

Eternal Perspective



By Rick Sibert

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Exchanging Lies for Truth

"Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made."

Have you heard of the Mandela Effect?

Are you sitting down?....

It's a theory – currently rolling like a wildfire across the internet – that surmises that there are parallel universes, and there are many of us who are “sliders” who unconsciously travel between the different “realities” of our lives. Remembering events differently than they are currently being portrayed (and also déjà vu!) is supposed to be an indicator that you are a traveler between worlds....

The term “Mandela Effect” was first coined by English writer and “paranormal consultant,” Fiona Broome, when it became known that there were large masses of people who “remembered” that Nelson Mandela - the South African freedom fighter turned president - actually died in prison in the early 1980's, not as we know in 2013.

For a science geek like me, this really caught my attention! I was further intrigued to learn that there are many who believe in this theory who think that all of the fascinating scientific work being done on composite particles - and their acceleration and violent collisions - at the Large Hadron Collider in Cern, Switzerland is what has unleashed these schisms in time and space upon us.

In fact, in October of last year, there were headlines stating that there were scientists who were actively pursuing this – *that one of their aims was to open up a parallel universe.*

What is so captivating and cunning are the videos that are out there, with the supposed differences in the way we remember things (mostly obscure). For example, in one video I watched (with eerie synthesizer music layered in the background) the narrator asks the viewers how many people they remember being in the car when JFK was assassinated... or what do you remember Darth Vader saying to Luke in the Star Wars film... or does Curious George have a tail? And on and on it went, with over a hundred of these types of supposed shifts in the way we remember things, even examples of “changes” in scripture, such as the passage in Isaiah 11:6, which states, “And the wolf will lie down with the lamb.” Most people, when asked about that verse would probably say they thought it was the “lion” who will lie down with the lamb in the eschatological future.

So if you remember a lion instead of a wolf then you must be a parallel universe jumper!

Without getting too psychological with you, there are answers to all of these anomalies in our memory – mainly because our memories are not binary. We don't have fixed data stored from past events that we can simply recall. Our memories change, and can be influenced in many ways.

However, I believe there is more sinister work at play here.

We live in a time like no other in the history of the world. We have access to the internet.

The internet has good (I researched some of this article on the internet), but it also has bad. And so with the internet, ideas and thoughts and theories (especially with psychologically convincing videos) can explode, and make you question what you believe – or thought you believed.

Again, because I am a science nerd, I allowed myself for a very brief moment to contemplate this hypothesis. My conversations with myself went something like this... ”It kind of makes sense... I know for a fact there were only four people in the car when JFK was shot in Dallas... how cool would that be?... I do have vivid dreams, I have déjà vu!...”

And then, thankfully – because I am filled with the spirit of the living God – I was quickly brought up short.

Here is the reality:

- You and I are unique creations of a loving God (Psalm 139:14). There are not several “versions” of us running around. We have one soul, one spirit. The decisions we make have consequences to our lives here in this world and in eternity beyond.
- If there are several universes spinning simultaneously, with fissures allowing some people to jump between them, then God is not in control. Because that is chaos. God is a god of order (1 Cor 14).

I am convinced that this theory – along with many other similar types of things, including the entire UFO phenomena – is a lie straight from the enemy of our souls. The bible tells us that the devil is *“a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”* (John 8:44)

Satan will use any means and method available to a) keep you from a saving, loving relationship with your savior Jesus, and b) if you have entered into a saving faith to keep you distracted and deceived by lies that make you doubt and question and keep you from trusting in your Father in Heaven.

So how do you not trip up on these lies that are waved in front of us on a regular basis, especially those lies that appeal to your sensibilities or the way you are wired (the devil knows this too – he knows what will attract you and get you off course)?

To begin with, you must know the truth. We are told as believers we will “know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:32). The FBI doesn’t doesn’t recognize a counterfeit when they come across it by studying counterfeits! They know a lie because they know the truth! They have invested years studying the truth – how it looks, how it feels, how it smells – it has gotten into their bones and they can spot a fake a mile away.

Spend time in the eternal truth – the word of God.

Spend time in prayer, in communion with the author of truth, the Lord Jesus Christ.

And spend time in fellowship with other believers, who will speak truth into your life on a regular basis.

Finally, we must be discerning. When we see something that is enticing, we must go before the Lord and ask him to help us see the truth, and believe that the Holy Spirit, who will lead us into all truth (John 16:13), will show you the truth.

When we do all of these things, we won’t be enticed by science fiction, we will know that there is a glorious future awaiting us in a real place that is really beyond our imagination.