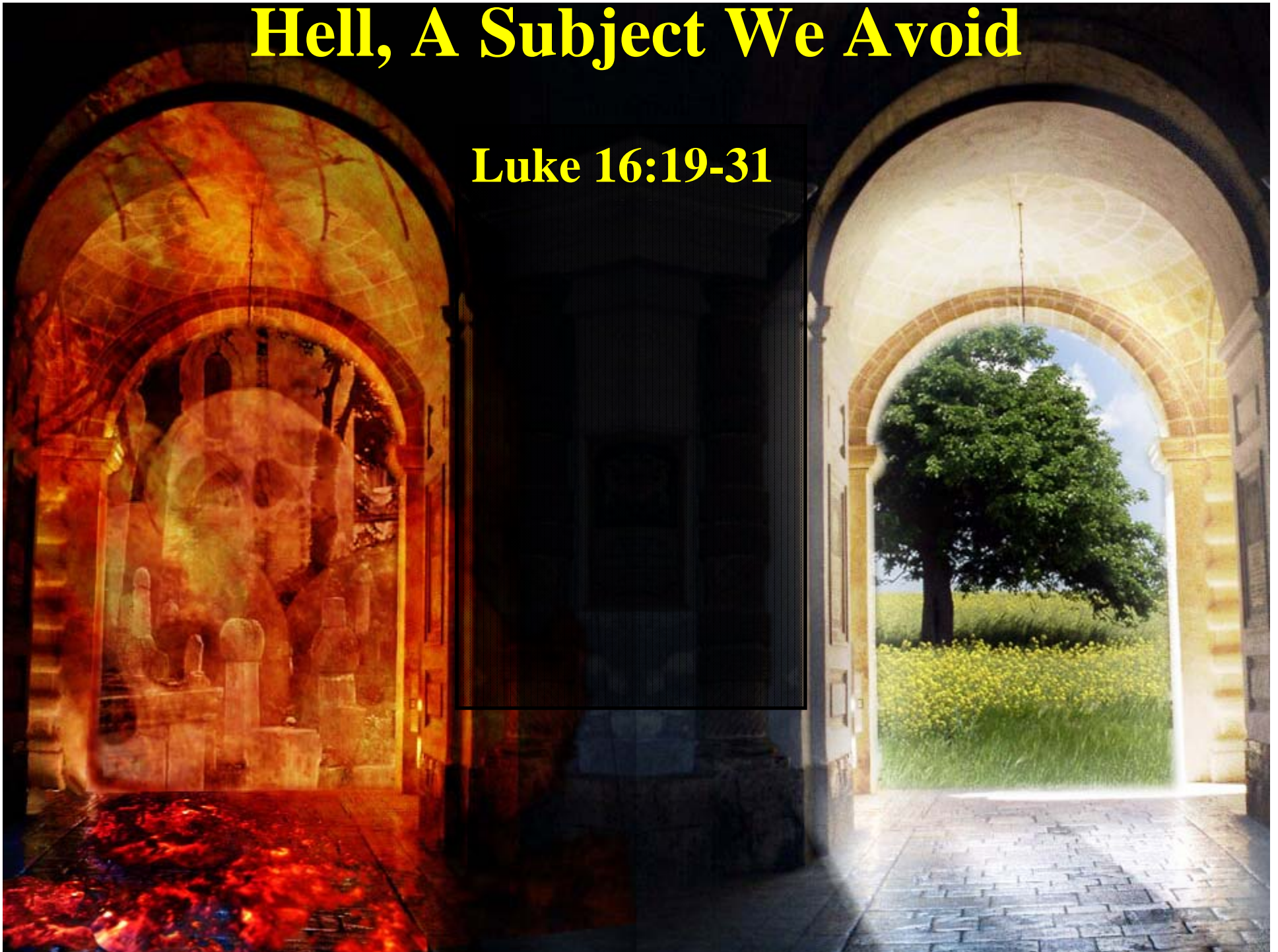


Hell, A Subject We Avoid

Luke 16:19-31





Some facts

One survey over ten years ago indicated that 58% Methodists, 60% Episcopalians, 54% Presbyterians, 35% American Baptists, 22% American Lutherans 15% Southern Baptist deny it is a specific place after death.

