

## Unmasking the Supernatural 3

“And (Jesus) said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven!” Luke 10:18

### True or False: Does it matter?

“Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.” 1 Timothy 4:1.

There is not one aspect of our world today that is not rampant with false information, the religious world included. In religion by far the majority of people have certain ideas that they believe in; but very few even attempt to verify by the only Book that claims to be God’s Word whether these things are so. Most look to their pastors or priests as knowing truth and take their word for it; but God has warned us:

“Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.” Jeremiah 17:5

We need to know for ourselves what God’s instruction to us is; we dare not take another man’s word for it, even if he seems to be learned by the world’s standards.

“But he (Jesus) answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4.

And the Bible gives us the measuring tool:

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:20. This is referring to the Bible which contains God’s law and the writings of His prophets.

In our lessons so far we have seen how sin is the breaking of God’s Law of unselfish love, how this first happened in an exalted angel because of his pride and jealousy. He had no real reason for his wicked attitudes; his accusations were false, so he began to use methods that God would never resort to; trickery, deception and lies. He was able to fool many of his fellow angels and finally after God had done all He could to get them to turn away from their rebellion, they all had to be cast out of heaven.

When mankind was created, Satan determined on a plan to get them to join him in rebellion against God, and again he used trickery, false accusations and lies. Let’s look closer at his lies:

Satan’s 1st lie to man:

“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die.” Genesis 3:4.

But she did die; humans are not immortal nor do they have some inner part that does not die. It is surprising that most people today still believe that first lie in some form; and then they go right on to believe the next one:

His 2nd lie:

“For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” Genesis 3:5

The belief that somehow man either is, or can become, a god, is found in many religions including ones that claim to be Christian.



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Some teach they can do it through their own works and others that they do it by living many lives until they reach a state of perfection. Then there are those that teach the way to the 'higher spheres' is through sitting in special positions, doing nothing and trying to empty the mind of any thought; no matter what the theory, man is not, nor will he ever become, God; it was Satan's idea that he could take the place of God and he is still trying.

Let's review the Bible Truth about the dead:

"For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. 6 Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun." Ecclesiastes 9:5 "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." Ecclesiastes 9:10

So if the dead 'know nothing' then we don't need to pay someone to do ceremonies, hold rituals, or offer prayers to get them out of the torture of hell or purgatory; because there is no such problem. Also the idea of people coming back as some form of ghost to get revenge on someone or to help their living relatives is totally false. People do not return to haunt anyone after they die; nor can we talk to them or they to us.

But haven't people seen beings that claim to be their dead relatives? Have not people been helped or harmed by such spirits? Here is the secret of all those happenings.

Remember how Satan fooled Eve by working through a serpent? Well, not only can he and his angels work through people or things but they can also make themselves appear like the person who is dead, they disguise themselves in this way. Also they can use hypnotism on human minds and cause them to think they see things that are not there. These are just two examples of how the dark angels work to try and prove to man that he has an immortal soul. Anything that is seen that claims to be the spirit of a dead person is just Satan and his angels trying to convince man that the lie he told them back in Eden is true; sadly, most people believe it.

Does the truth about this really matter? Oh, yes! Because Satan's lies are not used just for our entertainment; his aim is to get you to lose the real, eternal life God has promised to those who believe and obey Him! God has promised life after death for those who chose to be His people. Here is the 'Blessed Hope' of those who trust in Jesus:

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:" 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

"Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead." Isaiah 26:19

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming." 1 Corinthians 15:22

Our Blessed Hope is not to be floating around like some whiff of smoke either in heaven or on earth; our hope is in the resurrection promised to those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour from sin and its penalty, death.

But what about the wicked dead; aren't they being punished right now? No; they also 'know nothing' and are asleep in their graves the same as the righteous; neither class are in heaven or in hell.

