



A BIBLICAL ANALYSIS OF RELIGIOUS & SECULAR MEDIA

GLEN BECK'S TRUE PHILOSOPHY REVEALED NEW-AGE MORMONISM

A REVIEW OF HIS BOOK *THE 7: SEVEN WONDERS THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE*

By Albert James Dager

Radio host and conservative political commentator Glenn Beck reveals how he has overcome a life lived in the fast lane of fame and fortune that was unsatisfying at best, and destructive of himself and those around him. A toxic childhood, in which he experienced the pain of his mother's suicide and a father ill-equipped to handle the responsibilities of single parenthood, led Beck down a path of what he describes as self-loathing—a path in which he hurt many people who didn't deserve to be hurt.

In *The 7: Seven Wonders That Will Change Your Life*, co-authored with Keith Ablow, M.D., Beck reveals the journey that took him from a life of self-destruction to a new life based on seven principles that he promises will guarantee happiness and fulfillment if applied diligently, looking to God for strength.

Because Glenn Beck has been endorsed and even lauded by Christian leaders who agree with his conservative political philosophy, we felt it important to address his spiritual philosophy which is clearly revealed in *The 7*.

This is not a book detailing Beck's conservative political philosophy, although it does touch lightly upon some of the destructive aspects of liberalism. It is Beck's attempt to share his religious philosophy which he hopes will help others overcome lives of despair, addiction, and self-hatred, as well as hatred and mistreatment of others.

Contrary to the picture of a "mean, hateful, racist, crazy" person portrayed in the leftist media, we find a man filled with compassion for others, and an employer who looks out for the best interests of his employees at Mercury Radio Arts, paying them top wages and providing complete medical and dental coverage without charge or co-pay requirements.

But Beck wasn't always so altruistic. He reveals how he once fired a producer who gave him a ballpoint pen instead of the Sharpie he requested when autographing books. It was the producer's second offense, and Beck wasn't going to stand for it. Now, he sees how at one time his detractors may have been justified in portraying him as a lowlife.

To what does he attribute his remarkable reformation? Keith Ablow puts it this way in describing a taping session for Beck's television show:

We talked about the fact that Glenn's willingness, after a long struggle, to admit his shortcomings and face

the sources of them had been essential to his triumphs and to his pursuit of genuine happiness. We agreed that tapping into a higher power was the single most important ingredient in his rebirth and that it was the essential and ultimate key to personal transformation for every single human being on the planet.¹

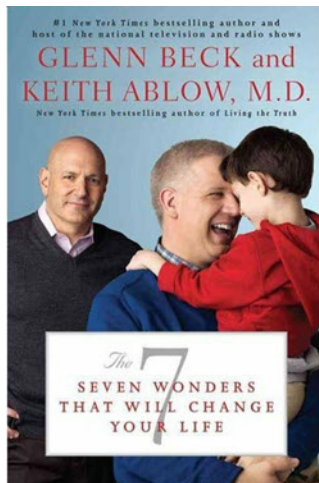
If you recognize the importance of tapping into a "higher power" as an aspect of Alcoholics Anonymous, you are correct. A.A. played a major role in Beck's transformation, as did other spiritual disciplines which we will address in time.

The 7 takes the format of alternating Beck's life experiences in his own words with Ablow's explanation of how Beck's overcoming his deficiencies and traumatic experiences coincide with seven principles that Ablow says can unlock human potential and result in "immeasurable, life-altering power." These seven principles—or "Wonders" are Courage; Faith; Truth; Compassion; Friendship; Family; and Common Sense. The book also offers advice on "Helping Others to Heal."

If *The 7* is true in what it says about Glenn Beck's life (and we have no reason to doubt) it is clear that Beck has gone through a transformation of character. The question arises, then, is that transformation the result of God's Holy Spirit working in Glenn Beck? Or are the forces that have shaped his new life of some other nature—benevolent and helpful within themselves?