Some facts

**Barna classifies 82% of
Americans as Christians**

**Yet only 16% of Americans can
be classified as committed to
the faith and doctrine**

**This reverses the figure by
restating 84% of Americans are
not committed to faith or
doctrine**



1. What Does the Bible have to Say?

Revelation 20:12-15—And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it,



1. What Does the Bible have to Say?

Revelation 20:12-15—and death and *Hades* gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.

And death and *Hades* were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.



1. What Does the Bible have to Say?

Confusion sets in when we try to sort out terms.

Sheol – Hebrew word for place of the dead

Hades – Greek word for place of the dead

Gehenna – Valley of Hinnom, the garbage dump on southside of Jerusalem, constantly burning, Jesus used to describe Hell



1. What Does the Bible have to Say?

Unbelievers immediately enter into the temporary torment of *Sheol* or *Hades*, from which they will eventually be cast into the lake of fire. They are in constant and conscious agony, which endures for eternity.



2. An Illustration from Jesus

Luke 16:19-31 (HCSB)

19 “There was a rich man who would dress in purple and fine linen, feasting lavishly every day.

20 But a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, was left at his gate. 21 He longed to be filled with what fell from the rich man’s table, but instead the dogs would come and lick his sores.



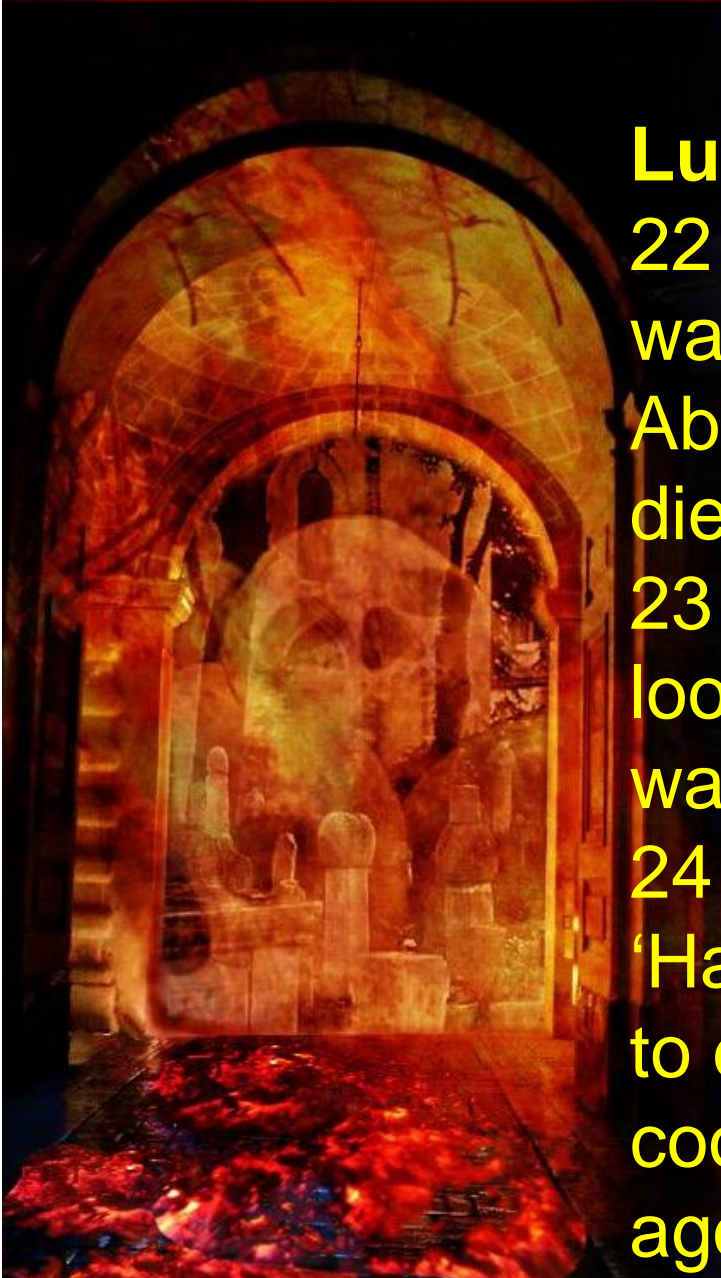
2. An Illustration from Jesus

Luke 16:19-31 (HCSB)

22 One day the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried.

23 And being in torment in Hades, he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off, with Lazarus at his side.

24 'Father Abraham!' he called out, 'Have mercy on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this flame!'