Recently I read a statement from a leader of a church that claims to be Christian where they stated that (for a fee, you can be sure!) they could "change the fortunes of those already languishing in hell. Their 'Prophet' will intercede together with surviving relatives of the deceased to God who will correct the decision of sending someone to hell."

We have just seen that no one is in hell at the present time, so that makes all of this meaningless to those that know Bible truth; but let's look deeper at this claim. Do you really think that God, our loving heavenly Father, is

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going to be so ignorant and careless as to pop people into the most terrible torture imaginable, just on a whim? Is He so ignorant that He could actually make a mistake and put people into this misery that really did not deserve it at all? Oh No, friends! The God I serve does not make mistakes like that!

On another angle, what kind of a place do you think heaven would be if the cruelest of wicked people could be there just because their relatives had enough money to pay their way? There they would just go on in the same way, doing cruel and horrible things like they did here! I would not want to be in such a place for eternity—would you? Also, why would money mean anything at all to the great Creator God who owns everything anyway? God tried to explain that to some people even in Bible times:

“I will take no bullock out of thy house, nor he goats out of thy folds. 10 For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. 11 I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. 12 If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.” Psalm 50:9-12

“And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.” 1 Samuel 15:22

In Isaiah 1 God also presents His case clearly that He has no need for their offerings or their ceremonies, but what He desires is obedience to His Laws. He makes it clear that there is no way that the wicked can be ransomed by either bribing or flattering Him! Oh how silly and terrible are the devil’s lies when you look at them from the light shining from the Holy Word!

These same folk then quote something from the Bible! It is amazing to see that followers of all the many forms of spiritualism and false teachings just love to throw out a Bible text to fool those who really don’t know the scriptures and make them think that their teachings are in harmony with these heavenly guidelines. But remember, Satan even did this to Jesus when he was trying to trick Him in the wilderness of temptation! Satan knows the Bible better than we do.

So here is their claim: “The Bible says ‘honour your father and mother such that your days can be added unto earth’ and we believe that people should continue honouring their parents (ancestral spirits) even when they are gone.”

OK; so again, where are the dead? They are asleep in their graves awaiting the resurrection of the dead. This ‘quote’ is from the 5th commandment but does it really say to worship the dead? Oh No! Let’s look:

“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.” Exodus 20:12

Our dead parents are asleep in their graves like all the dead; it is when they are alive that we have a duty to honor and care for them. When they are dead, we may remember them fondly and feel grateful for what they did for us, but they are not some kind of disembodied spirits floating around that can help or hurt us if they choose. The Bible says nothing about ‘ancestral spirits’ these ideas come from the dark angels seeking to keep us deceived by that first big lie! There is indeed no such thing as a “disembodied spirit.” The dead are not now “immortal souls” flitting about the universe taking postgraduate courses on distant spheres and visiting their old homesteads from time to time. Such ideas are entirely unscriptural; a by-product of Satan’s first falsehood in the Garden of Eden, when, contradicting God, he declared to Eve: “Thou shall not surely die.” Genesis 3:4.

Who only are we to worship?

“Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” Matthew 4:10.

Come with me on a quick look at some of the supernatural things that people either believe in or like to pretend they exist. Every tribe and nation on the earth have their own ideas of spirits, and most think they are

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connected with the dead; but there are also others invented by man's imagination, helped along by the fallen angels; fairies; leprechauns; goblins; trolls; nature spirits; ancestral spirits; and pagan gods exist in the minds of men everywhere. Do we have to study into each of these in order to know what they are? No, thankfully we don't, because they all come from a common source, the lies of Satan and the fallen angels. Just as they can impersonate dead people, they can appear as real or mythical animals, pagan gods, small things like fairies or elves, giants like ogres; anything that will help in the job of tricking people into not relying on what God has told them in His Word.

