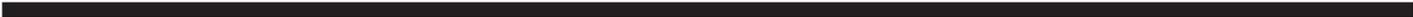

EXPLORING THE 20TH CENTURY SHIFT IN THINKING

Christianity Answers the 21st Century Part IV

World Views of the Western World



THE 20TH CENTURY

A Novel Approach

Though clearly an oversimplification, Western Civilization could be separated into three Major periods: Greek/Roman, Christian, and Modern. The focus of **THE BIBLE AND ANCIENT THOUGHT: PART I** of **World Views of the Western World** was upon understanding the Greek/Roman influences upon the Western World and the emergence of Christianity as the dominate world view.

THE GRANDEUR OF CHRISTIANITY: PART II of **World Views of the Western World** developed the splendor of Christianity as we saw the dominance of this world view saturate Western culture from the 400's until the late 1800's. During this time people found God and the Bible to give unity and meaning to everything there is.

The REVOLUTIONARY AGE: PART III of **World Views of the Western World** investigated the affect of Reformation and Enlightenment ideas upon the four great revolutions: English, American, French, and Russian.

At the end of the 1800's there occurred a major shift in Western Civilization. According to Dr. Schaeffer, three shifts occurred, and "it was these shifts that made modern man what he is and our modern societies what they are" (**How Should We Then Live?**, page 146). He refers to shifts in science, in philosophy, and in theology. These shifts would be manifested in all aspects of life and eventually define the totality of modern experience. **Christianity Answers the 21st Century: Part IV** of **World Views of the Western World** unfolds these major shifts, provides an understanding of the consequences these new ideas would have upon the Western world, and answers thte questions of modern man.

Before we begin a detailed analysis of these shifts, we will give writers, who have embraced the major world views of the 20th century, the opportunity to express these thoughts in novel form. The world views of the 20th century have been classified into four or five categories. The books selected for study illustrate each of these world views. As you read and study each one, look for characteristics of each world view.

Walden Two by B.F. Skinner _____

This fictional outline of a modern utopia has been a center of controversy ever since its publication in 1948. Set in the United States, it pictures a society in which human problems are solved by a scientific "engineering" of human conduct.

The Old Man and The Sea by Ernest Hemingway _____

The tragic tale of an old Cuban fisherman caught in a relentless and agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream. Told in language of great simplicity and power Hemingway depicts modern man in his search for meaning in the pangs of human emptiness.

The Plague by Albert Camus _____

A gripping tale of unrelieved horror of survival and resilience, and of the ways in which humankind confronts death. In Oran, a coastal town in North Africa, the plague begins as a series of portents, unheeded by the people. It gradually becomes an omnipresent reality, obliterating all traces of the past and driving its victims to almost unearthly extremes of suffering, madness, and compassion.

Star Wars Episodes IV, V, and I by George Lucas _____

This spectacular series in full color with surround sound brings the East to the West. In unparalleled drama Lucas brings a totally new dimension to the 20th century Western mind.

SUMMARY CHART OF WORLD VIEWS OF THE 20TH CENTURY

	Walden Two by B.F. Skinner	The Old Man and The Sea by Ernest Hemingway
The Nature of God		
The Universe Its Origin		
The Nature of Man		
The Basis of Ethics/Morality		
Cause of Evil		
Death		
Meaning to Life and history		



