



## Reincarnation

Time is thought of in two ways, it is thought of as linear or as cyclical, the one is opposed to the other. Time can be only one, it is either linear or it is cyclical, it cannot be both.

So first then, we will make a statement. That statement is that time is <sup>i</sup>linear. To say that time is linear is to say that time moves from event to event in a line. The concept of cyclical time is that time has a beginning that leads back around to the end, and the cycle starts all over again. This is incorrect and springs from an Eastern point of view promoting reincarnation.

Reincarnation is a pantheistic religious system, which just plain isn't true, violates what scripture teaches, and in my opinion isn't anywhere near good science. Physical processes known to science such as the <sup>ii</sup>Second Law of Thermodynamics require that time move from the past through the present and into the future - irreversibly. "Linear," "one-dimensional" time is the time frame of the physics of the macroscopic world.

According to Wikipedia, the concept of reincarnation was first developed in India. Reincarnation, literally "to be made flesh again", is a belief that some essential part of a living being (soul) survives death to be reborn in a new body. Belief in reincarnation has roots Hinduism, Yoga, New Age movement, Vaishnavism, Shaivism, Jainism, Neopagans, Spiritism, and some Buddhist followers but their concept of reincarnation differs significantly from the Hindu-based traditions. Mainstream Islam does not teach reincarnation.

The belief that the soul reincarnates is linked to karma, a concept again, first recorded in India. Karma is the force that determines one's next reincarnation. The cycle of death and rebirth, is governed by karma. Hinduism teaches that the soul goes on repeatedly being born and dying. <sup>iii</sup>The Greeks are not thought to have taught reincarnation. The Theosophical Society which draws much of its inspiration from India was the first institution in modern times responsible for spreading the concept of reincarnation in the West. Scientology also gains its inspiration from pantheistic religious systems and teaches reincarnation, usually it calls it "past lives", and it is a key part of their practices. This belief in past lives is central to the New Age movement.

Basic to Christianity is the doctrine that people cannot achieve the perfection God requires and salvation is through total and complete forgiveness through the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross.

First, we must know that He (God) sees the future, and second that the future is not<sup>iv</sup> changeable, time is linear and He sees the events of time unfolding from His position of timelessness as<sup>v</sup> (Dan 7:22) "the Ancient of days". We must consider (Rom 9:21), "Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor"? He knows all things, and the basis of this foreknowledge is His ability to see "all things" including the future from His timeless perspective. This illustrates the sovereignty of God over man and said another way, "Hath not the potter power over the clay from the same lump to make something beautiful, honorable or to make something (a person, a vessel) of dishonor, fit to be thrown away and burned?"

<sup>vi</sup>I speak illustratively of the "potter's" authority over the clay. I suggest that a person must make an acknowledgment of the absolute right and authority of God over the clay, or a denial of the absolute right and authority of God over the clay. You cannot have it both ways, God either controls the present and the future or He does not! This is where big words such as, predestination, sovereignty, and providence are used, but for our discussion it is enough to know that God (sees, knows, and controls) the present, past, and future and we may very well be as Shakespeare said, "merely actors upon the stage."

The point of this part of the discussion is to illustrate that God sees and knows the future. And, that that future is shaped by Divine foreknowledge, predestination, sovereignty, and providence. We cannot change our future! Yes, we have free will, but He sees the future. Because He is in a timeless "present" His perspective sees our past, present, and future as a present happening. This is why God knows the future; in His present (if we can use a descriptive of time as a comparison) He sees everything past, present, and future as a constant happening. God is always in the "present" it just happens that His present includes our past, present, and future!

The concept of cyclical time supporting the concept of reincarnation as you can see is as I said, false! Second Law of Thermodynamics wins again!

Your input is welcome. Please contact us with any considerate challenges or enhancements that you feel will forward this eBook. You can contact me at: [www.finaltrumpetblast.com](http://www.finaltrumpetblast.com) Submissions that advances the value of this E-book will be added to future updates. When you send your input, you agree to have all, or part, of your writings incorporated without a claim to financial or copyright considerations in which you're writings might appear in future updates. CK Quarterman

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<sup>i</sup> In general, the Judaeo-Christian concept, based on the Bible, is that time is linear, defined chiefly in terms of a line. God is outside of time. He is, "...**the high and lofty one, who inhabits eternity.**" (Isaiah 57:15)

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<sup>ii</sup> The Second Law can be stated in several forms, but basically it refers to the tendency of things to rot, rust, decay and fall apart with the passage of time. As we use energy, the total amount of available energy available to do additional work decreases inexorably. Orderly systems proceed to break-down in the direction of chaos, and the "information content" of things decreases with the passage of time.

<sup>iii</sup> In Plato's *Phaedo* dialogue, Socrates, prior to his death, states; "I am confident that there truly is such a thing as living again, and that the living spring from the dead." However, Xenophon, our other main informant of Socrates' life, does not mention the latter as believing in reincarnation.

Plato presented detailed accounts of reincarnation in his major works. It may be questioned whether Plato's accounts, such as the Myth of Er, which also contain many fabulous details irrelevant to reincarnation, were intended to be taken literally. Marsilio Ficino (*Platonic Theology* 17.3-4) argued that Plato's references to reincarnation were intended allegorically.

<sup>iv</sup> Rom 9:21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

<sup>v</sup> Dan 7:22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. Dan 7:9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment [was] white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne [was like] the fiery flame, [and] his wheels [as] burning fire. Dan 7:13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, [one] like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. Dan 7:22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

<sup>vi</sup> The sovereignty of God rests upon God's *oneness*, God's *self-existence*, God's *self-sufficiency*, and God's *creatorhood*. [http://www.the-highway.com/sovereignty\\_Murray1.html](http://www.the-highway.com/sovereignty_Murray1.html)