"For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Revelation 16:14

The Bible does say that certain intelligent but unseen forces exist in the universe. It refers to them as "angels" or "spirits," and warns that many have definitely evil intentions toward the human race. The Apostle Paul represents the Christian life as a warfare against such unseen evil powers. To the Ephesians he wrote:

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:12,

That there are "good angels" and "bad angels" in the universe is not a fairy story; it is a fact taught throughout the Scriptures. John, in the twelfth chapter of Revelation, records his vision of the rebellion when one-third of the created beings of heaven were cast out. Genesis opens with the battleground transferred to earth, when our first parents were ensnared by the arch rebel himself, and had to be driven from the tree of life by the cherubim with a flaming sword.



All through the Bible story we find incidents of contact between angels and men. Good angels have helped the children of God, even Jesus Himself in Gethsemane; while on the other hand, evil angels are illustrated as working for the downfall and corruption of the race, as for example in the case of King Saul and the many instances of demon possession mentioned in the Gospels and Acts.

Instances of actual materialization are recorded, showing that the angels sometimes have the power to take on human form. Two angels appeared as men to Abraham before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the witch of Endor caused one of Satan's angels to appear as "Samuel" in the presence of Saul.

So called communion with the dead, far from being part of Christianity, as some would have us believe, is a very ancient practice, carried on through witches and wizards, and definitely condemned by God as demon worship and necromancy (talking to the dead). Bible prophets employed the strongest terms in denouncing this practice, which is hated and condemned by God.

"There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, 11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, (a medium or psychic.) or a wizard, or a necromancer. (one who claims to talk to the dead.) 12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. 13 Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. 14 For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do." Deuteronomy 18:10-14.

In Leviticus, we read: "Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 19:31. (Never go to a medium or a wizard, never defile yourselves by consulting them: I am the Eternal God.)

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In Isaiah we see this warning: “And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?” Isaiah 8:19. (When they tell you to consult mediums and ghosts that cheep and gibber in low murmurs, ask them if a nation should not rather consult its God. Say, “Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?”) There is certainly no mistaking God’s attitude on this subject. He could not have spoken more plainly or revealed His disapproval in stronger terms.

Friends, God has made things easy for His people. He has given us His Law and His Holy Word and then told us clearly that if any person, or teaching, or spirit, or prophet, or church, or anything at all, claims to deserve your service, attention or obedience, we just have to compare God’s Word, and if we find they don’t agree then we know which side they are on; there are only two sides! YES; only two; so that makes it easy. Notice again our wonderful guiding rule:

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:20.

Does it say “There might be some light in them”? No, it says “there is NO light in them”! But, some will argue that you can learn some good things from occult, eastern, New Age, tribal beliefs, or other spiritualistic systems; how can the Lord say there is NO light in them? I want you to see this picture for a moment: tell me, would there be some good in that cheese for the mice? Sure, but going after it will cost them their lives! So it is with all sources of knowledge that make claims that the Word of God condemns. Satan knows he has to mix some good into his traps or he won’t catch anyone. One of the best things to remember is that Satan’s side of the controversy do tell the truth at times; but God never lies; and He never does anything in partnership with Satan or evil men.



### **But what about Hell?**

Did you know that the false teaching of an eternally burning hell has made many people hate our dear Heavenly Father and some because of this cruel idea actually became some of the cruelest and wicked people ever to live! Joseph Stalin was one such example. Truly if you think of God as such a monster to burn even children in fire for eternity, would not this fill the heart with the darkest attitudes? How could anyone love such a monster? This is one of Satan’s delights, to cast such cruel accusations against God.

But, since there is no such place of torture in existence now, does that mean that the wicked are never going to be punished? This cannot be, because Jesus spoke of judgment and rewards for both the righteous and the wicked. Let’s have a Bible Study now and let the Word of God sort it out for us.

Satan constantly attempts to convince us that we are immortal - that “ye shall not surely die.” Genesis 3:4. This lie has been repeated in many different ways. By mixing truth with error and by taking scriptures out of context, Satan has convinced most Christians and other religions that we are immortal – ever burning hell is one of the means he employs.

