

The Curtain Lifted

(Job 14:14)

- Introduction:
1. Have you ever considered the questions Adam and Eve must have had when Cain killed Abel?
 2. In the ***Humanist Manifesto II***, it is stated that, "*There is no credible evidence that life survives the death of the body...Modern science discredits such historic concepts as the 'ghost in the machine.'*"
 3. In spite of what some say, our surviving the death of our bodies is a reality about which God lifts the curtain and gives us a glimpse.
 4. While not all of our questions are answered, many are.
 5. Let's see what God has revealed (Luke 16:19-31).

I. Where Are The Dead?

- A. Are they in the ground buried (James 2:26)?
- B. Are they in Heaven or Hell (John 3:13; 2 Peter 2:9)?
- C. They are in Hades (John 20:17; Acts 2:27).

II. The Rich Man And Lazarus

- A. Lazarus was a beggar who begged for food from a certain rich man (16:20-21).
- B. Both Lazarus and this rich man died and now their roles are reversed (16:22-25).
- C. Abraham informed the rich man that he was beyond help (16:26).
- D. The rich man then asked if someone could go back and warn his family of this place in which he found himself (16:27-28).
- E. He was informed that such could not occur (16:29-31).

III. Lessons To Be Learned From The Rich Man & Lazarus

- A. "*Hades*" and "*Hell*" are not to be confused.
 1. "*Hades*" refers to the realm of disembodied spirits.
 - a. (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:27,31; Revelation 20:13-14).
 2. "*Gehenna*" or "*Hell*" has reference to the eternal destiny of the wicked.
 - a. (Matthew 10:28; Matthew 5:22).
- B. Hades has two parts (Luke 23:43; 16:19-31).
- C. There is no second chance after death (Luke 16:26).
- D. There is consciousness after death (Luke 16:22-23).
- E. There is recognition after death (Luke 16:23-24).
- F. There is remembrance after death (Luke 16:27-28).
- G. There is no contact with the living after death (Luke 16:27-31).

- Conclusion:
1. Since we do survive after death, and since there will be no second chances after death, should not now be the time to prepare for our death?
 2. Eternity is too long and Hell too horrible to delay obedience.