

“[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily,

[to see] whether those things were so.” —Acts 17:11

## Furthering the Psychological Delusion: The Consciousness Revolution - Part 1

Dave Hunt and T. A. McMahon

*The following are excerpts from America, the Sorcerer's New Apprentice: The Rise of New Age Shamanism. Written in 1988, the book documents America's turning to concepts and practices that are rooted in Eastern Mysticism. There should be little doubt that the West is being overrun by the beliefs of the East, in particular that we are all God, which we have allegedly forgotten. It's imperative therefore that we be restored to our godhood, especially through ancient and modern altered states of consciousness devices. This is sorcery, which Scripture declares will dominate in the Last Days. The unabashed shamans of this movement are today's psychotherapists. NOTE: All references to names and organizations herein can be found in the book.*

RATHER THAN ABANDON their obviously bankrupt profession, many psychologists and psychiatrists have compounded their error by trying to shore up their collapsing house of cards with Eastern mysticism of one form or another. Having failed miserably to change their clients' behavior, the psychotherapists reached deeper into their silk hat and pulled out *altered states of consciousness*, the same magic long used by the “traditional psychologists from the East”—the gurus, yogis, and shamans. A *change* of consciousness became the key to everything, even though no one yet knew what it was that was being changed.

Increasing numbers of psychologists and psychiatrists are being drawn into Eastern mysticism because of their discovery that it offers the very transformation of consciousness that psychotherapy seeks to effect. At the 25th Annual Meeting of The Association for Humanist Psychology, held on August 5-9, 1987, participants shared “channeling, rebirthing, energy healing, metaphysical counseling,” as well as “consciousness group work.” The “traditional morning meditation, yoga, and aerobics programs” were enhanced with “some of the new high-tech, whole-brain synchronization techniques.”

Representative of this growing trend, psychiatrist Rudolph Ballentine and clinical psychologist Allan Weinstock have both studied under gurus in India. Weinstock is now known as Swami Ajaya after his ordination as a Hindu monk. Ballentine and Ajaya joined Swami Rama of Chicago's Himalayan Institute in coauthoring *Yoga and Psychotherapy: The Evolution of Consciousness*. In it they explained that yoga “has offered for thousands of years” what Western psychotherapists “are seeking.” As University of California professor Jacob Needleman has said: “A large and growing number of psychotherapists are now convinced that the Eastern religions offer an understanding of the mind far more complete than anything yet envisaged by Western science. At the same time, the leaders of the new religions themselves—the numerous gurus and spiritual teachers now in the West—are reformulating and adapting the traditional systems according to the language and atmosphere of modern psychology.”

Eastern religion and various forms of occultism are now packaged in psychological terminology for twentieth-century public consumption. Abraham Maslow's “self-actualization” should have been easily recognized as a Westernized version of yoga's “self-realization,” but

that connection was slow in being acknowledged. Psychologist Daniel Goleman was among the first to point out that Eastern philosophies “seem to be making gradual headway [in the West] as psychologies, not as religions.” That transmutation should have surprised no one, for as LeShan explains, “The basic model of man that led to the development of [Eastern] meditational techniques is the same model that led to humanistic psychotherapy.”

“The Medicine Woman of Beverly Hills,” Lynn Andrews, recently told the *Los Angeles Times*: “Shamanism is really like gestalt therapy. It's like primal therapy, and it has a lot of Jungian in it.”

According to research psychiatrist E. Fuller Torrey, “The techniques used by Western psychiatrists are, with few exceptions, on exactly the same scientific plane as the techniques used by witch doctors.” Nobelist Richard Feynman describes psychotherapy as “not a science...but more like witchdoctoring.”

Having ridiculed and debunked for nearly 80 years mankind's universal and longstanding belief in things spiritual, psychologists have begun to reintroduce ancient occult beliefs and practices, but with the new labels of their own secular “spirituality.” The same occult powers are being sought through basically the same altered states, but now as “human potential” instead of as coming from independent spirit entities. Many of the same words and rituals are used, but with altered meanings that fit the new religion of psychology. God is now “the collective unconscious” and spirits have become “splits of the psyche.”

Witchcraft is out of the cocoon and flying, having metamorphosed into a socially and academically acceptable “therapy.” And the followers of this new religion are vulnerable to a horror they have been promised is only a myth. The bait on the hook is the promise that within the psyche an infinite potential awaits discovery and exploration—but the treasure is dispensed by “spirits.”

