



Figure 1—ONE OF BILLIONS

This image reveals numerous dendritic (nerve cell branches) extensions with their synaptic (nerve junction) transmissions

"In a normal state of consciousness, one's own spirit ticks off the neurons in his brain and operates his body. We are spirits connected with a body. But in an altered state, reached under drugs, yoga, hypnosis, etc., this passive but alert state, the connection between the spirit and the brain, is loosened. That allows another spirit to interpose itself, to begin to tick off the neurons in the brain, and create an entire universe of illusion. You've then opened yourself up. It's called sorcery. People are literally teaching themselves how to be demonized, all in the name of developing one's full potential."

—Examining & Exposing Cultic & Occultic [sic] Movements, Jack Sin, "Should a Christian Practise [sic] Yoga?" April 2000, pp. 79-84

"The brain is a machine that a ghost can operate." —Sir John Eccles, Nobel Prize Winner for his research on the brain

# THE CONSCIOUS AND SUB-CONSCIOUS MIND OF MAN

By Paul J. Wickliffe

## THE BIBLE AND DREAMS

Does the Bible make a distinction between the conscious and subconscious state of man? The scriptures make an interesting observation regarding death and sleep. The point of this comparison is that when an individual is in a state of sleep they are not aware of events immediately transpiring around them . . . Just like a deceased individual.

Matthew 9:24

He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn.

Jesus diagnosed the condition of this young girl. She was alive but unconscious. This is called a coma. This is one of the clearest examples in scripture we have of this condition. You mean to tell me the Lord of the universe didn't know the difference between sleep and death?

John 11:11-13

These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. 12. Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. 13. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

Jesus made it clear Lazarus was dead. The Messiah waited to visit these dear friends that Lazarus' sickness might run its course and that through Lazarus' death "the glory of God" would be made abundantly evident and, "that the Son of God might be glorified thereby." (John 11:4)

Acts 13:36

For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption. . .

We know David was dead because his body saw corruption, or decay.

I Corinthians 11:30

For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

This verse, coming out of the context of how to observe the Lord's Table, or Communion, scripture tells us to judge ourselves using the Bible as the means by which to judge our thoughts, motives and conduct. Because of the unworthy manner some in Corinth were partaking, disease and sickness were afflicting the flock. Even death was not left out of the equation for those Corinthians involved in the Lord's communion in a sacrilegious manner.

I Corinthians 15:51

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed . . .

This verse alludes to the rapture, or the bodily translation of the saints, which occurs prior to the 3.5 year judgment of God on this planet mentioned in Revelation, chapter 8-19. The key word here is "changed." What is changed is the body of the saint from corruption to incorruption, "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. Jesus is saying not all will sleep (die). Some will be changed. They will not see death in the normal sense of the word. Remember, the spirit of the individual has already been changed by virtue of Christ being seated on the throne within the personality of the individual. Their personality has been crucified, just as Christ was crucified for them. By the way, there is a difference between a blink, a wink and and a twinkle of

By the way, there is a difference between a blink, a wink and and a twinkle of the human eye. A blink is an involuntary, reflex of the eyelid whose sole purpose of function is to protect the eye from damage. It can last anywhere from 300-400 milliseconds. A wink is a conscious, optical way of communicating approval, sarcasm, or a flirtatious invitation. Its duration is determined by the one giving it. The phrase "twinkling of an eye" is used in the context of a moment. Could the infinite God be giving us a glimpse of eternity in this phrase that so many quickly read about and then move on?

Since the word "moment" is used in conjunction with the phrase "the twinkling of an eye" the natural conclusion is that these two ideas are not only complementary but enhance the meaning of the other. They are mutual in their capacity to amplify a deeper understanding of the other. While the word "moment" means a short amount of time and the "twinkling of an eye" is a speed of light phenomenon, the rapture of the saints will occur according to eternity's timetable'

I Thessalonians 4:14

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

While this verse describes death, let me just add one other point regarding the subconscious state known as sleep. The Bible makes the point there is an aspect of man's consciousness that moves to a different level during sleep. This does not excuse

man from any responsibility before God. As a matter of fact, one learns, in the Bible, God used the avenue of dreams as a means of communicating.

