HE WHO OVERCOMES

As I ask my Father to guide me in writing this most difficult paper, I am aware of how utterly high He is, and how utterly low and impotent I am. Yet He reminds me His Essence dwells in me, and He says the Kingdom of Heaven dwells within me. So not to worry, execute what I have been given and brought to understand. Execute, and He will deal with the effect.

The OT story of the Exodus from Egypt is one read in VBS and told in mostly fanciful ways as just that, a story about days of yore. But it says in I Cor. 10:1-12, in talking about "our fathers" in Egypt and the wilderness, that these things (OT writings) were "warnings for us, not to desire evil as they did." He describes further their behavior and fate (the accounts in Judges), which are ominously similar to our current ones. Again, Paul writes in verse 11, that they (the OT writings) were written for *our* instruction, upon whom the end of the ages has come." We are there.

This is plain language to us NT believers, e.g., that the OT writings are warnings for us, today. As further proof, there are a vast number of parallels between the OT subjects and those found in the NT. Moreover, there are numerous quotes from the OT, both by Jesus as well by Paul and other writers. It is also written that the physical precedes the spiritual, I Cor. 15:45-46. When this position is established in our minds, we can begin to grasp truths for our benefit and instruction; indeed, they affect our very lives.

One will discover that the OT stories are in large measure physical allegories in exquisite detail that illustrate spiritual truths applicable to us here and now. An allegory is a story (as in Aesop's fables), that makes a point of an underlying truth. Other ways of saying its meaning is that an allegory is a symbolic narrative, or a figurative treatment of one subject under the guise of another.

Such is the case with the entire story of Abraham's seed, the Israelites, and their history beginning with the famine driving them to Egypt (a symbol of the world). It includes their bondage, exodus, wilderness, death from unbelief, Jordan, Joshua, Jericho, the Seven Nations of Canaan, the lesser Kings, unstable peace, thence apostasy. The entire story is an allegory of the passage of the believer from famine to deliverance from bondage, to crossing the Jordan, to Jericho, to expulsion of the Canaanites, to an unstable version of *expected* victory. Each of the details is a physical prototype, a shadow, of an equal counterpart in the spiritual life of the believer. (An outline and discussion is presented in the paper, Seven Nations, written in 1996.)

"Canaan" does <u>not</u> represent Heaven, for there are battles; Heaven has no battles. Further, Canaan does <u>not</u> represent salvation, for the Exodus out of Egypt pictures that episode in the believer. Canaan represents *a land to be cleansed of strongholds,, the forsaking of acting and vain pretence, joyful obedience, victory, power, and Him being all in all within us.*

There are three segments of the allegory that represent three important parts of our walk. Those segments are 1, the battle at Jericho, 2, the ousting of the seven nations of Canaan, and 3, the victories over the lesser kings within the land.

The segments are distinguished by the levels of God's involvement relative to the Israelites. In the battle of Jericho, God was the main player, requiring Israel to be quiet, and walk only. *He* was the one who tore down the walls. The Hebrew roots from which the word Jericho may be derived are *yerach* and *ruwach;* the primary meanings of the two roots are 'moon' (as opposed to the sun) for the former; for the latter, fragrance, wind and spirit. The context here would imply Jericho means 'spirit.' As I understand, Jericho represented, or indeed *was*, the ruling spirit over the Promised Land. Only the Almighty could deal with the ruling spirit over the land, or over us. The Promised Land is an allegory for what God designed for us, our *designed and expected state*. I believe it is for us here and now, the OT physical equivalent of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The second segment was the battle concerning the Seven Nations of the Canaanites. In this segment, the players were God and the Israelites, fighting together as it were, the reason being that they were "greater and mightier" than Israel. "Greater and mightier" means that the seven Canaanite tribes were meaner, tougher and stronger in all ways than Israel's limited means of battle. In other words, they needed God's help; they could not win the battle in and of themselves.