WALDEN TWO

B. F. Skinner

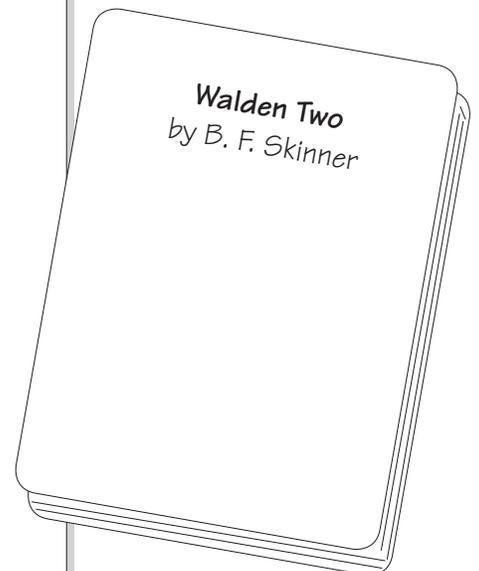
“As we consider the coming of an elite, an authoritarian state, to fill the vacuum left by the loss of Christian principles, we must not think naively of the models of Stalin and Hitler. We must think rather of a manipulative authoritarian government...The ideas of sociological determinism, primarily involving conditioning (behaviorism), were widely discussed after B.F. Skinner published *Beyond Freedom and Dignity*. His thesis was that all that people are can be explained by the way their environment has conditioned them. Since society plays a specially important role in that environment, society can and should use positive stimuli to bring about the society it wants. That this was meant not only to be a theory but to be put into use is shown by his earlier book, *Walden Two*, a novel.

“In *Walden Two* Skinner’s utopia was a totally conditioned society. The director, T.E. Frazier, manipulated everyone to control all the details of the society. He made the people think that they wanted what he had decided they and society itself should be. In this and all other forms of determinism, man dies. In fact, Skinner himself acknowledged that what is being abolished is man. He says, ‘to man qua [as] man we readily say good riddance’” (*How Should We Then Live?*, page 229).

PRIMARY CHARACTERS IN WALDEN TWO

Professor Burris
Rogers
Steve Jamnik
Barbara Macklin
Mary Grove
T.E. Frazier
Augustine Castle
Mrs. Rachel Meyerson
Mr. Meyerson
Miss Ely
Mrs. Nash
Simmons

Read **Walden Two**
by B. F. Skinner.



Notes or Questions:

CONSIDER THESE COMPARISONS

The answers to these questions may not be directly answered. You may have to draw out the answers from comments made by the various characters. Read carefully! Read world viewishly.

In novels prior to the 20th century, novels such as **Paradise Lost** and **The Pilgrim's Progress**, God was understood to be both infinite and personal.

How is God viewed by the residents of Walden Two?

Did the people living in Walden Two picture the universe as a direct creation of God and sustained by His power, or a series of complex scientific interactions?

What is Skinner's belief about man? Is he the direct creation of God or is he seen as a machine to be conditioned and programmed? What is man's basic nature? What value does man have according to Skinner? Is this a new way of thinking for Western civilization?

In the Walden Two society, are ethical and moral decisions based upon some higher law or are they seen as man made? Are there absolutes on which to base moral decisions? ... Is there a dividing line between right behavior and wrong behavior or are behaviors understood to be the 'best' or 'proper' behaviors. In Walden Two, what values are chosen as true and who decides which set of values?

What is the cause of evil and suffering according to Skinner? How is it dealt with in *Walden Two*?

How is death addressed in *Walden Two*? Is there talk of life after death?

Dr. Schaeffer explained that the Christian meaning of life and history included a *seen* and an *unseen* portion. Is this the view held by those living in *Walden Two*? Explain their view of history? What did the people living in *Walden Two* consider to be ‘the Good Life’?

Walden Two was a picture of what B.F. Skinner proposed as a model of what America should look like. Do the inhabitants of *Walden Two* embrace the Biblical world view? ... or the Deistic world view? If not, give the major tenets of this new world view.

Walden Two embraces the ideas of the first major world view of the 20th century. Complete the column under *Walden Two* on the **Summary Chart of World Views of the 20th Century**.

THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA

Ernest Hemingway

Hemingway, born during a time of romantic hope in a optimistic future would face the stark reality of the 20th century world view. He would experience the global hopelessness of two world wars, and personal hopelessness associated with two divorces. The romantic hopes and dreams of the 20th century would be shattered. The harsh reality was that life was futile and often it was nothing ... mere meaninglessness! Hemingway understood what it meant to be part of a culture that was 'grasping for the wind.' Less than 10 years after being awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for *The Old Man and The Sea*, Hemingway would commit suicide.

