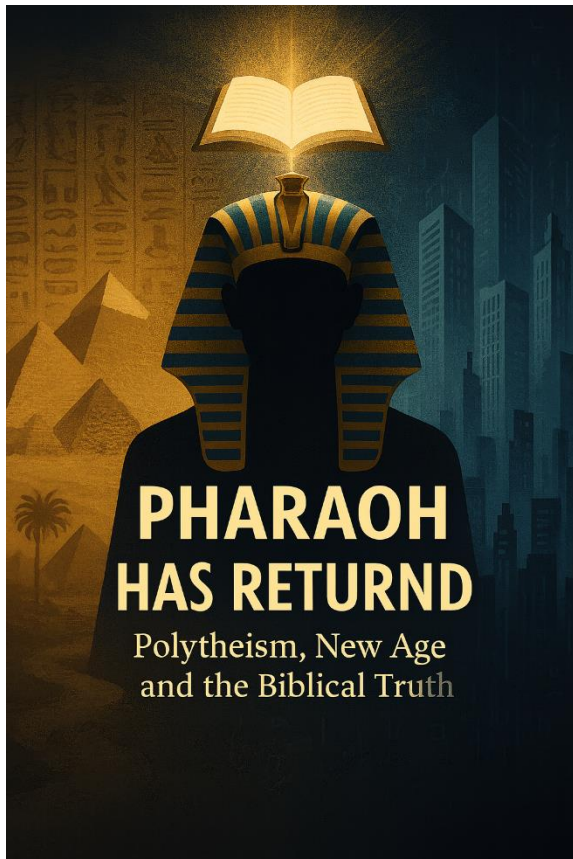




1.1. Pharaoh—in the ancient Egyptian state, this term at first referred to the royal palace, but from the 18th dynasty onward it became the title of the ruler himself. The Pharaoh was the absolute ruler of the state, the supreme judge, and the military commander. He governed the state administration and appointed officials. During the 4th dynasty, titles were added to his name that identified him with the god Horus (the falcon), and from the 5th dynasty onward the title Si-Ra (son of the god Ra) appeared—“Ra” being the sun god.

1.2. Now that we know a little about the history of the pharaohs, let us turn to the main question: what do I mean when I say the Pharaoh has returned, and if he has returned—who is the Pharaoh of today?

1.3. To understand how the Pharaoh has re-emerged on the scene, we must go far back into the past—a past shaped by a belief system called polytheism. In short, ancient polytheism held that there were many gods who sustained our reality. And all these gods were, in essence, powers—godlike beings—who dwelled together at an address called the heavens.

1.4. People of that time believed that these gods were forces that could alter and shape reality at their own will. And how did they do this? While some gods caused droughts, floods, wars, and all sorts of diseases among the nations of the world, others brought prosperity to certain peoples in every aspect. It often happened that the god of one nation proved stronger than the god of another. And in the time of the Pharaohs, this was true for the Egyptian people—they were the greatest military, economic, and political power of their age.

1.5. What did it look like when the gods exercised control through the government of a nation?

1.6. Well, while ordinary people believed they had to worship the gods in order to gain their favor and receive what they wanted, among them there were also the so-called “sons of the gods.” For example: “the son of the god Ra”—the Egyptian ruler called Pharaoh, or “the son of the god Ea”—the Babylonian king called Marduk. Their role was to act as mediators between the people and the heavenly god whom the nation worshiped. They were kings who ruled earthly kingdoms in the name of the heavenly god to whom those kingdoms belonged. Along with the title “son of god” came privileges. Take the Pharaoh as an example: he was blessed with prosperity, health, power, and even the promise of life after death. Pharaoh also

had the ability—through his magicians—to shape reality as he pleased. In the Bible, we even have proof that Pharaoh could to some extent alter the laws of nature¹.

1.7. All this serves as evidence that the “son of the god Ra” was himself considered a force, and as such he could shape reality at will. But this power belonged only to the “son of the heavenly god.” He alone had the authority to carry out the will of the heavenly god. All other earthly people were at the mercy of the earthly ruler and his heavenly god. In other words, they could not change reality as they pleased—they were not forces like the “son of the heavenly god.”

1.8. Now that you better understand the beliefs and perspectives of those who lived under polytheism, I want to say the following: my battle in this article will be to try to expose the false beliefs that have been taught throughout human history—and are still being taught today. Let us begin with those who today have strong influence on the world stage—at least in the Western world, as far as I know.

NEW AGE

2. New Age finds its inspiration primarily in Buddhism, Hinduism, theosophy, anthroposophy, Gnosticism, as well as the teachings of various esoteric² traditions. It encompasses reincarnation, polytheism, animism, pantheism, and similar neo-pagan beliefs. The teaching of reincarnation within New Age comes from the theosophical movement (Buddhism, Hinduism). New Age interprets karma as a spiritual lesson that an individual must draw from certain events encountered in life—events that he himself has caused along his path of development through multiple lives, though not necessarily as punishment for misdeeds from past lives. Suffering and evil, according to this movement, are seen as illusions created by man himself. New Age denies the existence of hell, or considers it part of the spiritual realm; some interpretations within the movement see hell as nothing more than a creation of human thoughts and emotions.

New Age does not follow a unified doctrine; it is not an organized religion. Rather, it is a collection of movements that include groups gathered around a leader or an idea that arose from the teaching of gifted individuals (teachers).

2.1. It rejects hierarchical religious structures, studies mystical branches of orthodox religious traditions, and places significant emphasis on esoteric and occult doctrines from all over the world, while at the same time partly adopting modern scientific and parascientific paradigms.

¹ (Exodus 7:10–12), (Exodus 7:14–22).

² When speaking of esoteric doctrines, esoteric teachings, and so on, this refers to doctrines and teachings aimed at leading a person to inner spiritual and metaphysical knowledge. According to esotericism, true knowledge is not achieved through scientific research, but through inner enlightenment and initiation into secret teaching. Esoteric doctrines and teachings encompass a wide range of disciplines and systems of thought such as alchemy, anthroposophy, astrology, Kabbalah, mysticism, occultism, spiritism, theosophy, as well as other hermetic traditions within the framework of modern New Age doctrine.

2.1.1. - This movement is characterized by a focus on inner personal spiritual development and a withdrawal from broader social engagement, with an emphasis on the mystical and spiritual as the most important dimension of human existence, as well as on natural health and spiritual healing. New Age introduces and popularizes many practices and methods of alternative medicine. -

THE ATTITUDE OF RELIGIONS TOWARD THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

3. Catholic theology criticizes the New Age movement for rejecting sin as a moral standard; New Age interprets sin and suffering as the result of bad deeds from previous existences on earth. The movement emphasizes self-awareness and self-realization, which stands in contrast to religious surrender to God.