Beck and Ablow consistently invoke God as the ultimate source of all the good experienced by Beck and others whom they cite as having overcome difficult, even ungodly lives. According to Beck and Ablow, the negative influences in people's lives are what cause them to act in ways that are destructive to themselves and others. They believe that people are intrinsically good; it is one's environment—particularly in one's childhood years—that shape their patterns of behavior for either good or evil. If we understand that, then we can help others search out their past and work at bettering themselves. Of course, professional psychiatric help is desirable, especially for harder cases.

1. Keith Ablow, M.D., *The 7 Wonders That Will Change Your Life* (New York: Simon & Schuster, Inc., Mercury Radio Arts Division, threshold Editions, 2011), p. 12.



The authors cite numerous sources for truths that can transform lives. They offer a caveat that they do not necessarily endorse or agree with all that those sources teach:

In the pages that follow, Glenn and I quote leaders and thinkers of virtually every faith and movement, from ancient times to modern times. Some of these people we'd likely vehemently disagree with on political or religious issues—but healing is not about politics, it's about understanding our place, our path, and our potential.

Our goal has been to search out the timeless, ultimate wonders of truth that can change lives. In looking for them, we searched where lines of truth emanating from many different directions intersect. We tried to show no favoritism and no fear of its source, for it is at those intersections where the ultimate light may be found. (Ibid., p. 16)

As believers in Jesus Christ as the only way to God, and in the power of the Holy Spirit to transform our lives and to conform us to the image of Christ, we rely on Scripture alone to provide truth in matters dealing with spiritual issues in our lives. We do not look to the wisdom of men, but to the wisdom of the one true God. Although other sources may have some wisdom that coincides with that found in God's Word, it is only God's Word that is infallible in these matters; to search out truth from other sources incurs the danger that we may be influenced by the errors of those sources as well. Thus, any basis upon which a teaching is not exclusively tied to God's Word can mislead people into following false religion or philosophy.

If, for example, one cites someone who is solidly grounded in Scripture, or at least is not an adherent to a false religious or philosophical discipline, that citation may be valid, provided it is confirmed by Scripture. To cite sources that may contain truth, but that are from adherents to false religious or philosophical disciplines gives credibility to those disciplines.

Regardless of Beck's and Ablow's caveat, we can be sure that they do endorse and agree with the portions of those sources that they cite. This must be kept in mind as we review some of those sources.

As to Glenn Beck's religious philosophy it can be summed up as this: a blend of New Age philosophy and Mormonism, with an emphasis on spiritual renewal through mind control.

Glenn Beck's god

The god with whom Glenn Beck identifies is not the God of the Bible. It is a New Age god of self:

Denial of reality—past and present—is a special kind of hell. It separates you from your best self, which is the same as separating you from God. (Beck, p. 19)

Beck equates checking his gut with "checking in with God, which amounts to the same thing." (Ibid., p. 249)

Keith Ablow quotes *The Tibetan book of Living and Dying* to suggest that "God" is "the mind," or "self," as well as being equated with other religious concepts:

Saints and mystics throughout history have adorned their realizations with different names and given them different faces and interpretations, but what they are all fundamentally experiencing is the essential nature of the mind. Christians and Jews call it "God"; Hindus call it "the Self," "Shiva," "Brahman," and Vishnu"; Sufi mystics name it "the Hidden Essence"; and Buddhists call it "Buddha nature." At the heart

of all religions is the certainty that there is a fundamental truth, and that this life is a sacred opportunity to evolve and realize it. (Ablow, p. 124)

This statement alludes to the New Age belief in evolution to higher consciousness and godhood. Yet Beck and Ablow speak of God in a more transcendent manner, saying that God indwells us:

You were born knowing that the truth always wins and that *You are the temple of God*. (Ibid., p. 280 [emphasis in original])

There is no explanation of how we are, or become, the temple of God. It is merely an opportunity to connect their philosophy to the Bible:

You are the temple of God, we read in the Bible. And so is your brother, and your sister, and your father, and your mother, and your friend, and your adversary, and your employee, and your employer, and that woman selling you a suit of clothes, and that man asking you for a handout on the street. Every single one of us has magic inside us that can transform our lives and the lives of others. (Ibid., p. 283 [emphasis in original])