Is this story simply a story of a man in search of a fish? It is hard to believe that Hemingway could be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for such. Though the story is simple, the meaning is profound. Hemingway has caught more than a fish. He has caught the consequences of a society moving quickly in the current leading to emptiness. Hemingway communicates his world view through symbols. A symbol is a person, place, or thing which stands for something unnamed. To understand the meaning behind the story, you must be a very careful reader.

SYMBOLS IN THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA

The Old Man
The Ocean Currents
Searching for the Great Fish
Battling with the Great Fish
The Destruction of the Great Fish

PRINCIPLE CHARACTERS IN THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA

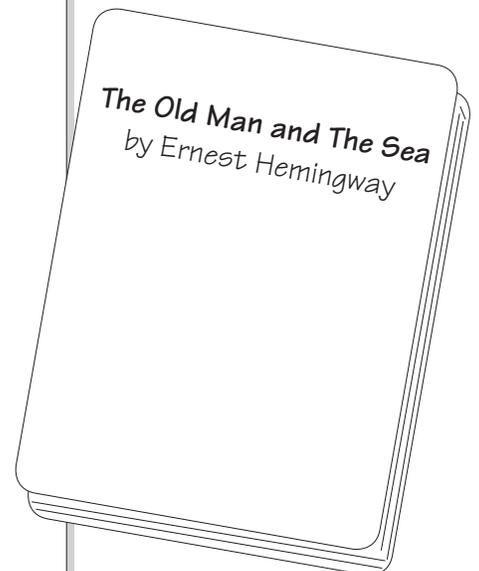
Santiago
The Marlin
Manolin
Los Galanos
The Mako Shark

Follow the HOPE of the Old Man throughout the book.

How does his hope change throughout the book?

Where does his hope end?

Read **The Old Man and The Sea** by Ernest Hemingway.



IMAGES WITH MEANING

This story is like a parable - the story is simple but the images lead us to the profound. Since this story is more than a story of a man in search of a GREAT FISH, then what are the images? The answer to this question is difficult. Read carefully! Read world viewishly.

Though the story is not divided into chapters there are five major sections:

- 1 - The Introduction
- 2 - Searching for the GREAT FISH
- 3 - Battling the GREAT FISH
- 4 - The Destruction of the GREAT FISH
- 5 - At Home

WHAT DOES HEMINGWAY SAY?

THE INTRODUCTION

Describe the Old Man as the story opens.

How many days had the Old Man gone without catching a fish?

Though the Old Man had not been successful catching fish, what was his attitude about catching fish?

What was the young boy's attitude and belief about the circumstances of the Old Man?

How did the other fishermen view the Old Man?

WHAT DOES HEMINGWAY MEAN?

What does the Old Man represent?

What does this mean?

As the boy and the Old Man talk and as the fresh breeze increases what happens to the Old Man's hope and confidence?

The phrase "Good Luck" or "unlucky" is often mentioned. What does this tell us about Hemingway's basic beliefs?

As the boy and Old Man were entering his shack, they talked about food. But did the Old Man really have any food?

SEARCHING for the GREAT FISH

What does SEARCHING for the GREAT FISH represent?

Describe his search. Describe the Old Man, the changes in the time of day, his location, etc. as he searches for the GREAT FISH.

Describe the ocean current.

What does the ocean current represent?

BATTLING the GREAT FISH

What does the BATTLING the GREAT FISH represent?

Describe the initial contact of the Old Man and the GREAT FISH.

Describe the conversation the Old Man has with the GREAT FISH.

"Now is the time to think of only one thing. That for which I was born..." (Page 40).

What was Hemingway meaning by making such a statement?

Describe the anticipation as the Old Man feels the fish (page 41)... as he hooks the fish.

Describe the Old Man's attitude toward the GREAT FISH.

He wishes that the boy were with him.... and repeats this often but he is alone in the battle.

Fish...I'll stay with you until I die....Fish I love you and respect you but will kill you....

He believes the fish to less intelligent than man but more noble and more able.... page 63.

How great is this GREAT FISH?

.

Was the Old Man religious?

"I will kill him in all his greatness and glory"
(page 66).

What does this imply?

Describe the intense struggle of the Old Man in his pursuit of this GREAT FISH.