Man's mind never ceases to operate. We all know from personal experience that one's mind, through the avenue of dreams, creates scenes so vivid and real that many times the physical involuntary responses of the body and mind are deceived as well as energized. The body's responses can be evident in sweaty palms or face, an increase in heart rate, intense and overwhelming sadness or remorse, uncontrollable weeping or crying, laughing, embarrassment, sexual arousal, unsurpassed exhilaration, etc. As one can see, human emotions and bodily responses are real but an individual can be 'fooled' into thinking that what has been seen in the mind is 'real' when, in reality, a virtual dream world has been created.

Whether it be altered states of consciousness induced by drugs,<sup>i</sup> certain types of music,<sup>ii</sup> hypnosis,<sup>iii</sup> meditation,<sup>iv</sup> yoga,<sup>v</sup> near death experiences (known as NDE's),<sup>vi</sup> dreams,<sup>vii</sup> telekinesis,<sup>viii</sup> or ESP<sup>ix</sup> these subjective experiences are never to be regarded as reliable sources of understanding God, truth, God's perfect will, or reality. As a matter of record, they are nothing more than a testament to the mind's ability to deceive the very one that possesses these thoughts.

## **MY COMMITMENTS FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE**

The following brief personal story points out the power and vulnerability of the mind to external influences both consciously and subconsciously. While attending a company-sponsored dinner event years ago, my future wife and I became the unsolicited spectators of an unannounced hypnotic encounter with various subjects from the audience. As the hypnotist petitioned the gathering for willing subjects, several preemptory remarks were made regarding the field of hypnosis and its impact on the people who willingly participated.

The hypnotist, a well-known personality within his profession and community, emphasized the positive benefits of hypnosis to his clients but commented that those who possessed certain moral convictions may not be good subjects. He further added that those potential subjects who might possess a reticence (reluctance) about 'going under', for whatever reason, would also not make good candidates.

The subjects that went under and then were re-awakened at the end of their encounter had no conscious recollection of the fools they had become on stage.

While recalling that unusual evening several thoughts came to my mind:

The human mind should never expose itself to external influences subconsciously. One has no guarantee that the person conducting a hypnotic session could suggest or probe, subliminally, into an area within that person's

mind where they ought not. The other troublesome facet of autonomic suggestion is behavior which could be acted out but later prove to be a source of embarrassment if it were consciously made aware.

Even though the mind is the most amazing computer ever designed, its operation should be conducted with the utmost care—what an individual puts into their memory banks remains. Those memories may not always have direct access to the mind's system of retrieval, but thoughts, words, and pictures can materialize and re-appear in dreams or at other times and in other levels of consciousness. While the hypnotist may attempt to convince his subject, and the audience, that the person will remember nothing, I am not convinced. Maybe the hypnotist can consciously convince his subject that they will remember nothing, but are his instructions totally absent from the mind. What about other levels of consciousness?

As it has been stated earlier, God will always make his appeal to men through objective verifiable truth (the Bible), and the teaching, convicting, and regenerative ministry of the Holy Spirit. Remember, men do not choose God. If this were possible then the Bible, Jesus' Crucifixion, and the Holy Spirit would not be necessary. It would also promote the idea that some men are better than others because the emphasis is on individual effort, merit, or giftedness, rather than the biblical invocation that all have been concluded under sin (Galatians 3:22—But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe).

Men are, however, responsible before God. This responsibility results when the obvious, clear, decisive evidence from Christ as Creator (John 1:1) is rejected from a rational and sane examination of the evidence by man's spirit (the moral component of his being). While this necessary first step is not initiated by God, its origin springs from man's spirit--the unseen, invisible dimension of man's personality. While this necessary first step in the redemptive event of man's regeneration is not initiated by God, because of the unseen dialogue between man's spirit and the truth of Christ in creation, this conversation can truly be called supernatural. This necessary first step is specifically initiated by man's observation. From here it is cross-examined, or analyzed, by man's cognitive, cerebral processes. Finally, it is acknowledged ('seen' as good and righteous) by the spirit of man for what it is--the witness of God in creation, Jesus Christ. Because the acknowledgement of TRUTH rests neither with man's intelligence, nor somehow in the innate differences (giftings) each man possesses, boasting by the individual is absent (Jhn. 1:4, 9). Surely, the observation and complexity of order by Christ as Creator are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made." (Rom. 1:20) The evidence for Christ as Creator is undeniable (Jhn. 1:1-3). Man is indeed, without excuse!

