna Krishna)  
 My lord (hare hare)

I have the actual words from the song. Do they look like the words of a Christian song to you? The name Krishna means “The all-attractive one,” the name Rama means “The all-pleasing one,” and the name Hare is an address to the Krishna’s “devotional energy.” Therefore, the words of the Mantra mean, “O all-attractive, all-pleasing Lord, O energy of the Lord, please engage me in your devotional service.” Devotees are expected to recite the prayer about 25,000 times a day. To help them keep track of the number of times they have prayed, Krishna’s carry a string of 108 japa beads. The prayers take about two hours to complete each day. In short, these people actually believe that if you chant the Hare Krishna Mantra their “life will be sublime.” Hare Krishna is, of course, a sect of Hinduism. The Krishna’s believe in Reincarnation.

Oh, back to George Harrison of the Beatles for a moment. He once noted, “Friends are all souls that we’ve known in other lives. We’re drawn to each other.

Even if I have only known them for a day, it doesn't matter..., we must have met somewhere before."

Shirley MacLaine, the noted reincarnationist, actor and author, wrote in her book *Dancing in the Light*, "I know that I exist therefore I AM. I know that the God source exists, therefore IT IS. Since I am part of the force, then I AM that I AM."

Do you see what she was doing? She was claiming deity for herself! She was laying claim to being the I AM -- I AM being one of the great names of God! You see, in Reincarnation Jesus is not Lord, mankind is!

Saints, we must never forget that according to Acts 4:12, "**Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.**"

- There is no other name,
- No other person,
- No other method,
- No other way to be saved than through the man Christ Jesus!

Philippians 2:9-11 likewise declares, "**Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, to the glory of God the Father.**"

Who is our sweet Lord? His name is Jesus!

**I WANT TO CLOSE OUT THIS MORNING'S MESSAGE** with Psalm 39:4-7 from the *New Living Translation*:

**"LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be.**

**Remind me that my days are numbered,  
and that my life is fleeing away.**

**My life is no longer than the width of my hand.**

**An entire lifetime is just a moment to you;  
HUMAN EXISTENCE IS BUT A BREATH."**

**We are merely moving shadows,  
and all our busy rushing ends in nothing.**

**We heap up wealth for someone else to spend.**

**And so, Lord, where do I put my hope?**

**My only hope is in you."**

Where have you placed your hope? I hope it is in the Lord and not in Reincarnation. Reincarnation, you see, is for the birds; life and it eternal is for the saints! Where do you stand on the subject. You had better decide now for, my friends, you only go around once.

## **YOU ONLY GO AROUND ONCE**

### Part 3

This is it. Today we wrap up this three-part series on Reincarnation. As I noted before, the doctrine of Reincarnation is big. One-third to one-half of the peoples of the earth believe it, including twenty percent of the Christians in America.

Why is Reincarnation so appealing? Just to be honest, Reincarnation has several advantages. Lets look at some of them:

1. You can apply it to any problem and come up with a solution. Everything revolves around good and bad Karma.
2. If you mess up in one life, you can start all over in another life later on. As I pointed out last week, it is the gospel of the second chance.
3. You live for ever and ever and ever again and again and again.
4. It solves the age old problem of why a God would let people starve to death or why a young child would be born paralyzed. (why because they deserved it, it's their punishment from their past life).
5. Salvation is totally dependent on the individual. He/she decides if he/she goes forward or backward in the reincarnational cycle in the next life.
6. There is no absolute good or absolute bad, everything is relative.
7. Man is basically good and will eventually end up in Nirvana.
8. God is not a cruel god and would never damn someone to hell.
9. It is popular, smart, in. Many rich and famous people embrace it.
10. With Reincarnation, now all religions just become different pathways to God, be it Islam, Hinduism, Mormonism, Christianity, etc. We can all be open minded and tolerant.

There you have it. Before you step up to sign on the dotted line though, let me also point out that the doctrine also has some grave errors.

Last week I noted...

