

The Parables

Lazarus and the Rich Man

The Last Judgment

Parables

Luke 16:19-31 (Lazarus and the Rich Man)

"There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Laz'arus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table ... The poor man died and was carried by the angels to **Abraham's bosom**. The rich man also died and was buried; and in **Hades**, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Laz'arus in his bosom. And he called out, `Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Laz'arus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.'

But Abraham said, `Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Laz'arus in like manner evil things; but now **he is comforted here, and you are in anguish**. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and **none may cross from there to us**.' And he said, `Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.'

But Abraham said, `They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, `No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, **`If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.'**"

Lazarus and the Rich Man

Luke 16:19-31

- The rich Man has no name ... he is what he wanted to be ...
- “The poor man died and was carried by the angels to **Abraham's bosom.**”

The dialogue ...

- “The rich man also died and was buried; and in **Hades**, being in torment ...”
 - Hades associated with torment ...
- “... have mercy upon me ... for I am in anguish in this flame.”
- “... you in your lifetime received your good things, and Laz'arus in like manner evil things; but now **he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.**”
- “... send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them ...”
- “They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them ...”

Parables

Matt 25:31-46

"When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, **'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;** for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?'

And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'

Then he will say to those at his left hand, **'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels;** for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?'

Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And **they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."**

The Last Judgment

Matt 25:31-46

- "When the Son of man comes in his glory ... he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats ..."
- "Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world ..."
- "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels ..."
- "And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."
- "... I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."
- "... as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it (not) to me."

Rewards and Punishments in the Talmud

The Life of the World to Come

The *Talmud*

The Talmud ...

- “closed” by 600 CE
- “... a living tradition ...”
- “... an intellectual enterprise for eternity ...”
- “A commentary on the *Mishnah*” ... begun end of 2nd cent CE

- Dialectical inquiry ... propositions ... counter arguments ... points to make arguments.
- Flow of argument ...

- Not a word study ... an “idea study” ... after the “Biblical Age.”

Life in the “World to Come”

Olam Ha-Ba ... “world to come”

“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and **some to reproaches and everlasting abhorrence.**

And they that are wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament ...” (Dan 12:2-3)

The Afterlife

The place of reward:

The place of spiritual reward for the righteous is often referred to in Hebrew as Gan Eden ... the Garden of Eden. This is not the same place mentioned in the book of Genesis; it is a place of spiritual perfection.

Ultimately, though, the living can no more understand the nature of this place than the blind can understand color.

The place of punishment:

The name given to the place of punishment after death in the Rabbinic literature is Gehinnom.

The word Gehinnom is derived from the two Hebrew words "*gei*" ... meaning "valley" and "Hinnom" ... was a man's name.

Gei-Hinnom, therefore, is the "Valley of Hinnom"

“The World To Come”

Olam Ha-Ba

- Inheritance in the ... “life in the World to Come.”
 - Open to people of all “nations.”
 - Every Jew has this “inheritance” ...
 - But can “forsake it” ...
- *Gehinnom* ... created on the “second day.”
 - God does not declare that day “good.”
- “... in the Hereafter he who is crooked cannot be made straight, and he who is wanting cannot be numbered.”

Punishment in the “World to Come”

Gehinnom ...

- The average person descends to a place of punishment and/or purification, generally referred to as Gehinnom ...
- Some views see Gehinnom as one of severe punishment ... Other sources merely see it as a time when we can see the actions of our lives objectively, see the harm that we have done and the opportunities we missed, and experience remorse for our actions. The period of time in Gehinnom does not exceed 12 months, and then (one) ascends to take his place on Olam Ha-Ba.
- Only the utterly wicked do not ascend at the end of this period; their souls are punished for the entire 12 months. Sources differ on what happens at the end of those 12 months: some say that the wicked soul is utterly destroyed and ceases to exist while others say that the soul continues to exist in a state of consciousness of remorse.

Divine Justice

“That the righteous should be rewarded for their faithfulness to the divine will and the wicked punished for their rebelliousness is what we naturally expect in a Universe governed by a just Judge.”

– God cannot “do” what is not “right.”

A prayer thanking God for his justice:

“Lord of the Universe, rightly have You judged, rightly have You acquitted, rightly have You condemned, rightly have You instituted Gehinnom for the wicked and Gan Eden for the righteous.”

Gehinnom

“... in the Hereafter the wicked will be sentenced to Gehinnom and will murmur against the Holy One, blessed be He, saying ... ‘we looked for His salvation, and such a fate should befall us.’ He answers them, ‘When you were on earth did you not quarrel and slander and do all kinds of evil? Were you not responsible for strife and violence?’”

“There is a way which seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” (Prov 14:12)

There is room in Gan Eden for all ... there is room in Gehinnom for all.

- One ends up where one belongs ...

Talmudic Discussion

Size:

- The world is 1/60 the size of Gan Eden.
- Gan Eden is 1/60 the size of Gehinnom.

Three entrances to Gehinnom:

- The wilderness ... the sea ... Jerusalem.

Seven levels ...

- Punishments ...
 - Fire of abnormal intensity.
 - Half fire ... half hail.
 - Eternal ... not eternal ... 12 months.

Hillel the Elder ...

- Gehinnom will cease.

Talmudic Discussion

Jews cannot enter Gehinnom ... but ...

- Jews can be “uncircumsized” ...
 - Abraham at entrance ... An angel ...

Punishments can be reduced by prayers ... the Sabbath ...

The Sun ..

- East ... Gan Eden ...
- West ... Gehinnom

Kabbalistic Wisdom ... Zohar ...

- A person carries his own Gehinnom along with him in this life.