In the process of subjecting his patients to “dream analysis” and hypnotic trance in pursuit of childhood memories, Freud “discovered” that there was an *unconscious* side to consciousness, and he concluded that it was in fact the most important part. He also suspected that it might be greater in scope than the individual's own experience. Jung decided (with encouragement from his spirit guide, Philemon) that at this unconscious level all minds were a part of something that he called the *collective unconscious* and described as the source of mystical powers. Without any scientific basis, these twin beliefs were accepted by faith by the disciples of Freud and Jung and became the foundation for the many psychologies and therapies that followed. As a result, nearly everyone now accepts as scientific fact the religious belief that this vast unexplored region of “inner space” is a reservoir of magical powers that exceed even the wildest science fiction fantasy.

Self-improvement seminar leaders assure us that by simply looking within ourselves, we can discover all truth, all knowledge, and all power. In order to mine this presumably unlimited human potential, psychologists have attempted to explore consciousness through Eastern mysticism's *altered states*—states of consciousness that were first explored through hypnosis, then LSD. Oddly enough, it was decided that the further one retreated from normal consciousness, the more “enlightened” one became.

The lowest level was assigned to ordinary states of awareness, while “higher consciousness” required losing touch with what is generally considered to be normal perception. Thus any basis for

objective evaluation of the experience must be relinquished in order to reach “enlightenment,” which in itself should make that state highly suspect. Suspicions should also arise on another count. As Shirley MacLaine and so many others tell us, one amazingly discovers in this “higher state of consciousness” that one is actually “God.” Interestingly enough, our alleged oneness with “God,” or Jung’s “collective unconscious,” has been the constant refrain of the channeled entities down through history. In *Channeling*, Jon Klimo reminds us: “Virtually all of the sources above the astral levels tell us that...we are evolving...toward an eventual reunion with the one God, which is the underlying identity of All That Is.... The various occult, esoteric, and mystery school teachings repeat the theme. Enlightenment involves realizing [the] illusory state of our daily entranced experience, and awakening to the...oneness of all.”

Stephen Williamson, director of the Institute for Bio-Acoustic Research, warns against techniques whose goal is to bypass the conscious, rational mind where information is accepted or rejected.

Yet this is precisely one’s condition in the “altered state” being sought by millions for “enlightenment.” And Herbert Benson, despite some ambivalent warnings, even recommends his “Relaxation Response” technique as a means of “pass[ing] into the so-called hypnotic state” precisely because, as he says, “in this state of enhanced left-right hemispheric communication...‘cognitive receptivity’ or ‘plasticity of cognition’ occurs, in which you actually change the way you view the world.” It hardly seems advisable to make a major change in one’s thinking in such a fluid mental state. Such active promotion of delusionary altered states by leading members of the medical and psychological professions has given the New Age consciousness revolution an undeserved aura of “scientific” credibility that has persuaded millions of people to get involved.

With understanding out and experience in, happiness (or almost anything else) became simply a state of consciousness to be sought as an end in itself. By turning the focus inward, the Freudian/Jungian obsession with the unconscious spawned a menagerie of selfisms: self-love, self-acceptance, self-improvement, self-worth, self-confidence, self-esteem, self-*ad nauseam*. Only 40 years prior, self-centeredness was considered a human failing, and an ugly one. Today, self is the center of most psychotherapies, the god at whose altar nearly everyone bows to beg favors—for self is now considered to be the hope of humanity, the inexhaustible source of man’s salvation. “*Everything* you need is inside of you!” is the bold promise of the modern hucksters of innumerable ingenious techniques for tapping into the infinite You.

Looking inside oneself to get in touch with one’s feelings, however, only intensifies the loneliness and alienation that couples feel who are trying to learn to live with each other while at the same time *Looking Out for Number One*, as that bestselling book instructed. “Dealing with stress” has become a national pastime, and the old methods of self-denial, self-control, and counting to ten are now too laborious. Everyone wants a quick fix, a magical formula—and there are experts by the thousands who claim to have the ultimate technique.

