

# The Bible Standard



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# THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

**WE HAVE CHOSEN THIS TOPIC** because we realize that there is a great amount of superstition and erroneous interpretation of God's Word that acts as an earthborn cloud to hide the heavenly Father from our eyes of faith. We are continually seeking the removal of this barrier, to the intent that the light of the knowledge of the glory of God as it shines from Jesus Christ, our Lord, and in turn to us from the Holy Scriptures, may permeate to the hearts of all of God's dear people more brightly than heretofore; to the intent that, with the clouds removed, our eyes may behold the character of our Creator in all its beauty, and our hearts be drawn to Him as to a Father, as to a God of love, as to an Almighty Savior.

## A STONE IN OUR PATH

Time and again the Divine Plan of the Ages has been set forth from the Bible standpoint; and yet, some after reading it and agreeing that it is God like, and just what their hearts are hungering for and crying for, say that they cannot accept it because of the Scriptural statement respecting the Rich Man and Lazarus, and the Lord's description of their fates, one to heavenly bliss and the other slated for eternal torture. Therefore we take this subject for our present article, believing that

many need to have this statement clarified which should remove this tumbling stone from their pathway, and by God's grace we will attempt to remove it; or stated more correctly, He will remove it, using our feeble pen for the purpose.

## BIBLE PARABLES

It may be helpful to declare that in the Scripture under consideration the great Teacher was giving a parable. It probably is a sufficient aid for most of us in understanding this passage that we quote the following statement, "All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables and without a parable He did not speak to them" (Matt. 13: 34). Therefore, Jesus always used parables in speaking to others than His disciples and our problem text falls into that category. Even so some of the Lord's people will probably need a thorough examination of the text of Luke 16: 19-31 which we will proceed to do.

It reads, "There was a certain rich man. . ." We must, therefore, prove that it is a parable and not a literal statement by showing that, if we consider it as a literal statement, it would be manifested as untrue and force our logic to accept ridiculous conclusions. Everyone knows that attaching a literal meaning to a statement is to understand that it is a basic expression



*Some Scripture references are from the New King James Version.*

**"Lift up a standard for the people" — Isa. 62: 10**

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without it being a metaphor, an allegory or a symbol. If it is a statement of literal facts, then all the facts must be taken literally. This would mean that just because a certain person was rich and lived in great abundance every day, as many wealthy people do, and was clothed in purple and fine linen he would go to an eternity of torment, without a single charge made against him along criminal lines of murder, or injustice, or blasphemy, for in the account nothing of the kind appears. Furthermore, nothing is said of the poor man as being an honest, just and godly person, but merely that he was poor, full of sores, which the dogs licked, and that he ate the crumbs from “the rich man’s table.” If these be the grounds and conditions upon which any of us have hope for eternal life, surely very few, if any, could ever attain it. In all probability no one has ever met exactly either of these two experiences. Therefore what little ground have we, according to this far-fetched literal application, to have hope of being released from the dreadful condition portrayed.

#### WHAT IS A PARABLE

But enough of this! If we are thinking at all logically, we should see clearly that the statement is parabolic; and we must look for an interpretation as will fit all conditions of the parable’s meaning. Now what is a parable? Webster defines a parable as “a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson.” Many of the stories in the Bible are labeled as parables, but this one, along with some others, is not so indicated.

#### A REASONABLE EXPLANATION

Viewing the matter as a parable, our difficulties all disappear as soon as we look at the key that will unlock its meaning. Jesus in this parable was criticizing the leaders of the Jewish nation and foretelling their fate. He Himself was an outcast, so were His disciples and so have all that have become His followers, “As He was, so are we in this world.” “The Rich Man” of the parable represented the Jewish nation. The fine linen he wore represented the typical justification granted to that nation under the Law Covenant made with Israel at Mt. Sinai. *The Rich Man’s* purple raiment pictured the royalty which belonged to Israel as God’s typical kingdom in the world—God’s chosen people. Hence we read, “Solomon sat upon the throne of the kingdom of the Lord, in the room (or stead) of his father David.” Jesus recognized this kingdom dignity as still belonging to that nation when He said, “The kingdom shall be taken from you and shall be given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof” (Matt. 21: 43). *The Rich Man’s* bountiful table represented the glorious

promises of God which were primarily for the Jews, and granted to no other people until after they had rejected Jesus and crucified Him. St. Paul refers to this table in this way and quotes David the Prophet, saying, “Let their table become a trap and a snare and a recompense to them” (Rom. 11: 9; Psa. 69: 22). This

*“Let their table become a snare  
before them,  
And their well-being a trap.”  
Psa. 69:22*

was because they did not rightly appreciate their glorious promises and live up to the conditions which they required. The death of *The Rich Man* represented the cutting off of national Israel from all those special privileges and advantages every way which had been theirs for centuries. *The Rich Man* (the Jewish nation) began to sicken at the time of the crucifixion—from the time that Jesus said, “Your house is left unto you desolate; henceforth you shall see Me no more until that day when you shall say, Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord” (Matt. 23: 38, 39).

The saintly few were gathered out of Judaism into relationship with Christ at Pentecost, and “The Rich Man,” the nation, continued to be sick and symbolically died in the year A.D. 70, when Titus, the Roman general, captured Jerusalem, the entire land of Palestine being laid waste. The Jewish nation has been a dead nation from the year A.D. 70 and has been in *hades*, in the tomb. But this implies its resurrection in due time, for the figure of the tomb, *hades*, does not represent a perpetual condition, but a temporary one, from which Messiah will grant a release, and *hades*, in every sense of the word, will be destroyed (1 Cor. 15: 55). But the parable declares that the “poor man” was in torment! How could this be, seeing that the word *hades* signifies the death state, the unconscious condition? We answer that the Jewish people have a double application, in the parable and out of it. Nationally they were dead or asleep, but as a people they are very much alive—no other people more so. It is as a people that they have been suffering the tortures of persecution during the past nearly twenty centuries—the persecutions in Russia, the Holocaust, etc.

