

*Jesus said, "I am the way,  
the truth, and the life."*

—John 14:6

# What is TRUTH?

*Culture demands ... and deserves an answer*



The Wednesday BibleLife Series  
Terry R Baughman, Lead Pastor

What is Truth?

Culture demands an answer ... and Culture deserves an answer.

— I plan to teach several lessons in this series.

- First of all we will establish a foundation for the Word of God as being truth.
- We will establish core doctrines of our faith in Jesus Christ and who He is
- Then we will approach some topics of apologetics — defending truth in an unbelieving culture.



# The Truth about Humanity 3

 **LifeChurch**  
www.LifeChurchAZ.net

December 9, 2015  
The Wednesday BibleLife Series  
Terry R Baughman, Lead Pastor

Anthropology  
Doctrine of man  
Origin of man,  
Image of God,  
Original sin,  
immaterial vs. Material (body/soul)  
Historical development of the issues

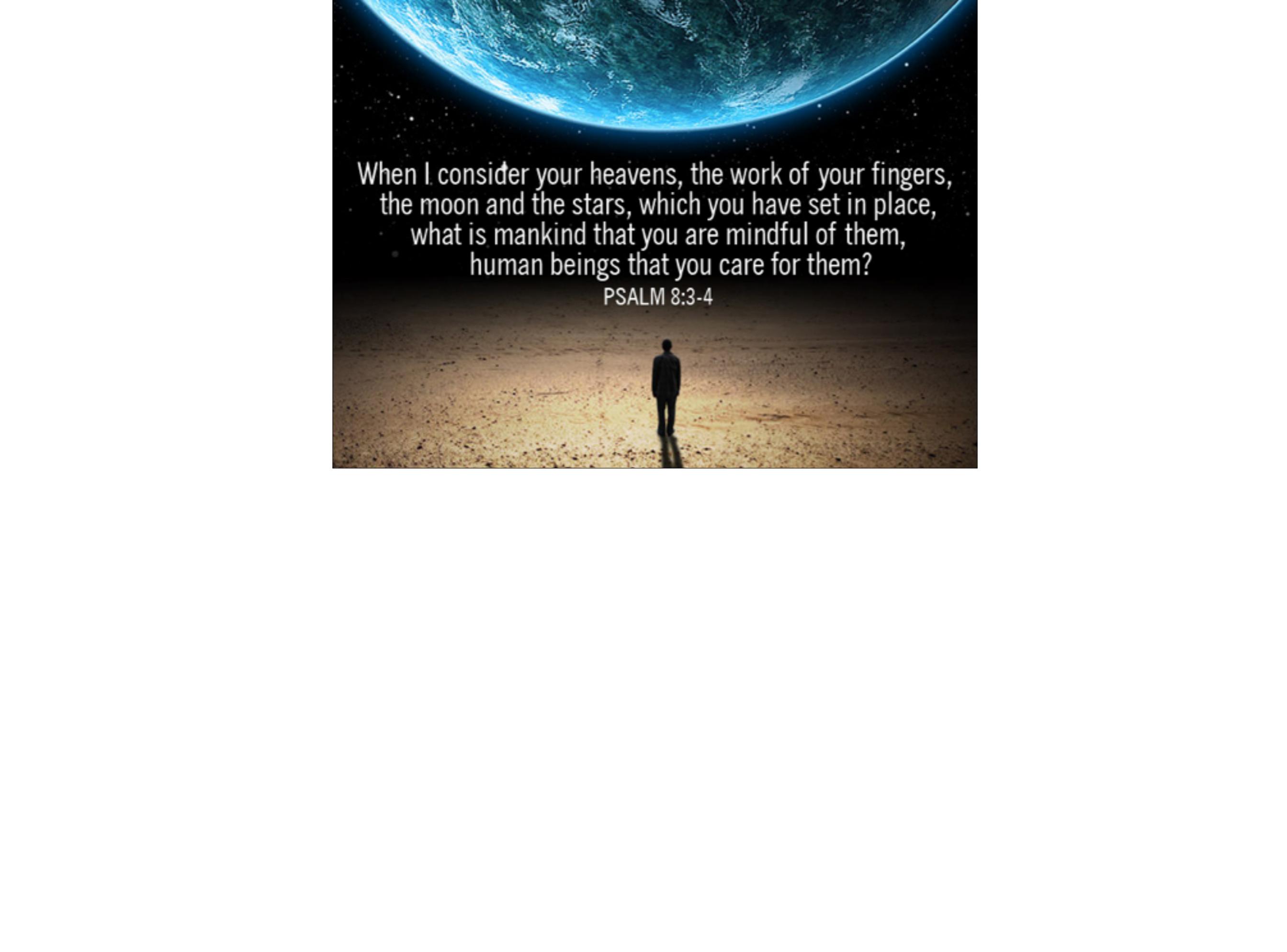
A dark grey rectangular background featuring the silhouettes of a man and a woman holding hands. The man is on the left, wearing a suit, and the woman is on the right, wearing a long, flowing dress. The word "Anthropology" is written in white, sans-serif font across the top of the image.

