

Enchanted

The Final
Mystery

Recap

"We are not to think that man is the highest form of created being. As the distance between man and the lower forms of life is filled with beings of various grades, so it is possible that between man and God there exist creatures of higher than human intelligence and power."

J. Hampton Keathley III

Recap

Three Assumptions About the Supernatural

We are **affected** and can **affect** the supernatural realm

The bible assumes the supernatural as **normative**

Our knowledge is **incomplete** in regards to the relationship of the two

Recap

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" **Revelations 7:9-12**

Encounter

Decision

Response



Where do you go when you die?

Kastalia Medrano, Newsweek

Over the last few years, though, scientists have seen repeated evidence that once you die, your brain cells take days, potentially longer, to reach the point past which they've degraded too far to ever be viable again. This does not mean you're not dead; you are dead. **Your brain cells, however, may not be.**

"What's fascinating is that there is a time, only after you and I die, that the cells inside our bodies start to gradually go toward their own process of death," Dr. Sam Parnia, director of critical care and resuscitation research at New York University Langone Medical Centre, told Newsweek. "I'm not saying the brain still works, or any part of you still works once you've died. **But the cells don't instantly switch from alive to dead.**"

After you die, your brain knows you're dead, terrifying study reveals By Andrea Downey

In March, doctors at a Canadian intensive care unit discovered that one person had persistent brain activity for **up to 10 minutes after they turned off their life support machine**, but three others did not. For more than 10 minutes after the medics declared the person clinically dead, brain waves, like those we experience in our sleep, continued to occur.

There's no heaven and hell, although the soul experiences both good and bad on its way... Great souls get salvation — but most souls find a **new** body to get into and start a new life. **Ramaswamy P. Mohan, Hindu**

On the Day of Judgment, the body is judged, and those who have **earned** their reward are allowed into paradise, while those who have earned a punishment are consigned to hell. **Amir Hussain, Muslim**

we believe that the body dies and disappears, but the mind goes on — the mind has existed endlessly and continues to go on. And, we believe that there is **rebirth** **Mary Riechers, Buddhist**

there's a strong belief in the idea that people have a soul, or **neshama**. The soul lives forever, and the body is on borrowed time, and we give it back to God...some even go so far as to say that at some point, in a messianic era, souls will return to the body **Rabbi Corey M. Helfand, Judaism**

The anguish of death **hangs over** and leads the human spirit to wonder about the mysteries of existence, man's destiny, life, the world. **E. Morin**

Life is rather a state of **embryo**, a preparation for life; a man is not completely born till he has passed through death. **Benjamin Franklin**



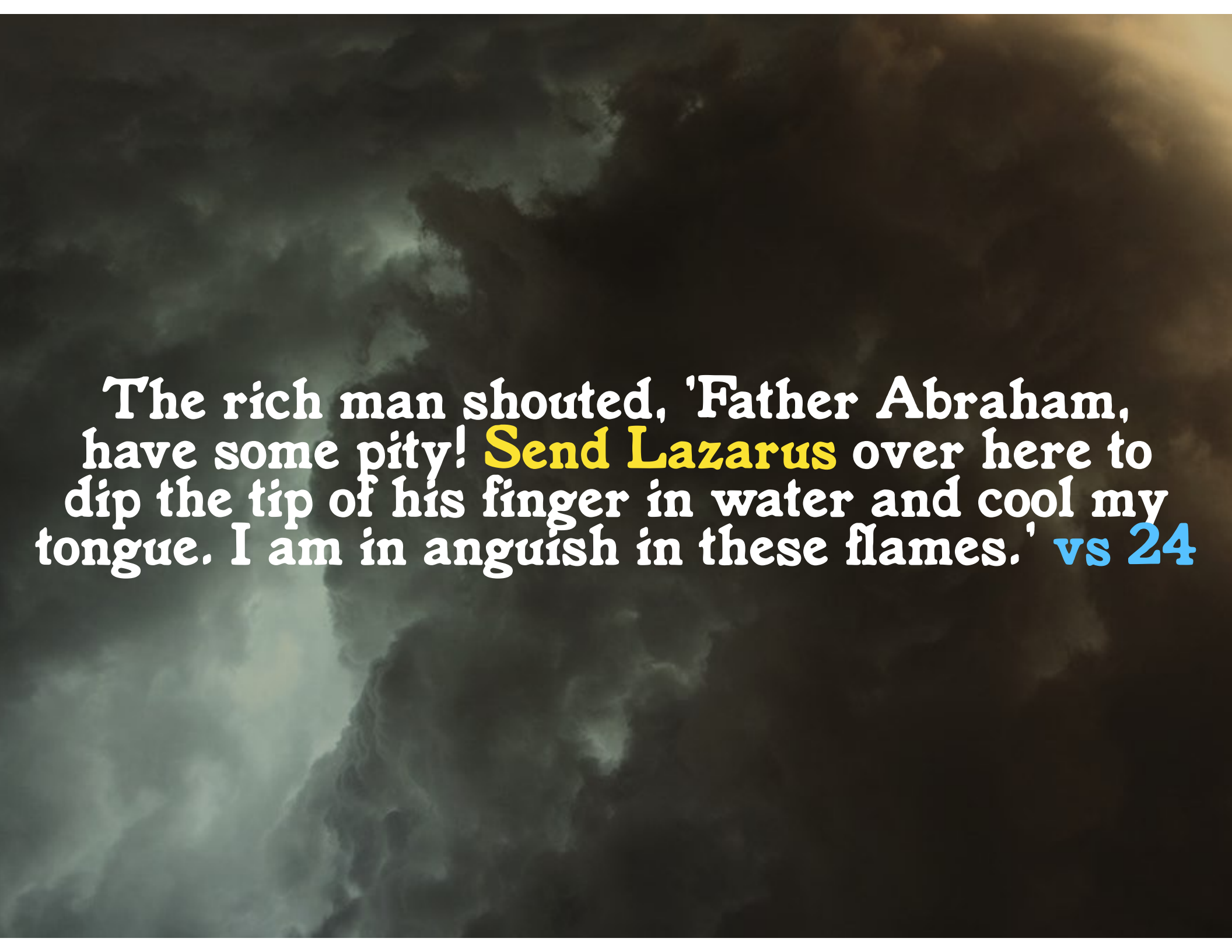
I'm not afraid of death; I just don't want to
be there when it happens. **Woody Allen**