Here is just one more form taken by the ancient nature religion versus the Bible scenario. It is the same old polytheism/pantheism/scientism resurrected with a new twist and an even more overt opposition to supernaturalism. The new way of getting in touch with and worshiping nature is getting in touch with and worshiping *self* as nature’s most highly evolved form. The demeaning biblical so-called myth of man’s rebellious separation from God has been replaced with psychology’s more positive myth of alienation from the self. *Sin* is no longer the root of mankind’s troubles; the problem as now perceived is simply *ignorance* of one’s true identity and worth. There is no explanation, however, of how perfect beings could have “forgotten” who they were—nor any guarantee that this mysterious ignorance, once dispelled through reaching a “higher” state of consciousness, will not arise again.

Subjective feelings (and how to manufacture and manipulate them) have inevitably become all-important. How one *feels* is now the only criterion, while how one *ought* to feel or act has lost all meaning. Since consciousness is susceptible to control by each individual, there are no longer any moral restraints involved. In justification of psychology’s

encouragement of hedonism, Esalen has offered techniques for “recognizing that *your feelings—your discoveries—are your truth*, without needing outside validation.” It was this revolutionary gospel, preached by psychologists, sociologists, and educators, that created the “do-your-own-thing” Me Generation.

The basic theories that built Haight Ashbury and Woodstock (and were finely tuned at Esalen) are still being promoted by humanistic psychologists as the gospel truth. The once-upon-a-time “flower children” of the fifties and sixties are the highly respected doctors, lawyers, politicians, schoolteachers, university professors, psychologists, social workers, and scientists who have become our leaders. The drug-spawned consciousness revolution that failed in the fifties and sixties is now being fed to us from the top down, recycled and wrapped in the bright ribbons of thousands of psychotherapies and self-improvement techniques.

That type of thinking has a long history that ought to serve as a warning to us today. Freud was convinced that cocaine was the wonder drug of his day, and some of his theories were no doubt conjured up while under its influence. In addition to using it himself, he prescribed it for others, resulting in the death of one of his friends. Even Bayer, the highly regarded German pharmaceutical company, offered heroin to the world as a promising new cough medicine in 1888, one year before it introduced aspirin. It would be foolish to think we have gotten beyond such delusions. In *Psychiatric Drugs: Hazards to the Brain*, psychiatrist Dr. Peter Breggin points out: “All the major psychiatric drugs are highly neurotoxic (poisonous to nerve cells), all frequently produce widespread brain dysfunction in their routine therapeutic dose range; and all achieve their primary overriding effect on the patient by producing some degree of brain disfunction.”

As we have already noted, however, Eastern meditation, transcendental meditation, and other forms of yoga, including postures and breathing, produce a similar (but potentially even more powerful) altered state of consciousness than that caused by drugs. “Buddha reportedly recognized only one miracle—the transformation of human consciousness.” That transformation is the major goal of virtually all psychotherapies today.

Increasing numbers of researchers and ex-meditators are warning the world that various techniques for altering consciousness are far more lethal than cocaine or heroin. Yet hardly anyone seems to be listening. No government regulatory agency has required warning labels on yoga, TM, or the many psychotherapies that are based upon dangerous consciousness-altering methodologies. Some of these techniques are specifically designed to mimic drug-induced states. The situation is staggering.

After using LSD on about 4,000 patients, Czech-born psychiatrist Stanislav Grof (for a number of years scholar-in-residence at Esalen) developed his “holotropic breathing” technique. Grof made the discovery that “the [holotropic] breathing itself had psychedelic effects, triggering a mind trip that ran the gamut from waking dreams and flashbacks to birth memories, past life memories, and encounters with spiritual beings.” One observant of a weekend workshop utilizing the Grof method and conducted by UCLA psychiatrist Curt Batiste at Sky High Ranch in Palmdale, California, reported: “The breathers lay on the gray pile carpet breathing with pranayamic gusto. Within minutes, the room was transformed into the bowels of a madhouse a la Hieronymous Bosch...bloodcurdling screams and deep moans emerged from many of the breathers.... [One woman] had a vision of herself in the body of a man walking down a street a hundred years ago, preparing to rape a series of women. ‘I was him,’ she gasped.”