3.1. On February 3, 2003, the Catholic Church issued an official document: "Jesus Christ, the Bearer of the Water of Life," published by the Pontifical Council for Culture and the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. The document is extensive and provides an overview of the movement and its main characteristics, comparing Christian teaching with New Age beliefs. The document interprets the rise of this movement as the modern person's need for spirituality. It states: *"People feel that the Christian religion does not provide—or perhaps has never provided—what they truly need. The search that often leads people into New Age is a genuine thirst for deeper spirituality, for something that touches their hearts, and for a way to give meaning to a confused and often alienating world."*

3.2. The document identifies its goal as follows: *"To become acquainted with the movement as a cultural trend, and to help Catholics understand true Catholic teaching and spirituality in order to properly evaluate the themes of this current."*

New Age describes God and the world as manifestations of energy or vibration, and even the person of Jesus Christ is understood as a supra-personal form of cosmic energy. On a global scale, the movement's efforts are interpreted as a striving „to transcend individual religions and establish a universal religion“. It is claimed that this new spirituality seeks to replace the spirituality rooted in Judeo-Christian tradition.

3.3. To a small degree, or at the beginning, Eastern religions showed understanding and sympathy for New Age. But this harmonious relationship began to collapse with the strong affirmation of the main concepts of New Age. It became clear that for New Age adherents, Eastern cultures were only fragments of a greater teaching and form of spirituality, which found its fulfillment in a shape adapted to Western culture. Since then, Buddhist, Hindu, and Taoist traditions have more clearly defined themselves and distanced from New Age.

3.4. Based on the core ideas highlighted above (§ 2.1.1), I conclude that the New Ager seeks within himself the „divine“, through „energy and vibration“ that exist in the „universe“, all for the sake of good health, a better life here and now, and better future lives after death. My question is this: was this not also what Pharaoh did? He was the „son of the sun god“—meaning he had the „divine“ within himself. And with the authority that came from the title

“son of god,” by drawing from his source—the sun god—he obtained everything he desired: prosperity, health, and a spiritual life that guaranteed him existence after death.

3.5. Although New Age definitions state that some religious movements have distanced themselves from it, I know from personal experience that many of my acquaintances discovered and came to love Eastern philosophies precisely through New Age. While I do not know much about Buddhism, Hinduism, or Taoism, I do know that New Age teachers frequently use ideas derived from those traditions. Eckhart Tolle, Dr. Joe Dispenza, Deepak Chopra, Wayne W. Dyer, Louise L. Hay, Tony Robbins—all are authors of bestselling books that have sold hundreds of millions of copies worldwide. Some of them you may have read yourself—I know I have: “The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success,” “Perfect Health,” “You Are the Placebo – Making Your Mind Matter,” “Change Your Thoughts – Change Your Life,” “Wishes Fulfilled,” “The Power Is Within You”... These are just some of the titles written by the authors mentioned.

3.6. Simply by reading the titles of these books, one can conclude that the flow and outcome of our lives are in our „own hands“. Dr. Wayne Dyer once said: *“Within each of us lies a spark of light. In some it shines less brightly, in others it shines in full. It is up to us to decide how brightly the spark of light will shine—the spark that gives us the power to obtain all that we desire.”*

3.7. What we can conclude is this: New Age promotes the idea that the power of life and blessing resides in each individual—he only needs to believe with all his heart that it is true. In contrast to polytheism, where only Pharaoh, alongside the heavenly god, was a force capable of shaping reality, New Age teaches that every human being can be such a force, if he so chooses.

— In other words: the universe, energy, or the gods of the heavens are available to anyone who seeks them. —

3.8. Now then, what about the major religions of the world—do they contain within their teachings the belief that blessing in life ultimately comes from within ourselves? I believe they do. Although I do not know the fundamental teachings of every religion on earth, I will try to give a few examples from those I know a little about.

1. Modern Christianity

4. Many Christians today believe that if they follow biblical principles (forces) and focus enough on them mentally, spiritually, and through prayer – their faith will bless them. And why do they believe this? Because their teachers tell them that this is the truth the Bible itself carries.

4.1. America is full of mega-churches that gather tens of thousands of people. Adorned with giant screens and even larger choirs singing and praising God, the congregation, carried by an

atmosphere of awe and euphoria, waits for the pastor to teach them the “wisdom of God” through words like: *“Wasn’t the centurion’s servant healed because of his faith, as he lay on his deathbed³? Wasn’t the prostitute, who barged uninvited into the house of Simon the Pharisee, saved by her faith⁴? Wasn’t the woman who had been bleeding for twelve years healed because of her faith⁵? Didn’t our Lord Jesus Himself say several times: ‘Your faith has saved you’? If Jesus said that, then it is up to us to use the power of our faith to get everything we want – a good life, a good marriage, a good job, health, a life without suffering or sorrow. We just have to believe, and then we can avoid every trouble this life throws at us – we can even become sinless, like our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

4.1.2. In other words, pastors teach their congregations that the source of faith is in Jesus – but that faith, ultimately, comes from ourselves. We produce it. And if the Bible is interpreted literally, then that really is true.

4.1.3. I myself remember how I used to “swallow” the distorted Gospel preached by those teachers. Joel Osteen, for example, one of his most famous quotes goes like this: *“When you decide to take control of your life and your future, God will make things happen that would never have happened otherwise. Our attitude should be: I’m getting out of debt – and I’m saying it out loud. This will be my best year – and I’m saying it out loud. I will overcome every obstacle – and I’m saying it out loud. I will accomplish my dreams – and I’m saying it out loud.”*

(This quote comes from the book *The Power of I Am: Two Words That Will Change Your Life Today*.)

4.2. Kenneth Copeland goes even further:

“Faith is the dominant force in the universe, and when you have faith – all things are possible. Speak God’s word out loud during your bad circumstances, and watch those circumstances change. In Christ, you have access to every promise and blessing of God.”

(This quote comes from the book *The Force of Faith*.)

4.3. While America is poisoned by the prosperity gospel and its falsehoods, Europe is not much better. Catholicism and Orthodoxy teach us that if we only believe in the healing power of saints, the Virgin Mary, or holy places like churches and monasteries blessed by God’s grace – we will receive what we most desire: health and a blessed life.

Here too we see the same pattern – the power lies in our faith, which supposedly “activates” when sought in those places and people considered sources of divine grace.

4.3.1. However, I must add this: although I believe conservative branches of Christianity belong in the same basket as modern ones, their situation is more complex. Unlike modern movements – where it’s easy to recognize false beliefs – conservative Christians are deeply

³ (Luke 7:9)

⁴ (Luke 7:50)

⁵ (Matthew 9:20-22)

immersed in Scripture. They have convinced themselves that, because of their exclusive belonging to one of those movements, they are blessed in every way. I believe they embody the spirit of Pharisaic teaching, clearly present in the Gospels – the very teaching that Jesus opposed most fiercely.

