

# BEREANS Bible Institute Module III

## “Ghost Stories” in the Bible – Part 3

### The Rich Man & Lazarus as Ghosts?

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- A. A Parable about Jesus (Lazarus) and the destruction of Jerusalem & Priesthood (The Rich Man)
1. All of the elements of this parable are drawn from four OT prophecies, all of which prophesy of the destruction of Jerusalem & the priesthood in AD70.
    - a. Deut. 31:28-30; 32:5,15-29
    - b. Isaiah 28:1-19; 29:1-14
    - c. Isaiah 50:6-11
    - d. Mal. 1:6 – 3:5
- B. The Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:14-31)
1. A parable, not historical persons. Some ancient mss. *“He spoke also another parable...”*
    - a. The last in a series of parables spoken to the Jewish leadership. (compare Lk. 16:1)
  2. The “Rich Man” – the apostate Jewish Priesthood – Levites
    - a. Justified themselves (Luke 16:15 / Mal. 1:6; 2:14,17; 3:8,13)
    - b. Improperly divorced and remarried (Luke 16:18 / Mal. 2:13-16)
    - c. “Lovers of money” (Luke 16:14) who had “robbed God” (Mal. 3:8-10).
    - d. Dressed in purple and fine linen
      1. “Purple” was the clothing of kings (Mark 15:17).
      2. “Fine linen” was the clothing of priests (Ex. 39:27-29).
      3. The Hasmonean Dynasty (from the Maccabees) were “priest-kings,” and continued to rule under Herod the Great.
  3. “Lazarus” – Jesus Christ. “E’leazar” means “God is My Help.”
    - a. A term applied to Jesus several times: (Psalm 22:16-19; Psalm 40:6-17)
    - b. The name “Lazarus” was drawn directly from Isaiah’s prophecy of Jesus and the destruction of the Levitical priesthood (Isaiah 50:6-7).
  4. He came as a “poor beggar,” born in a stable, homeless, dependent on support of others.
    - a. Luke 9:58; 2 Cor. 8:9
  5. Full of “sores” – bearing our diseases and infirmities (Matt. 8:16-17; Isaiah 53:4-5 LXX)
  6. The “dogs” – the Gentiles (Matt. 15:22-28)
  7. Desiring to eat the crumbs (as a Man, humble food)
  8. The beggar died – the crucifixion of Christ.
  9. Carried by the angels – His bodily ascension into heaven (Acts 1:9-11, cf. Matt. 24:31)
  10. Abraham’s Bosom – The Abrahamic Covenant
    - a. A term used in Gen. 16:5 for Abraham’s intimacy with his wife to produce an heir.
    - b. Lazarus in Abraham’s bosom shows that He (Jesus) is the promised Seed.
  11. The rich man died afterwards – the destruction of Jerusalem 40 years later in AD 70
    - a. Priesthood demolished – Deut. 32:19-22; Isaiah 28-29; Isaiah 50:11; Mal. 1:6 – 3:12
  12. “In Hades” – in the grave refers to the priesthood in exile from the Land & Temple.
    - a. “Hades” is the “grave” of the body (Num. 16:33; 1 Kings 2:9; Ezek. 32:27).
    - b. The priesthood in “Hades” (Deut. 32:19-22; Isa. 28:15,18; 29:4).
  13. Tormented in the flames – God’s wrath (Deut. 32:19-22; Isa. 50:11; Mal. 3:2-3).
  14. Send Lazarus to bring relief – Send the Messiah to restore Israel (Hosannah – “save now”)
  15. The Great Gulf – the blindness imposed on Israel (Isa. 6:9-13; Matt. 13:10-15; Rom. 11:7-10).
  16. Five Brothers – the other 5 tribes of Israel from the same mother – Leah
    - a. Levi had 5 brothers: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun (Gen. 30).
  17. If they will not hear Moses, they will not hear the One who rose from the dead – Jesus.
    - a. No sign would be given to that wicked generation (Mark 8:11-12). (For the “sign of Jonah” see the following article: <http://www.answersinrevelation.org/chronology/jonah.pdf> )
    - b. Jesus refused to show Himself resurrected to unbelievers (Jn. 14:19-20; 1 Cor. 15:3-8).