**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

**Near Death Experience (NDEs)**

**&**

**The Resurrection of Jesus Christ**

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The Year of Our Lord

Pastor Matthew Diehl

(All Scripture is from the New American Standard Bible, unless otherwise noted.)

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**Introduction**

The term “Near Death Experience” (NDE) can mean many things to different people. I see that a definition is in order to establish what we are studying. John Burke, the author of *Imagine Heaven,* defines NDEs – “when people clinically died, were resuscitated, and claim to have gotten a peek into the afterlife.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

The goal of this research paper is to give support that NDEs support the resurrection of Jesus Christ. With this goal, there will be a limited critical review, due to the parameters of this assignment, of the naturalistic worldview regarding conciseness in the role of human life which includes God in the flesh as Jesus. The critical question needs to be asked. . . what does human consciences have to do with the resurrection and NDEs?

In pursuit of the goals of this paper, I find a review of Norman Geisler’s 12 basic premises to pursue an offensive case for the Christian message advisable.[[2]](#footnote-2)

1. Truth about reality is knowable. 2. Opposites cannot be true. 3. It is true that the theistic God exits. 4. Miracles are possible. 5. Miracles performed in connection with truth claims confirm the truth of God through a messenger of God. 6. The New Testament documents are reliable (textually and historically). 7. As witnessed in the New Testament, Jesus claimed to be God. 8. Jesus’ claim to be God was proven by unique convergence of miracles (e.g., resurrection). 9. Therefore, Jesus was God in human flesh. 10 Whatever Jesus (who is God) affirmed as true, is true. 11. Jesus affirmed that the Bible is the Word of God. 12. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God, and whatever is opposed to any biblical truth is false.

The first section of this paper will be dedicated to defining terms used in the NDE field of study.

**Definitions**

Many NDE definitions include the terms clinically dead and biological death. I found that these terms vary in meaning. Summarizing Rabbi Jonathan Bernis, president and CEO of Jewish Voice Ministries International and the author of (*A Rabbi Looks at the Afterlife)*, clinical death is when a person’s heart stops beating and the blood stops circulating. Biological death takes place four to six minutes later when the brain stops functioning due to a lack of oxygen that had been supplied by a beating heart circulating blood.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Texas Right to Life posted online that biological death occurs upon critical damage to “multiple organ systems, the key being the circulatory, respiratory, and nervous systems”. Biological death occurs when all the organs of the body including the heart and brain cease to function. Once the heart stops, multiple organ systems stop as well.[[4]](#footnote-4)

The Science Direct website published an article *Incident of brain death in the United States* wherein they defined brain death.

In modern intensive care, when the injury is irreversible and/or the therapeutic measures to cure have been exhausted and the ominous result seems unavoidable, it is essential to establish the early diagnosis of brain death (BD) with the aim to distinguish life from death and possibly optimize the conditions and quality of the organs of the potential donor.[[5]](#footnote-5)

The National Library of Medicine published a report titled *Revise the Uniform Determination of Death Act to Align the Law with Practice Through Neurorespiratory Criteri* that addressed a call for a revision of the uniform determination of death that originated from the 1970s. The President's Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Medicine and Biomedical and Behavior Research that recommended state legislators adopt the Uniform Determination of Death Act (UDDA) states:

An individual who has sustained either irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions or irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain, including the brainstem, is dead. A determination of death must be made in accordance with accepted medical standards. . . “all functions of the entire brain” (vs some specific set of functions) and “accepted medical standards” (should they be specifically named?) and whether accommodations are needed to address religious or principled objections to determining death by neurologic criteria.”[[6]](#footnote-6)

**Biblical Definitions of Life and Death**

These legal and medical definitions have attempted to legislate the meaning of life and death. From these publications, we can determine that there is great debate and consideration given to religious and principled objection to the way life and death has been determined in the past. With these reports, we see an ongoing struggle the medical and legal authorities have over the determination of death. This has significant impact on NDEs.