In the theological discussion involving "free will," and the evidence of Christ as Creator, it becomes apparent that choice, or the deliberation of at least two

alternatives (in this case the rejection of truth in exchange for the acceptance of the individual as god), "free will" turns out to be a rejection of the clear and unambiguous evidence of creation—a reflection of Christ as Creator.

By choice, through the aid of the hypnotist, an individual can literally will themselves into an altered state of consciousness where reality becomes fantasy.

This teaches us the power of the Holy Spirit to transform our mind and therefore our direction. For the believer, the believer is challenged to "put on the mind of Christ."

We can resist the devil and he will flee from us. Of course, this is because of the Holy Spirit's indwelling and work, not because of anything I do.

Truth, once it is divorced from the person of the biblical Jesus Christ, no longer becomes an ideal worth pursuing. Jesus Christ, as the truth, can be made into whatever a person wants truth to be.

A willing hypnotic subject will be a willing yoga subject. While yoga's ultimate objective is to yoke or union the individual with a demon, Eastern thought brainwashes the individual, convincing them they are reaching self-realization or a higher state of consciousness. Yoga is a self-induced altered state of consciousness. The individual drawn to yoga is attracted to this practice because of a rejection of the truth (Jesus Christ) and openness to Eastern thought. This openness can gain a foothold in a number of ways: music, a teacher, a friend, exploring Eastern thought for 'truth' etc. For the yoga subject, preconceptions about reality are erased and exchanged for the reality of fantasy and the unfettered suggestions and influences from a sinister demonic realm. As it states at the beginning of this article, those practicing yoga lose the synaptic connection in the brain and allow another spirit to interpose itself in the function of the brain. This conscious surrender, resulting from a rejection of the truth, subliminally conditions the brain to yield itself over to the possibility of demonic suggestion and influence. After all Eastern thought, while embracing many gods, ultimately teaches, like all religions, that man can become God.

For many, reality is NOT what we perceive it to be (understood through the senses), because TRUTH has been rejected (the saneness and rational evidence of Christ as Creator has been denied). This interconnectedness between reality (perception) and Truth (the reasonableness and saneness of Jesus Christ as Creator) is mirrored in the multitude of personalities evident in the human condition. The reason for the multitude of personalities evident in the human condition, results from the fact that this evidence demands two responses from the individual. One is natural and within the exercise of the individual's capacity to understand—that would be the acceptance of creation's

unambiguous and compelling evidence, Christ as Creator. The other is supernatural and therefore moral—man is a condemned sinner and Christ is the only ransom that can purchase, satisfy, and fulfill God's requirement. TRUTH, therefore, is not rejected because man cannot understand it, TRUTH is rejected because the necessary first step of man's acknowledgement of that TRUTH and the supernatural moral component of Christ as sin bearer, are absent. This process profoundly alters the individual's perception, and therefore reality of: what is truth? or Who is Truth?

When the justification of a sinner transpires, positional reconciliation occurs as a result of the shed blood of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit's intervention and indwelling. This justification:

- ❖ Has its origins in God, NOT man. Is not a "co-operative" effort between men and God. Justification results when the Holy Spirit's presence is made evident in the thoughts and actions of men
- ❖ Is made possible only through the precious blood of Jesus Christ
- ❖ Is exclusive, not inclusive (many are called, but few are chosen)
- ❖ Instantaneous in its transformative capacity
- ❖ Once and for all in its positional justification
- ❖ Effectually complete in its ability to appease God's absolute requirement
- ❖ Infinite in its ability to cover (atone for) sin
- ❖ Sees no separation between Jesus and his words. Understands what is really behind the whole translation issue--ultimate authority. In the end you are either obedient to men or Jesus Christ.
- ❖ Made possible by the baptism of the Holy Spirit of Christ
- ❖ Maintained and sealed by the spirit of God

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<sup>i</sup> From drugs, to alcohol to marijuana and even "truth serum" (sodium pentothal, nitrazepam), these substances usher the user into altered states of consciousness.

<sup>ii</sup> Music, subliminally (without a conscious awareness), can condition its hearers through the orchestration, composition, rhythm, beat, syncopation, lyrics and instruments used. Music can inspire, invoke patriotism, create mood, incite anti-social/rebellious/antichristian behavior and create an overall sense of conformity tailored to a particular spirit of conduct and thought evident among the group.