The third segment of the battle for the Promised Land is where Joshua and the Israelites (= Jesus **in** us) fought the battles with the lesser Kings. In this portion, God expected *them* to carry the fight but with a lesser degree of help from Him. Keep in mind God is very much present and active in all three segments, but the degrees of His participation are different. Such it is with us.

After a very long time of study and meditation, I understand these three segments of battle are allegories pertaining to our three *overlapping* levels of maturity (sanctification), relative to achieving our rest, victory, and overcoming ourselves. These three overlapping levels are 1, our spirit, 2, our subconscious mind, and 3, our conscious mind. These agree with the overall three-segment allegory of Canaan, namely that we have a very hard time doing anything about our subconscious, let alone our spirit, which is one level deeper.

Since our spirit is already reborn, Canaan is *an allegory of what occupies our subconscious mind*, being that over which we have a limited degree of power, but a degree of power nonetheless. Again, it has to do with levels of God's involvement relative to ours, and the degree of our obedience with our conscious mind is as it was physically with Joshua and Israel.

Returning to a familiar reality, it says in the Word *we* are to "diligently study, chew, gnaw and eat (the Word)", leaving no doubt as to our individual responsibility. *He* is the One who delivered us (Jericho), saved us and gave us a new spirit, which we could not do for ourselves. The obedience to use our conscious minds to study the Word ultimately affects our subconscious and feeds our now reborn God-spirit. But if we do not study, we by abdication <u>do not</u> influence the subconscious at all. It is there the spirits of Canaan run amuck, leaving ruin and destruction in their wake, making any victory in our new life almost impossible.

Let us see where and how these spirits of Canaan operate, as well as what tools God has given us to participate in the battle. As in the physical battle the strongholds of Canaan occupied the Promised Land, so we too are occupied, unnecessarily.

For a long time I have been preoccupied with the concepts of the distinctions between mind and spirit, in a secular and scientific way as well as what scripture says and means. Additionally, there has always been a preoccupation with where these 'parts' are in our bodies. Where is our spirit ? In what part of our bodies does our soul function? I Thess. 5:23 says body, soul and spirit, and their meanings are well defined in a lexicon, *pneuma* (spirit) and *pseuche* (soul, the thinking part of man.) In the Hebrew Jeremiah 31 says 'inmost parts' and 'hearts', implying a distinction, or else the writer would not have said both. Neither would the writer of Philippians. The Greek in Hebrew 8, a repeat of Jer. 31, confirms the OT distinction.

In lexicon meanings of Hebrews 8:8-12 and its OT counterpart Jer. 31:31, we keep seeing an overlapping of the two words, 'innermost parts' and 'hearts'. Sometimes both the Hebrew and Greek words have two different shades of meanings. Else why have two words? The words 'put' and 'write' imply either two separate actions or an emphasis from being used twice. The context would support two separate actions.

Hebrews 4:12 says "the word of God is sharper then any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, joints and marrow, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." There are three contrasts and distinctions herein, soul and spirit, joint and marrow, and thoughts and intentions. Therefore, soul is not spirit, nor joint the marrow, nor thoughts the same as intentions.

So in my search for the truth, I asked the LORD for understanding and discernment; I asked for the right books to study, to be able to discern the difference between fact and opinion of the writer. Both religious and secular writers have the same drawbacks, namely the skewing of their words according to their personal beliefs and leanings. In both, opinions are rampant. All in all, as is so often the case, I found discrepancies in both. I found idiotic conclusions on both sides, secular and religious.

I then studied in detail the meanings of the Hebrew and Greek, as well as numerous respected source books on the body and mind. As I found, *accurate* science merely confirms *accurate* scripture. In my case, study of both brought clarity to my questions regarding distinctions of the mind. It also clarified the Canaan stronghold questions, in that to my current level of questioning it brought resolve.

