



Alternative Universes

A Study of Comparative Worldviews & Religions

What every Christian should know to be an effective witness for Christ in a society and culture that is increasingly secular, pluralistic, and religiously diverse

PART 2: EASTERN RELIGIONS & THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Breshears

Time and Location:

Wednesdays, August 14th - November 6th

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Johnson Ferry Baptist Church, Room 108

Course Fee: \$50 / \$90 per couple.

Study Guide:

Jeffrey D. Breshears, *Alternative Universes: Study Guide and Supplemental Readings: Part 2* (\$20)

Textbook (optional)

James W. Sire, *The Universe Next Door*, Fifth Edition (InterVarsity Press, 2009). \$17.

Available at: https://www.amazon.com/Universe-Next-Door-Worldview-Catalog/dp/0830838503/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1541690910&sr=1-1&keywords=universe+next+door+james+w+sire

Course synopsis:

“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world....

They are of the world, and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them.

[But] we are from God. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.” – I John 4:1ff

Although relatively few people have a well-developed theology or philosophy of life, everyone has a worldview – a set of basic assumptions by which they process reality and attempt to make sense of life. Regardless of their religious orientation and affiliation, everyone has basic presuppositions and beliefs regarding issues such as...

- Who (and what) am I?
- Where did I come from?



- What am I doing here?
- Does my life have any meaning and purpose?
- Is there a God – and if so, how do I know Him?
- Is there a moral law to which I am accountable?
- What happens to me when I die?

“Alternative Universes” compares and contrasts the basic beliefs and practices of a Christian theistic worldview with those of other worldviews, demonstrating that only a biblically-based worldview consistently corresponds to absolute truth and provides satisfactory answers to the great issues of life. The worldviews that we study in this 2-part series includes:

PART 1: WESTERN WORLDVIEWS & PHILOSOPHIES

- Biblical/Christian Theism
- Deism
- Naturalism (atheism, secular humanism, etc.)
- Nihilism
- Existentialism
- Postmodernism

PART 2: EASTERN WORLDVIEWS & RELIGIONS AND THE NEW AGE

- Biblical Christian Theism
- Eastern philosophies and religions
- The New Age (“New Thought” or “Higher Consciousness”)

Join us for this important series. The topics and issues we cover will broaden and deepen your understanding of other religions and philosophies of life, and will equip you to interact more comfortably and share your faith in Christ more effectively with people who hold alternative beliefs.



Dr. Jeffrey Breshears is an historian, author, and the president of The Areopagus, a Christian study center and education ministry in the Atlanta area. As a university history professor Dr. Breshears taught ancient history, philosophy and religion with a special focus on Christian history, and The Areopagus offers substantive courses on a wide variety of subjects in Christian history, apologetics, and contemporary cultural issues.

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