The Middle English/Anglo-saxon term “Hell” [from the word *helan*] means, “to cover or conceal.” Not the definition you were expecting? With this definition in mind, the following scripture becomes clearer: “The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.” Psalms 34:16.

The definition of one the original words translated into to “hell,” “Gehenna,” is listed in Strong’s Concordance of the Bible as: “Of Hebrew origin; . . . valley of (the son of) Hinnom; ge-henna (or Ge-Hinnom), a valley of Jerusalem, used (figuratively) as a name for the place (or state) of everlasting punishment.”

Notice: "...the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: **and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.**"

Malachi 4:1. This does not mean that you will burn forever in a place called "hell," but rather that the wicked shall be blotted out of existence forever. There will be no more remembrance of them.

"In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with **everlasting destruction...**" 2

Thessalonians 1:8-9.

The next word translated into hell is the Greek "Hades" [the Hebrew equivalent, and only word translated "hell" found in the Old Testament is "she' ol," Strong's # 7585]. Hades is defined as: "from GSN0001 (as negative particle) and GSN1492; properly, unseen, i.e. "Hades" or the place (state) of departed souls."

The place of departed souls is the grave, which is where a corpse is concealed and decomposes until the resurrection. Speaking of the translation of the saints, Paul says, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave [Hades], where is thy victory?" 1 Corinthians 15:55.

In a Greek Lexicon, you will find that "Hades," the grave, is the "**temporary abode of the dead**" instead of a place of eternity. The last word translated into the English word, hell, is found only once in the Bible: Tartaroo. In 2 Peter 2:4, we read, "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment."

This verse excludes the possibility of hell being a place of eternal pain and torment within itself. It says that wicked angels are "**reserved** unto judgment." Satan and the evil angels have not yet faced their final judgment. Says Paul, "Know ye not that we shall judge angels?" 1 Corinthians 6:3. The saints of the Most High shall judge the deeds of the evil angels, and God's decree will be found to be justified; His laws of liberty, the Ten Commandments, honorable.

### **Who is in charge of Hell?**

"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell (Hades, the grave) and of death." Revelation 1:18 Jesus Christ is in charge of hell.

### **The Reward of the Wicked**

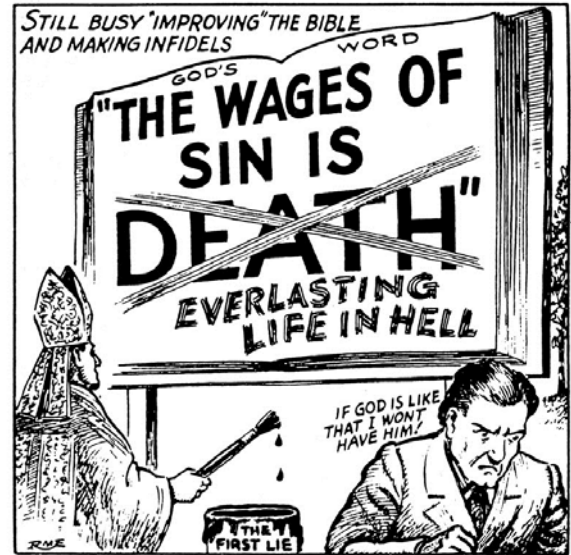
"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28-9.

"There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust." Acts 24:15. We all wait in the grave to hear the Masters voice. Some will be raised up into life eternal, some to face final judgment.

"...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise **perish.**" Luke 13:3.

"But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall **utterly perish** in their own corruption." 2 Peter 2:12.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not **perish**, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.



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In all three preceding verses the word translated to “perish” is “apollumi” (Strong’s #622), **to destroy fully.**

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” Revelation 21:8

“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.” Revelation 20:14.

**The wicked are rewarded with eternal death, not immortality in any realm.** Ezekiel 18:4 says, “The soul that sinneth, it shall die.”