## ISRAEL'S HOPE—ZIONISM

While as a nation they had been dead, buried, in *hades*, and have waited for a revival, a resurrection, as it were of which the present Zionism is an advance token. Zionism had its first glimmer of hope in 1878 and that spark of life for Israel to attain a homeland has since brought steady progress to its recognition by the United Nations and its establishment as a nation in 1948. In the future Israel's persecutions are to end, when Messiah's glorious Kingdom shall take its power; and then will come their national resurrection, for they are to be actively and specially identified with the Messianic Kingdom shortly, as its earthly and visible representatives. As the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin were represented in *The Rich Man* in a very special sense, the other ten tribes, scattered among the surrounding nations, would, at a like proportion, be represented in Lazarus' brethren. God's dealings with the Jews will be the same wherever they are—no preference will be shown—"They have Moses and the Prophets, let them hear them." This could not be applicable to any except these two tribes and the other ten tribes of Israel, for they alone had Moses and the Prophets.

*A Captive people, scattered ev'rywhere,  
Amid the nations driven to and fro,  
Yet always receiving Jehovah's care,  
And ne'er by Him forgotten in their woe—*

*That people is God's chosen Israel,  
From far and near they gather to their home,  
In peace and plenty shall they ever dwell,*

## HADES AND SHEOL

The most informed Bible teachers will concede that the Greek word *hades*, and the Hebrew word *sheol*, rendered *hell* in our common version, really signify the death state, the tomb. Various Scriptures tell us of the silence of *sheol* and *hades*, and that there is neither wisdom nor knowledge nor device there; that the dead know not anything (Eccl. 9: 5, 10). Many, therefore, have been perplexed greatly at the statement of this parable, that *The Rich Man* lifted up his eyes in *hades*, being in torment. The difficulty dissolves as soon as we have the proper interpretation of the parable and see that the Jewish people died as a nation and were buried as a nation, but did not pass out of existence completely.

The people of Israel, outcast from their own land among all the nations of the earth, are very much alive, socially and personally, having suffered for all these centuries and continuing to do so even now. Only very recently we have had an example of how this *Rich Man* (Israel), dead as a nation, but alive as a people, has appealed to Father Abraham to have Lazarus cool his tongue with a drop of water. Of course, the thought would not be that a literal finger would take a drop of literal water to cool a literal tongue. A drop of water on the tip of a finger would not afford much relief anyway, besides it would evaporate before it could reach a literal tongue in such heat. The interpretation must be looked for along the lines of the parable. The fulfillment came among other ways when the Jews of this country in a general petition requested the President of the United States to co-operate with other Christian nations and intercede on behalf of their people in Russia that they might have more liberty and less persecution, that their torments might be cooled. Of late there has been a general exodus from that country to Palestine.

## FINDING THE LAZARUS CLASS

If we have found *The Rich Man*, let us now seek for poor Lazarus. He represented a God fearing and God-seeking class outside the mode of official Judaism—not all the Gentiles, but certain ones concerning whom Jesus said, "I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel!" The Jews were in the habit of speaking of the Gentiles as "dogs." The great Teacher Himself used this expression (Mark 7: 25-30). Lazarus had no fine linen garment granted to him because he was outside the model of Israel, for whom alone the typical sacrifices were offered. Lazarus had no purple robe for the same reason, because the kingdom of blessing, for the time, belonged exclusively to the seed of Abraham. The dogs (other Gentiles) licked his sores, in the sense of considering the Lazarus class upright and godly and in some sense showing sympathy for them. His eating of the crumbs that fell from the Rich Man's table signifies that as Jesus did, on a few occasions, allow some special blessings of healing, which were for the Jews, to go to this worthy class of Gentiles, so some crumbs of favor went to some God-fearing Gentiles during the Jewish Age. For instance, in connection with the daughter of Jairus raised from the dead (Mark 5: 22-24), a crumb from *The Rich Man's* table came to one noble-minded Gentile who revered God and who had built a synagogue for the Jews. The healing of the centurion's servant was another crumb from *The Rich Man's* table to

one of the Lazarus class (Matt. 8: 8-10). Healing the daughter of the Syro-Phoenician woman was another crumb from *The Rich Man's* table to a member of the Lazarus class (Matt. 15:26). In answer to her request Jesus said, "It is not proper to take the children's bread and give it to dogs" (Gentiles). Accepting the suggestion the woman replied, "Yes, Lord, yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from the children's table." Her faith in God marked her as one of the Lazarus class, outside *The Rich Man's* household. She was a companion of dogs (Gentiles), and for the time could merely have a crumb from *The Rich Man's* table.

As the death of *The Rich Man* represented a change in his affairs, so the death of the Lazarus class indicated a change in the affairs of this outcast class. But, instead of being buried, they were carried by angels to Abraham—not to heaven, not to purgatory, not to some intermediate state. As Abraham in the parable represents God, the receiving of the faithful of the Lazarus class by Abraham figuratively represents the

*"In hell, where he was in torment,  
he looked up and saw Abraham far  
away, with Lazarus by his side"  
Luke 16: 23. NIV*

acceptance of this class as the true children of Abraham—true children of God. As Jesus went outside "the camp" bearing the reproach of His nation before He died, so did all of His Jewish disciples who belonged to that nation. They were all recognized as outcasts with the Gentiles; these the Lord received as His spirit children by the begetting of the Holy Spirit. And so St. Paul says that those who were by nature Gentiles were not of the stock of Israel. But, "If you are Christ's then you are Abraham's Seed (children), and heirs according to the promise"—joint-heirs with Christ, members of the great Messiah (Gal. 3: 29). Here, brethren, we have a consistent interpretation of this parable. It assists also in illustrating to us the special relationship of the Jews under the Law Covenant and how this special relationship was lost by reason of their unbelief and how their unbelief alienated them from the Divine favor of this Gospel Age and constituted a deep and wide gulf between them and the spiritual Israel class (the Church), represented in Lazarus in Abraham. We thank God that the promise of the Scriptures is that with the end of this Gospel Age, this

gulf of unbelief and consequent separation from Divine favor, will pass away and Israel will be delivered from the torments of these centuries and experience a national resuscitation or resurrection under the glorious privileges, favors and advantages of the New Covenant shortly to be inaugurated.