For how long did he and the GREAT FISH battle?

Who won the great battle?

Was catching this fish just a dream? “The Old Man looked at the fish constantly to make sure it was true” (page 100).

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE GREAT FISH

Describe what happened to the GREAT FISH.

What is the significance of the destruction of the GREAT FISH.

“He did not like to look at the fish anymore since he had been mutilated. When the fish had been hit it was as though he himself were hit” (page 103).

What was Hemingway suggestion by this statement?

Why did the Old Man wish that he had never hooked the GREAT FISH?

Why had he pursued to killed the GREAT FISH?

Does the Old Man feel sorry for Mako shark he kills? Why or why not?

What are the significance of these sharks?

He knows others sharks will come ... what will he do to these sharks?

“I wish it were a dream and that I had never hooked him....I’m sorry about it, fish. It makes everything wrong...” (page 110).

What was Hemingway saying with this statement?

What affect did this battle with the sharks have upon the Old Man?

“And make a dream you’ve killed a man” (page 119).

AT HOME

As he looked back on the GREAT FISH, what did he see?

In the morning “many fishermen were around the skiff looking at what was lashed beside it...measuring the skeleton with a length of line..... He was eighteen feet from nose to tail...”

“They beat me, Manolin,” the Old Man said.

“They truly beat me.”

“He didn’t beat you. Not the fish.”

“No. Truly. It was afterwards.”

What was Hemingway saying through this conversation?

What did the Old Man do with what was left of the GREAT FISH?

Chronicle the changes in HOPE of the Old Man.

What does the Old Man represent?

What does the SEARCH for the GREAT FISH represent?

What does the BATTLING the GREAT FISH represent?

What does the DESTRUCTION of the GREAT FISH represent?

Explain how this story illustrates 20th century man's 'grasping for the wind'?

THE PLAGUE

Albert Camus

Camus finding 20th century man in the darkest depths of emptiness sought to lead modern man above his meaningless existence. In *The Plague*, Camus, constructing a world closed off from the rest of the world symbolizing a world closed off from God, creates characters representing the various world views.

The characters listed below respond to the circumstances of the plague according to his or her basic beliefs - their world view. Like Hemingway, Camus through the details of *The Plague* communicates world views through symbols. A symbol is a person, place, or thing which stands for something unnamed. To understand the meaning behind the story, you must be a very careful reader.

SYMBOLS IN THE PLAGUE

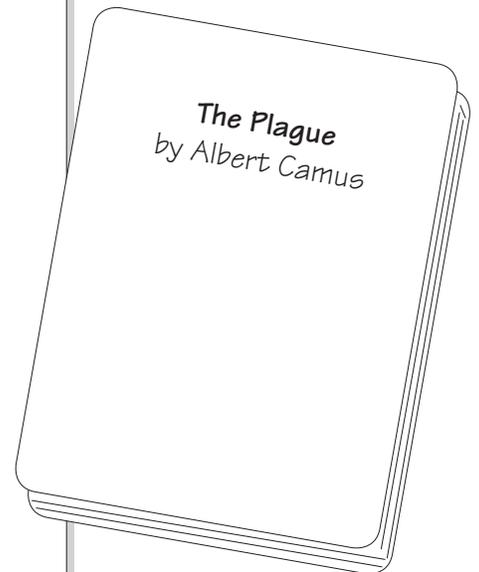
The disease
The closed gates to the city
The characters listed below

CHARACTERS IN THE PLAGUE TO CLOSELY OBSERVE

Dr. Bernard Rieux
Jean Tarrou
Father Paneloux
Cottard
M. Michel
The old Spaniard

Follow HOPE throughout the book. Who has hope and who does not?
For those characters who do not have hope, how does their life end?
If a character demonstrates hope,
then what is the basis of that hope?
Is the basis of this hope real or just a leap into the dark?

Read **The Plague** by Albert Camus.



As you read **The Plague** indicate how each of the characters below responded to their circumstances. What does this reveal regarding their basic world view?