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<sup>iii</sup> Hypnosis can either be self-induced or performed by an external agent upon the individual. Its goals can be varied from regressive memory retrieval, to the apparent termination of destructive/habitual behaviors (habits/vices)

<sup>iv</sup> Meditation is the self-induced practice of placing oneself in an altered state of consciousness. This is accomplished by turning one's outside world inward. Through controlling one's environment (quietness), breathing exercises, and relaxation techniques, the individual becomes self-consumed (you could say self-realization has been achieved). Meditation utilizes visualization, a behavior of the mind that visualizes or pictures what the subject desires, often unattainable, and convinces them the thoughts, i.e. pictures, are attainable—if you can conceive/perceive it, you can achieve it.

<sup>v</sup> Yoga meaning “to yolk” or to achieve “union” (with a demon) is an Eastern religion whose ultimate goal is to erase any walls of objective, absolute truth while opening the mind to the relativism of subjective Hindu thought. Its very nature (passive, cynical, fatalistic, and steeped in the occult) is the antithesis (opposite) to Western thought, science and jurisprudence, namely, America's Judeo-Christian underpinnings. It is also opposed to our Constitutional form of limited government which acknowledges the sin of the individual through its separation of powers clause. Yoga rejects: The Bible's conception of the Godhead (trinity), Christ as sin bearer, the punishment of the wicked, the concept of transgression, God's consequence of judgment, the behavior of the wicked, the tenants of right and wrong, the contrast between light and darkness, the reality of a hell, the blessedness of the elect in heaven, personal responsibility and accountability as differentiated from the supernatural act of redemption, the law of equity (an eye for an eye), the basis for the scientific method of induction (objective observation without the pretense of personal bias), the depravity of man, the sanctity of human life, and the miracle of biblical creationism. Yoga, in practice, utilizes meditation as the primary method of erasing these barriers it sees to its belief in a system devoted to worshipping many gods, holding the individual in bondage to an endless cycle of reincarnations, and a system that eradicates personal responsibility (whatever a person sows they will reap) in exchange for karma and a caste system that is oppressive, manipulative and stifling. Karma is predicated on the belief that an individual has existed before their conception and that a person's behavior will affect them either in future lives, or in their present life. 'Good' or 'bad' behavior, however, is relative and lacks any divine biblical benchmark. It is the yogis (master yoga teachers) and Brahmins (scholarly/priestly upper class—intelligentsia) that dictate acceptable or unacceptable behavior, not the moral absolutes of the Bible. 'Truth,' from the Hindu perspective, is not beyond the reach of man and certainly not embodied in the person of Jesus Christ. Hindu and Vedic philosophy teaches that the divine nature is in every man, waiting only to be discovered through intense self reflection, ascetism, self-realization, mind-over-body (deep breathing, stretching, controlling the involuntary responses of the body) techniques, as well as channeling and invoking repetitious mantras. Karma teaches that by a series of reincarnations the individual will eventually get it 'right.' How long that takes is anybody's guess. There is never the decisive judgment of an eternity in hell confronting the individual. Karma becomes just another opportunity to improve one's 'goodness' in the life to come. This goodness, of course, is determined by the ever changing and ever elusive relativistic teachings of the revered and blessed yogi's and Brahmins, selected masters who have attained Nirvana by personal effort and ascetism (privation).

<sup>vi</sup> Near Death Experience (N.D.E.) should tell you the individual is NOT dead but supposedly near death . . . At least that is what the body is telling the mind. The Near Death Experience can be induced by a number of physical-bodily factors: multiple bodily symptom failures overloading the sensory banks of the brain, or 'blacking' out because of the body's inability to handle pain thresholds that have been exceeded within a brief period of time. Even though the body (flesh and sinew) is still able to be clinically resuscitated and the spirit is not completely absent from the body, the spirit (the moral component of man's personality, as well as the invisible, spiritual appearance of the body) and soul (mind, will, and emotions) of the individual wanders back and forth between the present and the hereafter. This indecisive state of the conscious unwittingly influences the sub-conscious, ultimately overwhelming the rational processes of the mind. The reality of an unseen existence is finally 'perceived' by the individual's spirit, as the moral prism of the eternal comes into focus. While the trauma of N.D.E. victim's accounts may differ in intensity, duration, and detail, there appears to be points of consensus in the stories