Since God's favors are in this way marked out for the heavenly and the earthly Seeds of Abraham, the earthly through the heavenly, it follows that the blessing of the other nations will come about through their affiliations with these. In other words, we may understand that the Divine Government established in Israel in the hands of the Ancient and Youthful Worthies will be the center of Divine favor, and the people of other nationalities must come to this center for their supplies of Truth and Grace. The prophet represents the matter, saying, "Many nations shall go and say, Come and let us go up to the mountain (kingdom) of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for the Law shall go forth from Mount Zion (the spiritual Kingdom) and the Word of the LORD from Jerusalem (the center of the earthly kingdom)" (Mic. 4: 2). Glorious will be that day.

### WORLD TO UNDERGO RESTITUTION

In this way all nations, peoples, kindreds and tongues shall be brought gradually to an appreciation of the Divine Plan; they shall all be blessed with Restitution privileges and opportunities and with an enlightenment from the rays of the Sun of Righteousness, which then through the appointed channels will be flooding all the earth. Thereby will the original Covenant have its amplified fulfilment; first, in The Christ, the spiritual Israel; secondly, under the New Covenant with Israel after the flesh; and through these it will bless all the families of the earth, so that all the willing and obedient may gradually attain to the standard of the children of God and be possessed of the "liberties of the sons of God"—freedom from sin, sorrow, pain and death. As the Old Law Covenant was with Israel only, so the New Covenant will be with restored Israel only. Other nations will share in it by conforming to the law emanating from Jerusalem (Mic. 4: 2), "proselytes of the gate," not under the Old, but under the New Covenant (Ezek. 16: 60, 61). "He that has an ear to hear, let him hear."

\* \* \*

# The Christian's Armor

*“Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”—Eph. 6:13*

BY SEEKING TO KNOW GOD'S WILL in order to do it, His people are preparing themselves for their position in the Kingdom. Fortified by the development of Christlikeness, these will not fall (2 Pet. 1: 5-11), no matter what the trial that the Lord may permit to come upon them. In our text the Apostle Paul indicates that some would be able to stand in “the evil day,” and it implies that a great many at that time would not be able to stand. He declares that those who hope to stand in that day would need to put on “the whole armor of God.” The metal accoutrements of the thirteenth century jousting are not what is meant here, but rather, it is the various pieces of the Christian's armor that would be indispensable, the graces of character like faith, love and obedience, and he intimates that only those fully armored with such would be ready for the onslaughts of that day.

The Lord did not reveal to the Apostles when “the evil day” would come. They knew that it was then future, but how far in the future they did not know. They did not expect it before their death; for some of them said that they expected to put off the present body, by death, and to awaken in the first resurrection, and that they believed the Second Coming of Christ to be some little time distant. Evidently it was a part of God's plan to keep His people uninformed concerning the exact time and day of the Lord's presence, until due (Mark 13: 32; 1 Thes. 5: 1-5); but He provided for them that they would be able to stand when “the evil day” would arrive, if they would diligently put on and keep on the Christian's armor.

God's Word points us to the great Time of Trouble with which this Gospel Age ends and with which the

New Era of the Millennial Kingdom is introduced. It is indicated as a time of very severe trial, not only to the world, but also to the Lord's people. This “evil day” is now upon us; for “the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” (Mal. 3: 1, 2; Rev. 3: 10; 6: 17). The urgent message to the Lord's people for this “evil day” is “Put on the whole armor of God”—prepare yourself for the great testing of this day, that you may be able to stand! Get ready! Each piece of the armor, each grace of the holy Spirit, is a part of the necessary preparation for this “evil day,” when “every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is” (1 Cor. 3: 13; 4: 5; Eph. 6: 13-18; 2 Pet. 1: 4-11; Gal. 5: 19-26).

The Apostle Paul forewarned the Church that in “the latter times,” “the last days,” “perilous times” would come, when many would “depart from the faith” (1 Tim. 4: 1, 2; 2 Tim. 3: 1-7). The times in which we live are peculiarly perilous to Christian faith, because of the many subtle and delusive forms of error now springing up to intercept the progress of the Truth. God's provision for His people is equal to the emergency of these “perilous times.” Never before this “evil day” was the *whole* armor of God so much needed. The Lord hands us this armor, piece by piece, and tells us to put it on and to wear it, that we might become accustomed to it and feel at ease and at home in it, for no one can stand without it in this, “the evil day.”

Some—a few—have been heeding the counsel. Carefully they have buckled on every part of the armor as fast as they have received it, and in consequence they today stand completely clothed with the Truth of the Word and its Spirit. Their hips are strengthened by it (they serve God by obedience to His instruction); their feet are shod with it (their conduct is upright); and it covers their head (their mental, moral, and religious faculties) as a helmet of salvation (protecting them from the snares and delusions of error). Also they have on the breastplate of



righteousness—Christ’s righteousness and a righteous character, which the Truth has developed in them; and in their hands they carry the Sword of the Spirit, which is the inspired Word of God, and which they are now able to handle with ease and vigor in defense of the doctrines of Christ; while their shield of faith is an able defense against all the fiery darts of the enemy, so that the flying arrows do not even jar the armor or stun “the inner man” (Eph. 3: 16).

Praise God for such an armor! Have you put it on? Do not rest satisfied with the idea that you can get along as well as your fathers did, with the armor as they had it. The time has come when you must have it as needed today, or you will surely fall. The armor as presented to the Saints of the past was sufficient for their day and trial, but a greater prevalence of error and trial of faith in this “evil day” necessitates a more complete defense.

