



A Glimpse of Life In Eternity

“... 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” (Luke 16:26).

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“... it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27).

God in His love opened the veil to give us a glimpse of life in eternity so as to enable us to make informed choices based on facts rather than on ignorant speculations.

“There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 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; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 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. 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 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. 27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 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” (Luke 16:19-31).

- 1) “There was a certain rich man...” (vs 19) confirms that this was not a parable, but an account of a real life event that happened to real people at specific times in History
- 2) If Jesus tarries, everyone will one day die. Death is not the end of life but simply a transition from one state to the other, while still retaining full consciousness, feelings and ability to recognise others.
- 3) The physical conditions of a person in this life (e.g. wealth, poverty, etc.) does not determine his / her eternal condition after transition from this life. It was not riches that took the rich man to hell, neither was it poverty that took the poor man to heaven. The rich man went to hell because of saying “Nay” to God, and the poor man to heaven because of saying “Yes”! (vs 30)
- 4) Our spiritual state at the point of death, with respect to our response to the call of God upon our lives is the determining factor for our spiritual state after this life. (Heb 9:27).
- 5) The bliss of the righteous in eternity is endless; equally as the torment and anguish of the ungodly in hell is eternal. That rich man is still begging for a drop of water now - two thousands years after Jesus told the story.
- 6) God sets limitations on what His creatures can or cannot do; “... 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” (vs 26)
- 7) If we fail to hearken to the “Moses” and the “Prophets” of our times, we will not be persuaded by a sensational miracle like resurrection. Scriptural persuasion is more powerful and enduring than a miraculous one.