Jesus said, "There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. As **Lazarus** lay there longing for scraps from the rich man's table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores." **Luke 16:19-21**

The question is often asked, is the account of the rich man and Lazarus a historical account or is it a parable? Is it the true story of two men who lived and died during the time of Christ's earthly ministry or is it a made-up story used by the Lord to drive home a point? **I believe that the evidence is that it describes an actual history of these two men.** **W. Edward Bedore, Th.D**

By definition, a parable is a true-to-life story used to illustrate or illuminate a truth. This is true even if all of the details never occurred exactly as presented in the story... In other words, the story itself has to be based on events that could have happened, whether they ever actually did or not.

Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the **angels** to sit beside Abraham at the heavenly banquet. The rich man also died and was buried, and he went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side. **vs 22-23**



The rich man shouted, 'Father Abraham, have some pity! **Send Lazarus** over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.' **vs 24**

But Abraham said to him, 'Son, remember that **during your lifetime** you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. **No one can cross over to you from here**, and no one can cross over to us from there.' **vs 25-26**

Then the rich man said, 'Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father's home. For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don't end up in this place of torment.' vs 27-28

But Abraham said, 'Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.' "The rich man replied, 'No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.' "But Abraham said, 'If they won't listen to Moses and the prophets, they won't be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'" vs 29-31



**Most of Jesus parables/teaching always
seems to be in view of the afterlife**

Unpacking The Rich And Lazarus

Our Lives Are Ours to Live

But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then **choose** today whom you will serve. **Joshua 24:15**

How much longer will you waver, hobbling between two opinions? If the Lord is God, **follow him!** **1 Kings 18:21**

Today I have given you the **choice** between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. **Deuteronomy 30:19**

You can **enter** God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way **Matthew 7:13**

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "**If** any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me." **Matthew 16:24**

Unpacking The Rich And Lazarus

Death is final

The dead will **not live**, the departed spirits will **not rise** **Isaiah 26:14**

So man lies down and does not rise. Until the heavens are no longer, He will not awake nor be aroused out of his sleep. **Job 14:12**

And just as each person is destined to **die once** and after that comes judgment **Hebrews 9:27**

Yes, remember your Creator now while you are young, before the silver cord of life snaps and the golden bowl is broken. Don't wait until the water jar is smashed at the spring and the pulley is broken at the well. **For then the dust will return to the earth, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.** **Ecclesiastes 12:6-7**

Unpacking The Rich And Lazarus

Decision is Immediate

Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will **remove from his Kingdom** everything that causes sin and all who do evil. **Matthew 13:40-41**

That is the way it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and **separate** the wicked people from the righteous **Matthew 13:49**

And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life. **Matthew 25:46**

And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes **judgment** **Hebrews 9:27**

Unpacking The Rich And Lazarus

"Hell, then, is the **trajectory of a soul**, living a self-absorbed, self-centered life, going on and on forever." **Tim Keller**

Hell is "**the greatest monument to human freedom**... It is not a question of God 'sending us' to hell. In each of us there is something growing, which will **BE** hell unless it is nipped in the bud." **CS Lewis**

Unpacking The Rich And Lazarus

God is Just

He is the Rock; his deeds are perfect. Everything he does is **just and fair**. He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright he is! **Deuteronomy 32:4**

"Listen to me, my people. Hear me, Israel, for my law will be proclaimed, and **my justice** will become a light to the nations. **Isaiah 51:4**

Instead, I want to see a mighty **flood of justice**, an endless river of righteous living. **Amos 5:24**

God blesses those who hunger and thirst for **justice**, for they will be satisfied. **Matthew 5:6**

Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. You rule with a **sceptre of justice**. **Hebrews 1:8**

Unpacking The Rich And Lazarus

God is Just

"There are only two kinds of people - those who say "Thy will be done" to God or those to whom God in the end says, "Thy will be done." **All that are in hell choose it.** Without that **self-choice** it wouldn't be hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it." **CS Lewis**

And as he spoke He no longer looked to them like a lion; but the things that began to happen after that were so great and beautiful that I cannot write them. And for us this is the end of all the stories, and we can most truly say that they all lived happily ever after. **But for them it was on the beginning of the real story.**

All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning **Chapter One of the Great Story**, which no one on earth has read; which goes on forever; in which every chapter is better than the one before. **CS Lewis, The Last Battle**