1. **REINCARNATION OFFERS A PERSON A SECOND CHANCE**
2. **REINCARNATION DENIES HELL AND ETERNAL JUDGMENT**
3. **REINCARNATION DENIES THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST**

Next...

4. **REINCARNATION DENIES THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

At Easter time these people celebrate the coming of the Easter bunny. That's the extent of their hope. Maybe they believe that he could possibly be a long-lost cousin. Who knows?

One of the chief advocates of Reincarnation was the celebrated but false prophet, **EDGAR CAYCE**. He was born on March 18, 1877 in Kentucky. As he grew his family took him to church and he even eventually became a Sunday school teacher. By the time that he was 13 years old, he had read the Bible through 13 times. In time, though, Cayce fell away from his faith and embraced a number of occultic practices. He was known as a healer and as "the sleeping prophet". Some of his better known prophecies include:

- He predicted that 1933 would be a good year, when in fact it was the very year that the Great Depression got under way in earnest,

- He predicted that China would convert to Christianity by 1968. It didn't. It was very much a communist nation back then.

I do not have enough time in this message to deal with his other prophecies

- such as California falling in the sea,
- New York sinking beneath the waves, and
- the lost continent of Atlantis rising out of the ocean.

Edgar Cayce was, in my opinion, a demonically inspired prophet. By biblical standards, he was simply put a false prophet.

I have talked about this fellow because, even though he died back in 1945, he is probably more popular now than ever. He remains a leading guru of the New Age movement. He also taught and strongly held to the doctrine of Reincarnation.

He wrote that the life of Jesus represented only one of thirty previous Reincarnations of the same soul including Adam who originally sinned in the Garden of Eden. He insisted that Christ was not truly God in flesh, but only another human very much like you and me. In contradicting the Bible, Cayce went further and claimed that Jesus was actually a sinful soul who had become perfected through numerous Reincarnations.

I have known a number of people who were really into Cayce. My advice to you is, do not read after this man. His works should be considered very deceptive, dangerous, and have been spiritually harmful to many curiosity-seekers. He uses the Bible. He talks about healing. He acknowledges both God and the devil. Nonetheless, his words contradict the Word of God, cast doubt on the person and work of Jesus Christ, and presents Reincarnation as if it were truth.

1 Corinthians 15:19-20 declares, **“If only for this life we have hope... we are to be pitied.... But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead....”**

Let me explain this powerful passage. Paul is saying here that if Jesus only lived and died as any other man -- life minus the resurrection -- then we are to pitied!

- Our hope,
- Our faith,
- Our eternity is all lost.

The cross without the empty tomb is meaningless! It was nothing more than a tragic mistake; a delusion! Therefore Paul continues, **“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead....”**

Yes, Jesus died, but three days later, in the same person, in the same body, He came back to life again:

- No as a slug,
- A canary,
- A monkey,
- Or even as some other human being,

He came back as Jesus Christ, the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings!

In Luke 24 we find one of our Savior's post resurrection appearances. Notice the passage with me. Luke 24:37-40, **“They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, ‘Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. IT IS I MYSELF! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.’ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.”**

The account is carried on in further detail in John 20:20, 25-28. Notice, **“Now Thomas... was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord!’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it....’ Then Jesus said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.’ Thomas said to him, ‘My Lord and my God!’”**

Jesus dispelled for time and eternity any idea that His resurrection was anything other than a real bodily resurrection. He died as a man called Jesus, and He arose as a man called Jesus.

Further, Jesus taught the concept of resurrection, not Reincarnation. In fact, He predicted His own resurrection early in His public ministry. Listen to John 2:19, **“Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.’”**

My friends, there is nothing that would lead us to believe anything other than Jesus resurrected in the same body that went into the tomb. He arose! PTL!

## **5. REINCARNATION TRIVIALIZES THE ISSUE OF PAIN AND SUFFERING**

Reincarnation is tied to the idea of karma, which is believed to be the universe's justice system. Karma claims that everything painful that happens in our lives is a direct result of bad things we've done in previous lives, thus our suffering is the universe's way of balancing the scales of justice. Due to this hellish doctrine millions of people on Earth suffer and die needlessly.