This paper pushes Cause and Effect into realms of which we have little understanding, namely, the realms beneath our conscious thought. In the 30-odd years of pursuit of His ways, I have found indeed He *has* provided answers to all of His creations; we just have to search for them. I believe the following offers one reasonable explanation and solution as to why many of us suffer so much inexplicable ruin and loss.

Secular science is more detailed than scripture as to the various components of our immaterial being; plus, we have had another 2000-3000 years to have studied the brain. Over the last 50 years or so there has been tremendous progress in understanding the three different segments of the brain, separating fact from half-truths, fiction and myths. Additionally, direct brain wave sensors have localized which brain activities are housed within each region, such as emotions, thoughts, motor skills, senses, drives, both short- and long-term memory, appetites, etc. There is evidence now that criminality originates from the middle brain region, or one's subconscious.

The human brain is comprised of three relatively distinct but integrated segments, each having a distinct set of functions. Physiologically the three primary components are the cerebrum, middle brain and brainstem. Each of these have three sub-units. The three are inter-connected by billions of neurons, forming trillions of electrical signals, and loop-backs of information between the three. It is an incredibly brilliant piece of creativity, a marvel of complexity, and only partially understood. Those three segments are as follows, with a general compilation of their individual functions. The information is taken from several sources, referenced at the back of this paper.

The cerebrum is unique to man, being the cauliflower-shaped mass located above, behind, left and right, essentially surrounding the inner/lower two segments. The cerebrum essentially houses all the *conscious*, or awareness functions of the human mind, whether resulting in action or not. The cerebrum is the thinking portion in which we process all data from all sources, from the exterior as well as from the other two realms of the brain. Mental facets such as sensory perception, emotions, long-term memory, the four basic drives (eating, drinking, sleeping, and sex), and our affections and appetites *originate* from the other two regions of the brain, the middle brain and the brainstem, but *awareness* of these is in the cerebrum or cerebral cortex.

In the center of the head under the cerebrum and above the lowermost brainstem lies the middle brain, known also as the limbic system. The middle brain is the first to receive information from all the senses except smell. The middle brain houses <u>long-term memory</u>, our <u>emotions</u> (fear, love, hate, anger, etc.), our <u>appetites or affections</u> and largely our four primary <u>drives (eating, drinking, sleeping and reproduction</u>). The interchange between the middle brain and the cerebrum is middle brain dominant, *but not sovereign*. Mental activity in the cerebrum *can* control the middle brain. (This is why we are commanded to diligently study, so that our conscious thoughts control and regulate those coming from the middle brain.)

All of the mental activities of the middle brain occur beneath our conscious realm in our subconscious. The subconscious is just that, 'beneath the conscious'. The subconscious of the middle brain (and brainstem) is on a different wave length or frequency than the conscious realm. Nonetheless, it is connected by neurons to the conscious portion, or cerebrum. Repeating for clarity, the signals from the middle brain to the cerebrum are dominant by far over those emanating from the cerebrum to the middle brain. The signals from the middle brain to the cerebrum <u>strongly</u> influence what we consciously think or analyze in any manner. What is unknown to our conscious mind is exactly *how much* we are influenced by our subconscious affections, appetites, emotions, and long-term memory. What we think consciously does affect the other two parts of the brain, as well as functions of the body.

At the base of the middle brain and cerebrum, and just above the spinal cord lies the elongate brainstem, to which is attached a bulbous mass known as the cerebellum. The main bodily functions of the brainstem involve the fight-or-flight reflex, monitoring the involuntary system such as breathing and heartbeat, the primary and involuntary motor skills in the arms and feet, and finally the will to live, or the will in general. Parts of the four drives emanate from here.

The spinal cord directs the Central Nervous System, which in turn monitors the bodily functions such as the glands, the stomach, muscles, bowels, etc. This is how and why chiropractors 'fix' things, due to misalignment of the vertebrae housing the individual nerves of the CNS.