Christian faith is being tested today as never before. Satan and his agents have today invented a greater multiplicity of beliefs contradictory to God’s Word than ever before. Because many have “received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved,” God has permissively sent them a “strong delusion, that they should believe a lie” (2 Thes. 2: 10, 11). Many thousands have fallen into various modern delusions, such as the Evolution theory, Higher Criticism, Modernism, Theosophy, Islam, New Age, Polytheism (three God’s in one), Spiritism, Christian Science, Mormonism, *etc.*, and thousands of pulpits in Christendom are preaching infidelity and everything except the Truth of God’s Word.

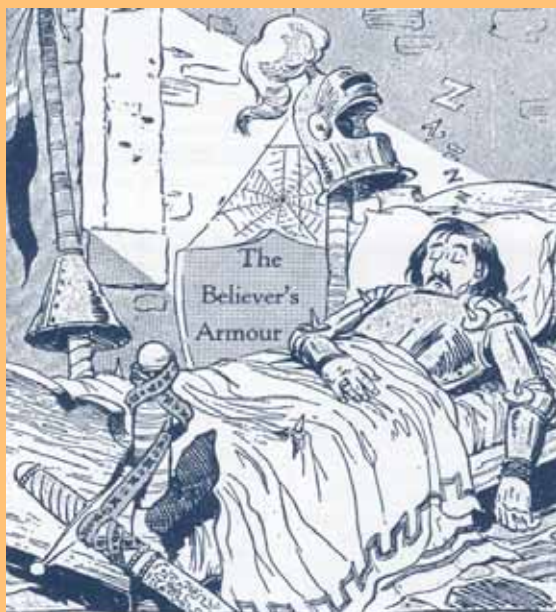
Instead of putting on the whole armor of God and standing, ready and properly equipped to defend

themselves and others against the attacks of the world, the flesh and the devil, many have laid aside much of the armor, piece by piece, and have gone to sleep. Some are therefore taken unawares. “How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: so shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, and your need as an armed man” (Prov. 6: 9-11; 24: 30-34 NKJ).



But we who are faithful soldiers of the cross are properly armored, wide-awake and on the alert at all times. We are “the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. . . . Let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet the hope of salvation” (1 Thes. 5: 5-8). “Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Eph. 6: 14-17 NKJ). Thus only, as our text declares, will we be “able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

\* \* \*



***I called on a soldier, and found him in bed  
I thought he was ill—or possibly dead;  
His helmet was off, his sword on the floor—  
But I felt quite relieved when I heard a slight snore,  
I tried to awake my Christian friend;  
I spoke to him gently, not to offend,  
Then shouted, then shook him, but all was in vain—  
He opened his eyes, then closed them again.  
So far as I know he still rests in peace,  
Waiting for death to bring him release;  
He gave up the battle e’er victory was won—  
How can he expect his Captain’s “Well done”?***

# Satan's Lie

*“The devil... was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar, and the father of it.” —John 8: 44 NKJ*

**FOR CENTURIES** the commonly held idea has been that Satan, the Devil, has a fleshly body with a frightful countenance, with horns, hooves and a forked tail, and that he is busily engaged in superintending a fiery place of torture, where the wicked are eternally tormented. This, however, is a misconception; it is built, not upon the Bible, but upon human ignorance, tradition and imagination, handed down from the Dark Ages. Some, revolting against such crude ideas, reject them, but go to the opposite extreme, and claim that there is no personal devil, that the Satan of the Scriptures is only an evil influence.

According to the Bible, however, Satan is a real personal being, but not with a fleshly body. (For proofs that Satan is a person, please see B.S. No. 700—a copy free on request.) He is a spirit being; and, like other spirit beings (John 3: 8), he can come and go as the wind—he is invisible, yet very powerful. As Lucifer (Isa. 14: 12), and as represented by the king of Tyre (Ezek. 28: 12), he was perfect until he sinned (v. 15). Other angels, of lower rank, sinned also; and Satan, having superior powers, became their ruler or prince, and as such is called “the prince of devils” (Matt. 12: 24-27).

We know that Satan and his angels are not in some far-off fiery abyss, torturing millions of the human family, for nothing of the kind is taught in the Bible. Instead, the Scriptures show that at the time of the Flood Satan (who had been cast down from heaven—Luke 10: 18) and together with his host of evil spirit beings are imprisoned in *Tartarus*, in restraints under darkness in the earth's atmosphere, “unto the judgment of the great day” (2 Pet. 2: 4; Jude 6). They are not at liberty to go about, without restraint, through-

out the universe any longer (compare Job 1: 7). Satan is therefore, “the prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2: 2), and has associated with him in this sphere the other wicked angels. They are evil and oppose everything that is of God and righteousness, and especially oppose and persecute those of humanity who renounce the works of the devil, the flesh and the world, and seek to walk in Jesus' footsteps.

## THE GREATEST OF ALL LIES

**THE FIRST LIE**—Satan's monstrous lie—was told in the Garden of Eden, to Mother Eve, the first woman. The serpent was manipulated by Satan as his agent. Satan himself was originally the only rebel against God. His associates, the fallen angels who sinned, were not with him in his rebellion until some time afterward. Satan by obsession caused the serpent to move about under his direction, not audibly speaking but rather by movement and action. Therefore, we are inclined to believe that the serpent did not speak a language audibly, but by its actions. As we know, “Actions speak louder than words.”

God had told our first parents that they could eat of the fruit of all the trees of the garden except those in its center. He had forbidden them to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2: 9, 16, 17), without telling them the reason why. The fruit of the trees that they were forbidden to eat were just as wholesome as that of the other trees of the Garden. They were not poisonous or contaminated in any way. It was simply a test of their obedience, their loyalty to God. He had told Adam that disobedience, disloyalty, in this matter would result in death—“you shall surely die” (Gen. 2: 17; 3: 3). It is impossible for an intelligent person, either a human being or a spirit being,





to live eternally in God's universe, who is disobedient to Him.