Let me take you to India for a few minutes. I want you to pay close attention:

- Millions of people in India are not allowed the right to draw water from village wells, simply because they are low caste.
- 100 million children under the age of 14 are not allowed to attend school, again because they belong to the low caste.
- Low caste people do not have the right to wear shoes.
- If a person marries outside of his or her caste, or if they skin a dead animal, they can be taken out and hung from a tree. Lynched!

Why is this the case? Many in India believe that the poor, the afflicted, the low caste are having to suffer due to some evil committed in some past life. If the nation were to help these people, they would be undermining the just effects of Karma.

According to this evil heresy, all pain and suffering in this life is deserved, whether it's the young kidnap victim in Florida that was murdered two weeks ago, or those who are dying of starvation in Africa. All suffering is a direct result of bad things we've done in previous lives, and suffering bad things in this present life is the universe's way of settling the score.

Can I be perfectly honest with you? I literally hate the doctrine of Reincarnation. I HATE it like sin! It stands for everything that I stand against! It is cruel, barbaric, and satanic!

You see, Reincarnation permits rats to live while it allows children to die. Back to India. Do you realize that rats are permitted to consume hundreds of tons of grain each year while human beings starve? Hindus are reluctant to kill a rat, even an unwelcome one caught in a kitchen. And in Calcutta, residents regularly feed thousands of rats that live in the city parks. Again, rats, moneys, cows, and other animals must not be killed due to the fact that they might be one's own relatives.

In the Karni Mata Temple, however, rat worship is taken to an entirely new level. I want to share with you some material I gleaned from an article taken from *The Cairo Times* of Egypt. The piece was written about the Karni Mata Temple in India. The temple, you see, is devoted to the ancient Hindu practice of rat worship.

The Karni Mata Temple was built in the 17th century and dedicated to an incarnation of the goddess Durga. The rats are holy because they are considered to be Reincarnations of people hiding from the wrath of Yama, the Hindu god of death. The temple's inner sanctum is covered with hundreds of rats.

They crawl all over a golden shrine and each other all the while devouring bowls of sugar, coconuts and milk laid out as an offering. By the way, it is considered good luck if one the rats scamper across your feet. (Remember, this is a Hindu temple. Therefore, you must take your shoes off before you enter.) If you go there, please be careful where you step. if you accidentally trample one of the small but holy rodents and kill it, you are expected to donate a solid gold model of a rat to the temple to compensate for your inadvertent sin.

Let me take this to an extreme. One of the oldest religions in India is Jainism. It is somewhat like Hinduism. It has fewer than 5 million adherents. Because of it's belief in Reincarnation, Jainism holds out that all living beings are equal and life in every creature has to be respected. They believe that not only human beings but animals, birds, trees, plants and even the tiniest creatures have souls. Not only that, but even creatures in air, water and fire, though invisible, have souls.

Their concern for life is extended to all creatures, even minute microbes that are not visible. Monks and nuns are sometimes seen with muslin cloths over their mouths to keep out flying insects, and they are forced to use small brooms to gently sweep away living creatures from their path, so as to not accidentally crush them.

Again, why do they do these crazy things? They are being careful less they hurt their great granddaddy who might be coming or going!

Do you realize that India does not major in hospitals or social service agencies? Do you realize that many of their people literally eat out of and live in garbage dumps? The ministry of Mission of Mercy in Calcutta (formerly headed by the late Mark Buntain) feeds 20,000 people a day in garbage dumps, slum areas, schools and orphanages. What a contrast between Christianity and the Eastern religions.

Do you remember when Jesus healed the blind man in John 9? His own disciples went to Him and said, **“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind? Jesus answered, it is neither that this man sinned nor his parents, but it was in order that the works of God might be displayed in his life.”**

Again, who sinned? What bad karma happened to cause this man to suffer from blindness? Jesus answered that no one was to blame. Then the compassionate Christ reached out and healed the fellow!