# Anthropology

ἄνθρωπος / λόγος  
*anthropos / logos*

the study of humankind

Anthropology — the study of humankind  
Must start with the origin of humans.



When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,  
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?

PSALM 8:3-4



# THE INTERMEDIATE STATE

- Life after death and before the resurrection
  - *Where are the dead?*
  - *Are the dead conscious?*



Where are the dead?  
Are the dead conscious?



# THE INTERMEDIATE STATE

- Words for the abode of the dead

## –Hebrew

- שְׁאוֹל - *sheol* – “grave” or “hell”
- קֶבֶר - *qeber* – grave

## –Greek

- ᾍδης - *hades* – “hell” or “grave”
- γέεννα - *gehenna* – hell (fire)

Art By Pat Marvenko Smith, Copyright 1982/1992

The Hebrew “sheol” is often translated “hell”

The Greek equivalent is “hades”

—Words are defined by their contexts. In **some** contexts “sheol” and “hades” refer to death, or as a symbol of death, the grave.

—In **other** contexts the words refer to the place of literal and conscious torment for the unredeemed.

The **Hebrew** “sheol” is often translated “hell”

AV - grave 31, hell 31, pit 3; 65 • 1) sheol, underworld, grave, hell, pit 1a) the underworld 1b) Sheol - the OT designation for the abode of the dead

The **Greek** equivalent is “hades”

AV - hell 10, grave 1; 11 -- later use of this word: the grave, death, hell • In Biblical Greek it is associated with Orcus, the infernal regions, a dark and dismal place in the very depths of the earth, the common receptacle of disembodied spirits. Usually Hades is just the abode of the wicked,

*Words are defined by their contexts. In some contexts “sheol” and “hades” refer to death, or as a symbol of death, the grave.*

*In other contexts the words refer to the place of literal and conscious torment for the unredeemed.*

