

Supplemental Images and Narrative for
Is Your God big enough? Close enough? You enough?
Jesus and the three faces of god
by Paul Smith



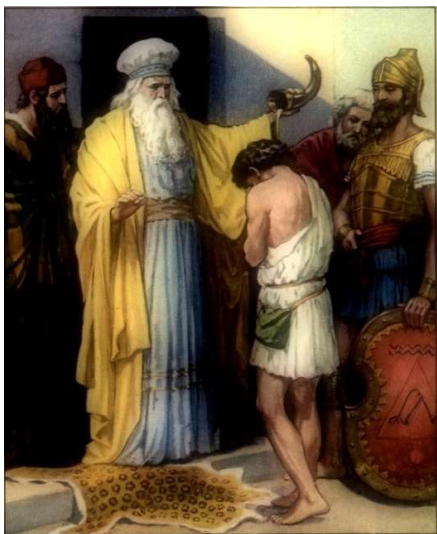
Chapter 12
THE RESULTS OF AWAKENED CONSCIOUSNESS
(pages 269-286)

Leadership in Old Testament



Moses Elects the Council of 70 Elders by Jacob de Wit, 1737

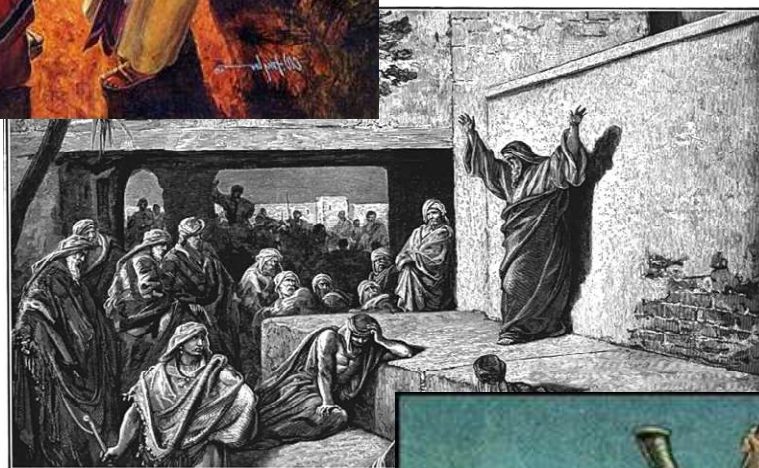
God took some of spirit on **Moses** and “put it on them” (Num. 11:25) and they prophesied. Looking deeper, the Hebrew word for “prophesied” is also associated with ecstasy, in some cases in such extreme that it is translated as “being in a frenzy” which we saw with Samuel and Saul.



Samuel anoints David and “The spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David.” (1 Sam.16:13.



“**Joshua** was filled with the spirit”
Deut. 39:4



The prophet **Micah**:
“I am filled with the spirit of the Lord.”
Micah 3:8

Gideon was a military leader, judge and prophet whose victory over the Midianites is recounted in Judges

“Then the spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon.”
Judges 6:4



Creativity



“I have called Bezaleel and I have filled him with divine spirit-breath, with ability, intelligence, and knowledge in every kind of craft, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold,

silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, in every kind of craft.” Exodus 31:2-5

Sometimes the ecstasy of inspired spirit-breath -consciousness is experienced as the flow state that artists find themselves in when creating