Ask the Character ...	Is there a God? If so, what is He like?	What do you believe about the universe? Is it an open or closed system?
Dr. Bernard Rieux		
Jean Tarrou		
Father Paneloux		
Cottard		
M. Michel		
The old Spaniard		

What is the nature of man? What is he like?	What is the basis of moral and ethical decisions?	What is the cause of evil and suffering?

As you read **The Plague** indicate how each of the characters below responded to their circumstances. What does each person believe regarding the major world view questions?

Ask The Characters...	What Happens to Man at Death?	Do You Believe Life & History have any real meaning?
Dr. Bernard Rieux		
Jean Tarrou		
Father Paneloux		
Cottard		
M. Michel		
The old Spaniard		

THREE NEW WORLD VIEWS

Complete the following analysis.
To the best of your knowledge fill in the boxes below.

ISSUE	Christian	Deism (Transition)	Walden Two	Old Man and The Sea	The Plague
God	Transcendent Immanent Personal Infinite	Transcendent Not Immanent Not Personal Not Sovereign			
Universe	Created by God Open System Abnormal	Created by God Closed System Normal			
Man	Created Free Moral Being	Created Part of Clockwork Not free			
Ethics	Based Upon the character of God	Held to a form of Christian morality			
Death	Life after death	Maybe life after death			
History	Seen and an Unseen	Seen Only			

MEANING TO LIFE?

The three books, **Walden Two**, **The Old Man and The Sea**, and **The Plague**, represent three different world views of the 20th century. These three world views stand in sharp contrast to the Christian world view. Write an essay explaining modern man's search for meaning and purpose to life.

20th Century Man's Search for Meaning to Life

The Introduction - Western Man Cuts Loose from the Biblical World View

The Body

What are the major thoughts and ideas of the 20th century world views?

Compare these ideas against the Biblical world view, the gauge against which we measure all thoughts and ideas.

How does the world view of deism quickly lead to the world view expressed through the novel **Walden Two** ... to the world view expressed through **The Old Man and The Sea** ... to the world view expressed through **The Plague**?

The Conclusion - Where has Man Ended Apart from the Biblical World View?

You may wish to refer to "How to Write an Essay" in Part I or Part II of World Views of the Western World.

20th Century Man's Search for Meaning to Life An Analysis

The Introduction
Freed from the
Biblical World
View -

20th Century
World Views

Contrast these ideas
against the Biblical
World View

Follow the
Journey
from Deism
through the
three world
views.

Conclusion
Where has
man ended
apart from the
Biblical World
View?

My Outline -

PARAGRAPH
DEVELOPMENT

Title: _____

I. Introduction

TOPIC SENTENCE

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

II. 20th Century World Views

TOPIC SENTENCE

A. _____

1. _____

2. _____

B. _____

1. _____

2. _____

C. _____

1. _____

2. _____

III. Evaluated Against the Biblical World View

TOPIC SENTENCE

A. _____

1. _____

2. _____

B. _____

1. _____

2. _____

TRANSITIONAL
SENTENCE

PARAGRAPH
DEVELOPMENT

- C. _____
1. _____
2. _____

TRANSITIONAL
SENTENCE

IV. Journey through the World Views

- A. _____
1. _____
2. _____

TOPIC SENTENCE

- B. _____
1. _____
2. _____

TRANSITIONAL
SENTENCE

- C. _____
1. _____
2. _____

V. Conclusion

- A. _____
1. _____
2. _____

TOPIC SENTENCE

- B. _____
1. _____
2. _____

STAR WARS

George Lucas

THE FORCE BE WITH YOU

The most dramatic and persuasive introduction to another world view came from the multimillion dollar movie series “Star Wars” by George Lucas. “Luke, trust your feelings,” exhorts Obi-Wan. The old Jedi Master instructs his student Luke Skywalker not to rely upon his reason or his sense, but rather his inner touch with a higher reality — the Force... “Use the Force, Luke ... Let go ... trust me.” Will the young pilot trust his fighter training and sophisticated technology or will he trust the Force?

