

THE GREAT TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE

STUDY # : 14

The Rich man & Lazarus



# THE GREAT TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE

## STUDY #14

### THE RICH MAN & LAZARUS THE HUMAN SOUL - PART 3

**PLEASE NOTE: Kindly refer to your Bibles for every scripture reference and read thoroughly.**

**MOST SCRIPTURE PASSAGES ARE QUOTED FROM THE AUTHORISED KING JAMES VERSION (KJV)**

**H**aving **CLEARLY** understood in our previous two lessons on the subject of the human soul in the scriptures that it **IS DESTRUCTIBLE** and that **IT DIES** and also that we humans **don't possess a soul** but **THAT WE ARE SOULS** and thus when we die **our souls** (meaning ourselves) die, we bring to mind this truth from the Bible in -

**Ezekiel 18:4**

*"..The soul that sinneth it shall die."*

And again we read in -

**Psalm 22:29**

*".... And NONE can keep\_alive his own soul".*

We studied certain seemingly contradictory verses and passages in the scriptures in **PART 2** of our study and finally we were left with only one more passage to study. Yes ! The passage about the **"RICH MAN AND LAZARUS"** we read about that in -

**Luke 16:19-31**

(Read Completely)

Today we shall study this passage of scripture which is popularly used by Christians all over to **DENOTE TWO DOCTRINES:**

Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth

- ☞ The doctrine of the **UNDYING, IMMORTAL** nature of the soul after death.
- ☞ The doctrine of the existence of Hell as a place of **ETERNAL TORMENT** made by God.

For it is generally thought that **THE RICH MAN WENT TO HELL** and that the beggar **LAZARUS WENT TO HEAVEN**.

But when we examine vs 22 of this chapter we read -  
that the beggar died and was carried by the angels to "*Abraham's bosom*".

☞ **CAN "*Abraham's bosom*" BE HEAVEN WHERE GOD RESIDES ?**

This passage **is said and thought to be** a **LITERAL INCIDENT** narrated by Jesus!  
But a study of vs. 20,21 and 24 in the light of reason will clearly show how it is so unreasonable to consider this as **LITERAL** language.

Let us see how as we read in -



**Luke 16:20**

*... "and there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate full of sores"*

Here Lazarus the beggar was lying at the gate of the rich man's house. It seemed it was a permanent arrangement. The rich man even would send the extra food from his table to Lazarus the beggar. Imagine! Which rich man today would allow this sort of arrangement at his house gate?!



**WOULD YOU ALLOW THIS AT YOUR GATE ?**

And yet this rich man is believed to have been bad and died and gone to hell!



And then again we read in - ....

**Luke 16:21**

*"...more over the dogs came and licked his sores."*

We see beggars and lepers all around us- some without legs & arms and having wounds but surely nowhere would any one of these beggars or lepers allow dogs to lick their sores!

**IT WOULD BE THE GREATEST INDIGNITY !**

Thus this matter mentioned about Lazarus **is not literally possible !!**

What then does this matter mean? We will see later on in this study.



But before that we shall see another verse in -

**Luke 16:24**

*" and he cried and said, Father Abraham have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am tormented in this flame."*



👉 **IMAGINE THE SCENE! IMAGINE THE FLAMES AND THE HEAT!**

Could a mere drop of water on the tongue bring relief?

Check the matter out on a very hot sunny day in summer when it is burning hot and see if you can get relief by a **DROP** of water on your tongue!

👉 It is too ridiculous even to imagine!

And then imagine this rich man in the midst of literal flames and what would be his condition and think whether he would get any relief from a few drops of water on his tongue !!!

**THIS CANNOT BE LITERAL LANGUAGE.**

Then what could this passage of scripture mean ?