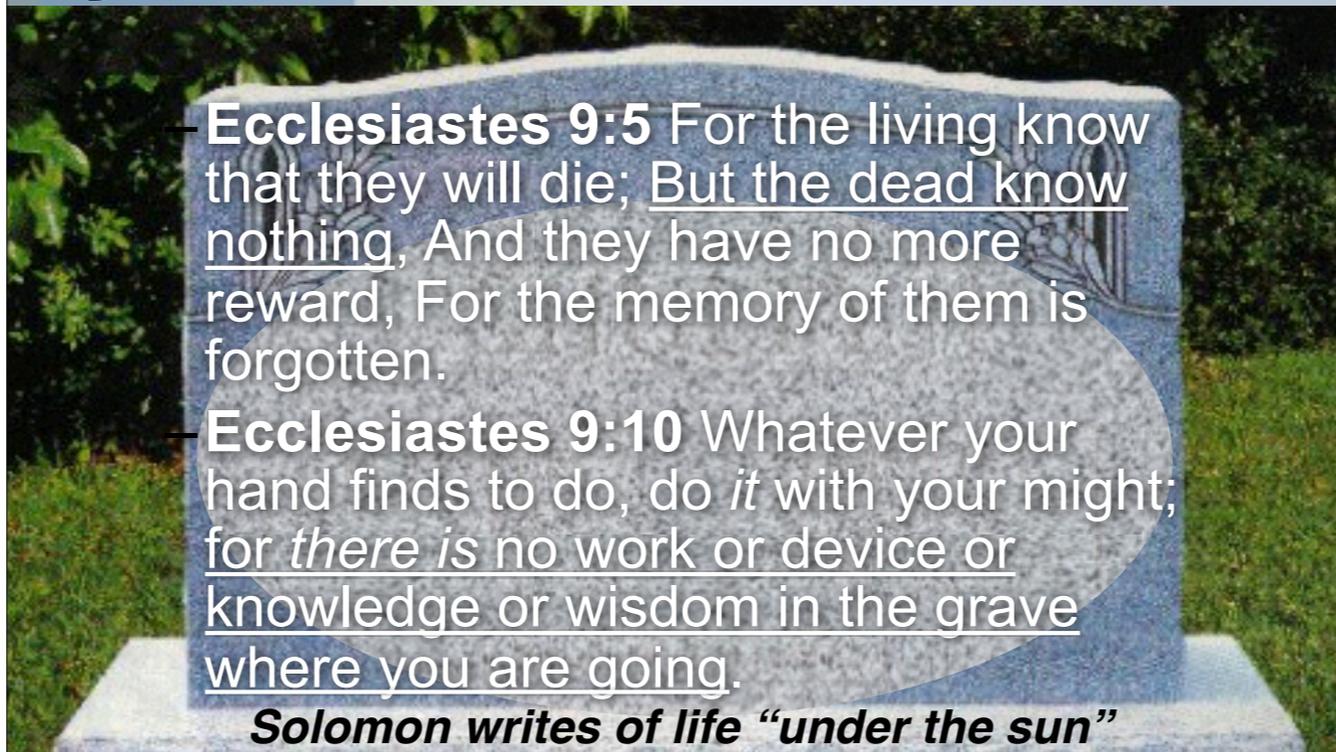
*Another Greek word - Gehenna*

1) Hell is the place of the future punishment called “Gehenna” or “Gehenna of fire”. This was originally the valley of Hinnom, south of Jerusalem, where the filth and dead animals of the city were cast out and burned; a fit symbol of the wicked and their future destruction.



# THE INTERMEDIATE STATE

***Are the dead conscious? Does the Soul Sleep?***



**Ecclesiastes 9:5** For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten.

**Ecclesiastes 9:10** Whatever your hand finds to do, do *it* with your might; for *there is* no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.

Those who hold to the doctrine of “soul sleep” interpret all scripture based on these passages from Solomon. “The book does not have an eternal and heavenly perspective, but a temporal and earthly.” Solomon writes of things “under the sun” (phrase is used 27 times).

“If we look at life only as it appears to those “under the sun,” we will have to agree with Solomon: It appears that the dead know nothing. But from **other** books of the Bible which address the eternal perspective, we learn that **the dead are conscious.**”



# OUT OF BODY EXPERIENCE



Heaven is for Real

90 Minutes in Heaven

The Boy who came back from Heaven

But last week, following persistent rumours, Alex, now 16, revealed that the detail in the book was false. "I said I went to heaven because I thought it would get me attention," he wrote on his own blog.

"I did not die. I did not go to heaven. When I made the claims, I had never read the Bible. People have profited from lies, and continue to. They should read the Bible, which is enough," Alex wrote.