- No bad stuff from mom or dad.
- No bad carry over from some previous life.

- Again, no bad karma.

You can't find any of that in the story! It is just not in there! What you will find though is love, mercy and compassion. You will also find healing. These are all elements that you will not find, though, in the teachings of Reincarnation.

Before I leave this point, I want to ask you a very important question. What is the cause of all of the problems that we are facing here in America? Think before you answer. This is a serious issue. Well, believe it or not, I have found the answer to our many dilemmas. Cow killing! Yes, dear friends, you heard me right. Cow killing! I want to read to you a portion of an article entitled "Meat-eating: the West's Sacred Cow" from *Back to the Godhead* magazine. (Volume 14, Number 7, page 34) The magazine is the official voice of the Hare Krishna movement. Notice, "The slaughterhouse is bringing severe reactions (bad karma) upon our society. Cow killing is killing America." People, that is a direct quote.

The Krishna's worship the cow. The main philosophy is that if you eat cow meat, in the next life you will become a cow. Then, somebody will cut you up and eat your flesh. Again, it is sad and silly isn't it?

**SPEAKING OF COWS**, I must show you a bit of Hindu humor. This is an actual cartoon. Outside of the fact that it is not funny, do you notice anything else strange about it? How about the line, "Thank Gods...." Of course, the Hindus believe in many, many gods.

## 6. REINCARNATION MISAPPLIES SCRIPTURE

As any cult, this teaching twists and abuses the Bible in order to make it say what they want it to say. Again, take Shirley MacLaine for instance. She says that the Bible supports Reincarnation because, as she puts it, John the Baptist was the Reincarnation of Elijah.

Someone might read her comment and buy it. However, a simple reading of the Scriptural passage will quickly reveal her error. John the Baptist was not the Reincarnation of Elijah.

- Yes, they were very similar in some ways:
- They were both wilderness men.
- They were outspoken.
- They were fierce in denouncing false teachers.

But one was not the Reincarnation of the other.

I will go so far as to say, that John may well have had a similar anointing to that which Elijah had. I believe that in a similar way, I have a similar anointing to one

of my early mentors and heroes in the ministry – Dr. Worth Williams. I love and revere the man. I feel honored that the Lord has used me in similar ways that he used him, but to be sure, I am not Dr. Worth Williams. Never have been; never will be.

Luke 1:17 confirms this by telling us that the ministry of John the Baptist was carried out **“in the spirit and power of Elijah.”** Moreover, Reincarnationists conveniently forget that John the Baptist, when asked if he was Elijah, flatly answered, "No!" in John 1:21.

Those who believe in Reincarnation likewise cite John 3:3, **“...Jesus declared, ‘I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.’”** Did you catch it? Jesus is teaching that a person must be “born again.” There you have it. Reincarnation!

Not so fast. The context here in John 3 clearly shows that Jesus was referring to a spiritual rebirth or regeneration. In fact, the phrase “born again” carries the idea of “born from above,” and can even be translated that way. Jesus clarified His meaning by affirming in John 3:6 that **“flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.”** Being born again was clearly a reference to a spiritual rebirth, not a physical recycling.

Interestingly, the same people who claim that Reincarnation is taught in the Bible often claim that the doctrine of Reincarnation was removed from the Bible by Church authorities several centuries after it was written. The first question that we must ask is, Which is it?! Does the Bible teach Reincarnation, or were the teachings about it stricken from the Bible by a control - seeking Church? Logic dictates that we can't have it both ways!" The truth of the matter is, Reincarnation has never been a part of the Word of God. Reincarnation subsequently was never taken out of the Bible.

Look with me at this picture. I took it from some material on Reincarnation. The caption is the actual caption that went with the picture. While the cultist diminish the persona and work of Jesus, they nonetheless like to cover themselves with Him just as they, again, like to cover their error with Scripture.

