



October 5, 2008

## *The Mind*

*“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”* (Gen 1.26-27). The nature of the mind and its relationship to the physical body continues to baffle doctors and other scientists who seek to answer questions about who and what we are. The scriptures, as stated above, reveals that man was created in the image of God and became a “living soul” (Gen 2.7). Particularly interesting to researchers has been the phenomenon of out of body experiences during cardiac resuscitation. This past week an interview with Dr. Sam Parnia associated with the Human Consciousness Project seeks to answer questions about the nature of the mind. While not stated in the article that appeared, it is interesting to see that there is recognition of the fact that we have a mind, or consciousness, that exists apart from the body and which defies scientific explanation. Near death experiences have been recorded, mentioned in the interview, in which patients were able to relate specific events while they were being revived and cited details such as the time and the activity of doctors and nurses in the room during the procedure. While all of this is interesting we need look no further to realize that we indeed have a part of us, a spirit, or soul, created in the image of God which will exist throughout eternity and which will answer to God in the day of judgment. The scriptures reveal that the mind of man has a natural tendency to stray from the commands of God. Adam and Eve demonstrated this when they sinned against the command of God in the Garden of Eden (Gen 3) bringing physical death to all of mankind. God also noted the character of man as having an imagination that is only evil continually from his youth (Gen 8.21). It is this trait that led man to sin against God and to deny any knowledge of the creator (Rom 1.28). The added consequence of the exercise of human will against God is that spiritual death became a reality as

well. For this reason God sent his son into the world to be offered as a sacrifice for sin out of the love that he has for us (John 3.16). The rejection of God in the consciousness of mankind has created confusion as to our place in the world and the nature of our existence. Faced with the inevitability of death we search for answers to the question of what happens when we die, which has been used by Dr. Parnia as the title of a book he has written on the subject. Returning to the scriptures we find that there is a spirit which we have that will return to the creator. Solomon tells us that the human body, like that of animals, will return to the dust from which it was taken (Eccl 3.20). Solomon also reveals that there is a difference in the spirit of animals, who are not created in the image of God, and the spirit of humans that returns to Him (Eccl 3.21). Christ further revealed what happens after death in the story of the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man, who had lived a selfish and indulgent life, ignoring the plight of others, particularly Lazarus, found himself in torment after his death, while Lazarus, who had been denied the necessities of life, was in a place of comfort (Lk 16.19-26). The rich man, not wishing his brethren to be in torment as well, requested that Lazarus be sent back to warn them. He was told, *“...They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.”* (Lk 16.29). We do not need science and its physical limitations to tell us that we have a component of our existence that is independent of the body. The scriptures reveal that. What we have to do is come to a realization that we have soul and that soul is lost without the saving power of the blood of Christ applied to the sins that have been committed in the body. Realizing this we need only turn our attention to the scriptures and prepare for death by doing what God has commanded to be saved eternally.

*\*The article referenced appeared in Time magazine September 18, 2008.*

TLC