In God's warning to father Adam, He said nothing at all about eternal torment. According to the Bible, the willful sinner is to die, to perish as a natural brute beast perishes (2 Pet. 2: 1, 12). As we showed in B.S. 279 (a copy free on request), God's eternal favors are for those only who abide in His love. "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6: 23).

The serpent by eating of the forbidden fruit without dying, seemed to Eve to support Satan's lie. Because, instead of dying, the serpent thrived by its eating of that which was prohibited. We know that in some manner through the use of the serpent Satan declared his monstrous lie, "You will not surely die" (v. 4), to Mother Eve; and he told her also that God evidently was trying to keep her and her husband in ignorance, blindness, darkness, and that it was time for them to awake, to assert their rights, and to make it better for themselves by eating of the forbidden fruit. "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Gen. 3: 5).

In this way, by the instrumentality of the serpent, Satan "beguiled Eve through his subtlety," impressing upon her mind "that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise" (2 Cor. 11: 3; Gen. 3: 6). Eve, thinking that she was bettering matters for herself and her husband, "took of the fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate." "Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived fell into transgression" (1 Tim. 2: 14)—they both were in the transgression against God's command; Eve was deceived, but Adam was not deceived—he sinned willfully. He knew better; but when he found that his dear wife had disobeyed God and had eaten of the forbidden fruit, and had come under the sentence or curse of death, he evidently was overwhelmed at the thought of losing his wife, whom he loved so dearly; he evidently realized (as God had said—Gen. 2: 18) that it was not good that man should be alone, without an helpmate for him, and became so discouraged that he determined to die with his wife, loving her so much that he would rather die with her than to live without her. Therefore, he manifested that he loved the creature more than he loved the Creator (Rom. 1: 25).

Satan's object in telling his monstrous lie is very clear. Other Scriptures show us that as Lucifer he

already had been saying in his heart that he would like to have a higher position than others and higher powers than those which God had given to him; in his overleaping ambition he even purposed to be "like the most High" (Isa. 14: 13, 14). He desired to be a sovereign, so that he might work out his own plans. He evidently had no thought of supplanting the Almighty, but had the pride to suppose that he could manage affairs better than God could, and that if only he had a small section of the universe under his control he would demonstrate his great abilities and overshadow the Almighty.

When man was created, Satan's opportunity for exercising his ambition seemed to have come. Man possessed a power that the angels did not have—he could propagate his own kind, and was commissioned to fill the earth, and to bring it all to Edenic perfection. Satan saw what appeared to be his chance. He evidently thought that by putting the first pair into subjection and making them his subjects, and alienating them from the Almighty, he would control a race, and would eventually be the spiritual prince, or ruler, of earth and its inhabitants. It was in order to carry out this program that Satan deceived Mother Eve by telling her his monstrous lie, and by it he succeeded in bringing our first parents under his control.

### ANOTHER DECEPTION

When Lucifer (*light-bearer*—Isa. 14: 12; Ezek. 28: 12-19) thus became Satan (*adversary*) and told his monstrous lie, he became the "murderer from the beginning"—he murdered the human race, though this was not his intention. When he perceived that his subjects were perishing under the Divine sentence of death, and that they were progressively becoming weaker, mentally, morally and physically, he thought to circumvent the Divine penalty by introducing fresh vigor, renewed life, into the human family. He did this by seducing some of the angels. Originally the angels apparently had the power of materialization—of taking human form or any other form that they might choose. Satan, in carrying out his program, caused some of them to deflect from their loyalty to God and to their own nature, by inducing them to materialize and live as human beings and, by taking human wives, to propagate offspring.

According to the Bible account this must have progressed for a long time, perhaps centuries. In Gen. 6: 2 we read that "the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose." The children born to them were

“giants” physically, and “men of renown” intellectually (v. 4). The virility of the angels, grafted upon the human stock, produced a race that was superior in some respects, but in other respects very inferior. Begotten and born in opposition to the Divine authority and will, and by their rebellious nature, these giants were very inferior morally—they were degraded, brutish, devilish.

Soon the earth was filled with violence (v. 5). The imperfect and impaired race of Adam, was enslaved mentally, morally and physically, and rapidly became contaminated. Noah and his family, however, were not corrupted; they were of pure Adamic stock and loyal to God—Noah was “perfect in his generations” (v. 9). Then came the Deluge, which God had determined, and had withheld until that time. In it God swept away both the progeny of the angels and the impaired, contaminated Adamic stock that remained. None of those who received their life-principle from the materialized angels were of Adamic stock. None of them, therefore, has any share in the redemptive work of Jesus, which was only for Adam and his race; hence none of them will have any part in the awakening of the dead and the “restitution of all things” (Acts 3: 19-21), which God has promised shall be accomplished by the glorious Messiah during His Thousand-year Kingdom reign. They merely perished—were blotted out in the Deluge, as natural brute beasts. They were an illegitimate generation not authorized or provided for by God.

### THWARTED, SATAN TRIES AGAIN

“The angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation” and married wives of the human family and begat children, were restrained, cast down into the earth’s atmosphere as a prison, no longer being permitted to go about throughout the universe (Jude 6). They—and likewise Satan—were no longer allowed to materialize in human form.

Therefore Satan’s plan for an empire of his own failed. But, still rebellious in spirit, he took up a new line of battle against God. In furthering it he would be content to use humanity as his tools, even though they were imperfect and dying. They would be his slaves and he would embitter them against God, and thus defeat God’s plan on humanity’s behalf.

Satan realized that the secret of his power with mankind must be in his deception of them. If the human race knew that they were being led captive into sin at the will of Satan and his fallen host, they would rebel against him. In order to hold humanity as long as possible as

his slaves, he realized that he must seduce them by fostering ignorance and superstition. He must alienate them from God. Accordingly, he determined to make them think of God as a terrible being, One unworthy of their love and confidence, One ready to fiendishly torture them forever, One whom they might dread, that they could not love and worship in spirit and in truth.