Because of the complexity of this subject, and out of respect for the Lord and His teaching, I do not want to reduce the profound and beautiful Gospel to a few superficial sentences⁶.

4.4. Sadly, all the beliefs taught by our churches – whether in America or in Europe – ultimately stem from the conviction that Jesus Christ and the apostles themselves interpreted God’s plan in this way within the Scriptures.

4.5. Personally, I believe the biblical perspective is completely different from any life philosophy the world has ever offered. In the continuation of this article, I will try to present the truth promoted by the Old Testament prophets, Jesus, and the apostles.

4.6. But before I begin that project, I want to compare New Age with one more religious movement. Above, I spoke about one of the main Western religions – now I will turn to one of the main Eastern ones.

2. Taoism⁷

5. Taoism is an ancient Chinese philosophy; for some, it is also a religion that arises from and is based upon that philosophy. The key concept in Taoist philosophy is tao. In Chinese, tao literally means something like “the way” or “the path,” but this literal translation is not very helpful for grasping tao in its most important sense. Tao is the ultimate power that creates, renews, moves, and enlivens – it is the foundation of all reality. Without tao, nothing would exist. It is responsible for the existence of all things and, with its living power, sustains everything that lives and moves. In the Tao Te Ching, the Taoist writings, we read:

*a) There is something inherently natural,
It existed before heaven and earth,
Motionless and unfathomable,
Standing alone and unchanging;
Present everywhere, inexhaustible.
It may be regarded as the Mother of the universe.
I do not know its name. If forced to give it a name, I call it Tao,
And describe it as something supreme.
Supreme means going further; going further means going afar;
Going afar means returning.
Therefore Tao is supreme; heaven is supreme; earth is supreme;*

⁶ A more detailed discussion of this topic can be found on our website under the category *Sermons*: from sermon 26 to sermon 42.

⁷ The text is taken from an article written by the author Jack Crabtree. I leave you the link:
<https://gutenberg.edu/author/jackcrabtree/page/3/>

And man is also supreme.

In the universe there are four supreme things, and man is one of them.

Man follows the laws of earth; earth follows the laws of heaven;

Heaven follows the laws of Tao; Tao follows the laws of its intrinsic nature.

Later in another chapter we read:

b) The Great Tao flows everywhere,

To the left and to the right.

All things are born from it, yet it does not reject them.

It accomplishes great works, yet does not claim them.

It nurtures all things with love, yet does not dominate them.

It is always without possession; therefore it can be called small.

Yet everything returns to it, without it ever demanding mastery;

Therefore it can be called great.

Because it never presumes to be great, it achieves greatness.

5.1.1. Every genuine philosophy of human existence must tell us how to live. Taoism does exactly that. According to Taoism, a human being can live, act, and think in harmony with tao – the ultimate, good, and creative life-force underlying everything that exists – or they can live, act, and think contrary to the purpose of tao. Tao is like a vast river flowing in a certain direction. As an individual, I can either relax and allow myself to be carried along by its current, or I can resist it, trying to swim across it, or even fight to swim upstream. Even my struggle against its flow is, of course, ultimately empowered by tao itself; but since such efforts do not align with the flow of tao, they will be clumsy, unsuccessful, vain, and unproductive.

5.2. From this perspective, human existence will only be good, happy, and fulfilled to the extent that I live my life in harmony with the flowing power of tao, rather than contrary to its purpose. Why is this so? Because a life lived in alignment with tao is a life energized by the direct and undivided power of tao.

But a life lived in opposition to tao is a life powered by a different kind of strength – the strength of one's individual self. Since, in the end, there is no power apart from the power of tao, even the strength of one's self is ultimately derived from tao; but it is undefined, murky, not the pure and harmonious power of tao itself. Thus, while energized by tao, human beings can take control of their lives, make decisions, and act by the strength of their own will.

5.3. The result, says the Taoist, is unfortunate. Attempts to do everything ourselves, to control everything, to say my existence depends on me, inevitably lead to evil, vice, failure, and imperfection. Work performed by one's own effort is unproductive, weak, or unsuccessful. But work done in reliance upon tao, the all-empowering force, will be good, effective, and fruitful. This is the secret of living human life. If we want our lives to be happy, we must completely and faithfully depend on the power of tao; we must learn to set aside the strength of our individual self.

5.4. But how can someone actually do this? How can one ensure that their thoughts, efforts, and actions are empowered by tao rather than by their individual self? The secret, says the Taoist, lies in learning the attitude of wu wei.

Wu wei means something like “non-action.” Wu wei is the ability to step aside and allow tao to accomplish what is needed. It is a mindset – or a condition of the human will – in which my external self, my individual personality, remains passive and inactive, so that tao at the core of my true inner being can be active, in me and through me.

5.5. Wu wei is therefore a kind of mental or volitional discipline; and in this discipline lies the secret of successful and productive human existence. All one must do is learn to set aside one’s individual self, render it passive and inactive, so that one’s actions and efforts can be directly empowered and harmonized with tao itself.

5.6. To summarize: Taoist philosophy seeks to teach us humans that we must simply surrender to the power of tao – that we must live in accordance with tao’s plan for us – and then we will live happy and fulfilled lives. Because that, in fact, is what tao wants for us. In other words, if I have understood correctly, at its core, Taoist philosophy is not fundamentally different from New Age philosophy, nor from modern Christianity. All three offer the individual the choice, by free will, to make use of the divine within themselves – the spark of light, faith – and through it, to call upon the ultimate source of existence, whether the Universe, Jesus Christ, or Tao, to give them what they want: the best possible life here and now.

ARE THE NEW AGE, THAOISM, AND MODERN CHRISTIANITY A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE?

6. To answer that question, I will try to compare the event from (Exodus 7–12), where Yahweh dismantled Pharaoh’s ideological beliefs, with the event in my own life where God used illness to dismantle my ideological beliefs.

6.1. Let me begin with this question: why did I choose the story of Pharaoh as the tool to prove my point? Because the way Yahweh dealt with Pharaoh reminds me of my own journey of getting to know God. In one very important area Pharaoh and I are strikingly similar. And that is this: deep down, both he and I believed that we were gods.

What do I mean by “gods”? Although Pharaoh truly ruled over a great physical kingdom – while I did not – both he and I took for ourselves whatever we wanted, whenever we wanted it. Both he and I believed that whatever we imagined, we could have. Just as Pharaoh succeeded in his time in being master of his own life, so I succeeded in my time in being master of mine. That conviction had put down deep roots, both in Pharaoh’s life and in my own.