The Biblical response is very clear. Human beings never die. God tells us in the book of Revelation that there is a judgement many theologians call the “Great White Throne Judgment”. ‘Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it,’ (Rev. 20:11; New American Standard Bible “unless otherwise noted”) affirms that the Apostle John saw Him (Jesus Christ) sat upon a great white throne. From His throne, Christ’s judgment is to assign everyone who ever lived an eternal place of existence in what is commonly called heaven or hell. This is determined by a person’s name being recorded in the book of life or in the books of deeds. With these designations, there is the reality that all people will live forever. Geisler’s premise number 2 that ‘opposites cannot be true’ is a reality at the great white throne judgment. Revelation 20 proclaims that God’s word is in opposition of the naturalistic worldview that life ends at temporal death.

Therefore, the Christian faith recognizes that regardless of how governments or medical communities define temporal death, life goes on and NDEs are evidence for that conclusion. From this statement, our attention can be directed to a review of the biblical origins of life and human conciseness that directly relate to the resurrection. This opens the question about God creating life and not limiting life to only a temporal state of being. People’s being is a body but is endowed with components that transcend death. Jesus’ resurrection demonstrated that life is more than physical components and is intended to live forever. NDEs witness God’s eternal design in people that is not limited to the temporal.

**Eternal Life God Created**

In the Genisis account of creation, we read that God created people with the intent to live forever with all the attributes He created in them. God created people with physical bodies that could expire, and, at the same time, He created people with the eternal gifts of spirit and a conscious awareness to choose Him. In addition, God created people with the ability to contain His love. 1 John 4:8 proclaims, “God is love”, and Genesis 1:16 proclaims that people are created in the “image of God”. Therefore, people are designed with the ability to contain love and all the spiritual gifts (Gal. 5:22). Romans 8:36 proclaims that nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God. Therefore, God’s eternal gifts remain with people through temporal death which include a conscious awareness to worship Him. Revelation 4:10 reveals believer’s conscious awareness to worship God.

Adam and Eve, representing all humanity, rebelled against God’s plan (Gen. 3) and ushered in the expiration era of the human body’s physical death (Gen 2:17). Due to their rebellion, God removed them from the Garden so that they would not eat from tree of life and live forever (Gen. 3:22). This account illustrates that God created people with the intent for them to live forever. Discounting the naturalistic worldview, people who experience NDEs are experiencing the fuller view of life God created for human beings. The “Life After Death” or NDEs reports are a witness into our lives beyond our temporal life that God had planned from the beginning of creation. NDEs are evidence of the Jesus’ resurrection. This is because NDEs are a witness that the life God created does not end at physical death.

**Transformation to Eternal Life**

What do NDEs tell us about being transformed for an eternal life, a resurrected life? In reading the biblical text, we find that the transition from this temporal life to our eternal life requires our current temporal bodies to be transformed due to their corrupted state. The Apostle Paul writes to the church in Philippi: “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself (Phil. 3:20-21).

From this biblical text, we can incorporate a question about human consciousness and the awareness of sin. Did God create physical human life and consciousness at the same time? This is a reasonable question considering Paul’s statement that a person will be conformed to the body of Christ’s glory to be a citizen in heaven. The state of glory is a spiritual existence to be experienced in a Christian’s eternal life. So, why does God have to transform people?

Before the fall of man (Gen. 3), Adam and Eve had an uncorrupted conscious that God created in them. God created people with an uncorrupted conscious and no awareness of evil. When God instructed Adam not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen 2:17), he had a free-will-choice to make. Obviously, Adam and Eve made the wrong choice and chose to have the knowledge, conscious awareness, of good and evil enter their being. Adam and Eve became consciously aware of sin and their personal knowledge became corrupted. Therefore, there became a spiritual need to be transformed back to a condition acceptable to God.

Are there any credible science or medical reviews regarding human consciousness relating to the human spirit or consciousness separating from a person’s body to function?