Those engaged in such occultic practices sometimes seem to come out of the bedlam with “deeper insights” and to experience “positive” changes in their lives. However, the benefits generally do not last, and all too often new problems arise to replace those originally dealt with. Nevertheless, the game goes on. There seems to be no limit to the faith placed in this magical but unexplained realm of *consciousness* or to the godlike powers its devotees hope to acquire through entering altered states and thereby tapping into the collective *unconscious*. It is astonishing that this faith persists in spite of the obvious absurdities, contradictions, dangers, and disasters. [To be continued]

TBC



# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Submit your own questions to: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708

or e-mail: [editorial@thebereanall.org](mailto:editorial@thebereanall.org)

**QUESTION:** In your writing, you have sometimes used all kinds of antiquated structural forms, such as with verb endings (killeth, hath, shalt, wilt); possessive adjectives (mine, thine); subject pronouns (thou, ye). This reminds me of a verse I memorized in my youth: “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth...” (John 3:8).

It makes me tongue-tied just thinking about it. The use of such language leaves the impression that you believe that kind of usage is more acceptable before God or, worse yet, that God talks like that. Maybe you like King James English because you have some qualms about the accuracy of modern-day translations of the Bible. But please don’t take it out on your readers by using structural forms that for hundreds of years have not been a regular part of American speech.

**RESPONSE:** First of all, I did not use that kind of language. You can only be referring to my quotations from the Bible, which I took pains to provide accurately. Secondly, you make far too much of the alleged difficulty of such language. School children in Europe learn several languages, including the dead language Latin. Operas and literary classics still use Elizabethan language and the audience or readers don’t complain but seem to appreciate it.

Prefer a Bible in today’s English if you wish, but you’ll be hard-pressed to find one that is an accurate translation from the *Textus Receptus*. This is what the New King James claims to be, yet I find some of it to be inaccurate, such as its change of the key word “imagination” into “intent,” etc. The King James Bible is classic English, unsurpassed in its beauty of expression. Stay with your modern English if you must, but allow the rest of us who enjoy the King James Bible to retain it—and have no fear that today’s youth can’t handle it. I have never suggested that “God talks like that,” nor have I ever heard this complaint from anyone else. On the other hand, perhaps King James English brings reverence to the reading of Scripture, which is lacking in today’s English. I think we could do with more reverence.

**QUESTION:** Some ministries and Christian leaders have said that it isn’t the American people but God who put all the US presidents and vice-presidents in power and that God is in control of everything. Is that really true?

**RESPONSE:** God is in control of His universe and every aspect of it to the extent that nothing can happen that He does not *allow*. He is not, however, the *active cause* behind all that happens. If that were the case, we would have to blame God for all evil. The idea that it is God’s perfect will for each ruler in power to be there is a misunderstanding of Romans 13: “For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.”

Paul is teaching that without God there would be no purpose for life, no order, and thus no basis for authority; and that God has ordained that just as there is order in the natural world, so there must be among men. Therefore, each ruler “is the minister of God for good.” As God’s representatives, rulers are supposed to minister God’s laws in righteousness. Actually, very few do.

God no more specifically chose Clinton, Gore, Bush, [Obama, or Trump, updated] to rule than He did Hitler. He did, however, ordain that there should be rulers, and that they should be His ministers of righteousness. Since Clinton and Gore advocated rebellion against God in their acceptance of homosexuality,

the murder of babies in the womb, and the worship of creation instead of the Creator, they hardly represent God. And, like all rulers, they will be held accountable by Him. Far from being God’s choice, as some claim, Clinton and Gore were the choice of tens of millions of Americans—in actual fact, a minority of the American people, something that many people choose to ignore. One way or another, however, our country is getting what it wants and it will reap what it is sowing. Let no one blame God!

**QUESTION:** I keep encountering the teaching that water baptism has no place in this dispensation; that the entire subject of water baptism is Jewish, and that all mention of “baptism” in the Pauline epistles is baptism of the Holy Spirit...baptism in the gospels and the Acts applies to Jewish believers only.

**RESPONSE:** Testing this theory against the Scriptures quickly disproves it. In the Great Commission, Jesus very clearly tells the disciples (and us today) to “preach the gospel to every creature [i.e., to every race, tribe, and individual, not only to the Jews]. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:15-16). It is clear that although failure to be baptized does not damn the soul (not one verse says so!), and although it is not part of the gospel (“Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel”—1 Corinthians 1:17; see also 1 Corinthians 15:1-4), yet all who believe the gospel are to be baptized. Christ told the disciples to teach or disciple “all nations [i.e., not only Jews but every nationality], baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” (Matthew 28:19).