Let us always remember that the Lord always spoke in parables as we read in -

**Matthew 13:34**

*"All these things Jesus spake, unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them"*

Yes ! When we compare the **beginning** of this passage with Jesus many parables in-

👉 **Luke 15:11** ⇨ *".....A certain man had....."*

👉 **Luke 16:1** ⇨ *".....There was a certain rich man....."*

👉 **Luke 19:12** ⇨ *"....A certain noble man...."*

👉 **Luke 20:9** ⇨ *".....A certain man planted a vineyard...."*

👉 **WHAT DO WE SEE ?**

Yes! We notice the **VERY SAME LANGUAGE** used at the beginning!

So we realize that this must be a **PARABLE** of Jesus !

And indeed it is a parable which very few recognize it to be !

It is what can be called **THE "MYSTERIOUS" PARABLE OF JESUS !**

Let us now study what could be the parabolic meanings in this parable —  
**THE "RICH MAN" & "LAZARUS"** represent **TWO CLASSES**, Jesus was referring to !

Let us begin by reading from -

**Luke 16:19**

*"There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:"*

This is not something unusual, for the Lord similarly referred to two classes in many of His parables.

**Example: Luke 15:11** (The parable of two sons or popularly known as the parable of the **PRODIGAL SON** )

Similarly here too the "rich man" represented a certain class !

Who would they be ?

**Jesus was painting a "word picture" of the NATION OF ISRAEL.**





Let us see how by studying the word picture Jesus "painted" !

 "Clothed in purple" ⇨

Here purple represents the colour of royalty as worn by Kings. This is confirmed in John 19:23 where Jesus was given a purple robe and then was mockingly called - The "King of the Jews"

But here this symbol in respect to Israel as a nation represents the "kingly promises" that covered them or "clothed" them as we read in -

**Exodus 19:5,6**

*"Now therefore, if ye will obey My voice indeed.....ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me.... a kingdom of priests and a holy nation ..."*

Yes! The symbol "clothed in purple" represents the kingdom promises of God which He had covered Israel with.

Thus they were said to be - "clothed in purple..."

 "and fine linen" ⇨

Linen represents righteousness

( Refer in Revelation 19:8 - "for the linen is the righteousness of saints." )

Their righteousness was NOT literal

but through the annual ATONEMENT DAY SACRIFICES FOR SIN

Leviticus 16:29-31 → *"and this shall be a statute forever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you. For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD. It shall be a sabbath of rest unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls, by a statute for ever."*

They were **TYPICALLY** tentatively **JUSTIFIED** before God and could thus approach Him and pray to Him.

Yes ! Israel was -  
*"Clothed...in fine linen."*

THEIR SINS WERE COVERED AND THEY WERE "CLOTHED" BEFORE GOD.


 *"and feasted (eating) sumptuously everyday"* ⇨


We see that the Word of God is food

(Jer 15:16 → *"thy words were found and I did eat them..."* ) and which nation was favored and blessed with so much of God's Word and blessings than Israel ?

Yes! This we read in -

**Deuteronomy 4:6-8,33**

 *"Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that has statutes and judgement So righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?"*

 *"Did ever people hear the voice of God speaking out the midst of the fire, as thou hast heard, and live?"*

Yes! Thus it is that we see the "rich man" symbolized

Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth

the nation of ISRAEL which received so much of the word of God.

In fact THE WHOLE OLD TESTAMENT

and all the words of the prophets were revealed unto them only !

Throughout the Jewish Age all the prophets from **Isaiah** to **Malachi**

were sent to speak to Israel.

☞ Indeed they “*feasted (eating) sumptuously everyday*” (right through their Jewish Age )  
And now let us see the spiritual riches of Israel.-.

**Amos 3:2**

*“You only have I known of all the families of the earth:  
therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.”*



Yes! They were the chosen nation of God.

Just think! The ONLY nation in all of the earth chosen of God !

And thus we read of Israel in -

**Romans 3:1**

*“What advantage then hath the Jew? Or what profit is there of circumcision ?”*

Yes! What is the **BLESSINGS** of a Jew?

Or

What are the “**RICHERS**” of the Jews ?

Or

What is **THE BALANCE SHEET OF THE RICHERS** of the Jews ?

We read of the answer in .....