# OUT OF BODY EXPERIENCE

- *Paul's "out of body" experience:*
  - "I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago -- whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows -- such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man -- whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows -- how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter."
  - 2 Corinthians 12:2-4





# THE INTERMEDIATE STATE



- *Paul's teaching*
  - “to be absent from the body” is “to be present with the Lord”
    - 2 Corinthians 5:8
  - “to depart and be with Christ, which is far better” than remaining “in the flesh”
    - Philippians 1:23-24

NKJ 2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.



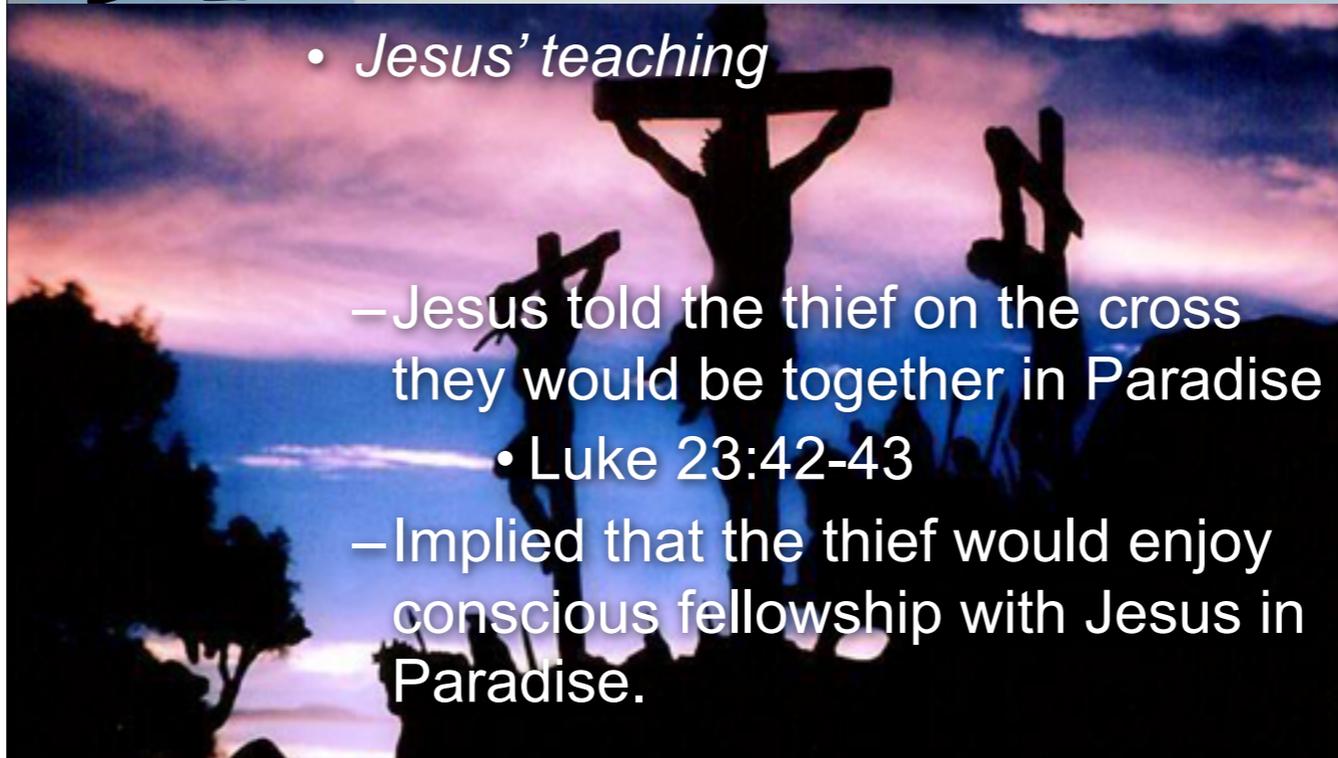
# THE INTERMEDIATE STATE

- *Jesus' teaching*

- Jesus told the thief on the cross they would be together in Paradise

- Luke 23:42-43

- Implied that the thief would enjoy conscious fellowship with Jesus in Paradise.