6.2. Now, when the God of the Bible wants you to truly know Him, He sometimes has to use drastic measures. And through a few examples I will compare how God worked while He slowly but surely established His authority over Pharaoh’s life – and likewise over mine. In

other words, the God of the Bible, through clear and undeniable signs, wanted to dismantle the beliefs that had shaped the reality in which both Pharaoh and I lived.

6.3. I will call the table: “By This You Shall Know That I Am Yahweh.”

These are the words of Yahweh, spoken to Moses and Aaron, when they were sent to Pharaoh to perform the signs.

By this you shall know that I am Yahweh

Pharaoh (son of the god Ra) – Polytheism	Daniel (son of the God of the universe) – New Age
(Exodus 7:1-5) Yahweh speaks to Moses that He will perform great signs among the Egyptian people, all for the purpose that they would let His chosen people (the Israelites) go. And during that process the Egyptians will come to know who Yahweh really is (verse 5).	All the signs He performed in my life began with the diagnosis of an incurable rare disease that I have. After the diagnosis, the doctor recommended that I stop working the job I had until then. I refused her recommendation, because of the big income that job was bringing me, I decided to keep working, believing that I was the <i>force</i> that shapes my own reality.
(Exodus 7:8-13) Here Yahweh tells Moses that his brother Aaron should throw down the staff before Pharaoh – and it would turn into a serpent. But, since Pharaoh was a force, he could change his reality. Through his magicians he made their staffs become serpents. In the text we read that Yahweh’s serpent swallowed the serpents of Pharaoh’s magicians, yet he remained hard-hearted toward that truth.	After some time I got my first pneumothorax. I ended up in the hospital where I stayed about 15 days. When my lung function returned to normal, I decided to go back to work. I denied the seriousness of the situation I was in – I was hard-hearted.
(Exodus 7:14-24) Yahweh decides to perform even more dramatic signs. He commands Moses and Aaron to turn all the rivers in Egypt into blood. In verse 17 we see Yahweh reveal His plan behind the sign: <i>“By this you shall know that I am Yahweh.”</i> So Yahweh’s plan was for all of Egypt – which at that time was the greatest economic, political, and military power in the world – to come to know the One who rules all of reality. And how did He do it? By choosing to go to battle against all the gods the Egyptians believed in. After Moses and Aaron turned all the rivers into blood, Pharaoh’s magicians did the same, so Pharaoh again remained hard-hearted. In other words, he decided not to know who Yahweh really is.	After the first pneumothorax, I convinced myself it would also be the last. I went back to work, and after a few months I started coughing up blood. Yahweh again performs a sign in my life: <i>“By this you shall know that I am Yahweh.”</i> And what do I do? I convince myself that I can defeat the disease that happened to me. I began to gather modern magicians around me who would help me in my intention. One magician recommended I put a Tibetan bowl on my stomach and strike it with a stick. Then vibrations would be created that supposedly helped the healthy cells in the body defeat the unhealthy ones. A Jyotish magician recommended that I chant daily (pray) over Jyotish charts that I placed in every corner of my house. A woman magician told me to feed crows and black dogs on Saturdays. Why? She believed there was a

	possibility that a woman with black hair had cursed me. And what do you think – did I listen to her? Yes, I went around the village on Saturdays looking for crows and black dogs to feed them. My goodness, what a fool when I remember – I was ready to do anything to deny the reality happening to me. Oh, how hard-hearted I was.
(Exodus 8:1-28) Yahweh squeezes Pharaoh even more with signs: first with frogs, then with gnats, and finally with flies. Through this process Pharaoh at one point softened and told Moses to pray to Yahweh to relent, and that he would let God's people go to offer sacrifice to Yahweh. But we see in the text that Pharaoh wanted to put conditions on Yahweh. He told Moses that the Israelites should sacrifice to their God in the land of Egypt. By that we can conclude Pharaoh was still not ready to accept who Yahweh really is. And when Yahweh removed the flies, Pharaoh showed his true face – he forbade the Israelites to go and offer sacrifice to Yahweh.	Yahweh presses me even more with signs, puts me in bed, infection after infection, fever, chest pain, ER visits every week, hospital bed... and so for months. It becomes clear to me that someone up there is ruling my life. Fear took hold of every atom of my being, anxiety opened the door of my room and entered powerfully into my life. Everything became unreal, I thought I would go insane. Because of all this I pray to the One above whom I do not know to relent, and at the same time I admit to myself that I am not the ruler of my life. After some time God relents, I slowly come back to myself, and I tell myself: <i>"It's time to get up, to take your life into your own hands."</i> Since I lost the job that was bringing big income into the house, I start my own company, the business begins well: meetings, tastings, new business contacts... and after a year I say to myself at one point: <i>"This is it, I'm back, I am again becoming the ruler of my life."</i> In other words, once again my heart becomes hard toward Yahweh.
(Exodus 9, 10, 11) Yahweh again shows with His signs who He is. The plague on the livestock, hail, great storm, locusts, darkness... He wants to destroy all the gods Pharaoh believed in. Through His signs Yahweh showed Pharaoh and the rest of the Egyptian people that their gods were obedient to Yahweh, the ruler of all. Through the signs He shows the world at that time that He is the absolute ruler, and that the laws of nature ultimately obey only Yahweh. Through the plague on livestock Yahweh crushes the economic dominance of Egypt, with hail and the great storm He destroys their crops, and the locusts finished the job. Surely even their houses were in danger – such a storm can cause great damage to buildings. All this again made it clear to Pharaoh that Yahweh is STRONGER than all	After my conviction that I was back, that I was again the ruler of my life, I began to swallow New Age philosophy – actually it had lived in me my whole life but now I knew its name. For two years I meditated three hours a day, I could literally imagine my future life, a life where I would be healthy, successful, famous – I believed I would become a teacher just like the New Age teachers I mentioned above. But Yahweh had a different plan for me – again He entered my life with signs, just when I started believing this: <i>"I will be a great teacher, New Age is the reason why I had to go through everything I went through until now, now I understand that I had to get sick in order to heal myself – after all, how can you believe in New Age philosophy if you haven't lived through it. I will tell the whole world that we are all gods"</i>

his gods. Again, out of fear Pharaoh begs Moses to ask God to relent – he tells Moses that he will truly let God’s people go to offer sacrifice to their God, but when he saw that the rain and hail had stopped, when he saw the locusts were gone, unfortunately Pharaoh once again hardened his heart.

who can change reality according to our liking.”