**Consciousness Beyond Life**

Dr. Pim van Lommel is a respected cardiologist expert on NDEs. Lommel worked for more that twenty-five years as a cardiologist in the Netherlands. Lommel studied patients who survived cardiac arrest and published his findings in ‘The Lancet” a respected British medical journal. Lommel’s book *Consciousness Beyond Life: The Science of the Near-Death Experience* received good reviews.[[7]](#footnote-7) [[8]](#footnote-8)

In summation of Lommel’s book Introduction, he acknowledges that naturalistic scientists define consciousness as being a product of the human brain. With this definition, the brain is a machine controlled by classical physics and chemistry. Therefore, there is no free will with feelings and subjective thoughts being produced by a machine brain. He concludes that this definition has enormous implications for moral responsibility and personal freedom.[[9]](#footnote-9)

It is my opinion that Lommel’s introductory statements are groundbreaking. Despite Lommel’s naturalistic training, he states that he strongly believes “that consciousness cannot be located in a particular time and place”. He calls this observation nonlocality.[[10]](#footnote-10) This statement from a leading respected cardiologist lends great reasonability to life after death. Lommel states that he believes that life is directly tied to consciousness. I found more of Lommel’s medical observation to be applicable to Jesus’ resurrection and God’s design regarding the origin of human life He created. Here is a summary list of questions and statements Lommel writes in the Introduction section of his book.

1. Medical school taught him that cardiac arrest means there is no palpable pulse or blood pressure and the patient is unconscious. Being unconscious means being unaware.[[11]](#footnote-11)
2. According to current medical knowledge, it is impossible to experience consciousness when the heart has stopped beathing.[[12]](#footnote-12)
3. During cardiac arrest patients are clinically dead.[[13]](#footnote-13)
4. Seldom received satisfactory answers from a reductionist and materialistic training.[[14]](#footnote-14)
5. In 2005, the journal *Science* published a report on 125 unanswered scientific questions. One question was, what is the biological basis of consciousness?[[15]](#footnote-15)
6. What is the relationship between brain function and consciousness? Can consciousness be experienced after brain, clinical and confirmed death[[16]](#footnote-16)
7. Throughout life, 500,000 cells die every second, 30 million every minute, 50 billion every day. These cells are replaced on a daily basis.[[17]](#footnote-17)
8. Who designs the building blocks of cells?[[18]](#footnote-18)
9. In summary, NDEs prompted the concept of nonlocal and endless consciousness, allowing us to understand special states of consciousness, such as mystical and religious experiences, deathbed visions, and postmortem experiences (nonlocal communication, information exchange, perception).[[19]](#footnote-19)
10. Ultimately, we cannot avoid the conclusion that endless consciousness has always been and always will be, independent of the body.[[20]](#footnote-20)

**Connecting Consciousness to NDEs to the Resurrection**

Another area of research Lommel conducted was to categorize NDEs. In one of the categories, he uses the word “empathetic” as a title due to a person’s spouse or close relation dies and the surviving person would report experiences identical to the classic NDE experience.[[21]](#footnote-21) Following is a summary of Lommel’s report about a woman, Anne, who had been killed in an automobile accident. Five days later, her seven-year-old son, who was a passenger in the car, also died. The surviving boyfriend was at the hospital when the son died and witnessed his mother, Anne, in bodily form come to her son in the room. The boyfriend reported that part of him left his body and walked with Anne and her son to a light. At some point, he had to return, and he fell back.

This empathetic NDE raises the question about the ability of human consciousness to project or manifest itself in the flesh after temporal death. This projection is a real body in the flesh that is witnessed by others. The followers of Jesus reported the appearance of Jesus in His resurrected body still bearing the marks of crucifixion (John 20:24-28). There are two points to be considered in Lommel’s report: the ability for a deceased person to appear physically and the ability for a surviving person to see them. Jesus often talked about eyes and ears that were open to the truth could see and hear (Matt. 13:16) His teaching.

Lommel NDE research publicized the idea of nonlocal and endless consciousness which he states opens the door to a wider range of special states of consciousness.[[22]](#footnote-22) The reporting of empathetic NDEs ultimately supports his conclusion that nonlocal and endless consciousness has always been and always will be, independently of the body.[[23]](#footnote-23) By this statement, we are led to focus on God’s creation of man in the beginning with a physical body and a spiritual consciousness that would survive this temporal life to be transitioned to an eternal life. NDEs are a witness to God’s eternal life plan.