Jesus told the thief on the cross they would be together in Paradise

–NKJ Luke 23:42 Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." 43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Implied that the thief would enjoy conscious fellowship with Jesus in Paradise.



### *John's revelation*

- John saw the righteous dead as being conscious prior to the resurrection.
- Revelation 6:9-11
- Tribulation martyrs are in the presence of God in heaven, conscious and able to communicate.

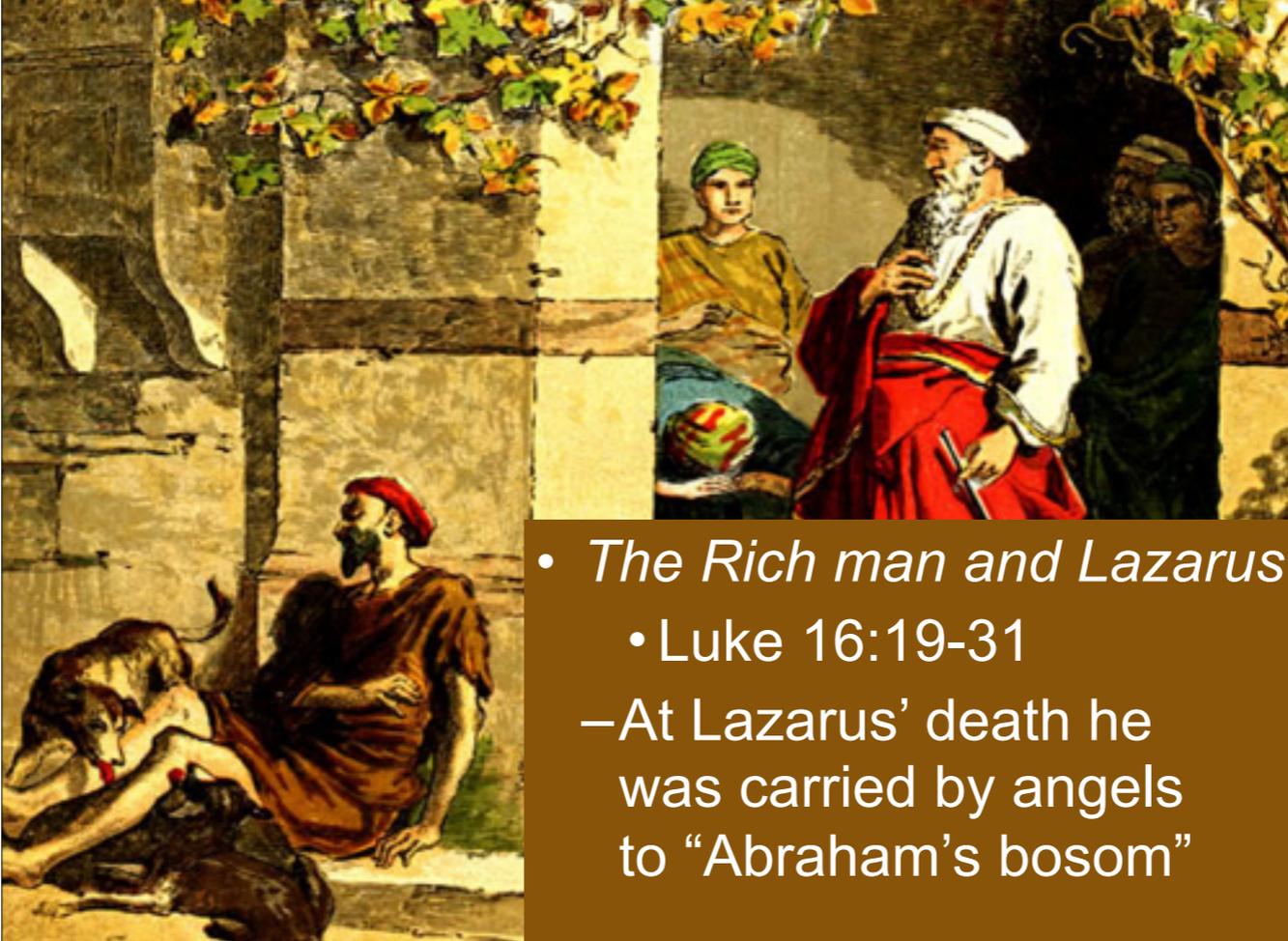
—John saw the righteous dead as being conscious prior to the resurrection.