This is not the Holy Spirit who indwells believers in Jesus Christ; Ablow's "god" indwells everyone without qualification. This god is the impersonal Force of New Age mysticism:

You have a polestar inside you. It is connected with all the energy in the universe. When you begin to follow that star you align yourself with immeasurable, inexplicable forces that will actually help you manifest your best intentions. (Ibid., p. 79)

...You can put yourself at one with immeasurable and extraordinary forces by removing the "viruses" corrupting the software of your soul. (Ibid., p. 105)

The current of energy that flows in your favor when you stop denying what you have lived through and how it has shaped you and how you must change is the immeasurable force that you can tap into to dramatically improve your existence. It is, ultimately, a force that was inside your soul from before your birth and is inside your soul at this very moment. It will never leave you. You can rely on it. It is nothing less than your connection to God. (Ibid., p. 113)

This "Force" is the same as that within the philosophy of the Star Wars saga—the Force which we traced to eastern mysticism and Nazism (see our special report, *The Force Behind the Force: Star Wars Theology Examined*).

This all-encompassing Force to which the majority of the world's religions look for guidance has both a dark side and a light side. It's worst expression was in Nazi philosophy which was predicated upon Nordic mysticism. Martin Bormann, head of the Nazi Party Organization was quoted in the February 21, 1942, edition of *The London Daily Telegraph*:

If we National Socialists speak about "faith in God" we do not mean the same God as the naïve Christians.... The natural Force which maintains these innumerable planets in the universe we call the Almighty or God.

The true God as revealed in the Bible is Light; He has no dark side:

This then is the message that we have heard about Him, and declare to you, that God is light, and there is no darkness at all in Him.

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:5-7)

Ablow further equates God with “Fate or Love or whatever force in the universe that speaks to you and gives your existence meaning.” (Ibid., p. 45)

Neither Ablow nor Beck knows how prayer works, but they believe it does work. But their prayers need not be to the God of the Bible:

Praying that God or Nature or the Cosmos or your own internal, immeasurable reservoir of spirit allows you the courage and faith to find and then face the truth about your life broadcasts your intention to your own mind, heart, and soul and—in ways that are miraculous and beyond complete human comprehension—to the minds, hearts, and souls of others. (Ibid., p. 132)

To Beck and Ablow any source of positive energy can work for us. It is a pragmatic application of therapy in one form or another that sets us free:

...If you're depressed and have avoided talking about your fears and feelings, contact a minister or therapist and schedule one visit. Just be sure you visit with a minister or therapist from a religion or healing discipline you actually have affinity for, or suspect you might. (Ibid., p. 74)

Where Does Jesus Fit In?

Because God's Word tells us that Jesus is the only Way to the Father, it is imperative that people be led to Christ in order to have any relationship with God. Yet in spite of Beck's and Ablow's references to “God” in his myriad forms, there is hardly any mention of Jesus in their book. When He is mentioned it is in the context of equality with other revered “holy men” such as Gandhi, Buddha, or Martin Luther King, Jr.

Coincidence & Circumstance = God at Work

The way Beck's and Ablow's god communicates with us is through coincidence and circumstances. We are told to follow through on these indicators of their god's will for us. This is how Beck describes meeting his present wife, Tania. It was through “chance” meetings on three occasions that he worked up the courage to ask her on a date. Circumstances and coincidence were also responsible for him becoming a Mormon. It was through meeting and working with Mormons that he came to believe that “god,” or his gut feeling, or whatever one wants to call it, was directing him to Mormonism which would become his “truth.”