In summary, there are two important areas of the brain from which we have only indirect awareness, the middle brain and the brainstem. Couched another way, this indirect awareness is our subconscious. These latter two portions of the brain are what the Greek and Hebrew variously calls our "inner parts", "heart", "reins" (kidneys), "bowels" and so forth. Additionally, the Bible refers to our 'old or former self', indicating there is more than one realm to our being.

As I understand things (at least to the point of it being proof to me), up until our re-birth by the Holy Spirit all of us was corrupt, especially our old spirits. Since the Life is in the Spirit, it stands to reason before the re-birth, there was no God-life in us. Certainly our former father (the one who told us what to do) Satan was not going to give us a new spirit, even if he was capable.

Essentially he manipulated us via the framework of our minds, the subconscious as well as the conscious. As stated elsewhere, Satan *uses* our old affections, scarred emotions, long-term memories, and the four primary drives to steer us the wrong way. It is superfluous to say if we do not know what the Word says is the correct way to think, we are easily deceived.

Our old selves dwelt and do dwell in the conscious and subconscious segments of our brain, as well as in the lower portion, the brainstem, where the will functions dwell. So when we are born again, whence goeth the Holy Spirit? Well, the Word says the life is in the blood. Since the Spirit is life, indeed the Essence of Life paramount in our spirit re-birth, He dwells in our blood. The blood is the only element other than water that permeates our bodies.

Moreover, it does not make logical nor scriptural sense He dwells in our corrupt middle brain wherein all the corrupt long-term memories dwell. Nor does He dwell in the brainstem, for this is as corrupt and evil as the middle brain. It is from the blood and the transformed portion of our conscious minds He does His persuading, converting and transformation. From the time of our re-birth, about all we had in our conscious minds was that Jesus died for our sins, rose again, and made expiation for us. The rest is just religious blather.

Therefore, it is commanded that we should study the Word, ingest it, and appropriate it. We are to meditate upon it and allow Him to change and form us accordingly into the Image of Jesus. As is seen in From Meat to Blood¹ the miracle of the Word to regenerate and transform is no less operative after the re-birth than it was during that process. The effect of what took place in the re-birth was that we acquired the Spirit of the Living God, and got a start on becoming like Him again, as we were originally in Adam.

¹ Ben-Issachar, in Second Realm, From Meat to Blood

It seems to me that once we grasp a *picture* of spiritual principles, we are on the road to freedom. Jesus used parables, similes and allegories to convey spiritual truths to the crowds, but explained what they meant only to His disciples.

As one digs deeper, one finds God has much higher purposes and expressions for us than we can imagine. We also find the power of His Word instilled into us, and the reason Paul urged all of us to study, chew, gnaw and eat His Word. As a result we are metamorphosed and transformed into His image. Our total mind is 'renewed'; the 'seat of our mind', our sub-conscious, takes on a new perspective and meaning. We become Him, pure and simple, step by step, synapses by synapses. By the ingestion of the Word and its transferal to our subconscious we become Overcomers. It is only those who overcome (*themselves*) that receive the promises in Revelation.

This occupation of the Promised Land is His design. As He had written in Joshua, He does not want, nor will He allow, any evil spirits in the form of strongholds to be in this land. As in Joshua, God was the one who drove out (delivered, set free) these Seven, being greater and mightier than Israel. The rub is that we must participate to the extent we are capable. The NT parallel is that He will be the one to deliver us from any of the Seven as well. Once we know and accept this we *can* be freed from what is subconsciously invading our land and robbing us.

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We have a responsibility to participate alongside God, just as the Israelites did under Joshua. Victory can come as we are continuously cleansed and renewed by the Spirit and the Word in our minds.

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MAPPING THE MIND THE CRIMINALITY OF THE HUMAN MIND THE HIDDEN FACE OF GOD, THE SCIENCE OF GOD, GOD ACCORDING TO GOD. HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY, CELLS TO SYSTEMS, 2ND EDITION