Is it any wonder then that the Bible contains this warning in Deuteronomy 18:10-12, **“Let no-one be found among you who... practices divination or sorcery, (palm readers, fortune-tellers) interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist (one who uses Ouija boards, Tarot cards, automatic writing, mediums or spirit guides) or who consults the dead. (Psychics, astrologers, past-lives therapists). Anyone who does**

**these things is detestable to the LORD, and because of these detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you.”**

Those who believe in and teach Reincarnation fall within these groups. Stay far away from them!

## **7. REINCARNATION IGNORES THE FACT THAT LIFE ON EARTH IS NOT THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF OUR EXISTENCE.**

Thank **GOD**, there is more, much, much more!

I love the words of the old song:

*“This world is not my home.  
I’m just a passing through  
My treasures are laid up,  
Somewhere beyond the blue.  
The angels beckon me,  
To heaven’s open door,  
And I can’t feel at home in this world anymore!”*

Reincarnation promises an endless cycle of death, death, death, and more death! That is the stuff that nightmares are made of.

Contrast such gloom and doom to these verses from the Word of God:

- John 14:1-3, **“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”**
- Furthermore, Paul notes in 2 Corinthians 5:8, **“We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.”**
- And finally, John 3:16, **“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”**

The dead in Christ are always directed to God at death. Always!

The Bible teaches Resurrection not Reincarnation. 1 Corinthians 6:14 states, **“By His power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.”**

In short, the Bible points us up and not out! We are promised life and not death. Hope and not despair! Heaven and not an endless existence on earth.

**BEFORE I CLOSE I WANT TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF HOW PEOPLE WHO HAVE SEEMINGLY NO TIES TO THE PAST CAN KNOW SPECIFIC DETAILS OF THE PAST?** Then too, what about Déjà vu? What about the whole range of para-normal phenomenon?

To be sure, there are just about as many theories as to how and why these things happen as there are experts that try to explain them.

**One theory** is that the brain simply mistakes the past for the present. When you think you are in the present, you are really in the past, and when you are in the past, you are really in the present. You simply are lost in a fog and you don't know whether you are coming or going.

**Another theory has it that** genetically certain memories are passed down thru generations. For example if a person experiences something and then has a baby, genetically encoded in that baby is that memory somewhere. Now this genetically encoded memory is passed on such that the great great grandchild would remember things that the great great grandmother experienced. But there is no proof for this and it falls apart if the person was not related to the deceased or anybody around them.

**However, I want to make a rather bold and no doubt controversial observation.** There is one being (besides God) who knows everything that has happened in the past.

- He has been there. He has watched history unfold firsthand. He has watched and remembered.
- This being knows things about people, places and things, that we would think nobody but nobody would know a thing about.
- This being is very capable of communicating information that can be reliably checked out.
- He can pick out case histories of anyone from any time, should he chose to do so.

Who is this being? This very evil being? Of course, I am speaking of the devil and the millions of demons that carry out his treacherous desires. Jesus describes him as a liar and a thief.

Do not be deceived. He certainly has the ability to speak to our spirit and thus to our minds. Read Acts 16:16-19. This is an instance in the Bible where a demon possessed girl knows not only parts of the future but she also knew who Paul and Silas were even though she'd never met them before.

Notice Mark 1:23-24, **“Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, ‘What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are--the Holy One of God!’”** This demon possessed man knew who Jesus was, even before the Disciples realized who he was.

I am convinced that all true cases of apparent Reincarnation can be explained by demonic activity. This is easier to see when one realizes that most past life experiences take place among people who are surrounded by pagan religions and/or occultic or demonic practices.

Remember this, demons as well as the devil himself know details about our lives that a normal person would not have access to. Then too, please remember demons are in the business of fooling and deluding so that they can lead a person astray. They truly love to make fools out of people like Shirley MacLaine and others like her.

Believe me when I say, Reincarnation is not Biblical and if anything it is accursed of God. What we are dealing with here is the occult. No more and no less.