So, during the creation of a new hard shell around my heart, Yahweh once again enters strongly into my life: ten pneumothoraxes⁸, four major surgeries on both lungs (some parts of my lungs were taken out), several times I literally almost suffocated from a large amount of blood coughing. Because of the huge amount of medicine I used, I got a new diagnosis in addition to the existing one: fungi spread through my lungs and on my skin. On top of that, during that process, I lost contact with the outside world, Yahweh isolated me, He put me on a home and hospital bed for a long time, because of that my business career was over, acquaintances disappeared, no one called anymore, so-called friends stopped calling and visiting, even some of my closest partially distanced themselves from me. Slowly I was giving up on life, I didn’t want to live anymore, I just wanted to die – and in that moment I sincerely cried out to God who is in heaven, and I said: *“God, take me, I can’t anymore, I give up on myself, I am surely not the ruler of my life, into your hands I surrender, take me I beg you, be merciful to me.”*

6.4. Much more could be said regarding Pharaoh and me, but for the purpose of this article I believe this is enough. While Pharaoh unfortunately did not want to recognize who Yahweh truly was, I on the other hand, in my free will, decided to surrender my life to Yahweh in the desire to truly know Him. And as I said earlier, God must first reveal Himself in our lives through different signs that are intimately connected with our beliefs, and through that process He tries to tear down our former idols (gods) – all with the purpose that we may come to know who the true and only God is. In the end it is up to us to confess who Yahweh is, that He is the author of our lives, and that He shapes reality according to His will. And why does He shape our reality according to His will? Because His primary desire is to bring us, through our role, into His Kingdom which one day He will establish on earth through His Son, Jesus Christ. That is the main motive in the mind of our Author who created this reality, and all of this He does in the end to glorify His Name, just like the writer (author) of a book.

⁸ Pneumothorax is the presence of air or gas in the pleural space (between the lungs and the chest wall), which leads to the collapse of the lung to a lesser or greater extent.

AUTHORSHIP OF GOD

6.5. But someone might ask me: *“If He is the author of our lives, then that means He is also the author of our free will, doesn’t it?”* Yes, He is the author of every one of our thoughts, decisions, of everything that we are – just like the writer of a book or the screenwriter of a film. For example, it is the author who decides who will get which role in his film or book. Someone receives the role of being the villain, and someone else receives the role of being the hero, and in the end all the roles (the lives of people in that book or film) are intertwined with one another in order to reveal the main motive (the idea) of the writer. That means the writer of the book is not *inside* the book (the reality in which the people live to whom he gave their roles). The people inside the book freely decide and live their lives, but they live lives that the writer has predestined them to live. The writer does not force anyone inside the book to decide something they do not want; in their free will they decide how they will live the life that was given to them, but they cannot separate themselves from the SOURCE of their free will – and that is the WRITER of the book in which they live. I will try, through Taoist writings, to show who Yahweh is.

The Great Yahweh dwells outside of our reality. Yahweh imagined, and everything came to be. He deserves our admiration and worship because of the Plan He intended to carry out with this reality.

He loves and nurtures all things, everything was created with a purpose, and everything was created to glorify His Name.

He is more real than we are. He is the source of our reality – without the Source, we would not exist.

No one can come to where Yahweh dwells, because they would cease to exist. We are within time and space; Yahweh is beyond time and space. He has neither beginning nor end. He has always existed and always will.

Yahweh is GOD, we are His creation. He gave us free will, but He is the author of our free will.

Yahweh is great – He does not need to accomplish anything; He IS the One who IS.

(see § 5. passage b).

6.6. In the event that took place between Pharaoh and Moses we see that Moses, as the author (of the Book of Exodus), understood well what kind of relationship Yahweh has with His reality that He created, and with the people who live inside the reality that He created.

6.6.1. So, in the Book of Exodus we have several verses that confirm my claim:

(Ex. 7:3) *“I will harden Pharaoh’s heart...”*,

(Ex. 9:35) *“Pharaoh’s heart became hard, just as the Lord had said...”*,

(Ex. 10:1) *“I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials...”*,

(Ex. 10:20), (Ex. 10:27).

6.7. On the other hand we have verses that clearly give us readers the knowledge that Pharaoh freely decided what he would do next;

(Ex. 7:13) *“Pharaoh’s heart became hard and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron...”*,

(Ex. 7:22) “Pharaoh’s heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron...”,
(Ex. 8:11) “When Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron...”,
(Ex. 8:15), (Ex. 8:28).

6.8. Both biblical perspectives are true. God is the Author who is outside of our reality – and He, as the Author, decided that Pharaoh’s heart would be hard towards Him. But, within this reality Pharaoh in his free will decided that his heart would be hard towards the true God.

GOD'S PERSONHOOD

6.8.1. Ok, but someone might ask me: *“Daniel, I have another question for you, if God is the author of our free will, why then doesn’t He predestine that everyone within His reality, in their free will, decides that they want to be heirs of His kingdom?”*

And that is a very good question. A question that I have wrestled with for several years, and here is what I have concluded so far:

First of all, we must understand and know the God of the Bible very well in order to answer that question. You see, there is the *will* of God, and there are the *desires* that God desires. God desires that every human being be saved, but, His will is closely tied to the Plan He wants to accomplish in this reality, and that is: to display the attributes He possesses as a Person: that He is just, good, merciful, patient, faithful to His promises – God, who will freely give as a gift entry into His kingdom to those who acknowledge Him as their God.

And in the end when we sum it up, God wants – through His masterpiece (the Plan)...(the Story) that He has written as the Author of this reality – to glorify His Name.

In other words: how can God be JUST if there is no one on whom He can execute justice, how can God be MERCIFUL if there is no one to forgive, how can God be PATIENT if there is no one to be patient with, how can God be GOOD if He does not show His reality that His Plan has a GOOD ending – so every role of a human being within our reality (since the world began) is closely tied to these attributes of our Author.

6.8.2. In the same way, man is a person – like God, the Bible itself tells us that God created man in His image. That means, man has a moral compass (a conscience). Man has desires, he has his will, he knows how to be unhappy or happy, he knows how to be righteously angry, he knows how to forgive, he knows how to be merciful, etc, etc. And all this makes him a person.

6.8.3. Through the following life example of an individual I will try to explain the difference between the will and the desire of man. Maybe then you will more easily understand the relationship between God’s desires and His will. Here goes the story:

The main Plan of this individual was to start a family, meaning he wanted more than anything to be a husband and a father to his future children. To do that he had to start saving money: to buy a house for his family, to be able in the future to pay for his children’s education, to provide his wife with as much security as possible so that she could fulfill her role within that Plan, and that was: to be a mother who will provide their children with everything they need to become good people.

And that was the main Plan of this individual.

6.8.3.1. Now, during that process, a desire grew in his heart to buy a new car, and he could, he had the money, but right at the same time when he wanted to buy the car, he receives news from his wife that she is pregnant. Since in his Plan he desired to have children before he desired to have a new car, that desire overpowered the desire for the car. Why? Because in the main Plan of the individual – to be a good father, to be a good husband – is more important than anything else.