**Jesus Witnesses Eternal Consciousness in the Resurrection**

There are several components to Jesus’ resurrection Gospel reports. One is where the apostle Peter stated clearly that Jesus went and proclaimed to the disobedient spirits alive in prison since the days of Noah (1 Pet. 3:18ff). The flood was a few thousand years before the incarnation and these disobedient spirits still had an awareness and spiritual consciousness. This verse supports Lommel’s premise that consciousness is nonlocal, endless and not tied to a body. So, consciousness exists with the rebellious spirits as it does for those who names are in the “book of life” and “books of deeds”. This account lends to the question from where did the spiritual beings come? God created them when He created people, and both were created with free-will choice. Like Satan, everyone rebelled (Rom. 3:23; Jam 2:19) but retained their eternal spirit and consciousness.

1 Peter 4:6 highlights Lommel’s premise of endless nonlocal consciousness stating that “For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God”. The verse begs the question. . . how can the dead receive preaching? The overall biblical contexts are that unsaved people are spiritually dead not physically dead (Eph. 2:1). When the Gospel is preached to them, they have the opportunity to humble themselves (Matt. 5:3) to God and be made alive in the spirit (John 3:3-8). A person’s spirit, (spiritual consciousness) that was created by God to be nonlocal, using Lommel’s term, is what transcends to God’s heaven leaving behind their temporal body.

The following scriptures are in support of the eternal human spirit and consciousness God created. Job 33:4 "The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

(Ezek. 36:26, 27; 37:12-14; Luke 23:36; John 19:30; Matt. 27:50; Acts 7:59;).

Again, once God created lives, He intended for them to live forever with Him or by their choice estranged from Him. We look back at Adam and Eve who were removed from the Garden before they ate from the tree of life and live forever (Gen 3:22-24). I see that God did not want them to eat from the tree of life and live forever in their fallen state.

God’s Spirit is the eternal consciousness aware of all things that moved over the waters (Gen. 1:2). God’s Spirit gave life and is “nonlocal,” (Lommel’s term) and not tied to time or space. “Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being” (Gen. 2:7; Acts 17:25).

**Believer’s Note**

I, and many believers, accept God’s eternalness and do not need Lommel’s definition to realize that God is the uncaused cause of the universe and creation Who has no beginning and no end. Meaning, God is separate from time and space. It is interesting that a medical doctor, who is not known to be a theologian, could arrive at such a conclusion after studying the science of medicine for over twenty-five years. Again, we Christians know that all people God created will live forever in heaven or hell (Rev. 20:11ff).

**Lamb’s Book of Life – “Nonlocal”**

Revelation 21:7 lends support to Lommel’s eternal state of endless nonlocal consciousness not confined to time and space. This verse provides a detailed description of the eternal separation of God’s people who rebelled against Him in Revelations 21:27. “and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.” The Lamb’s Book of Life is a historical record of all the people who have ever lived. How do these people exist through time if life ends at temporal death? There must be a consideration for their being to exist in some state that we may call “spiritual consciousness”. People in these books have physically died but still retain their individuality to be judged at the Great White Throne (Rev. 20:11). Because God created life to be eternal, these people listed in the Lamb’s Book Life and the Books of Deeds must retain their individual identity as Christ did when He resurrected. Jesus did not blend into nature and become one with the world. Jesus was recognized as who He is during the resurrection. The resurrection witnesses that people keep their identity. Again, NDEs are an individual experience which testifies to our eternal individuality.

These are seeking questions that many people are searching. When I read Lommel’s question “Who designs the building blocks of cells?”, I knew he was being objective to follow the evidence in nature. Being that God is the creator of nature, there is only one reasonable conclusion Lommel could arrive. . . everything that Lommel is investigating is created by a designer. In Lommel’s Introduction, he comes close to a biblical worldview about the origins of life.

There is no beginning and there will never be an end to our consciousness. For this reason, we ought to seriously consider the possibility that death, like birth, may be a mere passing from one state of consciousness into another and that during life the body functions as an interface or place of resonance. . . Nevertheless, when faced with exceptional or abnormal findings, we must question a purely materialist paradigm in science.[[24]](#footnote-24)

There are many books written by Christian authors about NDEs. It is no surprise when these Christian authors make claims in support of miracles. NDEs are considered by most people to be a miracle. Miracles are God’s intervention through nature or people. I include in the definition of miracles anything scientism cannot explain. Not all scientists fall under the category of pursuing the religion of science (scientism). Lommel appears to have broken-out from the grip of science as being the only answer.

