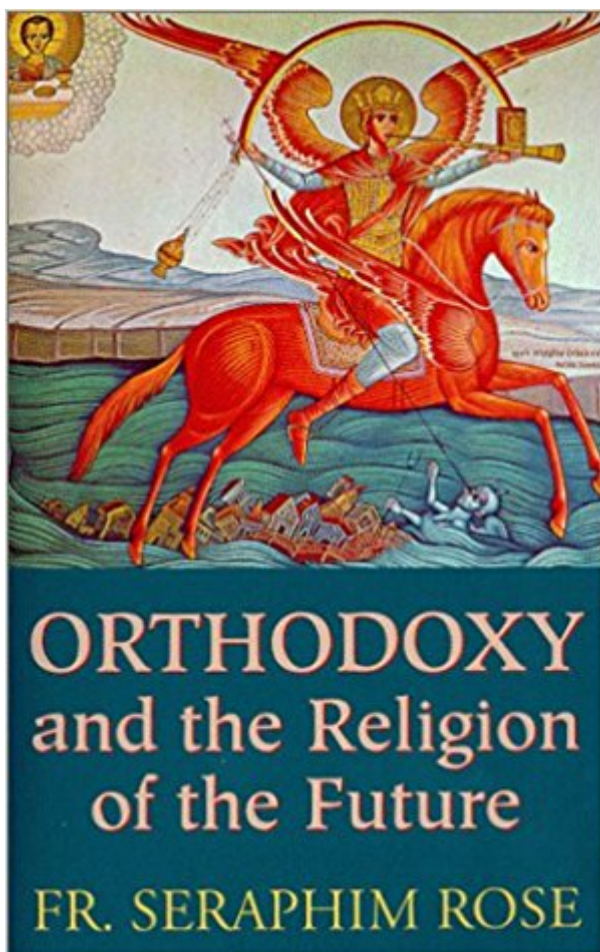


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# Orthodoxy And The Religion Of The Future



## Synopsis

What is the ancient Christian understanding of today's UFO sightings? What is behind the Charismatic Movement? What phenomena are assaulting Christianity in our modern world? How can Christians avoid being caught up in the Apostasy? **ORTHODOXY AND THE RELIGION OF THE FUTURE** examines in eight chapters these and similar questions facing Christians in the contemporary world. The religious phenomena of today are symptoms of a "new religious consciousness" that is preparing the world religion of the future. Phenomena such as Yoga, Zen, Tantra, Transcendental Meditation, Maharaj-ji, Hare Krishna, UFOs, the Charismatic Movement and Jonestown are presented in contrast to the Orthodox Patristic standard of spiritual life, without the understanding of which, in the coming time of antichrist, it will scarcely be possible for Christians to be saved. This work is a concise and unequivocal Orthodox statement on contemporary trends; its urgent message rings loud and clear. Viewed from a foundation based in Patristic teachings, the spiritual movements of the day are clearly various spiritual deceptions that have existed since the beginning of the Church, rather than the achievements of a new religious consciousness. Addressing soberly and directly the trends of pseudo-spirituality which loom enticingly today, **ORTHODOXY AND THE RELIGION OF THE FUTURE** provides a beacon of discernment in these times of widespread spiritual deception. The book examines a broad spectrum of issues facing modern Christians--each from the perspective of the early Church Fathers. As the "New Age" is becoming a household concept and is moving into wider acceptance by mainstream society, the "new religious consciousness" can be seen progressing precisely along the lines described by the late Fr. Seraphim

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## Customer Reviews

"I consider it the most important book I have read on the subject to date ... I have recommended it ..." -- Constance Cumbey, author of *The Hidden Dangers of the Rainbow*

