

# TOTAL RECALL

“Wonder what Adam’s eyes were like, fresh from the hands of the Creator?” I speculated while talking to friends one afternoon. “Was he able to see things much smaller than we do — such as a single cell — and could he look into the sky and see the rings on Jupiter?”

Such topics always intrigue me. After sin entered the world, we know things changed. Mankind was created to reflect his Creator, and I just wonder what capabilities mankind could have possessed had he not been affected by the curse of sin. Can you imagine having hearing better than what humanity possesses today? The older I get, the more this takes on relevance! But to think that one could possibly concentrate and hear a bird sing a mile away, or hear even the faintest of sounds around you.

The Bible tells us: “In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created...” (Genesis 5:1). While I shy away from crazy speculation, I do think that sin has drastically lowered our abilities and

greatly hindered God’s plan for us.

Just think of what it would be like to run and not grow weary! Or to see and hear things way beyond the spectrum of what we experience today. When one starts to explore the laws of physics, one realizes that even the finest of changes in the spectrum of human capabilities would open up a totally different world!

## THE BRAIN

We have speculated on our senses, but what about the great control center of it all — the human brain? What could our abilities be without sin? What does God have in store for us when we are re-created after the resurrection?

There is a long-standing myth that we use only 10% of our brains. Dr. Barry Gordon, a professor of neurology at the School of Medicine and

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# I TEND TO BELIEVE THAT GOD MADE US, AFTER SIN, TO FORGET SOME THINGS — THAT THERE IS A VEIL BETWEEN THE CONSCIOUS AND THE UNCONSCIOUS IN OUR MINDS.

professor of cognitive science at the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, states, “We use virtually every part of the brain, and that [most of] the brain is active almost all the time... Let’s put it this way: the brain represents three percent of the body’s weight and uses 20 percent of the body’s energy.”<sup>1</sup>

So our brain functions as a whole, yet the human brain is one of the greatest mysteries of science, even to this day. With the advent of technology, the brain’s function has been compared to a computer. We have the ability to compute, store data, recall things from memory, etc. — the similarities are interesting.

What intrigues me most is the ability to remember. As I grow older, I have become more forgetful, and yet I can clearly remember many events that happened years ago. Some of these things are just random thoughts that pop up, but others are indelibly etched into my consciousness. Scientists, using brain-imaging techniques, are unraveling the mechanism responsible for creating and storing memories. They are finding that the hippocampus within the brain’s gray matter could act as a memory box — like having a hard drive in our brain!

But what will it be like in the earth made new, or how would it have been with Adam and Eve if they had not sinned? Can you imagine perfect recall of every experience? Just think what it would be like to read a book and remember everything; to learn forever and retain every detail! The human race could, in a sense, be really made in the image of God! But if we had such abilities now, would that be good or bad? How could these abilities affect us?

## MEMORY - BLESSING OR CURSE?

In many ways, I am glad I do not have total recall. I have done some

things in my life that I am ashamed of. So forgetting, to a degree, some of those things is good. Then there were terrible accidents that I have witnessed. I have seen friends and family die. All memories are not good memories.

We have heard it said, “Time will lessen the pain.” And there is truth to that. We start forgetting more and more of the details of some distressing event, the hurt and pain becomes less. However, those who deal with grief and depression often recall, over and over again, things in their minds that feed their unhealthy state.

Learning to accept God’s forgiveness can often lessen the hurt and pain some people carry about the past. But just the same, while we can “forgive” or “be forgiven,” it does not always guarantee we will forget. So many times I think people confuse these two. We may feel as if we are not forgiven if we still remember something that happened. In reality, it just does not work that way.

I remember reading a story of a lady who was taken captive and severely abused. She lived to tell her story and how she forgave her captor. One day when she was asked specifically about what happened to her, she said, “I distinctly remember forgetting about that!” No, having perfect recall would not be a blessing while there is sin and suffering in this world.

## PAIN AND GUILT

I tend to believe that God made us, after sin, to forget some things — that there is a veil between the conscious and the unconscious in our minds. This veil separates what we can remember and what we can’t. Stop to think about every image your eyes see, every sound, smell, thought, feeling — all being stored on a massive hard drive. It would be overwhelming to recall, at

will, any of this information. Wow!

Our world is full of pain and suffering. And then there is guilt. I am sure we all, if we think hard enough, can remember something we are deeply ashamed of. In fact, if you remember it well enough, you can go through the same feelings of guilt you had right after it happened. Praise God that He forgives us and takes our guilt upon Himself. We can rejoice in the fact that we are forgiven and we need not carry the weight of guilt on our own shoulders.