When will it happen? “But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, **reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.**” 2 Peter 3:7. Just as the wicked angels await their final judgment, so the wicked await theirs in the grave. The word translated into “perdition” (apoleia) means “destruction.”

Of Christ’s Second Coming we read, “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

At Christ’s second coming, all the righteous that ever lived will be brought forth from the grave, and the rest of the righteous, those that are living, will meet them in the air. We are told that “they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years...This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.” Revelations 20:4; 6.

Of the wicked at Christ’s second coming Paul says, “And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.” 2 Thessalonians 2:8. The wicked are slain by the brightness of Christ’s coming, and Jeremiah 25:33 says, “the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.”

The wicked will have a resurrection, and shall face the second, eternal death. They are not already burning somewhere. “But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.” Rev. 20:6.

After the 1000 years in heaven, the wicked dead are raised to face the final judgment with Satan and his wicked angels. “. . . the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone...whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire...And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.” Revelation 20:10, 14 & 15.

Notice that “hell,” that is, the grave [Hades] and death are “cast into the lake of fire.” Paul tells us that “the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.” 1 Corinthians 15:26.

Will we ever have to worry about Satan again? “All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.” Ezekiel 28:19.

“By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.” Ezekiel 28:16.

DESTROY, 1. To demolish; to pull down; 2. To ruin; 3. To bring to naught; to annihilate; 4. To lay waste; to make desolate; 5. To kill; to slay; to extirpate; 6. To take away; to cause to cease; to put an end to; 7. To devour; to consume. Webster’s 1828 Dictionary.

**Think about it:**

1.) If people went straight to a place called hell to burn for all eternity, Cain would burn about six thousand years longer for the murder of one man than Hitler would for killing millions!

2.) There would be no need of a “resurrection of damnation.” In fact, if man were already immortal, why would we read, “For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and **this mortal must put on immortality**. So **when** this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, **then** shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.” 1 Corinthians 15:53-54. No man, righteous or wicked, is immortal. “For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast.” Ecclesiastes 3:19.

3.) “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.” Isaiah 43:25. If there were people burning forever in a place called hell, how could God forget? Sin and sinners alike will be blotted from existence and “God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” Revelation 21:4. If your loved ones that didn’t make it were burning in hell forever, wouldn’t you feel sorrow? Wouldn’t there still be tears? Crying? Very simply put, the wicked “shall be punished with everlasting destruction.” 2 Thessalonians 1:9.

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” Revelation 20:10. Upon reading this verse we might think that the fire of justice will burn for all eternity, but is this what it really means? Let us look to some other scriptures where the term “for ever” is used.

“But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever.” 1 Samuel 1:22. How long did Samuel appear before the Lord in the temple? how long was “for ever”? Until his life ended.

“...his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him for ever.” Exodus 21:6. How long would the servant serve his master; how long was “for ever”? Only until his life ended.

How long will the wicked burn? How long will for ever be? Until life ends. Remember: “The day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: **and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them** neither root nor branch.” Malachi 4:1

“Ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him” 1 John 3:15.

The strange parable of the Rich man and Lazarus, found in Luke 16:19-31, has often been used to imply an ever burning hell. There are many clues within this story that show it to be merely a rebuke to the Jews instead of a literal event. Abraham’s “bosom” is not the abode of the saved, nor is it a reference to heaven. Simply put, the Jews thought that to be ‘Abraham’s seed’ meant that you were automatically saved. In a form of blasphemy the Jews referred to him as “Father Abraham,” but Christ tells us that our Father is in heaven.

Also, why did Jesus use the name ‘Lazarus’? In the parable he said, “They will not believe even if one rose from the dead.” Shortly after this Jesus actually raised a man named Lazarus from the dead; did they believe then? No; they plotted to kill both Lazarus AND Jesus!

Even the Jews admitted that Abraham is dead! “Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead?” John 8:53. Abraham can impart his righteousness to no one: “For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.” Ecclesiastes 9:5-6. To be continued: