

## Understanding Neo-Paganism

The pagans have returned. Ancient forms of polytheism, shamanism, and animism have been resurrected by their modern followers. What is neopaganism? How are we to understand the gods, goddesses, and practices of the neopagans? How do we protect our people from the influences of neopaganism? This lecture will examine these and other questions.

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### **1.** Introductory Comments on Neo-Paganism

#### **1.** The Definition of Paganism & Neo-Paganism

Eurocentric Paganism

Afrocentric Paganism

### **2.** The Common Beliefs of Neo-Pagans

Antiauthoritarianism & Antidogmatism

Eclecticism & Syncretism

Mystical Experience

Ethical Relativism

Open Metaphysic

Tolerance & Diversity

Animism, Hylozoism & Panpsychism

Polytheism

Pantheism & Monism

Polarity & Dualism

Mother goddess & the Horned god

Magical Worldview

Rejection of Animal Sacrifice (Some exceptions)

Affirmation of Life & Nature

The Common Practices of Neo-Paganism  
Sabbats & Esbats

Altered States of Consciousness

Divination

Magick & Sorcery

Spiritism

Psychic Development

### **3.** A Biblical Assessment of Neo-Paganism

#### **1.** Biblical Critique of Polytheism

#### **2.** Biblical Critique of Magick & Sorcery

Biblical Critique of Reincarnation