As a basis for this great scheme of human ensnarement and obsession Satan used his original monstrous lie, “You will not surely die.” For now well over 4,000 years he has sought by every means in his power to instill that lie into the minds of humanity in every land and to keep it there.

Satan has caused mankind in general to be deceived into believing that each one of Adam’s race has something inside of him, which he called the immortal soul, claiming that it lives on and is indestructible, that God Himself cannot destroy it, and that it is sure to continue to live on after the body as an external shell is cast

***Since the flood, Satan continues to use his original monstrous lie, “You will not surely die.”***

off in death. He has deceived them also into believing that good people go to heaven when they die, and bad people to a place of eternal torture, and has twisted the Bible hell into meaning a place of eternal torture. Thus He has blasphemed God’s character in order to perpetuate the deception of his original lie. He has his demon host to co-operate with him in making light appear darkness and darkness appear light, to deceive mankind and to keep them in subjection (Isa. 5: 20).

How thoroughly he has succeeded in this scheme the whole world is witness. Despite the fact that man’s five senses tell him that the dead are dead, not *living*, in torment or otherwise, the masses of mankind, blinded by Satan, believe to the contrary—that the dead are more alive than before they died. Despite the consistency of God’s Word, “You will surely die,” and the inconsistency of Satan’s lie, “You will not surely die,” practically the whole world is enslaved by Satan’s lie, though more and more thinking people are repudiating it.

In Rev. 14: 8; 17: 2; 18: 3, the condition of the whole world in the Gospel Age is pictured as one of being drunk with the wine of such false doctrine and

consequent infidelity to God. 2 Cor. 4: 4 says “the god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ.”

### SPIRITISM AND HYPNOTISM

One of the most baneful results of Satan’s monstrous lie is that it opens the way for the fallen angels to take advantage of people. It opens the way for people to believe that they can talk to the dead through spirit-mediums. While we acknowledge that many spirit-mediums are merely frauds, we have reason to believe that many of them are sincere, but deceived. Many of them, and those who seek to use them, thoroughly believe that in spiritualistic seances they are communicating with the dead.

Only the Bible and its uniform teaching, from Genesis to Revelation, that “the dead know not any thing,” and that “there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave [*sheol*]” (Eccl. 9: 5, 10), can really save anyone from the Spiritism delusion, and related delusions. It alone shows that a demon host is cooperating with Satan, to prove and uphold his lie, to enslave mankind and keep them enslaved, and to separate them and keep them away from God and His Truth, as revealed in the Scriptures.

Witches, wizards and necromancers were forbidden by God in the land of Israel (Lev. 19: 31; Deut. 18: 10, 11; Isa. 8: 19); and yet some existed, and they were visited by those who were not fully in harmony with God. Israel’s King Saul was one of these and in disobedience to God contacted the witch of Endor (1 Chro. 10: 13; 1 Sam. 28: 6, 7, 11-16, 19, 20). She described what she saw to King Saul. He recognized it as a description of the Prophet Samuel. She also communicated to Saul what purported to be the word of Samuel, but what was really the word of the demons.

As we have shown elsewhere (see our booklet about “Dangers in Hypnotism”—a copy free on request), Satan is seeking also by hypnotism to captivate people, by causing them to submit their wills to hypnotists (an extremely dangerous practice), and while under hypnotic influence even to describe alleged past lifetimes—“age regression beyond birth.” Satan seeks to further his lie by inculcating and spreading the heathen reincarnation theory. If we believe the Bible’s testimony, the Word of God, we will not be ensnared by such “doctrines of devils.”

Along these and other lines Satan’s monstrous lie is still potent in the world, bringing baneful results and hindering millions from receiving the knowledge of

God and the appreciation of His Word.

Though beginning usually in what appears to be a harmless way, such as through hypnotism, fortune telling, ouija boards, publications as Harry Potter books, and in the most recent television programs such as “The Medium” “The Ghost Whisperer” etc., that have spiritualistic narratives woven into their stories. It is also true that people who should know better such as the justice system and the police, are at times, using spirit mediums to assist them in solving criminal cases, and of course, the fallen spirits are often involved in various devious ways in influencing the mind of the criminal and therefore knowledgeable of the situations. The evil spirits can by suggestion, diversion and impression gradually get such control of the minds and bodies of those who yield their wills that their dupes not only suffer obsession, but also sometimes become absolutely possessed by these demons. Under such circumstances they are generally considered to be insane and are placed with those suffering from actual diseases of the brain.

The Scriptures tell us that the fallen angels are “reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day” (Jude 6). As we have shown elsewhere, we believe that we are already in the beginning of this “great day.” Therefore we can look for these demons to be permitted to break out of their restraints and to have much more liberty to influence people.

We see them exercising greater liberty today than formerly, and they are captivating many in their séances (many church heads are now advocating psychic research connected with séances), in modern-day “faith healing,” “speaking in tongues,” hypnotic suggestions, etc. All not properly fortified and armed with the Truth from God’s Word will not be able to stand in this evil day (Eph. 6: 11-18), against the assaults from “wicked spirits in high places” (see margin).

All should come out from and avoid consistently the influence of Satan and his slanders of the Almighty, and his misrepresentation of facts, and should enlist under the banner of Jesus as servants of truth and righteousness. We should all accept the testimony of God’s Word that *death* (not *life* in torment) is the penalty for sin, that the *death* of Jesus is the redemption price from the curse of death, and that as a consequence a provision is made whereby all may have a resurrection from the dead, a complete raising up to the perfection of life. This is the salvation of the Bible. By accepting and holding to it, we will be helped to come nearer to God through a better understanding of the



Scriptures, and we will be helped also to be made free and to remain free from the various snares of the Adversary.

