

The Gospel of Luke



Facing the Doorway of Death

Before and after John the Baptizer **

Some scholars remove vs. 16-18 to some other place in the gospel accounts because they think it makes the reading flow more smoothly between v. 15 and v. 19 with greater continuity.

How would you oppose this view?

- *Luke wrote “in consecutive order.” (1:3)*
- *Jesus continues to correct the Pharisees and to be rejected by them.*

Before and after John the Baptizer

Further: How might we oppose this view?

- *Just because a passage seems “not to fit” does not mean it is in the wrong place.*
- *One must press on and continue to dig and research and think to uncover truth.*

10-words?

Before and after John the Baptizer

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*10-words? John was the dividing line
between law and the Kingdom.*

Before and after John the Baptizer

After John, the Kingdom was being offered by the King himself. It was expected by O.T. prophets but realized in the ministry of Messiah, Jesus.

There are two basic eras as far as Luke is concerned. ...the era of promise and the era of preaching the good news of fulfillment.

The dividing line is John.

It is Kingdom preaching that transforms people, not the legalism of the Pharisees.

“Everyone is forcing his way into it.”

In what way is everyone forcing his way in?

- *Verb = Middle voice?*

- *The force is applied BY everyone.*

- *Verb = Passive voice?*

- *The force is applied TO everyone.*

Rather: “All are urged insistently to enter in.”

*Thus, Jesus is speaking of the persuasion
applied to everyone through preaching.*

How can the Law Fail?

“But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the Law to fail.” (v. 17)

WHY does Jesus bring up the Law?

The Kingdom plan demonstrates or fulfills the intent of the Law.

The goal of the Law is Jesus. Through Him its promise is realized.

A Parable -- Change of Status (17:19-31)

The Rich Man becomes the Beggar, and
The Beggar becomes a Rich Man.

Is this an accounting of a real-life event?

- 1. the text does not identify it as a parable,*
- 2. Jesus specifically names the poor man.*

Why did Jesus not name the rich man also?

Observation: the Players

The Rich Man:

- 1. Habitually dressed in purple and fine linen.*
- 2. Joyously lived in splendor every day.*
- 3. Died and was buried.*
- 4. In Hades was in torment in the flames.*

Conclusions from #1 & #2?

Observation: the Players

Lazarus:

- 1. Was laid at the Rich Man's gate.*
- 2. Covered with sores.*
- 3. Longed to be fed with the crumbs.*
- 4. Dogs were licking his sores.*
- 5. Died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom, being comforted.*

Conclusions from #1 thru #4?

Observation: the Players

Rich Man's Brothers:

- 1. Still living after their rich brother had died.*
- 2. They had the writings of Moses and the prophets to warn them if they would listen.*

Conclusions?

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Meaning of “death”

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Meaning of “death” “separation”

- Separation from God,
 - Separation from physical life on Earth,
 - Eternal separation from God.

Heaven = REAL

Hell = REAL

Torment –

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Torment – vs. 23 & 28 -- *basanismos* is used of
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Agony–

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Torment – vs. 23 & 28 -- *basanismos* is used of divine judgments in Rev. 14:11; 18:10.

Agony – vs. 24 & 25 -- *ὀδυνάομαι*: to be in severe pain—‘to suffer greatly, to be in great pain.’

In a number of languages ‘the fire’ must be more clearly marked as the causative agent, so...

...this expression in Lk 16:24 is restructured as “this fire is causing me great pain.”

Hades ≠ Hell

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Matthew 16:18 –

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Revelation 1:18 –

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*Revelation 1:18 – The resurrected Christ has the
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Revelation 20:13-14 –

Hades ≠ Hell

*Matthew 11:23 – It is the opposite of being
“exalted to Heaven.”*

*Matthew 16:18 – Its domain will not be able to
resist the Church.*

*Revelation 1:18 – The resurrected Christ has the
keys to Death and Hades.*

*Revelation 20:13-14 – Ultimately destroyed in
the Lake of Fire.*

Hades ≠ Hell

How would you describe it concisely?

- *It is the place of the dead,*
- *...the dwelling of those who have passed from this life but never knew Christ,*
- *...thus, never know forgiveness of their sins.*

To be clear: 2 Corinthians 5:6 & 8

Philippians 1:21 & 23

2 Corinthians 5:6 & 8

6 “...knowing that while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord—

8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.”

Philippians 1:21 & 23

21 *“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”*

23 *But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is better.”*

Lazarus & the Rich Man BOTH died

Note verse 22:

How did the deaths of the two men differ?

What differed regarding their eternity?

- *The rich man was confident in his own worthiness.*

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- *The rich man was confident in his own worthiness. He was wrong!*
 - *Lazarus repented, having listened to Moses and the prophecies about Mesiah Jesus.*
- ??? Did the rich man ever repent?*

Verse 31: Jesus quotes Father Abraham as saying, *"...they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead."*

What is the irony in this statement?

In only a few days, Jesus himself would be risen from the dead and still, many will not believe in Him.

The Rich Man lived without God, and he died without God. The issue for us in this account is not so much what is the afterlife like (Sheol or the grave).

Rather, it presses for a decision... Will I spend eternity with God or separated from God (eternal death).

“And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life,

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1 John 5:11-13

The Gospel of Luke

A white double door with brass handles is centered in a minimalist room with white walls and a wooden floor. The door has a classic design with two panels on each side and a small arched window at the top. The room is empty, with no furniture or decorations, creating a sense of solitude and focus on the door.

Facing the Doorway of Death

