THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

1. One poor soul has entered hell
A life of luxury on earth did dwell
For future things he did not care
But now in agony he turns to prayer.

2. For relief from torment he makes a plea
To mortal man he bends the knee
He could not come to the GOD he hate
His turn to prayer was much too late.

3. Now look at scripture and you will see
He is just as stubborn as he can be
Giving orders to the saints in glory
Thinking of self, it's the same old story.

4. Send Lazarus was his bid
He wanted relief, yes he did
His tongue was burning and it will not stop
That's his plight and that's his lot.

5. To Abraham he makes his prayer
He did not want his loved ones there
His cry was for his brothers five
Who on earth are still alive.

6. Abraham helped him not a bit
Answered prayer not a whit
For GOD Alone can do this thing
Save a soul and salvation bring.

7. Abraham called him son you see
He knew the length of his family tree
Moses and the prophets they must read
To GOD'S word they must take heed.

8. Then in a rebellious tone he speaks,
Of a sinful nature it smells and reeks,
No, Father Abraham, you've got it wrong,
I've known more than you all along.

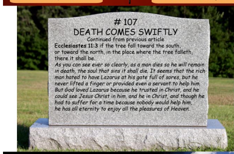
9. If one from the dead did arrive,
Against their God they'd cease to strive
A miracle like this they must believe,
Their salvation it must surely achieve.

10. Moses and the prophets let them hear,
To them they must turn the ear,
As it is written they must look,
It's all revealed in God's own book.

11. So in hell he suffers on,
All hope of heaven is surely gone,
Because on earth he refused to pray,
To the only saviour who is the way.

12. While there's time my friend for you,
Accept the LORD he will save you too,
For the rich man's senses are active still
There's no decrease in that bitter pill.

13. Flames and torment he must bear,
The eternal abode of the damned is there,
Seek the saviour before too late,
For death is final it seals your fate



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DEATH COMES SWIFTLY

Continued from previous article

Ecclesiastes 11:3 if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.

As you can see ever so clearly, as a man dies so he will remain in death, the soul that sins it shall die. It seems that the rich man hated to have Lazarus at his gate full of sores, but he never lifted a finger or provided even a servant to help him. But God loved Lazarus because he trusted in Christ, and he could see Jesus Christ in him, and he in Christ, and though he had to suffer for a time because nobody would help him, he has all eternity to enjoy all the pleasures of Heaven.

Luke 16:26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed:...
Abraham states very plainly that there is no escape from the place of torment, and dear reader I trust that you won't let anyone try to convince you there is hope beyond the grave for you or your family when you die without Jesus Christ. The Lord God of Hosts says very plainly and purposely that no-one will leave Hell or any other place after death. The scriptures says convincingly that the rich man died and woke up in hell with all his senses intact, not because of his riches, but his rejection in believing and trusting in the finished substitute sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ on the tree of Calvary, (where he bore our punishment), and he didn't have to be told that everything that he had thought about Hell was wrong.

A GREAT GULF FIXED

There is nothing like a bit of experience to open a persons eyes to the truth of the scripture. His attitude was unchanged toward others, no repentance exhibited, no reform in his thoughts. If money changed hands on earth for him it had no effect on him or his position as we can see from the words of Peter in,
Acts 8:20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

AN UNALTERABLE STATE

Luke 16:26 ...so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.
Let the people pray to whoever they choose in their folly, it is by this irrevocable decree of God that the saints in heaven are eternally saved and happy, and the wicked in hell eternally lost and in torment. There cannot and will not be any change of position.
Luke 16:27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:...
Though the rich mans language is now very commendable in the English, yet he has got it all wrong according to the scripture. As we saw before, there is no answer to prayer once a person has departed this life on earth, as we see in,
Jeremiah 15:1 Then said the LORD unto me, Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people: cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth.

Even if the greatest men of prayer should intercede for the rebellious it wouldn't change God's mind toward them, they can be punished in this world, and if no repentance, in the next also. These men have departed from this life, and have no power of prayer before God for the rebellious and wicked, for Luke under the guidance of the Holy Spirit makes it abundantly clear in this text to prove that the intercession of saints in heaven for those on earth are but the words and thoughts and supposition of men, and not a fact, which is something that doesn't change with science or time, but remains truth for time and eternity.

THE PLACE DESIGNATED

Luke 16:27 ...father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:
This man had very clear ideas of what he wanted and where he desired Lazarus to go, his senses were working fine as was his feelings, now he has experienced the awfulness of hell, and was perfectly convinced of its reality, and the truthfulness of the scripture, his intellect is awakened and he lifts his desires to the heavenly, that others should regard the terrible conditions that are experienced in in the place of torment.

But there is something still wrong with his reasoning. He wants Lazarus to leave the place of blessedness and return to earth. This isn't possible for the Lord hasn't decreed that this sort of thing can be done, even the Lord Jesus remains in heaven till the appointed time for return.