The Great Commission required the disciples to teach their converts to obey everything Christ had commanded them (v. 20). Thus each new convert was also to make disciples and teach them to obey all that Christ had taught the original twelve—which included, then and today, baptizing converts from every nation. We have the record that every Gentile convert was baptized. The Corinthians, who were surely not all Jews but mostly Gentiles, were baptized (1 Corinthians 1:14-17), as was an Ethiopian when he believed the gospel (Acts 8:35-39). So were the Roman centurion, Cornelius, and his relatives when they believed (Acts 10:47-48). Likewise, the Philippian jailor (a Gentile) and his house were baptized after they believed on Christ (Acts 16:30-33). There are other scriptures, but these should be sufficient to show that baptism is for today and for all (not just Jews) who believe the gospel. If this generation is to preach the gospel, which it is commanded to do, then it must continue to baptize all who believe it. If only Jews are to be baptized, then the gospel must be only for them. But that is not biblical and would leave the rest of us unsaved. The gospel is “to the Jew first, and also to the Greek [non-Jew]” (Romans 1:16).

Although baptism doesn’t save, it is an act of obedience on the part of believers who *are* saved, a declaration to the world that they have been saved not by their good works but by the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, of which baptism is a symbol: “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like, as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). Baptism is therefore not appropriate for infants who cannot understand the gospel and thus have made no choice to believe on Christ.

Paul makes it clear in 1 Corinthians 1:14-17 that baptism is not part of the gospel; one is saved without being baptized. But those who believe are to be baptized, and since salvation is for all, baptism is for all—Gentiles as well as Jews.

# LETTERS

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## Dear Berean Call,

Thank you so much for thinking of us non-internet people. Your “Listen and Read” DVDs are perfect for me. Audio alone doesn’t really focus me enough to learn, but the reading and listening does the trick! I have also learned a lot from your excellent *Biblically Thinking* sets. The study guide for the Evangelism set was extra helpful. Keep up the good work. The description in the newsletter of the *Christianity and Anti-Christianity* book is right on. Mr. Andrews sure pegged the biblical prophecies. Unbelievable that he wrote it in the late 1800s. It reminds me of the amazement I experience when I reread some of Dave Hunt’s earlier work! “Spot on” as to what our world is beginning to experience. JE (NE)

## Dear Berean Call,

Thanks for your wonderful newsletter! I always look forward to it. It is so full of information and advice for us to remain silent about what is going on. You are doing an excellent job. Dave [would] have been very happy. IF (Puerto Rico)

## Dear T. A. et al.,

I and my late wife have been getting newsletters and books from you for many years. I have often used the materials in my 23 years of jail ministry. I appreciate that your thoughts and mine always agree since we both take our theology directly from the Word of God. Apostasy was a major problem even in the First Century Church and has clearly not ceased to be a problem all these years later. Thank you for your faithfulness JH (GA)

## TBC NOTES

### God Is God...And We're Not.

That may sound like a ridiculously obvious statement! Nevertheless, if you believe all of us are not God, you’re among an ever-diminishing minority. The belief in godhood for all, the lie that Satan passed on to the human race through Eve (Genesis 3:5), has been the faith of the religions of the East for thousands of years, and which has of late overtaken biblical Christianity in the West.

Recent world events, in particular the panic, confusion, and frustration surrounding COVID-19 as well as civil protests, have accelerated the outcry for solutions. Solutions, that is, except what the God of the Bible offers.

Instead, humanity is falling for the same deceptive ploy used on Eve. Although the Adversary has dressed it up to appeal to each age, culture, and level of sophistication, it remains the doctrine of devils (1 Timothy 4:1). And in the majority of cases, it continues to be conveyed directly from demons, though now through altered states of consciousness.

The Lord willing, we will be addressing this thriving grand delusion in the month’s ahead from the content of four books: *Christianity and Antichristianity In Their Final Conflict*; *America, The Sorcerer’s New Apprentice*; *Game of Gods*, and most importantly, God’s Word.

T. A. McMAHON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Dear Brother T. A. and Staff,

I would like to share an event that occurred in the past that I will always remember. Back then, when this occurred, it was advertised that Brother Dave Hunt was scheduled to come to our town. At that meeting, approximately 1,800 were in attendance. Also in attendance were 19 Roman Catholic nuns seated on the second row, front and center! They all had pens and notepads. One of them even had a Bible. The topic was “The Gospel According to God’s Word” vs. “Another Gospel.” They were all taking notes. After the meeting was over, a conversation began between Brother Hunt and a number of the nuns!