Many millions of people coming with a heritage of the Western Judeo-Christian world view were powerfully introduced to this new view of reality. These movies have and will continue to dramatically shape the thinking of the Western culture. Hollywood is such a powerful force. Producers and directors are attempting to usher in their theology through dazzling cinematography. Though you may have seen these movies as only as an action adventure, they represent so much more. Does this series represents the classic Christian struggle between good and evil or is it the setting forth of a new set of ideas? Upon closer examination what do you think?

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER AS WATCHING STAR WARS

What is the FORCE? What is its nature ... its character?

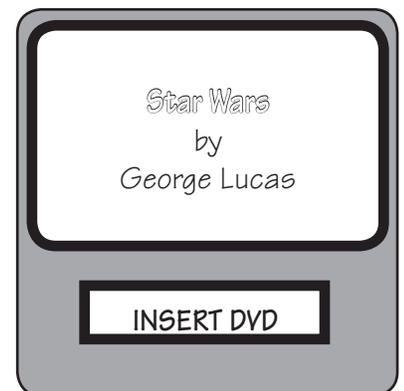
Is the Force Personal or Impersonal?

Is the Force Infinite or Finite?

Explain the conflict between GOOD and EVIL.

What is the source of GOOD and EVIL?

Watch the **Star Wars** series by George Lucas.



How is man portrayed? What is he like?
How is he different from the creatures? ... the robots?
Incorporate comments about 'reason' and 'nonreason.'

How does man relate to the FORCE?

You are led to believe that Luke Skywalker and his friends are fighting for the GOOD side. What is the basis for such a picture? Is there an absolute frame of reference for deciding right from wrong?

Is there a seen and unseen portion to the Star Wars universe? Is this universe an open or closed system?
Give evidence for your answers.

Who is Obi-Wan? What are his teachings?
What happens to him at death?

Who is Yoda and what are his teachings?
Who does he represent?

Who is Darth Vader? What is his relationship to the FORCE? Explain the importance of the circumstances surrounding his birth ... life ... death.

THE WORLD VIEW OF STAR WARS

Some have said that the series **Star Wars** represents the classic Christian struggle between good and evil. Upon closer examination what do you think? Write an essay comparing the thoughts and ideas presented in **Star Wars** with the ideas of the Biblical world view, the gauge against which we measure all ideas.

The Introduction

The Body

What are the major thoughts and ideas of the FORCE?

How are the ideas presented in *Star Wars* different from other world views of the 20th Century?

Contrast the FORCE to the Biblical world view of God.

The Conclusion

You may wish to refer to “How to Write an Essay” in Part I or Part II of *World Views of the Western World*

Star Wars and the Biblical World View An Analysis

Introduction

The FORCE

The FORCE
and the other
20th Century
World Views

The FORCE
and the Biblical
World View

Conclusion

My Outline -

PARAGRAPH
DEVELOPMENT

Title: _____

I. Introduction

TOPIC SENTENCE

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

II. The FORCE

TOPIC SENTENCE

A. _____

1. _____

2. _____

B. _____

1. _____

2. _____

C. _____

1. _____

2. _____

III. The FORCE and other 20th Century World Views

TOPIC SENTENCE

A. _____

1. _____

2. _____

B. _____

1. _____

2. _____

TRANSITIONAL
SENTENCE

PARAGRAPH
DEVELOPMENT

- C. _____
1. _____
2. _____

TRANSITIONAL
SENTENCE

IV. The FORCE and the Biblical World View

- A. _____
1. _____
2. _____

TOPIC SENTENCE

- B. _____
1. _____
2. _____

TRANSITIONAL
SENTENCE

- C. _____
1. _____
2. _____

V. Conclusion

- A. _____
1. _____
2. _____

TOPIC SENTENCE

- B. _____
1. _____
2. _____

EXPLAINING THE 20TH CENTURY SHIFT IN THINKING

Christianity Answers the 21st Century Part IV

World Views of the Western World



THE SILENCE OF FINITE SPACE

Naturalism

A major shift in thought has occurred in Western thinking. We have moved from the Grandeur of God under the Biblical world view to a totally new view of reality. Theism and Naturalism stand in stark contrast to one another. They are like two great continents. The passage from Theism to Naturalism came about through Deism.