### **SATAN THE FATHER OF LIES**

Jesus showed conclusively that Satan is an evil being, and not simply an evil principle, when he declared in the words of our text that Satan “was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him” (John 8: 44). Surely an evil principle was never in the Truth! Neither was it ever a murderer. Furthermore, He said that when Satan “speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources for he is a liar, and the father of it.” This corroborates the thought that never until Satan started the course of sin were there any lies. All of God’s dealings with the angels and their dealings with one another had been along the lines of simplicity, truth, righteousness, purity, holiness, *etc.*

However, when Satan determined to exalt himself as the god of earth, he found an occasion in which a lie would serve his evil purpose, and so he used his original monstrous lie to alienate our first parents from the Almighty. He assured Mother Eve that dis-

***Selfishness***  
***the***  
***foundation for the first lie!***

obedience would not bring the death penalty, as God had declared.

Selfishness was the foundation for the first lie, and selfishness continues to invite falsehood, even among those who see clearly how despicable falsehood is. Each falsehood seems to call for another to help to justify it, and to cover up both it and the selfishness that prompted it.

In view of these things, no wonder it is urged upon all who are Christians to put away lying. The Apostle Paul wrote: “Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds” (Col. 3: 9; Eph.4: 25).

Our Lord not only said in our text that Satan is the father of lies, but intimated also in the context that the lying spirit is of Satan, saying to some who slandered Him and opposed the Truth, “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do.” God is “the Father of lights” (John 8: 44; James 1: 17), the Father of the Truth—He is the personification of Light, Truth, even as Satan, on the contrary, is the

personification of darkness, error, falsehood.

### **THE CHILDREN OF LIGHT**

The conflict between light and darkness, truth and error, has progressed for more than 6,000 years. God’s Word is always the Truth and always is beneficial. Jesus prayed to God for His followers, “Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth” (John 17: 17). On the contrary, Satan’s falsehoods are always injurious. Hence the promise is that at His Second Coming, Jesus, the Prince of Light, is now binding Satan, the Prince of Darkness, that he may deceive the nations no more until the thousand years are finished (Rev. 20: 1-3).

Here we have another corroboration of the fact that the great deceiving power among mankind for over 6,000 years has been a spiritual power emanating from Satan, the god of this world. No wonder that under the domination of Satan there has been what St. Paul terms a reign of sin and death (Rom. 5: 12, 16, 17, 21)! No wonder that the Bible declares that from the Divine standpoint the world has been in darkness! “Darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people” (Isa. 60: 2).

Jesus came and brought light into the world; but “men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil” (John 3: 19), because sin had gained such a hold upon them and because it is easier for people to remain under the blinding influences of Satan than to come under the blessed light of the Gospel of Christ at the present time. It costs something to be a follower of the Prince of Light now and an opposer of the Prince of Darkness, whose realm is world-wide.

How glad we are that the morning of the new day is dawning! As Jesus explains (Matt. 13: 43), “Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.” Jesus and His Elect Church, His Bride, gathered from every nation and kindred and people, constituted the glorious spiritual ruling power of the new dispensation. He likens His Kingdom to the sun: as the sun scatters the darkness of earth and drives away the mist, fog and darkness, so will the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in its beams (Mal. 4: 2) and scatter all the ignorance, superstition and falsehood, and bring to all mankind the true knowledge of God. The light of the knowledge of the glory of God shall fill the whole earth as the waters cover the sea (Isa. 11: 9; Hab. 2: 14). Then “they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, says the LORD” (Jer. 31: 34). WHAT A GLORIOUS PROSPECT!



## HEAVEN WHERE IS IT?

**Q** What and where is heaven? Is heaven merely a condition?

**A** While it is true that we might think of some beings, as for instance, the angels as being in a heavenly condition, that is, spiritual and invisible to human sight, and yet we do not agree that heaven is *only a condition*. The Scriptures describe it as a place, just as truly as the earth is a place. As to its location, the most reasonable suggestion we know of is that offered in *Thy Kingdom Come*, p. 327 and *Creation*, p. 171, that the suns and their planets—the solar systems—all revolve about a common center, which astronomers identify with the star Alcyone, one of the heavenly group known as the *Pleiades*. This is in harmony with a hint that God has given, that His gracious power proceeds from the *Pleiades*, from whence, accordingly, He governs the universe (Job 38: 31).

This is attested further by the situation of the *Pleiades* in the *north*, where other Scriptures indicate that God's dwelling place is located. We read in the Psalms, "Exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another" (Psa. 75: 6, 7). God's dwelling place, from which His exaltations come, is thereby shown to be in the direction of the one main compass point not mentioned, which is the *north*. Then there is the Bible account of Lucifer's exaggerated pride and self-exaltation where he says, "I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High" (Isa. 14: 13, 14).

As evidence that heaven is a place and at a distance from the earth, and that it requires time to go there and come back, notice the fact that our Lord said that He would "go away" and "come again" (John 14: 3). This could not be true if to go to heaven means merely a

change from human conditions to spiritual conditions, because *He will never come again to human conditions*, as they were at the time of His First Coming. "He took upon Him the *form* of a servant," "was made a little lower than the angels, *for the suffering of death* . . . that He by the grace of God should *taste death* for every man" (Phil. 2: 7-10; Heb. 2: 9). He has finished that work and has no further use for the body of humiliation—He has been glorified, "highly exalted," and is the express image of the Father's person (Heb. 1: 3).

Again, our Lord said in the parable that the Nobleman went into a *far country* to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return (Luke 19: 12). We are informed that the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified (John 7: 39), indicating that as soon as Jesus would be glorified the Holy Spirit would be then given to the waiting Church. We know that from the time Jesus ascended up on high until the descent of the Holy Spirit was ten days. This implies that there was elapsed time in the journey to heaven, some time was spent in communion with the Father and also time was involved in the bestowal of the Holy Spirit from its source in heaven to its application on the assembled Saints on earth.