Lommel wrote that he began his break from scientific materialism in 1969 when he read a book, *Return from Tomorrow*, by George Richie a medical student about his own NDE. Richie related that he suffered a clinical death due to pneumonia in 1943. After Richie was pronounced dead and covered with a sheet, a medical student got permission to inject him with adrenaline, an unusual procedure at the time. Although, nine minutes had passed, Richie was resuscitated and lived to tell of his experience while he was clinically dead for nine munities. Over time, Lommel did his own research and found that about twenty percent of cardiac arrest survivors had NDEs[[25]](#footnote-25) In the same year (2011) that Lommel published his book, there were other doctors also publishing their findings and observations about NDEs. Not all of these doctors practiced in the same field of medicine as Lommel.

**Naturalist View of Consciousness**

Neuroloigist Kevin Nelson authored*The Spiritual Doorway in The Brain* who presented a naturalistic worldview to his study and publication.*[[26]](#footnote-26)*

The brainstem’s compactness belies its highly complex anatomy and physiology. It began developing early on in evolution, about 300 million years ago, and it has changed very little from species to species since that time. From rat to human, the brainstem of *all* mammals is curiously similar. The reason for this is that the brainstem’s function is so critical- to get it wrong in even the slightest way is usually incompatible with life itself.[[27]](#footnote-27)

I see that Nelson is an accurate representation of the worldview of most naturalist in the medical community. However, Nelson still makes statements that lend to Lommel’s observations. The 2005 journal *Science* reported there were 125 unanswered scientific questions. One question was, what is the biological basis of consciousness? Nelson was unable to provide a satisfactory clinical neurology meaning to consciousness. Nelson reports that consciousness is an “awareness of oneself and one’s surroundings and it engages certain brain systems in a certain order. That said, much about how it functions in the physical brain is a mystery and of dizzying complexity.”[[28]](#footnote-28)

Nelson makes several statements about what is not known about consciousness that exposes the naturalist’s worldview to be inadequate. In one of Nelson’s grasping for clarity attempts to explain consciousness, he compares it to dark matter or energy in the universe. He summarizes that consciousness will never be fully understood.[[29]](#footnote-29)

In Nelson’s epilogue, he writes that human spirituality “arises from arousal, limbic system, and reward systems that evolved long before structure made the brain capable of language and reasoning”. Additionally, Nelson states that “we may not be the only primate with spiritual feelings”. He concludes – “why the brain is spiritual will remain for many of us our most treasured mystery. There is room in the brain for faith.” Then he says, “We have one certain fact at hand: we can be conscious. This is a great miracle no matter how it happens.”[[30]](#footnote-30) Even with this statement, Nelson confines the origin of faith to be in the brain.

My review of Nelson and any other naturalist I have read is that they will acknowledge what they do not understand and do intellectual gymnastics like comparing human consciousness to black matter to avoid attributing faith or consciousness to a designer or creator. The point here is that Jesus had a consciousness, be it divine, that was not dependent on His crucified body to survive. Lommel’s view of consciousness as nonlocal and not tied to time and space supports, in part, the totality of God in the flesh as Jesus Christ.

**Dr. Eben Alexander**

The third NDE authority I will present is Dr. Eben Alexander, the well-known author of *Proof of Heaven*. Alexander’s NDE is well publicized since November 16, 2008, the date he woke up from a weeklong coma caused by *E. coli* bacterial meningoencephalitis.[[31]](#footnote-31) Alexander starts the account of his afterlife experience with a description of his NDE “consciousness, but consciousness without memory or identity”.[[32]](#footnote-32)

In summation, Alexander reported “I didn’t have a body.”[[33]](#footnote-33) The highlights of Alexander’s NDE include that he experienced a place with no time, witnessing all types of animals and environments in a dark place but then he emerged into the opposite of what he had seen. Alexander then describes a light he was drawn to but then he went through the light into a beautiful world like a dream but not a dream.[[34]](#footnote-34)