On a personal note, I might interject here that I have also had similar “coincidences” that led me to date certain women, but those circumstances led nowhere. Still, it cannot be denied that God does sometimes bring us into situations where we sense His leading. But not all coincidences or circumstances in which we find ourselves are God's leading. To blindly accept Beck's philosophy in this area could lead people into disaster. Yet Beck's and Ablow's philosophy seems to be, “Let circumstances guide your life.” Particularly if you find yourself reading their book:

You are ready to vanquish the demons you have been fleeing. How do I know? Because you wouldn't be reading this book if you weren't. You wouldn't have picked it up, or you would have put it down quickly. It is in your hands this very moment *for a very good reason*. This is a bread crumb on your path. Do not ignore it! (Ibid., p. 112 [emphasis in original])

If this is true, then could it be that the book found its way into my hands so that I could warn people about its false teachings? If we followed this line of reasoning then whatever reason we find to apply to a given circumstance or coincidence would be from “god,” regardless of contradictions. This makes “god” double minded. In which case, can it be God?

But such is the New Age god—double minded and subjective when it comes to truth. Throughout this book truth is spoken of as personal: “my truth”; “your truth.” Beck states that “you need truth to find your way into the light.”

This is true if one is speaking of truth in the light of God's Word. However, Beck follows immediately with these words: “I was on the run from my truth. I was in *denial* of my truth.”

Self-Love

Beck ties personal truth with self-love while advising that sometimes a person has to leave their marriage in order to be true to themselves—in order to hang on to their own dream:

Then, my friend, you may have to leave. If you were to do so, you would have to do it responsibly and with as much love for all concerned—including your wife—as humanly possible. But your love for self would have to be served.

Are you surprised to hear me say that? Does that sound like violating a covenant? It isn't. Covenants are, by their nature, sacred agreements between two or more parties. If you promised to stay married to someone who would love you forever, then realize you are not loved at all by that person, and that there is no reasonable hope that you ever will be, and that the example of your broken relationship is a burden to your children, then you must accept this reality: There is no covenant. There is only your truth. And in the end, the truth always wins. (Beck, Ibid., p. 219-220)

When one says, “as humanly possible,” one is dismissing the power of God (the true God; not the god of Mormonism or New Age philosophy). It is surrender of self to the will of God that causes true believers to overcome the trials and tribulations in this world, including marriages gone awry. To abandon one's marriage in pursuit of one's “dream” is selfishness at its peak. Yet in the convoluted philosophy of psychiatry and human “wisdom,” it is selfish not to pursue one's dreams even at the expense of others. This is because self-love is the basis of all worldly philosophy.

Keith Ablow quotes one of his favorite writers, Harry Crews, whose acceptance of his own truth led to a self-love that, well, I'll let him describe it:

Since that time I have found myself perpetually fascinating. It wasn't many weeks before I loved myself endlessly and profoundly. I have found no other such love anywhere in the world, nor do I expect to. (Harry Crews, quoted by Keith Ablow, Ibid., p. 116)

Excuse me while I gag.

Of course no one who loves himself with such fervor will find as great a love anywhere. Especially if everyone else is out there loving themselves with the same fervor. In view of how selfish people have become over the past five decades, we can see how the philosophy of self-love has contributed not to a better world, but to a world of people with attitudes of entitlement. "The world owes me everything because I'm worth it."

You were born knowing that you deserve to be loved unconditionally, no matter what you have since learned to the contrary. (Ablow, *Ibid.*, p. 279)

What we have learned to the contrary is God's Word. Self-love is diametrically counter to the love commanded by God for those who are truly His (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

Love does not seek its own benefit, but the benefit of others (Phil. 2:3-4).

Nowhere in Scripture are we commanded or even advised to love ourselves, simply because we already love ourselves. No one truly hates himself; even suicide is an attempt to escape the pain of life's assault upon oneself. It is love of self that is at the root of most of man's psychological, emotional, and spiritual problems. Yet psychology and psychiatry further impress upon miserable men the one thing that is guaranteed to make them more miserable. Or at least intolerable, like certain celebrities!

But is not Glenn Beck an example of how self-love can help a person achieve success and happiness?

As long as success remains, and enough others esteem him highly, yes, it may provide an illusion of success and happiness. But ultimately, if something serious challenges that self-love, then in order for the self-lover to sustain himself he must cut himself off from those he perceives as impediments to his happiness. This, in fact, is Beck's advice. He states that he can't stand being around people whom he perceives as being "fake."