—NKJ Revelation 6:9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they *were*, was completed.

—Tribulation martyrs are in the presence of God in heaven, conscious and able to communicate.



- *The Rich man and Lazarus*
- Luke 16:19-31
- At Lazarus' death he was carried by angels to "Abraham's bosom"

Luke 16:19 " 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.

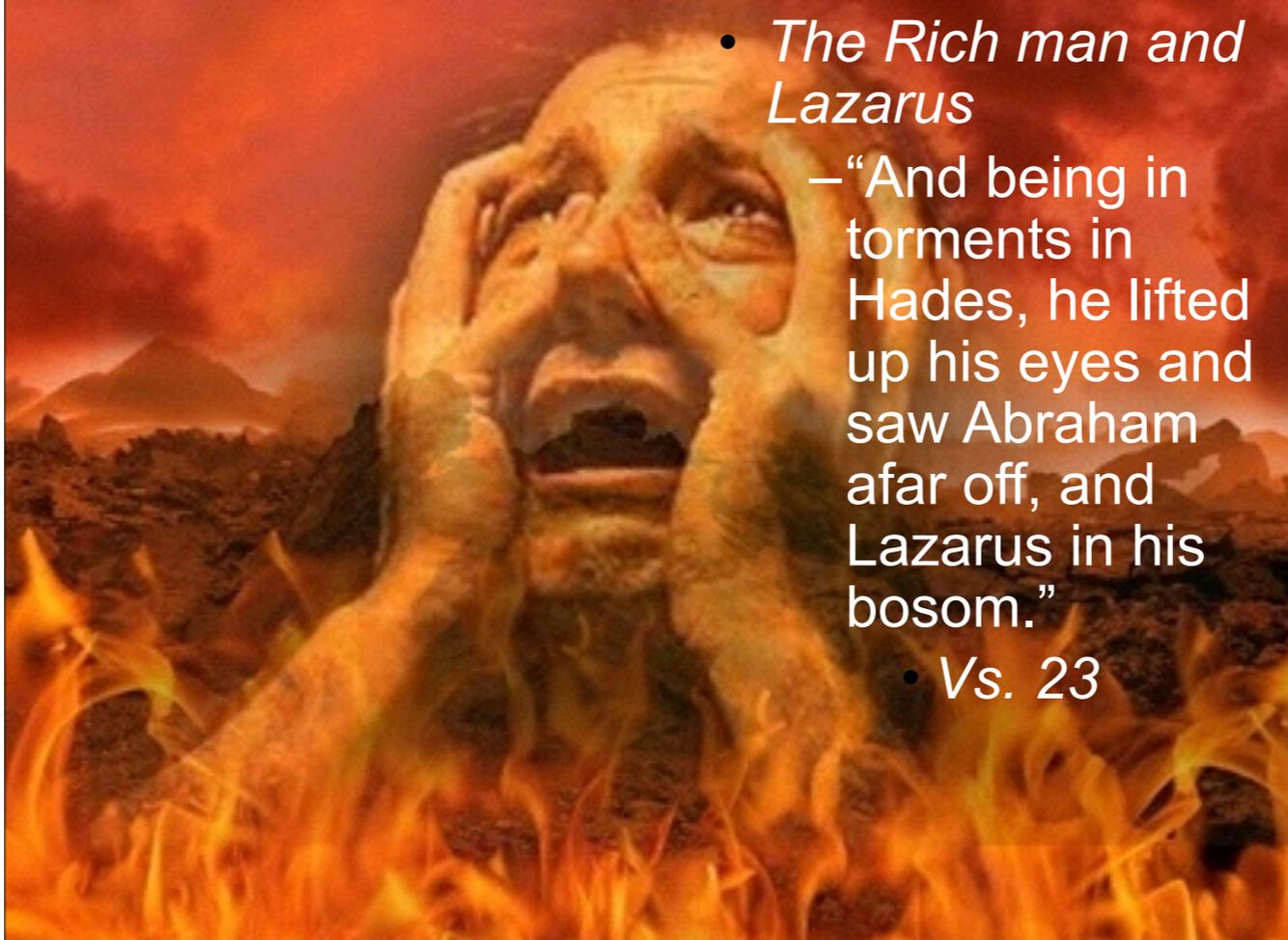
Some argue for a parable. "Even if it is a parable—and that is by no means certain—we can be sure that Jesus would not misrepresent the state of the dead." The state of the dead is accurate even if the account is a parable.

