

## A Luke 16:19-31: Parable or reality?

- ❖ The story of the rich man and Lazarus is a parable meant to teach something, not to explain reality. If it were something real:
  - Heaven and hell would be so close that people in them can talk to each other but are separated by a great chasm (v. 26 NIV).
  - After death, souls would be conscious and would have eyes, fingers, and tongue, and could be thirsty (v. 23-24).
  - The saints would be watching how the wicked are suffering (even their own children) but cannot do anything to help them (v. 25).
- ❖ Jesus wanted to teach that our future reward doesn't depend on our current wealth, that our final destiny is determined in this life, and that the Bible is our textbook to learn about the plan of salvation.
- ❖ In Greek, the place where the rich man is suffering is called "*Hades*." It is equal to the Hebrew word "*Seol*." This is evident in Peter's translation of Psalm 16:10 in Acts 2:27.
- ❖ If we were to accept this parable as proof of what happens to death people, we would've to accept something inconceivable: that Jesus was also tormented in that place (because Peter used Psalm 16:10 to refer to Jesus being dead before His resurrection).
- ❖ A literal interpretation of the parable would cancel God's promise that He "will wipe away every tear" and "there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying." (Revelation 21:4)

## B Luke 23:43: A problematic comma.

- ❖ In most of the translations of this verse, it seems that Jesus and the "good thief" would be in paradise that same day after dying.
- ❖ However, no commas were used in the original Greek text. Therefore, there are two ways this sentence could be translated depending on the position of the comma:
  - "[...] I say to you, today you will be with Me [...]" In that case, Jesus would've ascended to Heaven that same day. However, He said "I have not yet ascended to the Father" two days later (John 20:17).
  - "[...] I say to you today, you will be with Me [...]" Correct! Jesus assured the thief that He would remember him when He'll come back in His Kingdom, just as the thief had asked (Luke 23:42).

## C Philippians 1:21-24: Dying and being with Jesus.

- ❖ Paul was hesitating. Would it be better to live and work in favor of the Church and the Gospel (Philippians 1:22, 24) or to die and to be with Jesus, resting from the arduous work (Philippians 1:23)?
- ❖ Dying and being with Jesus? Paul taught that the saints are sleeping until the Second Coming of Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:13-15). He didn't expect to receive his crown until a future moment (2 Timothy 4:8). Wasn't he contradicting himself?
- ❖ The dead are unconscious (Job 14:10-12; Psalm 146:4; Ecclesiastes 9:10). Therefore, after Paul died, the next thing he will see will be Jesus' face in His Second Coming after being resurrected, "to be with the Lord" (see 1 Thessalonians 4:17).

## D 1 Peter 3:13-20: The spirits in prison?

- ❖ Some people say they're fallen angels based in 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6. However, why would He preach to those who are not going to repent anymore?
- ❖ Peter clearly states that they're the rebellious antediluvians who heard Noah's preaching (1 Peter 3:20). Noah spoke with the spirit of Christ like all other prophets, offering salvation to his contemporaries (1 Peter 1:10-11).
- ❖ Peter used the expression "spirits in prison" to refer to people who are enslaved by sin (John 8:34).

## E Revelation 6:9-11: Souls crying for justice.

- ❖ Did John see the incorporeal souls of the martyrs talking to God in Heaven?
  - The altar in this verse is the altar of burnt offering (Leviticus 4:25)
  - It was located in the courtyard which symbolizes Earth (Revelation 11:2)
  - The souls represent people (1 Kings 15:29) who were martyred on Earth
  - The cry is a symbol, like Abel's blood crying out in Genesis 4:10
  - They will not receive any reward until the Second Coming when "the number of their fellow servants" will be complete (Revelation 7:3-4, 14-15)
- ❖ John saw the historical time of the Inquisition martyrs in vision, not incorporeal souls.