I am very thankful that The Berean Call is continuing the ministry of presenting the Gospel and confronting false teachings. Second Timothy 2:16 [indicates that] believers are accountable for rejecting the teachers and teachings. WR (MS)

## To All of You at the Berean Call,

You have been a blessing in our lives for many years, and we are so very thankful for you. We have been taught, guided, encouraged, and strengthened by the biblical teaching and devoted, uncompromising perseverance to proclaim Truth and expose error. Thank you for all you’ve done—benefitting our lives, but even more we are thankful for the benefit to our children and grandchildren. Do not become weary in helping shepherd the people of God. We are praying for you. FJ (CO)

## Dear Berean Call Staff,

Just a note to say the times we are living through now are very difficult and each day seems to bring more pain and problems. I am so thankful for your ministry that gives us the comfort that the truth has for us and the knowledge that God is totally in charge, making it possible to take one day at a time and trust the ultimate outcome.

I live in a senior apartment complex and we are still locked down. I am thankful to be here and we have no cases of virus here and are well taken care of. My prayer for you is that you be blessed with health, and thank you again for your ministry. CW (NE)

## Dear TBC,

Just received your newsletter, and with gladness of heart I did read it. I would like to say that these scriptures that were written out were for my comfort, and I learned a great deal from them and strengthened my salvation as well. My gratitude to you all. May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be a blessing to you in this two thousand years and 20 of our Lord. In my conceptualization there are not enough words to express how I’m feeling and how pleasant it has been being in contact with TBC. LC (prisoner, CA)

## QUOTABLE.....

We’ve all experienced the forlorn feeling of being alone in our sorrow—and found out later that God was nearer than we ever suspected. “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Psalm 22:1) cried David in one breath, and with the next, “I will fear no evil: for thou art with me...” (Psalm 23:4). The anguish was real. No one could have convinced David otherwise at the moment, but when the pain was over and the healing had come, he would have been the first to testify that God had been there all the time.

—RUTH HUNT IN *A VERY PRESENT HELP*

# NEWSWATCH

News stories are selected for reader awareness and as an exercise  
in discerning the times from a biblical perspective.

## IRAN HIT BY PLAGUE OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS

**ISRAELTODAY.COM, 5/23/20, "IRAN HIT BY PLAGUE OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS" [EXCERPTS]:** Southern Iran [has suffered] an unprecedented plague of locusts that has already caused billions of dollars worth of damage.

Locust swarms are not uncommon in the early summer months in the Middle East. Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Iran all regularly endure this phenomenon.

But the swarm now invading Iran is said to be the largest ever seen.

"Compared with last year, the swarms of desert locusts are much larger, and it is safe to claim that the recent attacks are unprecedented," the head of the Chabahar Agricultural Trade Union [said.]

(<https://bit.ly/2UR6btp>)

## THE PROGRESSIVE 'BRIGHTS' ARE PRETTY DIM

**FRONTPAGEMAG.COM, 5/28/20 "THE PROGRESSIVE 'BRIGHTS' ARE PRETTY DIM" [EXCERPTS]:** "Brights" is a term that became popular nearly 20 years ago to describe self-proclaimed rationalists who reject religion, practical wisdom, and tradition, and instead rely solely on "science" for understanding and solving social and political problems.

The current virus crisis has exposed the dangers of such hubris. Federal and state governments have put in place exorbitantly costly policies such as the extreme lockdown, guided by provisional knowledge about the coronavirus based on incomplete data. In fact, the lockdown policy has cost lives; New York mayor Andrew Cuomo, a proponent of the lockdown, back in early March was "shocked" and "surprised" that people "sheltering at home" had contracted the virus anyway and comprised the majority of those who died. The deep recession that has followed the lockdown has also cost lives [and] many thousands more as lost jobs and isolation take their toll over the coming years.

Once again, the "bright" progressives' "science-based" policies have collided with the complexity of the human condition.

So we hear from progressives about "science-based policies," calls to be guided by "science" and to defer to its authority.

