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**World Views: What is True?--  
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**World Views: What is True?**

**Building a Foundation**

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**World Views in Western Culture**

	<b>Christian Theism</b>	<b>Deism</b>	<b>Naturalism</b>	<b>Nihilism (Denial)</b>	<b>Existentialism</b>	<b>Eastern Pantheism</b>	<b>New Age</b>
<b>Prime Reality</b>	God and His Creation (Open universe)	God and creation (clockwork, closed abandoned universe)	Matter exists eternally. There is no God. Cosmos is primary.	Same as naturalism (Therefore there is no value to reality).	Matter=eternal. Reality is objective (natural and material law) and subjective (internal mind).	Atman (soul of man is Brahman (soul of Universe). We are all moving toward the "one."	The self (the soul, the integrated central essence of man) is the prime reality.
<b>Who is Man?</b>	Created in God's Image, thus possessing personality, self-transcendence, intelligence, morality	Man is personal but subject to clockwork universe, a puppet	Man is matter and only matter; a complex machine.	Same as naturalism, therefore, man's existence is meaningless.	Existence precedes essence-man makes himself who he is.	To realize one's "oneness" with universe is to pass beyond personality.	The unifying center of the cosmos.
<b>What happens at Death?</b>	Either the gate to life with God or to eternal separation from Him.	God is not concerned about man, man merely ceases to exist.	Death=extinction of personality and individuality-disorganization of matter	Same as naturalism	Man is totally free as regards his nature and destiny (even at death)	Reincarnation or realization of oneness.	Physical death is not the end of the self
<b>How</b>	God has spoken! He communicates with man	Empiricism (observation	Empiricism and man's reason		The objective world is	We know by becoming,	Occult, psychedelic, conceptual,

<b>Can we Know Truth?</b>	through both general and special revelation (the Word and Jesus Christ).	of creation); general revelation	(rationalism), but we can never grasp reality.	Same as naturalism	absurd. We can know only by authenticating our existence	moving toward the one.	relativist approaches to cosmic consciousness
<b>What kind of Ethics?</b>	Based on the character of God as good. He sets absolute standards of morality.	Natural and general moral law	All existence relational and so human action can be significant (relativism)	There is none-morality is neither necessary nor possible.	Morality is rooted in human choice (relativistic situational) we create our own values.	To realize oneness is to pass beyond good/evil Cosmos= perfection.	Rooted in the satisfaction of the Self (cf. below)
<b>Meaning of History?</b>	Linear-meaningful sequence of events leading to the fulfillment of God's purposes for man.	Basically determined - man is part of mechanistic universe.	Linear stream of events linked by cause and effect but without purpose	Same as naturalism All life = absurdity	History is meaningless Life= absurdity	History is cyclical	Ordinary categories of time, space, morality tend to disappear.

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