Acts 3:21 Whom (Jesus Christ,) the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things,

*The Lord Jesus Christ is obedient to his father in all things, and this is referring to his remaining in heaven till his second coming. He has sent the Holy Spirit to be our help and comforter, that is all we need till he comes again in power and judgement.
And the restitution means "to restore the earth to its former state".
This man is looking to man for help and Abraham puts him right in the next verses, souls can only be saved through the work of God convicting of sin and of their need of salvation by the work of the Holy Spirit in their life.*

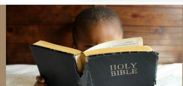
LOOKING TO MAN FOR HELP

Luke 16:28 **For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.**

The man who used to be rich is now so poor he has to plead for everything, his memory of his five brethren is very clear, and these verses conclusively prove that he has to learn there isn't any help beyond the grave.

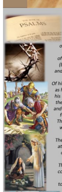
THEY REFUSED GOD WHILE ON EARTH

When he was on earth he might have prayed and been heard, but now he prays in vain because he cannot get it into his head that he is praying to a man who has no power to change the decrees of God. The torment is so severe that he is willing to turn anywhere to obtain help for his brethren, where once the door of heaven was open, and access solely through the Lord Jesus Christ, but the door is now securely and permanently closed, and a great gulf fixed by the hand of God between heaven and hell to those who refused the grace and mercy of God while on earth.



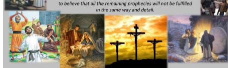
BACK TO THE BIBLE

Luke 16:29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.
Abraham speaks with the authority of heaven and it is very clear that there is no answer to prayer by those who have been received into the presence of God and the Lord Jesus Christ, and there was sufficient information in the Old Testament to guide his brothers and all people to salvation in the promised Messiah as Jesus said in,
John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.
*The writings of Moses, and the prophets, which were of divine inspiration and authority, and were often appealed unto by Christ, and his apostles, for the truth of what they said, and were the standard of faith, life and the test of doctrines of truth.
Now is the time to enquire, do you search the scripture of truth?
Do you really dig deep for the truth, comparing scripture with scripture till you have a clear picture of what the Lord Jesus is saying, Please start today.*



ALL THE EVIDENCE YOU NEED

*Have you read in the Psalms and in Isaiah the prophet, of Christ's deity and divine Sonship, calling him Jehovah, God, the mighty God, the Son of God, the Prince of peace, and of his offices as prophet, priest, and King; and of his incarnation (becoming a human being) of a virgin; and of the tribe, family, and place of his birth, of the miracles which he would work; of the treatment he should suffer from men.
Of his sufferings and death, of the circumstances leading up to them, as his riding on an ass into Jerusalem, the betraying him by one of his familiar acquaintance, the selling him for thirty pieces of silver, the spitting upon, and scourging him, giving him gall for his meat, and vinegar for his drink, and parting his garments, and casting lots for his vesture, his crucifixion, and that between two thieves.
Then of his burial, resurrection from the dead, meeting with the women at the tomb, then the disciples, then 500 at one time, conversing and teaching them of the kingdom of God.
Then his ascension into heaven before the disciples, and his place at the right hand of God as Steven saw when the heavens were opened and he saw Christ standing on the right hand of God before he was stoned to death by the Jews.
Then there is the clear and unmistakable teaching of his future coming in judgment. Most prophecies in the Bible have already been fulfilled in every detail, and there isn't any reason to believe that all the remaining prophecies will not be fulfilled in the same way and detail.*



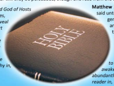
FATHER ABRAHAM YOU HAVE IT ALL WRONG

Luke 16:30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.
*The rich man is arguing against Abraham, he thinks he has a brilliant idea that is sure to work and bring his brothers to repentance, but he didn't have the wisdom of God or evidence that we have now.
Jesus Christ died and rose from the dead and they still didn't believe till the disciples preached powerfully on the day of Pentecost and after but the major portion of the general population then and now refuse the wonderful gift of salvation through Jesus Christ the risen Lord.*

HERE IS THE TURNING POINT

Luke16:31 And he said unto him,If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

*If you refuse to hear the Lord God of Hosts speaking through the scriptures, and if you don't ask God to reveal himself to you before you start to read his word, ye have not, because ye asked not, and the responsibility does and will lie on your own shoulders.
Jesus powerfully addresses the representatives of the hierarchy in,*



Matthew 12:39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas.
This makes it very clear that Jesus wasn't using miracles to save peoples souls, but to obtain their attention and awaken their faith, for it is made abundantly clear to even the casual reader in,

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
It is distinctly by the hearing of the ear and the understanding of the heart, not the emotions or signs, that men must be won to Christ. You do not need miraculous signs. You need to hear the Word that God has given you in Scripture. You need conviction about your deep ingrained sin. It must be repented of, confessed, and cleansing must be sought, through the blood of the everlasting covenant in Jesus Christ.

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