

# THE HISTORY OF REINCARNATION

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One of the most popular beliefs in the world concerning death is the transmigration or reincarnation of the soul. This belief today is the primary opponent to the Christian concept of heaven and hell.

Hollywood stars such as Shirley MacLaine have given reincarnation great popularity. One finds increasing references to this concept on TV shows and in movies. The tabloids at Grocery store checkouts run sensational stories "proving" it every week. What is reincarnation all about, and how should Christians respond to it?

## I. Eastern Transmigration

The orthodox Hindu idea of reincarnation teaches that when you die, your soul does not go to heaven or hell. Instead, your soul goes into some other kind of Body here on earth.

This body can be an insect, fish, animal, or human body. This is why Hindu's practice vegetarianism, and will not kill the pests that destroy their harvests.

## II. Western Reincarnation

When occultists such as Edgar Cayce realized that the concept of reincarnating into animal and insect bodies would not be attractive to westerners, they decided to alter the concept.

Using the western concepts of evolution and progress, the occultists taught that through reincarnation the soul always progressively evolves up the scale of being. Thus you cannot regress back into an insect or animal body once you have reached the human stage. You are either born into another human body, or you fly off the wheel of karma and are absorbed back into oneness.

## III. The Theory of Karma

In Hindu theology, there is no personal God who hands out rewards and punishments like in the Bible. Instead, there is the non-personal principle of karma which decides on the basis of the good and evil you have done in previous lives; you will be reborn as rich or poor, healthy or handicap, slave or master, etc.

## IV. Good and Bad Karma

Karma teaches that you are either suffering or prospering in your present life because of the evil or good you did in a previous life.

If you are born as a poor little black "crack" baby in Harlem with terrible physical and mental sufferings, you are only getting what you deserve. You must have done some really evil things in a past to have such "bad" karma. But if you are born into a rich white family with health and wealth all your days, then you too only getting what you deserve. You must have done some really good things in a past life to have such "good" karma.

**For more information contact Faith Defenders**

Faith Defenders is a ministry which equips fellow members of the Body of Christ to define, document, and defend the Biblical Christian Faith. Many resources on reincarnation, cults and religions are available on audio/CD, video and dozens of written publications. For more information on reincarnation you can order from our catalog. The CD series, *Introduction to the Cults and the Occult*, and the book, *Reincarnation and Christianity* may be an ideal choice for your library.

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