I have often said, "Pain is to the body as guilt is to the soul." Pain and guilt are not always bad things. Placing your hand on an open flame hurts, and it is that pain that causes us to jerk our hand away. Pain is a warning system that something is wrong.

It is the same with guilt. True guilt is there to guide our moral compass. I am not talking about "imposed guilt" that can be indoctrinated into a person, but honest guilt that comes from the Holy Spirit and the guidance of God's Ten Commandments. The goal of the Gospel is first to help us realize our distance from God, and then to take our guilt away by forgiving us of our wrongdoing. Also, God wants to empower us to not do the same thing over again. This is very basic Christianity.

## THE LAND OF FORGETFULNESS

I remember reading an interesting statement in an old *The Signs of the Times* article about God's people during the time of trouble right before Christ returns:

"Those who have delayed a preparation for the day of God cannot obtain it in the time of trouble, or at any future period. The righteous will not cease their earnest, agonizing cries for deliverance. They cannot bring to mind any particular sins; but in their whole life they can see little

good. Their sins have gone beforehand to judgment, and pardon has been written. Their sins have been borne away into the land of forgetfulness, and they cannot bring them to remembrance."<sup>2</sup>

What a wonderful promise — that God wishes to take away our burden of sin and guilt! As we confess and receive forgiveness, our guilt is borne away to the land of forgetfulness. In the book, *The Great Controversy*, the same idea is shared:

"In the time of trouble, if the people of God had unconfessed sins to appear before them while tortured with fear and anguish, they would be overwhelmed; despair would cut off their faith, and they could not have confidence to plead with God for deliverance. But while they have a deep sense of their unworthiness, they have no concealed wrongs to reveal. Their sins have gone beforehand to judgment and have been blotted out, and they cannot bring them to remembrance."<sup>3</sup>

## MERCY MEETS JUSTICE

But what about those who refuse God's forgiveness and continue in open rebellion against God's law? The Bible tells us in the end time there will be two groups: the saved and the lost. When Christ returns, the brightness of His glory is a welcome sight to those who are saved but a consuming fire to those who are lost.<sup>4</sup>

At His appearing the first resurrection takes place. "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28-29. "This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection:

# AS WE CONFESS AND RECEIVE FORGIVENESS, OUR GUILT IS BORNE AWAY TO THE LAND OF FORGETFULNESS.



## CAN YOU IMAGINE GOD RENDING THE VEIL OF THE MIND BETWEEN THE CONSCIOUS AND SUB-CONSCIOUS?

on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”

Revelation 20:5-6

The earth is at rest for a thousand years as it lies in a wasted state, and all those who had done wickedly are in their graves, waiting for that second resurrection to take place.

“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished... And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.” Revelation 20:5; 7-9.

People have often said that the fire that comes down from heaven is really the “hell” so many talk about. But could it be that this fire is really an act of compassion? That in it, mercy meets justice?

Remember that those who are saved had Christ bear the consequences of their sin and take away their guilt. But what of those who are laid to rest at the coming of Christ? When they are resurrected at the end of the thousand years, they come forth from the grave with the same spirit of rebellion and wickedness that they possessed before they were laid to rest. In Revelation 20, which is explaining the closing scenes of the judgment, it says they “compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city,” as if it were a military conquest.

Here is an interesting comment made in the book, *The Great Controversy*:

“As soon as the books of record are opened, and the eye of Jesus looks upon the wicked, they are conscious of every sin which they have ever committed. They see just where their feet diverged from the path of purity and holiness, just how far pride and rebellion have carried them in the violation of the law of God... Each actor recalls the part which he performed... — all behold the enormity of their guilt.”<sup>5</sup>

Can you imagine God rending the veil of the mind between the conscious and sub-conscious? They have perfect recall of every sin committed and their influence on others. The weight of that guilt would be crushing. Christ offered, while on the other side of the resurrection, to bear their sins and guilt, but now they bear it themselves! It is while bearing the weight of their own guilt “that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:10-11.

God, in His loving mercy, relieves their mental torment by sending fire down from heaven to consumes them all. They are relieved of their agony, and they become ashes.<sup>6</sup> God is just and merciful.

He is now longing for all to be saved. He wants to bear our sin and guilt, but He will not force Himself upon us. The gift He offers is more than we can imagine. “To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.” Hebrews 3:7.

1 *Scientific American*, 2008

2 *The Signs of the Times*, November 27, 1879

3 *The Great Controversy*, page 620

4 See: 2 Thessalonians 2:5-12;  
Hebrews 12: 28-29

5 *The Great Controversy*, pages 666-667

6 See Malachi 4:3