Leadership in New Testament

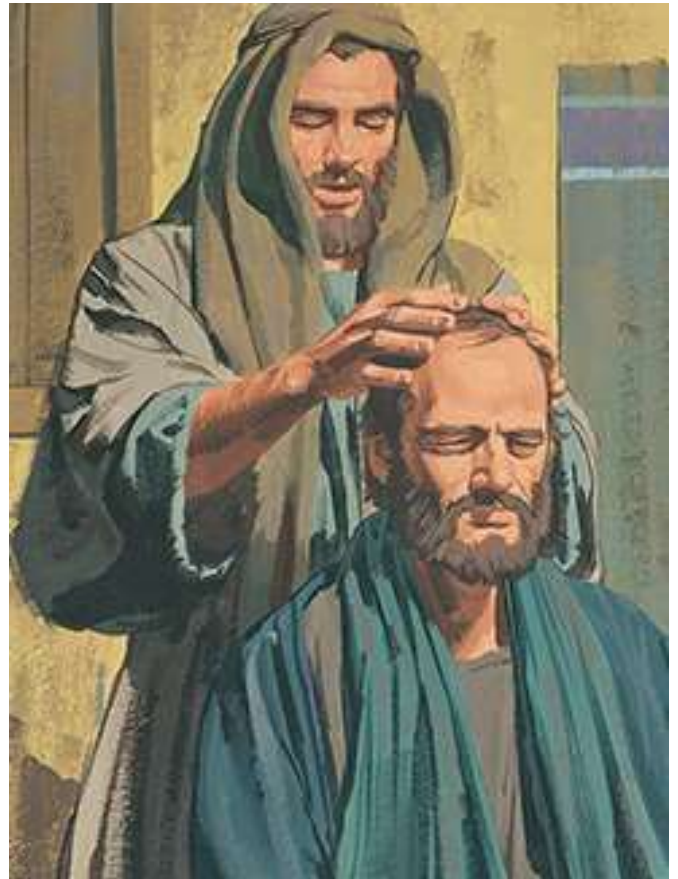


Jesus’ mystical experiences found their most powerful expression in his motivation and ability to bring healing to the world.

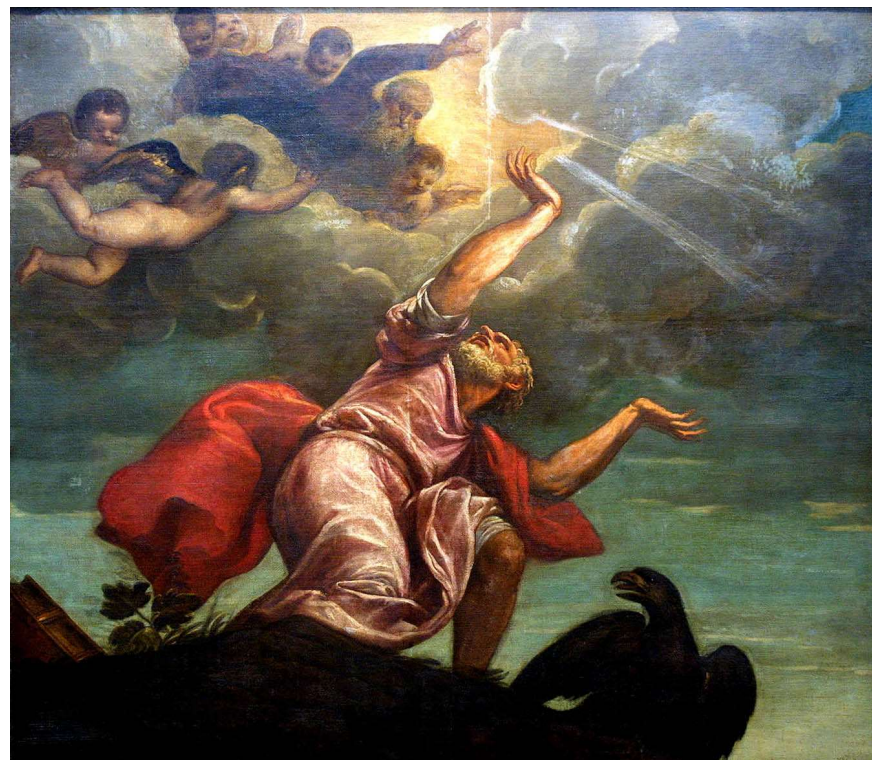


Peter was filled with holy spirit.
Acts 4:8

Ananias prayed for
Paul and he was filled
with holy spirit.
Acts 10



John, the beloved Apostle
On the Lord's day I was in the
Spirit, and I (John) heard behind
me a loud voice like a trumpet.
Revelation 1:10



Mystics down through the centuries



St. Francis heard Jesus speaking to him from the cross. He became influential spiritual leader

Julian of Norwich (1342–1416) received a series of sixteen visions of Christ on the cross. She became the first woman to write a book in English.





Joan of Arc (1412–1431) was a teenage war hero with visions. She commanded French forces in numerous battles, taking a number of forts from the English.



Teresa of Avila (1515–1582) reformed her order of nuns and went on to begin seventeen other convents.

