

"Jesus said unto her, 'I AM the Resurrection, and the Life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And Whosoever Liveth And Believeth In Me Shall Never Die. Believest thou this?" *John 11:25-26no2 KJV*



Jesus told many stories. Some, object lessons called “parables,” some, the recounting of specific events. The difference can be ascertained by the use of two phrases; “is like” and “there was a certain.” The account in Luke 16:19-31 of the rich man and Lazarus is an actual event known by Jesus, because He is God and knows all. This is an Old Testament story. “Sheol,” (pronounced, sheh`-ole) is the Hebrew word that is often translated as “hell,” and simply means the world of the dead or the grave. Jesus gives us a clear image of a place divided by an impassable gulf but with the two parts close enough for verbal exchange. One a place of flame and torment, the other a place of rest. Most Jews referred to the place of rest euphemistically as “Abraham’s Bosom,” like we may refer to New York City as “The Big Apple.” Jesus called it “Paradise” when speaking to the repentant thief on the cross. The context of Scripture determines the meaning of “Sheol.” Before Calvary, sin was not yet atoned for, so the saints could not go to be directly with God. We know Sheol was in the “heart of the earth,” because that’s where Christ said He would be. “For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” His body lay in the tomb for three days and nights; certainly not the “heart of the earth.” It is written that “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also He went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Wherefore He saith, ‘When He ascended up on High (to the Father), He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.’ Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things.” After His death had atoned for all sin, Jesus went to the waiting saints in Paradise, declared the good news, and brought them with Him to Heaven. Paradise no longer being needed, “hell...enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure.” We see increased volcanic activity and earthquakes on the earth as a result. Facts to consider: The earth’s center is molten–Hell is a place of fiery torment. Magma, volcanic flow, only glows upon contact with the atmosphere–Hell is a place of darkness. Volcanic lava and ash literally snuff out all life and darken the sky. The earth is a sphere; it has no bottom–Hell is bottomless. “And He opened the Bottomless Pit; and there arose a smoke out of the Pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the Pit.” The earth rotates; therefore, like a clothes in a dryer. Hell is a place of continual falling. Hell and the Lake of fire are two different places. “And Death and Hell were cast into the Lake of Fire.” I said all that to say this; Jesus IS “the Resurrection and the Life” and where He is, His Life is totally consuming; obliterating, and purging every nuance of death; like light obliterates darkness. Where God is, there is no death, because death is, essentially, where God is not!

To never die, for aye to live,  
For this a man all wealth would give,  
But there’s no cost for all who came,  
And simply trusted Jesus’ name. –CGP

Believers are immediately in the presence of God as they leave their body, because “absent from the body [is] to be present with the Lord.” I shall never die! I look forward to seeing Mom and Dad, Granny, my brothers, Les, Harold and all the saints, but, most of all; I look forward to reaching for that nail-scarred hand stretched out to me as I step from this body and into forever; where time will vanish like smoke in a high wind; where I can eternally revel in the Presence of my Saviour and company of my fellows! Truth is absolute whether you believe it or not.

*"For this corruptible must put on Incorruption, and this mortal must put on Immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on Incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on Immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, 'Death is swallowed up in Victory.'" 1 Corinthians 15:50-54 KJV*