Because of that, the individual who is the force of his reality decides in his will not to buy the car. - In other words, the individual wanted to glorify himself through the Plan he had intended for his reality. And to be a GOOD father and husband is a GOOD Plan. -

6.8.4. God does the same as a Person. He decides, as the Force of all reality, that through the Plan He created for this reality He will filter which desire is more important, and which desire is less important, and then in the end by His will He carries that out within our reality.

6.8.5. I will give you several biblical examples:

1. King Saul was supposed to wait for the prophet Samuel 7 days and then go to war against the enemy. But King Saul did not wait for Samuel, he decided in his free will to take matters into his own hands. Just so you know, it was Yahweh who told the prophet Samuel that Saul should wait, which means Yahweh wanted Saul to obey Him. But, because of the Plan that Yahweh predestined for this reality, and that was: that David would be the bearer of the royal lineage, the lineage through which 1000 years later the unique King, Jesus Christ, would come – Yahweh in His will predestined that King Saul would be disobedient to Him⁹.
2. Even though Yahweh desired that the Jewish people accept His Son, Jesus Christ, as the Messiah, as their long-promised King through the prophets, because of the Plan (Jesus Christ had to go to the cross so that the power of the Gospel could spread to all corners of the world, so that everyone who believes in Him would be saved) which He predestined before the foundation of the world, God as the Author decided that His people would reject Jesus Christ – and in their free will they did reject Him.
3. Jesus Himself knew that this was the will of His Father, He knew the Holy Scriptures, specifically Isaiah 53. I am sure your eyes stopped at verse 10: **“Yet it pleased the Lord to crush Him and cause Him to suffer”**. And if we do not know the true God of the Bible, all kinds of unfounded and crazy ideas can come into our minds. We can completely misinterpret the author’s (Isaiah’s) intention. Let’s go with the question:

⁹ The event that took place between Yahweh, the prophet Samuel, and King Saul can be read in the Old Testament (1 Samuel 13:7–15).

why did it please Yahweh to crush His chosen Messiah with suffering? Certainly not because Yahweh enjoyed the suffering of His Son. It pleased Yahweh because through the act where Jesus voluntarily went to the cross, many individuals throughout the future would be saved on account of that event – that is why it pleased Him to crush Him with suffering. In other words, through that act the Plan of God was being fulfilled which leads to a GOOD ending of the story.

6.9. And in these verses (Isaiah 53) we see that what I have said above (see § 6.8.4.) is being fulfilled – and that is: one of the main motives of God is to bring His chosen children into His future kingdom that He will establish through His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus, knowing this, goes voluntarily to the cross because He knows that the end of the story from His Father is: magnificent and GOOD. And the next sentence within verse 10 confirms my interpretation: *“And the will of the Lord will prosper in His hand”*.

Worldview¹⁰: “God, the Author of Our Reality,” Opens the Way to the Right Interpretation of the Bible

6.9.1. Okay, when we believe in this worldview of faith—as I have tried to show you above—our interpretation of the Bible becomes different, everything changes, as if you suddenly received a key, a key that opened the door of wisdom, wisdom on how to understand every text and passage in the Bible. I will try, through an event found in the Bible, to explain what this actually looks like. Let us return to a statement that was often used in the Gospels, a statement that Jesus Himself often used: *“Your faith has saved you.”*

7. In **(Luke 7:50)** Jesus speaks to the woman: *“Your faith has saved you.”*

To understand what lies behind those words, we must have a biblical perspective. We cannot take His words literally or superficially—better said—as many biblical teachers have done throughout the history of Christianity.

7.1. If we take His words without the wisdom the Bible wants to give us, we will easily come to the conclusion that *we are the ones* who ultimately save ourselves. In other words, we will believe that faith comes from us, that we somehow produce it ourselves.

But that is not what Jesus means here; He does not think that we are the source of our faith. The source of our faith is not us—the source of our faith is God the Father. Jesus understands this, which is why He said in His Sermon on the Mount: *“Blessed are the poor, the meek, and those who hunger for righteousness.”* The key word is: Blessed¹¹—biblically speaking—Fortunate ones. Jesus knows that the source of faith comes from His Father, but in this case, where He tells the woman that her faith has saved her, He actually means this: *“You are*

¹⁰ **Worldview** denotes an individual’s relation to the surrounding world, in which a certain “view of the world” is adopted. A worldview implies the formation of specific standpoints and the taking of positions toward the entirety of reality.

¹¹A more detailed explanation of the word (“blessed”) can be found in sermon no. 35.

fortunate, you have received the gift of faith from God the Father. It is now your faith, which He has given you through His forgiveness. You are Blessed, you are Chosen! In your free will you decided to come before Me with a repentant heart and kiss My feet. Your faith has saved you; this is the gift of God which you have now received."

7.1.1. I have a question for you, dear readers: do you see the difference in the interpretation of this text itself? To whom does the glory belong when we understand who God truly is? Whom did I glorify through this interpretation, and whom did the authors mentioned above glorify, who also used the word faith as a power of blessing that came from God?
(see § 4.1.1.–4.3., pp. 5–6)

7.2. Ok, let's move on, Jesus is not the only one who understood how this reality works, and what the connection looks like between this reality and God who is outside of our reality. The psalmist David knew very well from whom the "blessing" comes. (**Psalms 37**) is proof that David understood the connection between free will and God's authorship as it unfolded in the life of an individual.

In verses (23 and 24) we read: *"The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in Him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with His hand."*

Here we see Yahweh's authorship over the life of the "Blessed" individual. The security of walking in faith, even when the individual stumbles in that endeavor, does not ultimately come from himself. The security of perseverance in faith comes from the source of faith, and that is God. God as the Author predestined that this individual, in his free will, will make decisions that will bring blessing to him.

On the other hand, in verse (27) we read: *"Turn from evil and do good; then you will dwell in the land forever."* Here we see that the individual has complete free will to decide what he will do in his life, and that in the end he is responsible for his actions.

7.2.1. I hope I have not confused you too much with my claims. As always, I encourage you to re-examine my conclusions. Just as I myself had to do when I first heard from a biblical teacher that God is the Author of reality.

7.2.1.1. On a personal note, all the necessary information I received from one teacher – after that, it was up to me... prompted by the situation I was in, through future study – which lasted 3 years – to accept or not accept that this is true. In the end I came to the conclusion that this idea (God as the Author of reality) is the only one that makes sense, and the only one that finally gives peace to a restless and confused soul.

WHEN PAIN REVEALS GOD'S LOVE

7.2.2. Now, what does peace in trouble look like in practice? I will try to show you through a personal example; as I already mentioned in (§ 7.2.1.1.), my search for understanding "who is God" lasted several years. During that time, I intellectually received everything I needed to receive, but, luckily or unluckily for me – however you want – my life went in line with the intellectual. I was immediately tested through the trouble I endured: was I blessed or not?