I will not report the rest of Alexander’s NDE but focus on his own medical observations that witness specifically that consciousness operates outside and is not dependent on the brain. In Appendix B, *Neuroscientific Hypotheses I Considered to Explain My Experience,* Alexander refutes naturalistic explanations for his experience. In summary, Alexander refutes that the brain’s primitive brainstem program and lateral amygdala did not explain the robust, richly interactive nature of the recollections. He also rejects that anesthetic drugs could account for his experience. Alexander wrote that since his auditory and visual neocortex was off the brain’s natural dump of N,N-dimethyltryptamine had no place in the brain to act. He goes on to report that his brainstem was severely damaged and that none of the brain structures could work because the neocortex region was not intact. Since all of the brain’s functions were off during his coma, nothing could account for his experience.[[35]](#footnote-35)

I believe all the medical explanations given by Alexander support Lommel’s position that consciousness is nonlocal, timeless, spaceless and operates outside the brain. I do not need these medical or scientific reports to verify that human beings God created have an eternal component we call spirit, soul, or consciousness. From the biblical text, starting with Genesis, we receive that life is more than a physical body.

**God Created Consciousness that Transcends**

I have written and preached over 1,000 sermons in the past thirty-three years of ministry. From this study and sermon preparation, I have come to some reasonable conclusions about origin of life, God’s intent for life and eternal life that I have already detailed previously in this paper. Given consideration to the biblical text already cited (Phil. 3:20-21), God spoke through His apostle Paul and gave clear evidence of His intent for people to live forever. God identified parameters that a person must go through to transcend to the eternal life state. A person must conform, be raised in power, bear the image of the heavenly and be transformed into Jesus’ glorified image. God created people in His image with what I call spiritual genetics which is human consciousness that can be transferred to heaven.

**Rom. 8:29** For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

**1 Cor. 15:43** it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;

**1 Cor. 15:49** Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

**Col. 3:4** When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

**1 John 3:2** Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

**2 Cor. 3:18** But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

From these verses, we receive God’s intent for us to be conformed and raised in power to a glorified existence suitable for an eternal life. In reference to the verses cited, a reasonable question to ask, is what exactly transfers over to the next life? According to the cited biblical text, human temporal bodies do not make the transition to eternal life in the form they had in temporal life. So, what does convey to the next life? I see that NDEs are a view to the believer’s transformation to eternal life. Jesus’ resurrection is the grand witness to NDEs because they highlight eternal life.

In summation of 1 Corinthians 15:42-52, we are told that Christians will be resurrected from the dead and are raised in imperishable bodies, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God and believers will all be changed, the dead will be raised imperishable. These verses reveal that Christians are raised to enter eternal life in another form of life. I see that this change requirement helps us to understand life as God created in the beginning.

Obviously, the temporal physical body is a temporary housing for the individual person while here on earth. The soul and/or spirit of a person is presented in the Bible to have been created by God and then moving forward have an eternal life. God breathed His breath of life into man to install life in a mortal body (Gen 2:7). Matthew 27:50 and John 19:30 report that Jesus “gave up His spirit” when he died on the cross. However, we know that Jesus did not lose all form of His being because he physically died on the cross. Peter reports that Jesus went and preached to the disobedient spirits in prison since the days of Noah (1 Pet. 3:19-20). Therefore, the phrase “gave up His spirit” is a cultural phrase to say that a person died and not that Jesus lost His divine nature as the Holy Spirit. Jesus is God who created all things (John 1:1-4). Since Jesus is God, He also breathed life into Adam (Gen. 2:7). John 1:4 reports “In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.” From these verses, we come to the awareness that Jesus’ being had the divine power and authority to survive the crucifixion and resurrect himself. It is evident that the life that Jesus possessed is not constrained in a temporal body. Jesus’ resurrection points directly back to the origin of life when God created everything. NDEs are a window to life and eternal life that God created. In the beginning, God created people with ability to have NDEs.

It is the Christian belief that God created human beings with an eternal life ability. However, believers know that due to Adam and Eve’s choice to sin, God intervened and made possible a path to extend our lives into eternal life to be in His presence (John 3:16). Jesus’ resurrection demonstrated the fullness of God’s plan that human life in the flesh transcends from this temporal body to a glorified life leaving behind this temporal body. Again, NDEs are God’s plan for life and eternal life He created in the beginning.