**Romans 9:4,5**

*“Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants and  
the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;  
Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came,.....”*

☞ Yes ! Truly a picture of **RICHERS** and **BLESSINGS** from God  
- a complete list of the spiritual riches of Israel.

- **ABUNDANT RICHERS INDEED !**

Yes ! Indeed, Israel is properly pictured as a “rich man”

**THUS WE HAVE SEEN “A WORD PICTURE” PAINTED BY  
JESUS OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL!!**

☞ Now what about “the beggar” ?

What or who does he represent ? Let us read in -


**Luke 16:20,21**


*“And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at  
his gate, full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell  
from the rich man’s table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.”*




Here this "beggar" whose name was "Lazarus" represents a word picture of **THE NON-JEWS** - the **GENTILES!**


ONE MAY ASK, HOW ?


Let us see the answer in the symbols used -  
[  "A beggar" ⇨ ]  
The Gentiles were **VERY POOR** in God's blessings  
—having **NO** blessings at all ! - **TOTAL POVERTY !!**

[  "full of sores" ⇨ ]  
This represents the condition of sin among the Gentiles  
where there was **NO WAY** to **CLEANSE** and find atonement for their sins.  
These "sores" represent **THE UNFORGIVEN CONDITION OF SIN**  
in which they were in.

[  "at the gate" ⇨ ]  
represents "out of favour" with God for the "house" represented the **BLESSED**  
and **FAVoured** condition of the nation of Israel.  
The "wall" of the rich man's house represents the Law Covenant as seen in -  
**Ephesians 2:14** → *"for he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down  
the middle wall of partition between us."*

and the "gate"—the covenant of circumcision (**Gen 17:12-14**)  
by which **ONE ENTERED** into being a Jew.

[  "the crumbs" ⇨ ]  
The Gentiles were **OUTSIDE** this "wall" and "gate" !  
Represents "some" divine blessings which  
the Gentiles sought for and begged for. --as seen in the incident of Jesus  
and the Canaanite woman ( **Read in Matt 15:25-28**)

[  "dogs licked the sores" ⇨ ]  
As we have already seen the symbol "sores" represent  
the **UNFORGIVEN SIN** condition Now the "**LICKING**" of the  
sores would represent a means of relief or comfort.  
Thus here this would represent the means by which the gentiles would seek  
**COMFORT** from their sins or **SIN ATONEMENT**.

 **NOW WHAT DO THE "DOGS" REPRESENT?**

The dog in **Leviticus 11:27** is an unclean animal.  
Thus this "dogs licked the sores" symbol pictures the UNCLEAN way by  
which the gentiles sought for sin atonement  
- like idol worshiping, blind superstitions, child sacrifices, temple prostitution etc.

 **Yes! This was the CONDITION in which the gentiles were!!**

Then what do we read -



**Luke 16:22**

*"And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;"*

Yes! Here "died" symbolizes the END.

**WHAT HAD ENDED?**

"Both died" or the period of favour to the Jews —the Jewish Age - ENDED. Similarly the period of disfavour to Gentiles ENDED with the beginning of the Gospel Age.

 —"Lazarus" 

Represents **THOSE OF THE GENTILES** who accepted the Gospel and became Christian.

 —"were carried by angels to Abraham's bosom" - 

**WHAT IS THIS AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN ?**

Let us see and understand -

 —"angels" ⇨ 

These represent messengers of the Gospel in the early church to the gentiles especially **APOSTLE PETER** who "opened the door to the gentiles" in Cornelius' house and **APOSTLE PAUL** who was the special chosen apostle to the gentiles (**Galatians 2:8**) and those who accompanied him like Barnabas, Titus, Silas and Luke etc.

 "Abraham's bosom" ⇨ 

refers to becoming the "children of Abraham" as we read in -

**Galatians 3:7** → *"know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham."*

and thus "heirs of the Abrahamic promise" —the Christ (**Gal 3:16; 3:29**).

 **YES! A PICTURE OF THE GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE GENTILES TO BECOME MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST.**

What do we read of the "rich man" ?