"Abraham's bosom" was a common Jewish metaphor for the blessed state of the righteous dead; they had joined Abraham—the father of the faithful—in the afterlife.

After the resurrection of Jesus, Christians no longer spoke of the state of the righteous dead as "Abraham's bosom." The death of the righteous is now seen as being in the presence of Christ rather than Abraham.

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.



- *The Rich man and Lazarus*

– “And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.”

- Vs. 23

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.' "

The Clear teaching of Jesus in this story:

1. That the righteous dead enjoy fellowship with believers who have died before them.
2. The wicked dead experience suffering and remorse.

No record that His hearers challenged this presentation of consciousness in the afterlife.



## THE INTERMEDIATE STATE

- The Clear teaching of Jesus in this story:
  - *That the righteous dead enjoy fellowship with believers who have died before them.*
  - *The wicked dead experience suffering and remorse.*
- No record that His hearers challenged this presentation of consciousness in the afterlife.

The Clear teaching of Jesus in this story:

1. That the righteous dead enjoy fellowship with believers who have died before them.
2. The wicked dead experience suffering and remorse.

No record that His hearers challenged this presentation of consciousness in the afterlife.



# THE INTERMEDIATE STATE

- *What about Death as “Sleep”?*
  - Some references speak of death as sleep.
- John 11:11
  - A common metaphor for death
  - Communication with this world is terminated
  - Not to imply there is no consciousness in the afterlife.



NKJ John 11:11 These things He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up."

—Metaphors should not be stretched beyond their intended illustration.

“If the context indicates that “sleep” means death, it simply means that the person’s eyes are closed as in death and that his communication with this world is terminated. It does not mean that the person who has died has no consciousness in the afterlife.”

# Eternal Judgment

- But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

—Romans 6:22

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

—Matthew 10:28

Matthew 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

—Romans 6:22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

# The Severity of Judgment

- If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out
- And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where
- “the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.’

Jesus on the severity of punishment (vs. 43 & 47-48)

Mark 9:42 “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea. 43 If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. [44] [b] 45 And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. [46] [c] 47 And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, 48 where

“the worms that eat them do not die,  
and the fire is not quenched.’[d]

# The White Throne Judgment



Revelation 20

- I I Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

Revelation 20: 11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.



### Revelation 20

- 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

Revelation 20: 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God,[c] and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.



### Revelation 20

- 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

Revelation 20: 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.



- 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20: 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.[d] 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.



# THE PROMISE OF LIFE



- *Jesus gives hope of everlasting life*
  - “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.  
– John 5:24

– John 5:24 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.