

BEREANS Bible Institute Module III

“Ghost Stories” in the Bible – Part 3

The Rich Man & Lazarus as Ghosts? (Part 1)

- A. An allegory about Jesus (Lazarus) and the destruction of Jerusalem & Priesthood (The Rich Man)
- All of the elements of this allegory/parable are drawn from four OT prophecies, all of which prophesy the destruction of Jerusalem & the priesthood in AD70.
 - Deut. 31:28-30; 32:5,15-29
 - Isaiah 28:1-19; 29:1-14
 - Isaiah 50:6-11
 - Mal. 1:6 – 3:5
- B. The Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)
- A allegory/parable, not literal history. One of the earliest manuscripts, [Codex Bezae](#) (5th century, Italy), begins vs. 19 as follows: *Εἶπεν δὲ καὶ ἑτέραν παραβολὴν* – “*But He spoke also another parable, ...*”
 - The last in a series of parables spoken to the Jewish leadership. (compare Lk. 16:1)
 - The “Rich Man” – the apostate Jewish Priesthood – Levites
 - Justified themselves (Luke 16:15 / Mal. 1:6; 2:14,17; 3:8,13)
 - Improperly divorced wives and remarried (Luke 16:18 / Mal. 2:13-16)
 - “Lovers of money” (Luke 16:14) who had “robbed God” (Mal. 3:8-10).
 - Dressed in purple and fine linen
 - “Purple” was the clothing of kings (Mark 15:17).
 - “Fine linen” was the clothing of priests (Ex. 39:27-29).
 - The Hasmonean Dynasty (from the Maccabees) were “priest-kings,” and continued to rule under Herod the Great.
 - “Lazarus” – Jesus Christ, Greek form of the Hebrew “E’leazar,” means “God is My Help.”
 - A term applied to Jesus several times: (Psalm 22:16-19; Psalm 40:6-17)
 - The name “Lazarus” was drawn directly from Isaiah’s prophecy of Jesus and the destruction of the Levitical priesthood (Isaiah 50:6-7).
 - He came as a “poor beggar,” born in a stable, homeless, dependent on support of others.
 - Luke 9:58; 2 Cor. 8:9
 - Full of “sores” – bearing our diseases and infirmities (Matt. 8:16-17; Isaiah 53:4-5 LXX)
 - The “dogs” – the Gentiles (Matt. 15:22-28)
 - Desiring to eat the crumbs (as a Man, humble food)
 - The beggar died – the crucifixion of Christ.
 - Carried by the angels – His bodily ascension into heaven (Acts 1:9-11, cf. Matt. 24:31)
 - Abraham’s Bosom – The ‘Seed’ of the Abrahamic Covenant
 - A term used in Gen. 16:5 for Abraham’s intimacy with his wife to produce an heir.
 - Lazarus in “Abraham’s bosom” shows that He (Jesus) is the promised Seed.
 - The rich man died afterwards – the destruction of Jerusalem 40 years later in AD 70
 - Priesthood demolished – Deut. 32:19-22; Isaiah 28-29; Isaiah 50:11; Mal. 1:6 – 3:12
 - “In Hades” – refers to the priesthood in exile from the Land & Temple.
 - “Hades” is the “grave” of humanity (Num. 16:33; 1 Kings 2:9; Ezek. 32:27; 1 Cor. 15:55).
 - The unfaithful priesthood punished in “Hades” (Deut. 32:19-22; Isa. 28:15,18; 29:4).
 - Tormented in the flames – God’s wrath (Deut. 32:19-22; Isa. 50:11; Mal. 3:2-3).
 - Send Lazarus to bring relief – Send the Messiah to restore Israel (Hosannah – “save now”)
 - The Great Gulf – the blindness imposed on Israel (Isa. 6:9-13; Matt. 13:10-15; Rom. 11:7-10).
 - Five Brothers – the other 5 tribes of Israel from the same mother – Leah
 - Levi had 5 brothers: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun (Gen. 30).
 - If they will not hear Moses, they will not hear the One who rose from the dead – Jesus.
 - No sign would be given to that wicked generation (Mark 8:11-12). (For the “sign of Jonah” see the following article: <http://www.4windsfellowships.net/articles/Chronology/jonah.pdf>)
 - Jesus refused to show Himself resurrected to unbelievers (Jn. 14:19-20; 1 Cor. 15:3-8).