THE SILENCE OF FINITE SPACE: NATURALISM

The Role of Deism ...

Basic Naturalism

1.

2.

Read *The Silence of Finite Space: Naturalism* by James Sire from **The Universe Next Door**.



Notes, Special Thoughts,
or Questions ...

ZERO POINT

Nihilism

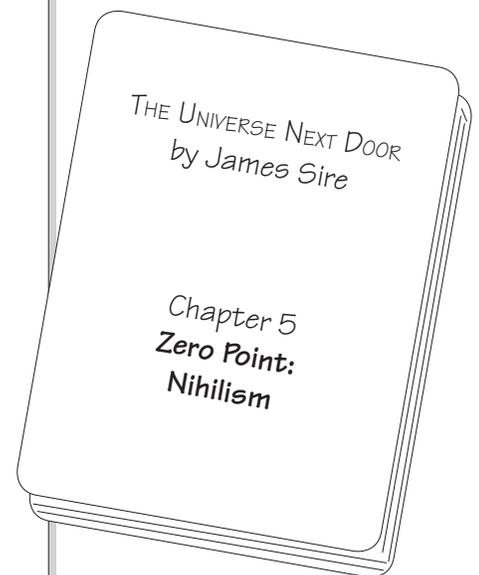
What are the logical consequences of fully embracing the Naturalistic world view? Where does it lead man? Is there intrinsic meaning in the Naturalistic world view? These questions place 20th century man in a very difficult position in his search for purpose and meaning.

ZERO POINT: NIHILISM

Nihilism is more a feeling ...

The First Bridge: Necessity and Chance

Read *Zero Point: Nihilism* by James Sire from **The Universe Next Door**.



Notes, Special Thoughts,
or Questions ...

World Views of the 20th Century

THE WEST IN CRISIS

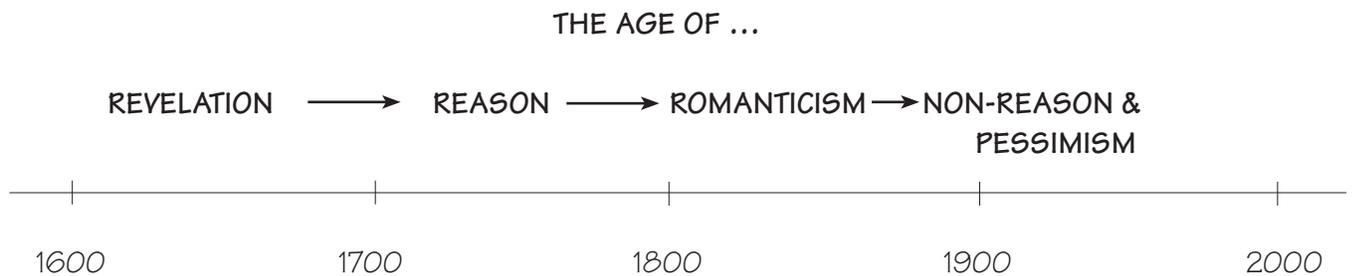
Hope and Optimism Turn to Heartache and Pessimism

Western society has undergone three major shifts in thought over the past 300 years. The following is an overview of the past four centuries.... Prior to the 1700's people would look to Scripture as the source of Truth and meaning to life. However, during the 1700's Reason (with a capital 'R') would replace Revelation. Mankind separated itself from Revelation as he relied upon his own reason in his search for purpose and meaning. His hope began to center upon himself.

Because man is finite, his reason is limited. It did not take long for man to realize that Reason alone was insufficient to put all the pieces together. However, instead of returning to Revelation, Western thinking pushed further in the wrong direction. Perhaps hope in hope would suffice. Man turns to Romanticism for the answer. But this too would prove empty.

Romanticism was an insufficient base for the intense pressures about to be thrust upon it. Twentieth Century society would be squeezed by five major crisis. The twentieth Century had no real solid basis for the hope offered by Romanticism.

Hope and optimism would quickly turn to heartache and pessimism.