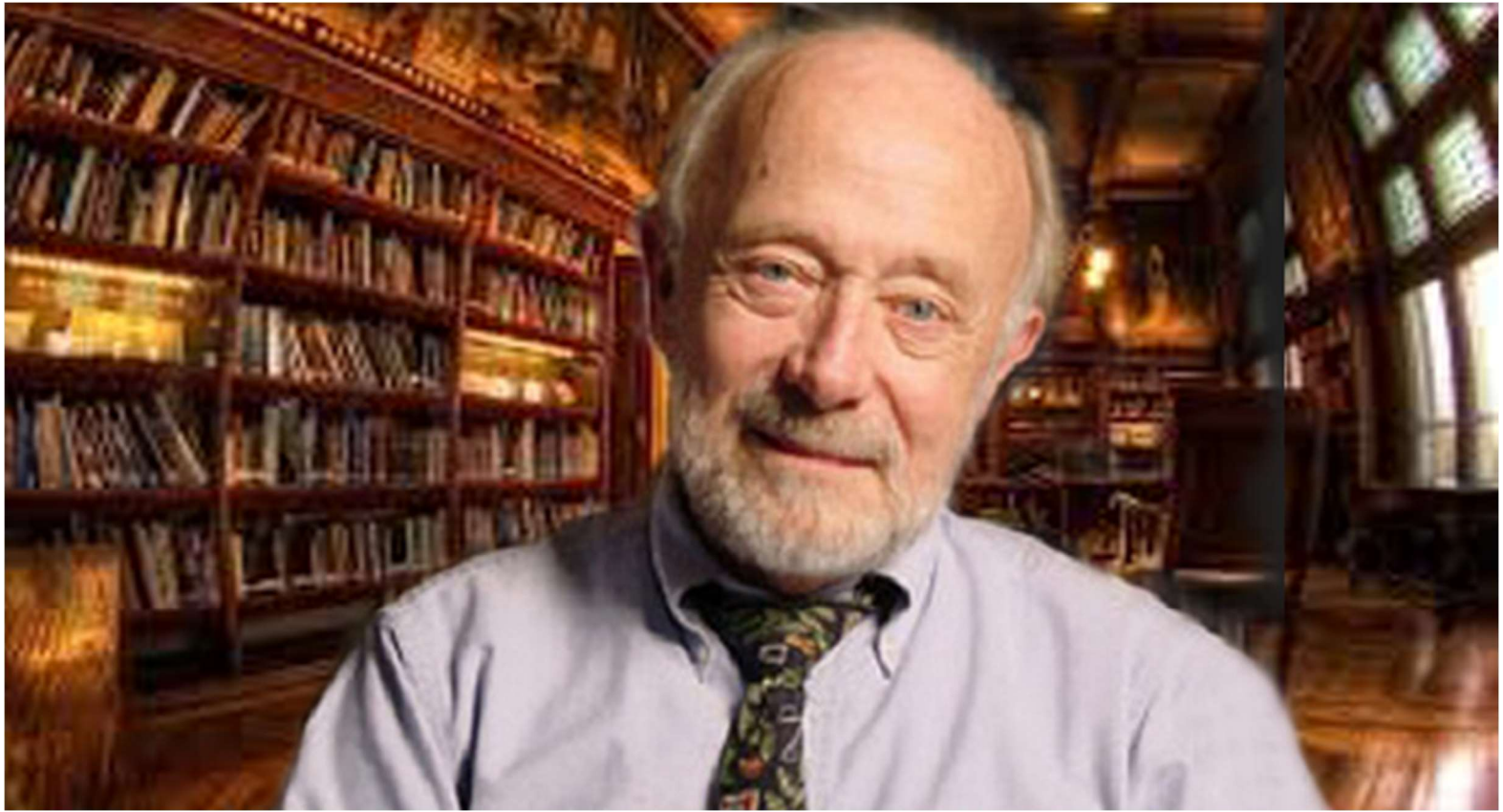


John Wesley (1703–1791) had a spiritual awakening that led to a great movement that eventually became the Methodist Church

Mother Teresa (1910–1997) had a secret life of mystical experiences with Jesus. It would be difficult to understand her work without these visions and mystical conversations with Jesus. They went from Sept.



10, 1946, to Dec. 3, 1947, as Jesus sent her to go out into the streets to care for the poorest of the poor. But not even her friends were aware of these awakened, mystical events. It wasn't until after her death that this part of Mother Teresa's spiritual life was uncovered in documents found in the archives of the Jesuits in Calcutta.



Marcus Borg (1942–2015), leading New Testament teacher, postmodern Jesus scholar, and Fellow of the Jesus Seminary, says, “My most formative religious experiences were a series of mystical experiences. They began to occur in my early thirties. They changed my understanding of the meaning of the word “God”—of what that word points to—and gave me an unshakable conviction that God (or “the sacred”) is real and can be experienced. These experiences also convinced me that mystical forms of Christianity are true, and that the mystical forms of all the enduring religions of the world are true.”

Symbol of Awakened Consciousness



Here is the symbol I am using in the books and here to illustrate awakened consciousness. When we move in awakened elevated awareness, we lose our outward distractions and move inward and downward into our inner space. The spacious mystical background here illustrates this inner space. The small white spheres bubbling up represent the words, wisdom, images, presences, creative ideas, and other phenomena that then may come into our focused and intensified awareness.