

The Rich Man and Lazarus Luke 16:19-31 (NKJV)

19 "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. 20 But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, 21 desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 "Then 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 in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. 26 And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' 27 "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, 28 for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' 29 Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' 30 And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' 31 But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

Throughout the ages, mankind has tried to explain hell away. When this parable is referred to, it is dismissed merely as an illustration by Jesus as to how we should relate to our neighbors. The most evil individuals acknowledge the existence of hell. Its existence is depicted not only by the Church but in the art forms.

In Norse mythology there is a place called Valhalla which is the hall of slain warriors who live blissfully under the leadership of Odin, the one-eyed deity of battle, magic, inspiration, and the dead. Valhalla is described as a marvelous palace, its ceiling covered with shields, where the warriors feast on the flesh of a boar that is slaughtered daily and made whole again at evening. They drink liquor that flows from the udders of a goat, and their sport is to fight one another every day, and the slain (like the boar) are revived every evening. This is their existence until the "Ragnarok" when they will leave Valhalla to fight at the side of Odin against the Giants.

"Ragnarok", according to these ancient myths is the end of the divine and human worlds and will be preceded by cruel winters and moral chaos. Giants and demons will attack the gods, who will face death like heroes. The sun will be darkened, the stars will vanish, and the earth will sink into the sea. Afterward the earth will rise again and the innocent Balder 'the bleeding god' of Germanic mythology and renowned for his good looks and his wisdom, who is also Odin's second son will return from the dead, and the hosts of the just will live in a golden ceilinged hall. (Incidentally, Odin is known in other mythologies as the god Tammuz whose worship God despises, and his festival is today celebrated at Easter time! Ezekiel 8:13-15 NIV) *13 Again, he said, "You will see them doing things that are even more detestable." 14 Then he brought me to the entrance to the north gate of the house of the LORD, and I saw women sitting there, mourning for Tammuz. 15 He said to me, "Do you see this, son of man? You will see things that are even more detestable than this."*

In the mythological setting of Valhalla see parallels with the Biblical last days, but unfortunately, what is said to happen in Valhalla has given rise to the fantasy that hell is a place of a big eternal party with one's friends. Nothing is farther from the truth! As we see in Valhalla, the warriors live continually in a state of war, dying over and over again. They face an eternity of the life they lived on earth - slaying and being slain over and over again. The Bible assures us that what we sow in this life we shall also reap not only on earth, but in eternity!

NEWSFLASH!!!! - There is no Valhalla! Hell is not an enjoyable place!

Hell is a place of fire and torment (Luke 16:24) And will cast them into the furnace of fire; there will be weeping and wailing and grinding of teeth. (Matthew 13:42 (AMP) *Then He will say to those at His left hand, Begone from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels!* (Matthew 25:41 (AMP) *And if anyone's [name] was not found recorded in the Book of Life, he was hurled into the lake of fire.* (Revelation 20:15 (Amp)

The Christian is often challenged with the question "If hell exists, where is it?" Many believe that this life is hell, there will be no hell and there is no place called hell! The Bible clearly tells us that hell is under the earth and in fact, basic geology teaches that

there is a molten core within the earth. Could it be that a part of this molten core is reserved as the place we call hell?

In Matthew 12:40 Jesus tells us that He would go to hell *"For even as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."*

Numbers 16:32-33 tells us of the fate of the rebellious Korah and his followers and family *„And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them and their households and [Korah and] all [his] men and all their possessions. „They and all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol (the place of the dead); and the earth closed upon them, and they perished from among the assembly.*

Even as these rebellious ones disappeared into hell, so too everyone who rebels against God and refuses to accept the redeeming sacrifice of Jesus will be cast into hell forever!

In "The Truth About Hell" Terry Watkins writes:

As you leave your body -- you realize something is happening. You hear a sound. . . getting louder and louder. . . screaming . . .weeping. . . wailing. Terror and fear beyond anything you could imagine overtakes you. "This can't be happening!" you scream. Your nostrils are filling with the awful stench of burning souls. Your face ignites from the heat. Flames are now blazing from your eyes, nostrils, ears, mouth -- every opening in your body, flames are roaring out. Your body is sizzling and crackling from the flames. Your body is now madly thrashing and convulsing from the horrible pain. "Why don't I die?", you scream. You begin weeping and gnashing your teeth with the millions. "When will this pain stop?" But you know it will never stop. . . The darkness is so terrifying, it begins engulfing you. You feel something moving in the darkness. . . something horrible is happening. "No! No! This can't be happening" you scream -- as your worm is emerging. You begin cursing the day you were born. You scream -- "Oh God, why didn't you warn me?" -- but you remember the preacher pleading with you to receive Jesus Christ. You remember reading that gospel tract. You cry -- "God don't you care?" -- but you remember John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,. . ." "God is a God of love -- He won't allow this", you cry -- but you remember John 3:36, ". . . he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

And you soon realize that Jesus Christ was right!

There is a place called hell.

AND YOU ARE THERE -- FOREVER!

There is an interesting article on hell at <http://www.av1611.org/hell.html> (See Notes below please)

We cannot vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the reported "voices from hell" on that website, but we know the Bible says there is a hell!

If any statements are made that are not supported by the Word of God, the Bible, please disregard them.