

He wrote a book "Moses and Monotheism" which is largely imaginary and very destructive to the Christian faith. Nevertheless, I think we should realize that aside from these unfortunate theories Freud advanced, before he advanced them he did lay the foundation of all present day psychology, by a very great discovery . . . and even though there is so much we detest about him he deserves credit for this. That was the discovery that man's mind is not just what's on the surface, but underneath there is a great deal that is very important even though we do not know anything about it. Now Freud found a man who could not lift his arm, and he found no physical cause for it -- this was when Freud was quite young -- he found no physical cause for it, but did find that the man had experienced in his life that had affected his whole nervous system and made him think he could not raise his arm, and by bringing this experience to his consciousness Freud was able to remove this effect and the man was able to lift his arm. So the young Dr. Freud went before the Vienna medical Ass. and gave a paper and said this man was a victim of "hysteria" . That it was a mental condition that made him unable to raise his arm. The doctors hooted and laughed at Freud. They said the word "hysteria" by its etymology means "woman" so how could a man be unable to lift his arm on account of hysteria. And that's the kind of argument some biblical scholars use unfortunately.

It's not etymology that determines truth. But Freud had an uphill battle for years to get people to recognize that there is an unconscious that affects our physical situation. He had an uphill battle and I think perhaps the struggles he went through to get it, caused him to develop some rather foolish theories he may not otherwise have done. But eventually he won through with it, and then people went to an extreme with it. One Dr. said to me a few yrs. ago, 9/10 of the physical ailments any of us have are psychosomatic, they are due to emotional or intellectual troubles in our minds down in the subconscious. I think that's very extreme. It's silly to go from one extreme to the other, but yet it is a fact that there is a subconscious and if we suppress our fear, our emotions, our frustrations, we can get all sorts of miserable physical effects from it.

Now this was a great discovery Freud made, and it is tremendously important in present day psychology, psychiatry and in fact it is good for all of us to know about because it can affect our lives. It was a great discovery, but ~~it~~ was it something nobody knew before Freud? I'm sure you're all familiar with Rom. 8:28 one of the grt. vv. of the Bible. But I fear most of us are not nearly so familiar with Rom. 8:26,27 which says, "Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities." Here the word "infirmities" is in the dative -- the Spirit helps in relation to our infirmities. For we know not what we should pray for as we ought but the Spirit HIMSELF makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered "When I was a boy I used to puzzle over this verse: "The Spirit makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." The poor Spirit cannot utter His groanings. I just could not make sense out of it. Why should the H.S. of God not utter His groanings? Why did he have to make intercession with groanings which cannot be uttered? Well, there is no word "with" in the Greek here, it is simply in the dative. And the dative is what we have in v. 26--"The Spirit helps in relation to our infirmities." Here the latter part of the v. the Spirit makes intercession in relation to our groanings that can't be uttered. It's not the Spirit's