We read - *"the rich man also died and was buried"*

This represents how **ISRAEL'S** period of favour - the Jewish Age, ENDED and how the nation was "buried" in that it went **OUT OF SIGHT** or out of existence completely - it ceased to be a nation in that land after 70 AD.

And then we read in -

**Luke 16:23,24**

*"And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for ; I am tormented in this flame."*

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ?**

It is a representation of the nation of Israel and its **CONDITION**





After 70 AD and their dispersal into all nations as we read in -  
**Zechariah 7:13,14** → *"therefore it came to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the Lord of host; but I scattered them with a whirlwind among the nations whom they knew not. Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate."*

Yes ! This is a picture of their sufferings and the denial of even their

[  **BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS**  ]  
*"tormented in this flame"* ⇨

The fire here is a symbol of the **JUDGEMENTS** that came upon the nation of Israel which began with Jesus speaking the words in -

**Matthew 23:38**


*"Behold, your house is left unto you desolate".*

These words He spoke in the year that he was crucified - 33AD. And from there was fulfilled the judgements on Israel **that they themselves asked for** as we read in-

**Matthew 27:25**

*"Then answered All the people, and said His blood be on us, and on our children".*

These **JUDGEMENTS AND SUFFERINGS** that Israel went through from 70 A.D. and right through the gospel age is here symbolized by fire, as **FIRE** symbolizes God's judgements ( **Read in Isaiah 66:15,16**).

 This we read of also in -



**Zephaniah 3:8**

*"To pour upon them mine indignation even all My fierce anger, for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy".*



[  *"Saw Abraham far away"* ⇨  ]

This represents how Israel realised that they were **OUT OF FAVOUR** with God, Abraham here is a **PICTURE** of God.

(As typified in his sacrifice of Isaac which was a picture of God giving His only Son as a sacrifice for the sins of the world.)

[  *"Lazarus by his side"* ⇨  ]

This represents the blessed condition of **CHRISTIAN GENTILE NATIONS** in the Gospel Age.

[  *"Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue"* ⇨  ]

This represents the prayers of the Jews to God to make the Christian nations in which they were settled to show **LITTLE FAVOURS** to them like exclusive housing colonies, schools and places to build synagogues, etc...

But then what do we read -

**Luke 16:25**



*“But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy life time receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted and thou art tormented.”*

**YES ! THIS IS A PICTURE OF GOD HIMSELF SPEAKING!**

How does God speak ? Why, it is through His Word!

This represents Gods “reply”, as revealed in the “**DIVINE PLAN OF THE AGES**”  
in His Word!

☞ —the **JEWISH AGE** of blessing (**FAVOUR**) to Jews and suffering (**DISFAVOUR**) for gentiles

☞ and the **GOSPEL AGE** of blessing to “believing” gentiles and suffering for the blinded Jews.  
And then we read in -

**Luke 16:26**

*“And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.”*

☞ **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?**

This is again something that is in God’s Word!

This is a representation of the **SEPARATION** between Judaism and Christianity

—the Jews! and the Christians!

[ ☞ *“a great chasm has been fixed (a gulf)”* ⇨ ]  
represents a **barrier or an obstacle**

**WHAT DOES IT REPRESENT ?**

It was the **UNBELIEF** of the Jews towards accepting and believing on Jesus.

Thus they could **NOT** cross to the side of blessings by accepting Jesus.

[ ☞ *“none can cross from here (Abraham’s side) to you”* ⇨ ]

represents the **inability** to release the nation of Israel from the bondage of law by **CHRISTIAN PREACHING**.

Example : **Galatians 3:1** → *“O FOOLISH Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?”*

[ ☞ *“and from there (the rich man’s side) to us”* ⇨ ]

represents the fact that Jews were from **ANOTHER DISPENSATION**

And **FOLLOWED MOSES** and the law

.....and rejected Jesus and did not **EVEN** recognize Him at all as we read in

**John 9:28,29** - *“we know that God spake unto Moses; as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is”.*

Yes ! There was a **BIG GULF INDEED !!**

Let us now read in -

**Luke 16:27-31**


*“Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father’s house:*

*“For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the*



*prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."*

Yes! This is a picture of the **HELPLESSNESS** and **HELPLESS** condition of the **NATION of ISRAEL** during the Gospel Age.

