HIDDEN TREASURE

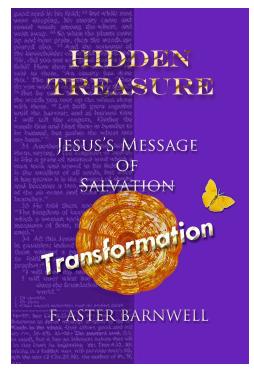
-JESUS'S MESSAGE OF TRANSFORMATION

F. ASTER BARNWELL

In Hidden Treasure — Jesus's Message of Transformation, I offer a detailed exposition of my findings that the New Testament Gospels contain a well-defined psychology of transformation, designed to awaken us to higher states of consciousness. This psychology is organized on a framework of a seven-level model of human consciousness found in Eastern religious philosophy, typically Hindu and Buddhist. According to this framework, the human body contains a network of subtle energy channels, together with seven main energy distribution sites, called *chakras*, located along the axis of the spine, from the tailbone to the top of the head.

BRIDGING MATTER AND SPIRIT

Although we're not ordinarily aware of this subtle energy system, of which the chakras are an integral



part, it serves as our bridge between Matter and Spirit, helping us to find a point of balance in our experience of life between two extremes—a predominantly selfish and physically-oriented existence at one end, and a selfless and spiritually-oriented one at the other. In reality, however, human life is expressed along a continuum between these two poles, though most of us cluster towards the lower one.

In their function of Spirit-Matter liaison, each of the seven chakras defines our perspective on the world and how we engage within it. As such, each chakra gives rise to a different "quality of engagement" in life and is associated with a set of functions relating to different modes of adaptation to physical life. When our consciousness—our habitual patterns of thinking, feeling and acting—is limited to the first three chakras, we tend to focus on and expend our energy on issues concerned with our physical survival, sexual expression, and social position and status respectively. As our consciousness moves higher, we express progressive refinements in our emotions and interactions with each other, such that, at the seventh, or highest chakra, we would be expressing more of our Divine nature,

which, though part of our endowment as human beings, lies well beyond our perceptual grasp when our consciousness is confined to the lower chakras.

A "GOSPEL" OF TRANSFORMATION

Hidden Treasure methodically demonstrates that the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels, particularly as contained in the Sermon on the Mount, and the parables dealing with the Kingdom of Heaven in Matthew, offer step-by-step instructions for refining our "psychic energy" (i.e. the "quality" of our interactions in life), thereby elevating our consciousness from the lower to higher chakras, or up "the ladder of being"—a challenge generally referred to as the transformation of consciousness. It is this transformation, sometimes referred to as "spiritual awakening," that's the ultimate aim of the Gospel message. And although their various adherents may not be aware of this, this is also the common inspiration behind all major world spiritual traditions.

Once we become familiar with this program of transformation as laid out in the Gospels, it will become clear that the underlying purpose behind the writing of the Gospel documents is to facilitate a transformation of consciousness, with their stories of Jesus's birth, miracles, death and resurrection, serving as a scaffold for the transformational psychology embedded in them. We will also see that it's the upward progress of human consciousness to higher levels that the Gospels symbolically refer to as attaining the Kingdom of Heaven.

THE PROMISE OF ENLIGHTENMENT—THE ONLY SALVATION ON OFFER

A central component of the seven-level model of consciousness is the presence, in our bodies, of a powerful, untapped reservoir of psychic energy, called *Kundalini*, which normally lies dormant at the base of the spine. This energy becomes available to us when we are spiritually and psychologically ready, which occurs when we outgrow an egocentered relationship with the world. When fully activated, this energy reserve confers an experience of *Enlightenment*, enabling us to realize a greater degree of connection to one another, as well as a heightened attunement to our deepest Self and truest Reality, and therefore to God. This potential for spiritual awakening is part of our human legacy, offering us the means by which we can evolve out of our ego-bound, caterpillar-equivalent state of existence, to a butterfly-equivalent, state of love, openness, and joy.

As *Hidden Treasure* shows, once we penetrate the symbolic language of the Gospels, we'll see that the only salvation on offer in them is the transformation of consciousness. We are "saved," spiritually and psychologically, only when we outgrow egoic consciousness and bring the higher reaches of our beings (i.e. higher chakras) into expression. Indeed, it is only in an *enlightened* state of consciousness that we can experience what Christians refer to as *the Second Coming of Christ*.

BEYOND DOGMA AND CREED

Taking us beyond dogma and creed, *Hidden Treasure* demonstrates that one does not need to subscribe to any specific brand of religion (or any religion at all, for that matter) to take advantage of the transformational psychology outlined in its pages. Indeed, the quality of engagement it requires is more potent than all our religious creeds put together. That's why it can benefit the atheist and the agnostic just as equally as any religious practitioner. And rightly so, for our evolution to a higher consciousness is not a matter of religious belief, but of actual engagement.

In *Hidden Treasure*, we also discover genuine grounds for religious unity—recognizing the common quest at the heart of all religious and spiritual endeavor, namely, the transformation of our human consciousness.

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