Along with this built-in spiritual genetics, human beings are created with the spiritual ability to receive information in a non-temporal NDE environment. In other words, humans are spiritual beings from birth born with the compacity to have a NDE. Reiterating, NDEs are part of the human life God created from the beginning. There is nothing unusual about a person experiencing a NDE since NDEs are part of our design planned by our Designer God.

The resurrection of Jesus can be received as a NDE. Jesus was announced dead by the Roman authorities due to suffering the process of crucifixion and spearing Him in the side. Then Jesus had several life-after-death experiences seen by many people including women and the apostles.

I apply John Burke’s simple definition of a NDE to Jesus. Burke reported a NDE as “when people clinically died, were resuscitated, and claim to have gotten a peek into the afterlife”. Jesus died and was resuscitated to reveal himself as a person who is experiencing the afterlife and one who is witnessing the afterlife to the world.

The Gospel accounts of the resurrection gives witness to a bodily resuscitated Jesus. In Jesus’ resuscitated or resurrected body, He made appearances and demonstrated the ability to appear in rooms behind a shut door (John 20:19) and sustain life even though He gave evidence of being mortally wounded (John 20:27). In addition, how can a normal human body accomplish being three days in a tomb, due to suffering the crucifixion, walk or convey somehow to the sea of Galilee to meet the disciples (Matt. 28:7,10; Mark 16:7; John 21:1) in a normal human body? Therefore, Jesus’ temporal body during the resurrection time was already transformed to have the ability to accomplish the appearances recorded in the Gospels. Lommel’s and Alexander’s medical reports support these resuscitated resurrection Gospel accounts of Jesus?

**God and Consciousness and the Resurrection**

Previously, I listed several biblical verses (Job 33:4, Gen. 1:2, 2:7; Ezek. 37:9; Acts 17:25, Ezek. 36:26, 27; Luke 23:36; John 19:30; Matt. 27:50; Acts 7:59) as a reference to a person’s spirit regarding what element of man transcends to God’s heaven. 1 Corinthians 15:42-52 proclaims that a Chrisitan’s temporal body will be changed in preparation for eternal life. The resurrection is our visual to see a person, be it Jesus, transcend to eternal life. This was one of the main reasons for the incarnation. NDEs are a window into eternal life.

From scripture, we receive that God is the eternal Being that has/is the uncaused first cause, who exists without the constraints of time, space or material. God created life and gives life by supplying His breath of life into man (Gen. 2:7). God’s life is eternal and stays forever with the people He created. Heaven or Hell bound, life is forever to be with God or without. From our limited understanding of God and the creation, we know that God created man with a consciousness, or we would not be alive. Man’s spiritual being that transcends to eternal life is nonlocal, endless and not tied to time or space. Like the resurrection of Jesus, NDEs witness God’s eternal life plan.

**Conclusion**

The goals of this paper have been reached in that a critical but limited review, due to the scope of the report, was presented in the work of Lommel, Nelson and Alexander. I did not find a report that these three doctors wrote their books to be in support of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, unintended, I do find that their reported study and experiences support the eternal spiritual consciousness of human beings God created. Based upon scripture cited in this report, I view life that God created possesses an eternal component of spiritual consciousness. God in the flesh as Jesus demonstrated His retention of eternal life qualities that survived His crucifixion. After Jesus was pronounced dead and removed to the tomb, there were reports by Peter that He visited the rebellious spirits from the days of Noah. In addition, the resurrection appearance reported in the Gospels, life for Jesus is not restrained by a physical body. In Peter’s account, Jesus’ conscious awareness was demonstrated outside of His resurrection appearances just as NDEs demonstrate.

The goal of this research paper was to give support that NDEs support the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through scripture, it was cited that God created life by the power of His Spirit to be part of human beings for an eternity. Life is the Spirit of God that makes people have a consciousness, a spiritual consciousness that is aware of events in this life and the next. Jesus’ resurrection demonstrated His spiritual conscious awareness as to NDEs.

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