[  "Five brothers" ⇨ ]  
represents the "ten tribed" nation of **ISRAEL** while  
the rich man represents the "two tribed " nation of **JUDAH**.

For we read in -

**2 Chronicles 11:1-4**

*"And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he gathered of the house of Judah and Benjamin an hundred and four score thousand chosen men, which were warriors to fight against Israel, that he might bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam. But the word of the Lord came.... Thus saith the Lord. Ye shall not go up nor fight against your brethren.....for this thing is done of Me."*

Yes! After the death of King Solomon

the twelve tribed nation of Israel was divided into two parts -

the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin becoming **THE NATION OF JUDAH**  
and the remaining ten tribes being **THE NATION OF ISRAEL**.

Now if the "rich man" here represents the two tribed nation of Judah then  
the "*five brothers*" must represent the ten tribed nation of Israel !!

[  "*Moses and the Prophets*" ⇨ ]

This represents and refers to **THE OLD TESTAMENT** and the witness of the Messiah  
and how he must suffer and die first before gaining the glory  
and the kingdom as recorded in **Isaiah 53rd chapter**, in **Psalms 22nd chapter** etc.

Yes ! The Jews could not recognize **this ASPECT of their Messiah** and  
thus **COULD NOT RECOGNIZE JESUS!**

[  "*One who rose from the dead*" ⇨ ]

Here the reference is **NOT** to Jesus! Remember, this is symbolic and parabolic language  
and **NOT** literal language.

So who is the one referred here to be dead and then arisen from the dead?

We see the answer in -

**Ephesians 2:1**

*"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*

Yes ! This is a reference to **CHRISTIANS** and **GENTILE CHRISTIANS**

"arisen" from the "dead" condition the world still is in (**Luke 9:60**)

Thus no Christian effort of preaching the gospel can ever save the nation of Israel.

 **SO WHAT IS TO BECOME OF ISRAEL ???**



Let us read of the answer in -

**Romans 11:25,26**

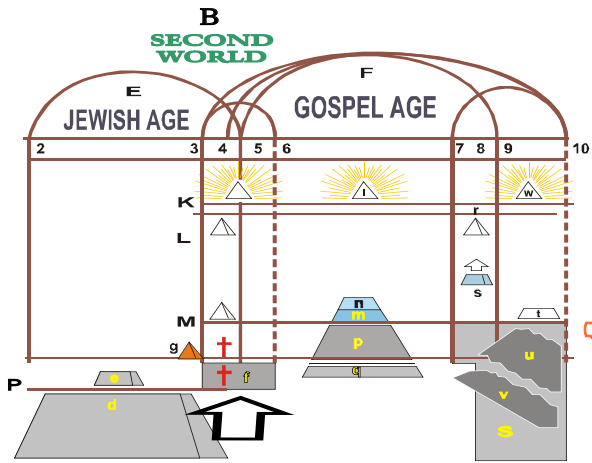
*".....blindness in part is happened to Israel,until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.  
and so all Israel shall be saved....."*

Yes ! **ALL ISRAEL IS "TO BE SAVED"** we read !!

Their salvation will follow AFTER the Church's Salvation showing that God in His Plan  
has **TWO SALVATIONS.**

Israel's **unbelief and blindness** will be removed AFTER the completion of the church !!

**THUS THIS PARABLE DENOTES TWO CLASSES AND  
THEIR CONDITION IN TWO AGES**



As Jesus spoke these words He stood at **THE JUNCTION** between those ages-  
the **CLOSING** Jewish Age and the **OPENING** Gospel Age.

- YES ! A TALE OF TWO AGES !

By the way brethren, did you notice that there is no reference here at all to the human soul !!

In the next class we will study  
**THE TRUTH ABOUT HELL !**

—Amen—