## IS HELL FOR THE WICKED ONLY?

**Q** Please explain David's words, "Let them go down quick into hell" (Psa. 55: 15). It seems to teach that there is at present a hell for the wicked. David does not seem to show much love for his enemies.

**A** The Hebrew word here translated *hell* is *sheol*, which occurs 65 times in the Old Testament. It is 31 times translated *grave*, 31 times translated *hell* and 3 times translated *pit*. It signifies the unconscious condition of death, where there is no wisdom, knowledge or device (Eccl. 9: 10; Job 14: 21;

Psa. 6: 5; Isa. 38: 18). Both good and bad people go to *sheol*. Jacob said he would go there (Gen. 37: 35); Job prayed to be hidden there (Job 14: 13); Jesus went there. David says, speaking prophetically for Jesus, “Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell” *sheol* (Psa. 16: 10). Compare Peter’s comment in Acts 2: 27. The Greek word there translated *hell* is *hades*, and has the same meaning as *sheol*. In Psa. 55 David sees the doings of the wicked, and prays that they may soon *die*, and thus cease to work mischief. Had David prayed that they might go to a place of *torture* it would indeed reveal a dreadful condition of mind, and no wonder you might feel shocked. But remember that if it would seem wicked in David, it would be multiplied many times for Jehovah to provide such an endless torture as some suppose. It must be the erroneous theology of the Dark Ages that is at fault, for Jehovah, David and Paul seem to have the same mind on this subject. Paul said (Gal. 5: 12), “I would that they were even *cut off* which trouble you,” *i.e.*, let them go down quick into death; and Jehovah says, “I took them *away* as I saw *good*” (Ezek. 16: 50). The key is found in the fact that the Age for the world’s trial is the coming one, when all shall be made to know God and His Truth under favorable circumstances (Isa. 11: 9; Jer. 31: 34; Micah 4: 1, 2; 1 Tim. 2: 4, 6; Psa. 136: 1-26).

### WHERE DO THE WICKED ANGELS RESIDE?

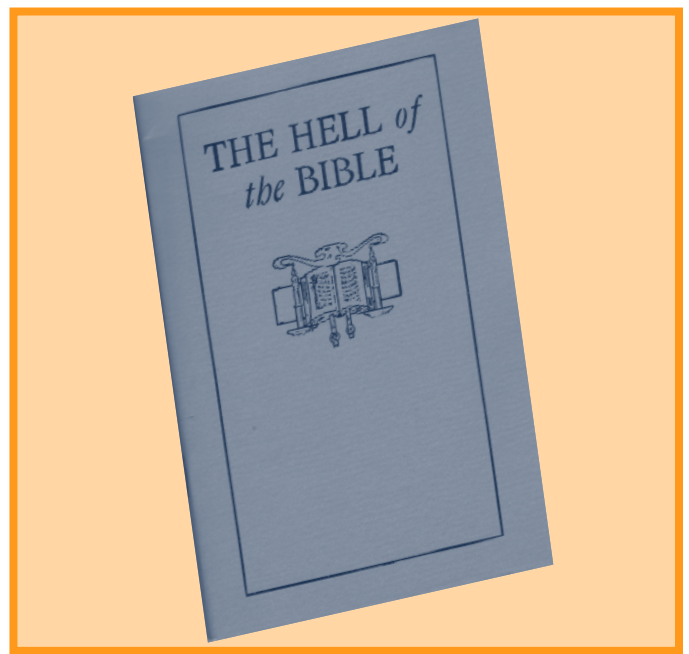
**Q** What is the meaning of *Tartarus* (see 2 Pet. 2: 4 margin)?

**A** The noun *tartarus*, or *tartaros*, was used in Grecian mythology as the name for a dark abyss or prison in which wicked spirits were kept imprisoned and were punished. And when the Catholic Church in the Dark Ages took over from the heathen the doctrines of the consciousness of the dead and the eternal torment of the wicked, it magnified the heathen idea of *tartarus*.

The noun form, *tartarus*, is not found in the Scriptures, but the verb form, *tartaroo*, taken from the same root, occurs one time, in 2 Pet. 2: 4. This one verb, *tartaroo*, is by the translators of the King James Version rendered by five words, “cast them down to hell”—this includes a verb, a personal pronoun, an adverb, a preposition and a noun. This fact properly arouses suspicion that some violence has been done in this translation of the verb *tartaroo*. If we keep in mind the basic idea of *tartarus* as mentioned above—a

*prison*—and make a verb of it, we have the true meaning of the verb *tartaroo*, which is, to imprison.

Therefore the Apostle Peter by the verb *tartaroo* tells us that God *imprisoned* the angels that sinned (Gen. 6: 2-4; 1 Pet. 3: 19, 20); and he adds that they were delivered “into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment”; and since the Apostle Jude (6, 7) tells us that such imprisonment lasts until the judgment of the great day (into which we have already entered), and since these fallen angels as the power of the air (Eph. 2: 2; 6: 12, margin) are active among humans, in demonizing people, appearing in séances and other occult practices, we conclude that earth’s atmosphere is their prison (Matt. 8: 28-32; 12: 22-28).



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**United Kingdom:** *Sheffield*, October 29, 30

**United States:** *Illinois*, September 23-25.

**Please note: All United States conventions will conclude after the morning session on the final day of the convention.**

#### *Details*

**United States—Chicago**

September 23-25 (Friday-Sunday)

*Site:* Holiday Inn, 3405 Algonquin Rd., Rolling Meadows, Illinois 60008; telephone (847)259-5000. *Rates and reservations:* \$65.00 (+10.64%=\$71.92) for up to four people per room. *Be sure to mention you are attending the LHMM Convention to obtain the discount rate.* If you need limousine service from the airport please telephone the Holiday Inn from baggage claim; hotel courtesy shuttles depart from the Bus/Shuttle Center across from terminal 2. Make all other inquiries to the class secretary: Mrs. Audrey Hammer, 1702 Highland Ave. Arlington Heights, IL 60005

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