After realizing that I was blessed, that I was chosen, my faith became even stronger and firmer. But in 2022 I went through another six-month episode: hospitals, examinations, difficulty breathing, emergency visits...and in the end a major surgery which was inevitable...through all that process of events...I stumbled¹² in the steps of faith. A Voice was shouting in my mind day and night for six months: *"What kind of God is that who allows you to suffer so much?"*

7.2.3. Although at the beginning I did not pay too much attention to it, as time went on, the Voice got more and more of my attention. And in the end, lying on the hospital bed, I decided that the Voice was right, and I myself began to shout: *"What kind of God are you who allows me to suffer so much? You do not exist at all, and if you do, you are not a good God. I don't want to have anything to do with you anymore."* When I said those words, fear gripped me like never before, but not for my life. Rather, I could not believe how unstable and fickle I was in the faith that until then I had proclaimed to everyone at the top of my lungs. And so I remained in fear for several days.

7.2.4. But God – He is the one who did not let me fall, He is the one who held me by the hand¹³ while I was ready to leave Him. As time went on, despite my desire to leave God, I began to do the opposite. I began to talk about God to my roommates in the hospital room. While the nurses were changing my bandages, I was talking to them about Jesus Christ and how I can't wait to meet Him. When the doctor came on his rounds, he saw me reading the Bible, and we started a conversation about my faith which God had given me. For the next fourteen days, I was witnessing about my Lord with all my being...and let me just tell you, that was one of the most powerful experiences I have ever had in my life.

Now I get chills while I write this to you...let's go back to the text – and then I realized; if God owns you, if you are chosen, if God holds you by the hand while you stubbornly want to fall...don't worry, through your life, through your future decisions, He will show you that you cannot escape Him even if you want to.

7.2.5. I mean, something unbelievable, as if I was standing aside in amazement at what I was doing, and yet, it was me...if you understand me. In other words, I was a witness of my own life where God once again proved to me that I belong to Him and that I should not worry, because He is the one who will bring me to the final goal. And there lies the peace I was talking about above; there is nothing that can disturb God in His Plan with you, not even you yourself are an obstacle, nor your free will. That is where the peace of a true Christian lies, I believe.

7.3. To summarize, there are many verses that come from the very writers who wrote the books in the Old and New Testament. Through their personal walk with God, they realized that He is the Author of reality, who before the foundation of the world, before time began, predestined who is Chosen and who is not. It is up to us as individuals to come to a free

¹² (Psalm 37, 23-24)

¹³ (Psalm 37, 23-24)

decision that goes like this: *"You are my God, you have the RIGHT to rule over your reality as you want, my role is to glorify You through my life, not myself. You are God, and I am your creation, I want to serve You and not myself. Your ways are righteousness, mercy, goodness, forgiveness, and patience. My ways are often unrighteousness, no mercy, no forgiveness, no goodness, and no patience. Therefore, I choose your way, I surrender to you, because even though the scenario (role) you wrote for me, here and now, may be tragic, full of suffering, pain, loss... it is also a scenario full of blessing, forgiveness, mercy, and in the end eternal hope. That is the scenario that leads me to the blessing you want to give me at the end of my journey, and that is a place in your Kingdom where there will be no more suffering, no more pain – and there will be no more sin that now dwells in me and constantly tries to take control of my life. I will be free from it, you will give me a new body and a new heart, a GOOD heart, a HOLY heart, the heart that your Son, Jesus Christ, has."*

"Isn't that a GOOD ending, isn't that a GOOD God who deserves our worship every second of our existence? I believe He does!"

7.4. And if we come to the free decision to accept "who God actually IS," only one thing can be true, and the authors of the biblical books described it this way: *"Blessed are those who believe this, for yours is the Kingdom of God. Be certain of this, Yahweh has placed His 'seal' upon you, no one can snatch you out of His hand, you belong to God the Father, you are His chosen children, this is the miracle you have received as a gift, your faith has saved you¹⁴."*

HUMAN PHILOSOPHY VS. GOD'S TRUTH

7.5. Ok, with that said, let us return to the original question: is New Age, Taoism, or Modern Christianity a biblical perspective? No! They are far from it. No human philosophy is, nor can it ever be, God's philosophy.

7.5.1. - I also want to emphasize this: we cannot and we do not have the right to create a god in our own image, an image that fits our motives, values, and purposes. But unfortunately, because of our sinful nature, that is exactly what we have done. Through thousands and thousands of years of our existence we have created gods according to our liking. Either God is GOD, or He is not God at all. In other words: either God has the RIGHT to present Himself to our reality as He chooses – after all, He is the one who created it – or He has no right at all. It is up to us, in our free will, to decide whether we will give Him that authority or not. Those who give Him that authority show that their hearts are ready for extraordinary humility, courage, and submission. -

¹⁴ Exodus 32:32–33; Psalm 69:28; Psalm 139:16; Proverbs 16:9; Jeremiah 1:5; Daniel 12:1; Gospel of Luke 10:20; Gospel of John 6:44; Gospel of John 15:16; Acts of the Apostles 13:48; Romans 8:29–30; Romans 9:11–16; Ephesians 1:4–5, 11; Philippians 2:13; Revelation 13:8; Revelation 20:12, 15.

CONCLUSIONS

7.6. I somewhat agree with the authors of books who believe in New Age philosophy. They want to teach us to love ourselves, to want the best for ourselves, to want the best for others, to want the best possible life for our children, for our neighbors, for our community, etc., etc. All of that is GOOD to want for ourselves, and likewise for others. And if the environment in which we live allows us to do so... then let's do it. I don't see a problem with that. Let us believe that we can become the best we can possibly become, in anything: career, sports, in the role of father, mother, sister, friend... let us become the best we can, let us love ourselves, and let us love others.

Let us make this life we've been given as good as possible for ourselves, and likewise for those who are part of our lives. We really are forces that can, indeed, change the course of our future.

7.6.1. But what personally bothers me is that all the gratitude – for all the good that happens to us, or has happened to us – ultimately belongs to us. We have forgotten whom we should actually be grateful to. – In other words, although we say “thank you” to the Universe, it is nothing more than a heavenly god we have created in our own liking so that, in the end, we actually give thanks to ourselves. –

7.7. Likewise, it is easy to sell the philosophy (*“Change your thoughts – change your life”, “I Am – wishes fulfilled”, “The Power is within you”*) in the West. America and Europe have somewhat succeeded in ensuring that each of their citizens can live a luxurious life: a house with a beautiful yard, smart apartments, their shiny cars safely in garages, TVs in every room, hot water, massage showers, underfloor heating, remotes for every device in the house, recliners that turn into beds, home lighting – in a different color every day if we want. Tools that almost maintain the beautiful gardens we have next to our homes by themselves, swings, slides, wooden playhouses in every yard, the most advanced healthcare system, the most advanced centers for alternative medicine, airplanes that take us to the other side of the world in just a few hours, cruise ships as big as small cities... fulfilling every desire we can imagine... I don't need to go further, I believe you've already understood the point. I repeat, it is easy to sell New Age philosophy in the West. I would like to see how New Age philosophy would pass in poor countries where people cannot even imagine in their wildest dreams that anyone on this earth could live the way we live in the western part of the world.