RESEARCH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING FIVE EVENTS:

- 1 - The Great War
- 2 - The Great Depression
- 3 - World War II
- 4 - The death of John F. Kennedy
- 5 - The Vietnam War

Research each event. Describe the significance of each and explain how collectively they would change man's sense of hope and optimism to heartache and pessimism.

BEYOND NIHILISM

Existentialism

Albert Camus wrote, “A literature of despair is a contradiction in terms...In the darkest depths of our nihilism I have sought only for the means to transcend nihilism.” Pessimism quickly followed in the footsteps of Naturalism. How can 20th century man escape the dark despair of this pessimism?

BEYOND NIHILISM: EXISTENTIALISM

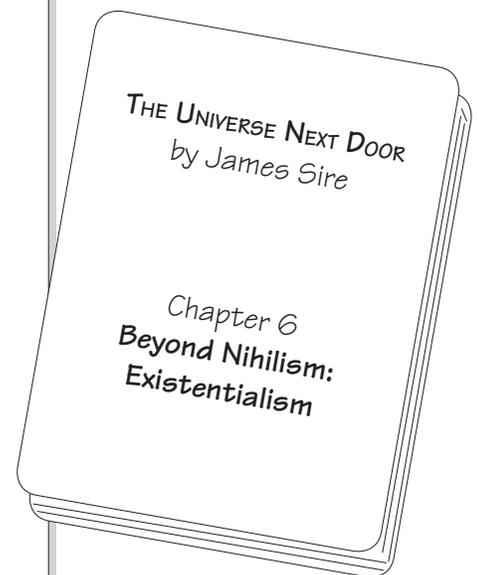
An Introduction

Basic Atheistic Existentialism

1.

2.

Read *Beyond Nihilism: Existentialism* by James Sire from **The Universe Next Door**.



Notes, Special Thoughts,
or Questions ...

JOURNEY TO THE EAST

Eastern Pantheistic Monism

What was man to do? Freeing himself from the Biblical world view man moved quickly to a series of world views that denied the unseen portion of the universe. In doing so 20th century man was found 'grasping for the wind' - hopelessly in a meaningless flight to find purpose and significance for his life. Will he return to the Biblical world view or move in some new direction?

JOURNEY TO THE EAST: EASTERN PANTHEISTIC MONISM

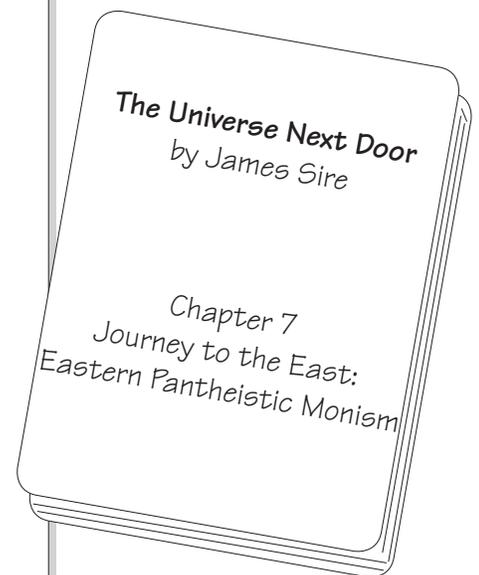
An Introduction

Basic Eastern Pantheistic Monism

1.

2.

Read *Journey to the East: Eastern Pantheistic Monism* by James Sire from **The Universe Next Door**.



Notes, Special Thoughts,
or Questions ...

A SEPARATE UNIVERSE

The New Age

A pure shift to Eastern Pantheistic Monism is a difficult jump for most Western minds. Is there a less difficult way to obtain meaning and significance? Is there a way to unite and blend the ideas of the East into the West that is more palatable for 20th century Western man?

A SEPARATE UNIVERSE:: THE NEW AGE

An Introduction

The Radical Transformation of Human Nature

Read *A Separate Universe: The New Age* by James Sire from **The Universe Next Door**.



Notes, Special Thoughts,
or Questions ...

Notes, Special Thoughts,
or Questions ...

The Panoramic Sweep of New Age Thought

Relationship to Other World views

The Basic Tenets of the New Consciousness

1.

2.