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described. Regardless of age, sex, religious persuasion, or an individual's position in life, people have described being detached from their physical bodies while floating above their physical body on the operating table. Others have described an ascent towards heaven, through a tunnel, only to experience an indescribable warmth and deceased loved ones waiting for them at the end of this tunnel. Others have said they have seen Christ. For others, their experience has been all too long in its duration and more vivid than they could have ever imagined. It is these individuals that have experienced the agony of flames, the weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth in a tremendously crowded abode called hell, that these Near Death Experiences have been highly publicized. Of course, as dreams originate in the conscious and are influenced, directed, and given life by the dreamer in the subconscious, it could be said the collective sensory experiences of each dreamer ultimately shapes the 'reality' of their dream world. It is no different for the individual with a Near Death Experience. Subjective experience can never replace the objective counsel of Christ's word. Depending on the elective counsel of the Godhead, and an individual's response to the Truth of Christ in Creation, the individual gets a sneak peek of what awaits them in eternity. As hard as this may be to accept, scripture is filled with examples of people who either treaded similar paths or peered into this existence from the other side, as Samuel did when talking with Saul and the witch of Endor. And instead of the relevance of objective truth as the individual's point of reference that is always witnessed in scripture, we are told that when it comes to Near Death Experiences, the experience of the individual will frame the benchmark for 'truth.' This experience, recounted by the individual, usually under a case of extreme duress brought on by physical trauma, the mind in its ability to cope with excruciating and indescribable pain, passes out. In this altered state of consciousness, induced by the individual in their attempt to cope with pain, the individual finds himself in a dream state where the presence of pain is absent. In this altered state of consciousness, the person can be deceived into thinking many things about events, deceased loved ones, conceptions of God, the person of Christ, the abode of heaven, or the torment in hell. If there has been no grounding by the traumatized victim in the inerrant scriptures, i.e. the truth, then deception is a real possibility. This deception can surface as the subconscious falls prey to demonic suggestion or influence. The mind can also be influenced by conscious memories, whether those memories be based on fact or fancy. In the end the individual believes (the mind convinces them of this) they are dead, AND what they are privy to is reality—hence the power of the mind to deceive and convince its host that what is imagined IS real!

<sup>vii</sup> Dreams are how the physical body rests and the mind creates virtual worlds lacking rhyme, reason or reality. The subconscious state of dreaming draws upon every conscious, sensory experience that the individual has had. The retrieval of these sensory experiences, as well as any other conscious experience (this includes any profound supernatural/biblically regenerative—transformative events under consideration) the person finds himself possessing the necessary ingredients for dreaming. God can also divinely interpose himself in the subconscious thoughts of men as scripture has repeatedly revealed (for example Jacob's dream of the ladder to heaven with the angels ascending and descending, Abraham's' dream, in Genesis 15:12-21, of Israel's bondage in Egypt, Joseph's dream and how his father, mother and brothers bowed down to him in obeisance in his rise to power and favor before Pharaoh, Joseph's dream interpretation of the butler and the baker, as well as Nebuchadnezzar's dream). By the way, in Nebuchadnezzar's dream it says "his sleep brake from him." The king knew that what he had "dreamed" was not really a dream at all, but God interposing himself in the life of a potentate who was in love with himself NOT God.

<sup>viii</sup> Telekinesis is the psychic (mind) ability of moving or re-shaping objects with the mind. Nothing more than communication and agreement with the powers of darkness, telekinesis is a mutual understanding between the natural and the supernatural to convince unsuspecting onlookers that certain individuals possess psychic powers that transcend the normal.

<sup>ix</sup> ESP Extra Sensory Perception is the psychic ability of an individual to perceive things by means other than the known senses—ESP (beyond the senses). These perceptions involve people and can even dabble with events that haven't transpired. It is claimed ESP can be augmented by telepathy or clairvoyance. Telepathy is the communication of thoughts and ideas by means other than the known senses. Clairvoyance, from the Seventeenth Century French clair meaning clear and voyant meaning view or seeing, is the mental ability to clearly see future

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events beyond normal sensory interaction. Again, what we are discussing, whether it is telepathy or clairvoyance, is contact with a demon divulging secret, select intelligence very few people are privy to.