Now in its Seventh printing

So interesting to see religious and spiritual topics being written about several decades earlier that are challenging Christians today. There truly is nothing new under the sun, but will the modern heresies of protestant churches allow for people to understand and absorb the wisdom one could find in this book? Too many churches are teaching, 'greasy grace'. An anything goes mentality that is dangerous to what is supposed to be the sanctified walk of Christianity. Seraphim Rose warns Christians about the dangers of numerous counter cultural religions that have been embraced and welcomed into many modern protestant churches. I challenge all Christians to read this book, take a look at what is being taught in their church, and question their church leadership as to why any of these things would be allowed in your church when they are clearly in direct conflict of what is taught in the bible. Mandalas (including mandala coloring books), meditation, guided meditation, 'Christian' yoga, 'Christian' zen, 'New Religious Consciousness', hypnosis, NLP, paganism, witchcraft, new age teachings, charismatic, etc., are all things at which 'The Church' needs to take a closer look. I believe this book can help the reader to return to the 'straight and narrow path' the bible talks about. God bless.

Insightful and informative book, excellent credible research by Seraphim. Definitely relates to today! Excellent prompt and accurate seller. Thank you!

Fr. Seraphim Rose, an Orthodox Monk, outlines of the dangers facing the Church today in this dated (1975), yet still very pertinent book. In Fr. Seraphim's direct and blunt style, he argues that Eastern Orthodoxy holds the answers for the spiritual chaos going on in the world today. In this book, he reveals the assaults of New Age thought on Christianity today and confronts the influences of eastern meditation, yoga, Zen and other fads on the western mind. He shows the dangers of the increasingly popular movements of witchcraft, shamanism, Gnosticism, Kabbalah and other New

Age cults. He even takes on the popularity of UFO belief, and describes its demonic roots. He explains how these neo-pagan practices are incapable of solving man's problems and do not lead to his salvation, because they are satanic. The book ends with an Epilogue to the Fifth Edition, by Heiromonk Damascene (Fr. Seraphim died in 1982). The Epilogue seamlessly brings Fr. Seraphim to the issues of today, and demonstrates that Fr. Seraphim's thoughts were far ahead of his time. The popularity of neo-paganism is still with us, as evidenced in books and movies glamorizing witchcraft, vampires, séances, and other occult practices. Many Christian churches syncretistically incorporate the same trends of the faddish New Age movement, such as charismatics who channel the Holy Spirit, holistic health programs, meditation workshops, and yoga classes. The global warming movement is taking on a cult-like following, closely resembling Gaia nature-worship. The early Gnostic practices that were condemned by the Fathers of the Orthodox Church are today promoted by scholars such as Elaine Pagels, and authors Ken Wilber and Dan Brown. The wide-spread acceptance of these manifestations reveals the ignorance of many Christians, who remain oblivious to the presence of Satan in the world today. Fr. Seraphim encourage us to adhere to the True Christianity, with roots in Patristic standards of spiritual life and refined teachings on spiritual discernment, in order to see, and resist, the deceptions of these New Age movements.

While I do not agree with Fr. Rose's main thesis that we are living in the time of anti-Christ (no more so than other eras), I find his secondary thesis - that what separates Orthodox/Patristic spirituality from all current streams, Christian or otherwise, is the central place of discernment - this I find to be very insightful. St. John Cassian states in his 'Conferences' (included in the Philokalia) that discernment is the most important virtue because all the other virtues depend on it. It is very true that in today's spiritual climate there is almost no understanding of going astray or falling into delusion in the spiritual life.

I don't know if Fr. Seraphim Rose is correct about flying saucers and UFO's being essentially Satanic manifestations--but it makes as much or more sense than anything else I've read on the topic. Certainly many of the advocates of such things exhibit a religious tone in their belief. I don't know how close the end times are, but it seems as if Fr. Seraphim has put his finger on a number of trends that are congruent with prophecy.

Great for anyone caught up in the new age illusions such as yoga, aliens/UFOs, meditation, the Protestant "miracle workers, etc. It will give the true explanation of what these mean in a clear

context that is easy to understand

Very good read for those who risk being fooled by modern "charismatic" movements. Truly sobering. My favorite is chapter 6, "Signs from heaven," which addresses the UFOs, that is, the demonic manifestations.

Wisdom and knowledge supported by faith.

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