The persistence of this arrogance is puzzling given how frequently it has failed and continues to fail, not to mention its intellectual incoherence. Consider a recent tweet (since removed) expressing this attitude

by Steven Pinker, a Harvard psychologist: "Belief in an afterlife is a malignant delusion, since it devalues actual lives and discourages action that would make them live longer, safer, and happier."

Of course, Pinker is spraying a patina of pseudo-science over a talking point about Republican governors with "blood on their hands" from relaxing the lockdown in their states. Unfortunately, empirical data from Sweden to NYC prove quite the opposite.

(<https://bit.ly/3d7k5OC>)

## WHAT CAN A PLANT SEE?

**CREATIONMOMENTS.COM, 5/28/20, "WHAT CAN A PLANT SEE?" [EXCERPTS]:** "Praise the LORD from the earth...mountains and all hills; fruitful trees and all cedars..." (Psalm 148:7,9).

If a plant could see, what would it look at? Amazed scientists have learned that plants can indeed see and react to their environments just as do animals!

Plants need light for photosynthesis. They grow toward the light. However, this isn't what scientists are referring to when they talk about plant sight. They have discovered that plants have an additional system that allows them to react to their surroundings. Plants have pores, called stomata. Stomata allow carbon dioxide into the plant, and oxygen out, as photosynthesis takes place. They remain closed when there is little light or when water must be conserved. The more the stomata open, the faster photosynthesis takes place, and the faster the plants grow. The plant also loses water faster when the stomata are open wide.

While both blue and red light are used for photosynthesis, scientists have found that the cells that open and close the stomata respond only to blue light. The amount of blue light present turns on a pump in the cells that causes them to swell, and the stoma opens. This amazing process involves pumping protons to create electricity. In one experiment, scientists more than doubled the growth rate of orchids by providing extra blue light to open the stomata.

In the plants' ability to sense and react to their environment, we see another way that plants give glory to their Creator and show that they are not simple living things that just happened to develop.

(<https://bit.ly/3fsOIPW>)

## THE BEREAN CALL

Founder: Dave Hunt  
Executive Director: T. A. McMahon

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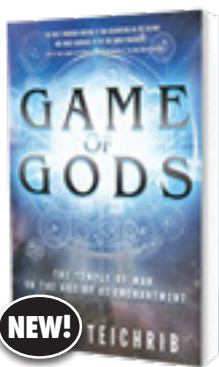
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# DISCERNMENT RESOURCES INCLUDING NEW BOOK "GAME OF GODS"



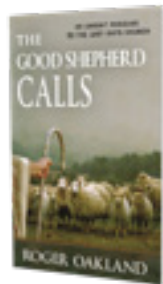
## Game of Gods: The Temple of Man in the Age of Re-Enchantment

**Teichrib**—We are witnessing a titanic impact at the crossroads of religion, politics, technology, and culture. Fundamentally it is a collision of worldviews, and we are all experiencing the shockwaves. Building on more than twenty years of meticulous research, *Game of Gods* documents the historic and contemporary quest to reshape Western civilization, with global ramifications. This book is a comprehensive investigation into the changing nature of Western civilization. It is a journey into the cracks and crevices of big history; an expedition into the expanding realm of transformational movements and ideas—forces of change that are shifting how we think, behave, and relate. “Humanity has three Great Desires: To be as God; to be

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**Oakland**—While many are saying Christianity is on the brink of a great revival and even a new reformation, in reality we are witnessing the greatest apostasy in modern-day history. This latter-day deception has impacted every evangelical denomination to

one degree or another. *The Good Shepherd Calls* brings clarity to what this delusion looks like, why it is happening, where it is headed, and what can still be done to warn believers and unbelievers alike. Lighthouse Trails, 282 pp.

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**Ankerberg/Weldon/Burroughs**—Mormons say they are Christians, and it often seems that their teachings are similar to Christianity. Do Mormons and Christians mean the same thing by the same words? Does Mormonism present the Jesus of the Bible? This excellent volume in the Facts On series will guide you beyond surface similarities and answer these and other important questions. Harvest House Publishers, 88 pp.

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# TBC'S 2020 Bible CONFERENCE - AUGUST 27-29 -

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We won't be able to guarantee seating in the main room, even if you've already signed up, but we will do our very best to make the conference something special for everyone, no matter what happens!

In any case, by God's grace the conference will also be available online! Please check [www.thebereancall.org/](http://www.thebereancall.org/) conference for updates, or give us a call (800-937-6638)!

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