

# LENSES

## Pantheism in Focus

A worldview is a set of presuppositions which we hold consciously or subconsciously about the basic makeup of the world.

### What is Pantheism?

1. Pantheism comes from two Greek words: “*pan*” meaning all and “*theos*” meaning god
2. A philosophical belief that God is everything and everything is god; all things share the same reality
3. A complex web of ideologies that cross a wide variety of religious practices
4. Numerous religions and groups hold a pantheistic worldview. Examples are: Hindus, Buddhists, Christian Scientists, the Unity School of Christianity, Scientology, various New Age religions such as Wicca, UFO/ alien cults, some environmental activist religions, crystal meditation, and various occult religions.
5. As a worldview, there are an estimated 1.8 billion Pantheists in the world (Christian 2.2 billion, Muslim 1.9 billion)
6. Pantheism says god is the life force that resides within all creation
7. All creation sprang out of this “god force”
8. There’s no real good and evil; suffering, pain, poverty, death all are illusions

### Two Popular Forms of Pantheism

#### Hinduism

1. The oldest known organized world religion
2. Hinduism is a pagan religion with no single creed and recognizes no final truth
3. Two main divisions: Popular and Philosophical
4. God is one impersonal spiritual reality identified with 3 personages: Brahman (creator) the origin of creative energy; Vishnu (Preserver) god of stability and control (also known as Krishna and Rama); Shiva (Destroyer) the god of endings
5. In addition to these three, there are 350 million gods worshipped
6. Everything is an illusion and man is but the eternal soul mysteriously trapped in a mortal body
7. The way of “salvation” is to become one with the impersonal force or god consciousness - through seemingly endless reincarnations

8. Holding man back is the law of karma and dharma. Karma is what happens to you, dharma is what you do that can positively or negatively affect your next reincarnation

#### Buddhism

1. The belief system of those who follow the Buddha, the enlightened one, a title given to its founder
2. An impersonal religion of self- perfection, the end of which is death
3. The four noble truths - life is full of suffering / suffering is caused by craving / suffering will cease only when craving ceases / can be achieved only by walking the eightfold path
4. The eightfold path: right views / right aspiration / right speech / right conduct / right livelihood / right effort / right mindfulness / right contemplation
5. Only through multiple reincarnation can one remove the karma that keeps them from the permanent state of pure nonexistence or nirvana

### Where do these beliefs originate?

1. *Genesis 3:1-5* – in the Garden

### How does God respond?

2. *Romans 1:20* – You can know me by what I’ve created
3. *Proverbs 14:12* – Man’s ways lead to death
4. *Isaiah 42:8* – I will share my glory with no one
5. *Psalms 50:21* – You thought I was like you.

Are there ways I am a theoretical Theist but a practical Pantheist?

#### BIBLE READING PLAN

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday: Proverbs 7     | <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday: Proverbs 11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday: Proverbs 8     | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday: Proverbs 12   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday: Proverbs 9    | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday: Proverbs 13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday: Proverbs 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday: Proverbs 14   |