7.8. When it comes to human philosophies that have existed since the beginning of mankind, whether it be Buddhism, Taoism, Hinduism... let's not just hastily dismiss them with: *“Ah, that's all nonsense.”* In every life philosophy there is something we can learn. I can list a few things from my own personal perspective:

1. New Age taught me that I must be proactive, both in my thoughts and in my actions, if I want my life to change.

2. Ayurvedic medicine¹⁵ definitely has something to say regarding our wrong Western approach to how we care for the body, how we nourish it, what we should put into it, and what we should not.
3. Meditation is a very powerful weapon – since I trained myself for several years in meditation, today that training helps me to more quickly and effectively reject sounds and unnecessary thoughts from my mind while I pray to God and talk with Him.
4. All life philosophies promote nature as a powerful antidepressant that helps in the healing of both spirit and body. The connection with nature and its healing energy is very real. During the worst moments of my physical condition, going into the forest gave me indescribable peace. Even though I was not physically healed, spending time in nature gave me rest and restored my energy so that I could continue to cope with the pain that I still, to this very day, carry.

7.9. We are slowly coming to the end, I want to share this with you: now that you know a little about my life – I can say with 100% certainty that none of these philosophies will give you the peace that I now have within me. They all carry a similar DNA, and that is: *“Man shapes his own destiny, man is his own god who has the power to shape reality according to his own liking, within man dwells the light of wisdom on how to live the best life here and now, man is the creator of his own happiness”*... and to all of them I have a few questions:

“What do you do when life – even though you have diligently walked for years in the belief mentioned above – shows you that it is not true? What then, my dear New Agers, Buddhists, Hindus, Christians, Taoists... what then? Tell me... ‘Am I perhaps suffering because of my sins?’ ‘Am I perhaps suffering for the evil deeds I committed in past lives?’ ‘Maybe God is punishing me because I am more evil than other people.’ ‘Maybe karma has caught up with me.’ ‘Maybe through the suffering that has struck me I am collecting good karma for future lives.’ ‘Maybe I am not in harmony with the Tao.’ ‘Maybe I am not following biblical principles as I should.’ Or... ‘Maybe I simply don’t have strong enough faith?’”

And unfortunately, these are your answers. But imagine suffering for nine years and believing in those “truths”... just imagine... and then answer me honestly: would your human philosophies help you in any way – to keep from going insane, or maybe even worse, to take your own life because you no longer see any meaning in such long-term suffering?

I leave each of you to answer that question for yourself.

¹⁵ Ayurveda (or Ayurvedic medicine) is a system of traditional medicine that originates from India. In other parts of the world, it is considered a form of alternative medicine, or healing medicine. It gives equal importance to physical and mental health.

The word *Ayurveda* is composed of the Sanskrit *āyus*, meaning “life,” and *veda*, meaning “science.” The first Ayurvedic literature appeared in the Vedic period in India.

7.9.1. As I have already said: for nine years I have been carrying this illness, my dear ones, and everything it has brought with it: pain, isolation, the awareness that tomorrow might not exist. But, it has also brought me much good: patience, gratitude, the awareness to rejoice in the small things... that taking a walk in the forest with my family is a luxury I do not always have. That is just a few out of thousands of examples I could list here.

And what I will say next is the reason why I am writing this article – my desire is that you absorb into every cell of your body and your soul the following truth... one of the greatest Biblical truths it carries within itself, I believe.

Through the process of coming to know the true Biblical God, primarily through His Son, Jesus Christ, and His teachings, I came to this realization: that Yahweh, in His mercy, has chosen me, and that very likely my entire life – however long it may last – He, through my affliction, will shape me with His goodness and power into a wise, noble, meek, humble, and holy human being who will one day inherit His kingdom.

7.9.1. I know it is difficult to accept everything I have written so far, but again the same question remains: which philosophy makes more sense – human or God's? I know, because I have tested both.

7.9.2. To conclude, I want to say this:

1. Do not misunderstand me – I am not saying that God will come into everyone's life and present Himself dramatically as He did in the case of Pharaoh or in my own life. There are people who are much more open to God even though they don't know Him yet. There are people who are not like me or Pharaoh: proud, stubborn, in love with themselves, arrogant, power-hungry, selfish little gods convinced they can shape reality as they please. But even in their lives God will enter, and their beliefs (idols) will be torn down. And then they too will have to decide: do they want to know the true God or not?
2. As I have said in my sermons, we do have the right to judge God – but not during the course of our story, only at its end. And the end of God's story is this: He gives His children the kingdom on earth as an inheritance, He gives them eternal life, a righteous life, a life without suffering, pain, and loss – a perfect life in every way. In other words, the Author of our reality has decided for GOOD in the end. The purpose of His plan is GOOD, which means He is a GOOD and HOLY GOD.
3. Each one of us is a Pharaoh in one way or another. We have been like that since childhood, because our culture teaches us that we are the force that controls our life. And that IS true – our decisions and actions certainly shape our life now, and its future course. But, because of the ultimate purpose for which we are here – to glorify God – I believe God enters our lives and makes it clear that He is the ultimate Force that rules over our little forces. Then we decide: will we, like Pharaoh, deny who God truly is – and in the end, like him, go into destruction – or will we, like King David, Moses,

Abraham, and Jesus, accept who God is, and because of that receive blessing. In other words, to borrow a New Age quote: “Love yourself” ... in the biblical sense “Love yourself” means to accept with all your heart the will of the heavenly Father, to marvel at the role He has given you to fulfill here, however dramatic it may be. If we love ourselves in that way, then we will receive what no human philosophy can give – the Resurrection from the dead, where we will have the “Best Life Now and Here” in every sense of the word.

7.9.4. Now that I have said everything I wanted to say, I will answer the question raised at the beginning of this article: *“What do I mean, Pharaoh has returned, and if he has returned, who is the Pharaoh of today?”*

7.9.5. Yes, Pharaoh has returned. The Pharaoh of today is all of us who choose to believe in human philosophies that exist in the world today – whatever their names may be. In fact, as I tried to show in this article, they are all essentially the same: they all convince man that he is the absolute master of his destiny. So in truth – Pharaoh never really left the stage.