I now strive to include in my life only those ideas and people and plans that resonate deeply with me and seem consistent with what God wants for me and from me. (Beck, *Ibid.*, p. 209)

Well, excuuuuuuuse me! But what it comes down to is that everyone else must acquiesce to my desires; my goals; my dream. Otherwise I'll have nothing to do with them.

It's all about "Me"!

"But I'm generous with my employees. See how good I am?"

Yes, as long as the employees continue to support your dream, as admittedly, all good employees should do, provided your dream does not compromise their convictions.

But what if your dream does compromise another's conscience? Then to be true to yourself you'll have to make that other person suffer for your benefit.

You can see where this can lead.

It's fine to have a dream, but our dream should be submitted to the will of our heavenly Father. Otherwise we will assume that our dream is de facto the will of God, as does Beck:

Dreams are important. They're messages from God.

When you ignore them or resist them or are kept from pursuing them, you are cut to the core of your being. Inevitably you then inflict injuries on others, too. (*Ibid.*, p. 93)

Well, Hitler had a dream. Was that a message from God? How about Stalin's dream? Or Attilah the Hun? Or Beck's nemesis Barack Obama's?

Are we to assume that all these dreams were messages from God?

How easy it is to go astray when we assume that we are God, or that God is leading us through our own whims of what constitutes "good" in life.

Mormonism

Glenn Beck's conversion to Mormonism is no secret. He has mentioned it numerous times on his broadcasts, and alluded to Mormon doctrine during his Restoring Honor Rally in Washington D.C. in 2010. Now he reveals how he was led to Mormonism through coincidences in his life. His best friend, Pat Gray, is a Mormon; Beck's first job in radio was at a station in Seattle, owned by Mormons; his next job was at a station owned by the same company in Provo, Utah; his next job was at a station in Washington, D.C., where the news guy was a Mormon.

After Beck and his new wife Tania decided they needed to have a common faith, they searched out several different religions including Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Unitarian, Unity, etc. Then one day his Mormon friend Pat Gray invited him to the Church of Jesus Christ, Latter-day Saints. He was surprised that in a class called "Gospel Principles" he could ask questions. Add to this that his daughters felt "so warm inside" by the friendliness they experienced at the Mormon stake and he was hooked. Now he teaches us his Mormon gospel, which includes baptism for the dead to give them another chance:

...Latter-day Saints do not believe that your chances ever cease, even with death. They end only with full understanding and denial of truth by your own exercise of real free will. And even then there is no "lake of fire." There is just the Hell that is realizing you could have been with your loved ones and your Heavenly Father and His son, but you're not. That is far worse than any "lake of fire." (Beck, *Ibid.*, p. 148)

Really? Then why did Jesus speak of the lake of fire and judgment so often? Why does God's Word tell us that after death comes judgment (Hebrews 9:27)?

Conclusion

Glenn Beck is a very likeable guy, as I'm sure is Keith Ablow. I don't think either is a conscientious deceiver. They have been deceived by the philosophies of the world that impressed them above God's Word. Unfortunately, their deception is contagious, particularly because of Beck's fame, and particularly among Christians who hold patriotism almost as high as they do their faith in Jesus. These are willing to overlook the deception and join Beck in a common cause of patriotism in the face of a leftist, internationalist agenda that has infected the governments of the United States at every level. By doing so, such Christians spread the deception deeper into the Body of Christ in America.

When we are cowed into ignoring or dismissing—even accepting—spiritual deception in the interest of worldly affairs we have denied the faith.

God's Word is the only criterion of truth to which we can adhere without fear. It is filled with examples of godly men and women who risked their own well-being for the sake of God's truth—men and women who should be examples of how we must live our lives.

It's my hope that this exposé of Glenn Beck's philosophy will help some of our more wise and discerning brethren resist the temptation to overlook his deceptions and stand for God's truth. ❖