2. An Illustration from Jesus

Luke 16:19-31 (HCSB)

25 “ ‘Son,’ Abraham said, ‘remember that during your life you received your good things, just as Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here, while you are in agony.’

26 Besides all this, a great chasm has been fixed between us and you, so that those who want to pass over from here to you cannot; neither can those from there cross over to us.’

27 “ ‘Father,’ he said, ‘then I beg you to send him to my father’s house—

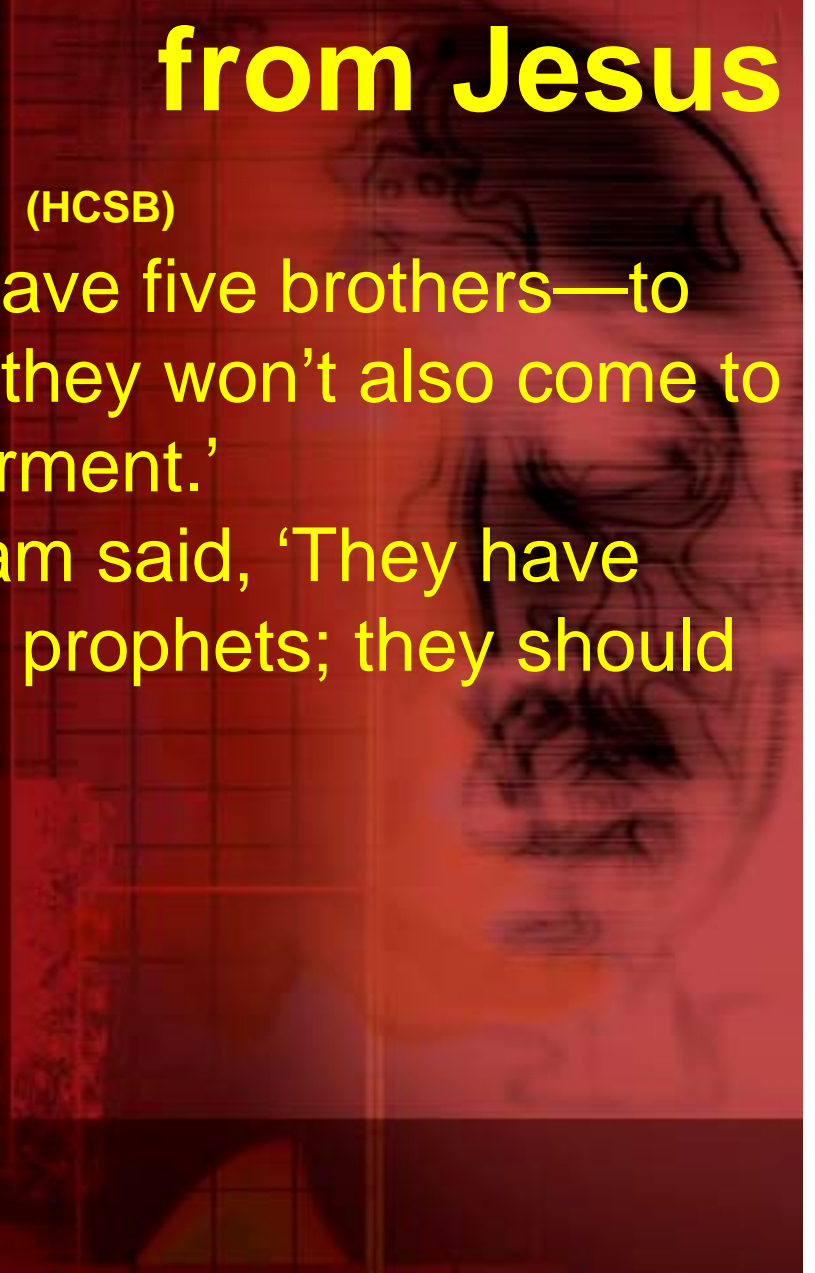


2. An Illustration from Jesus

Luke 16:19-31 (HCSB)

28 because I have five brothers—to warn them, so they won't also come to this place of torment.'

29 "But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.'

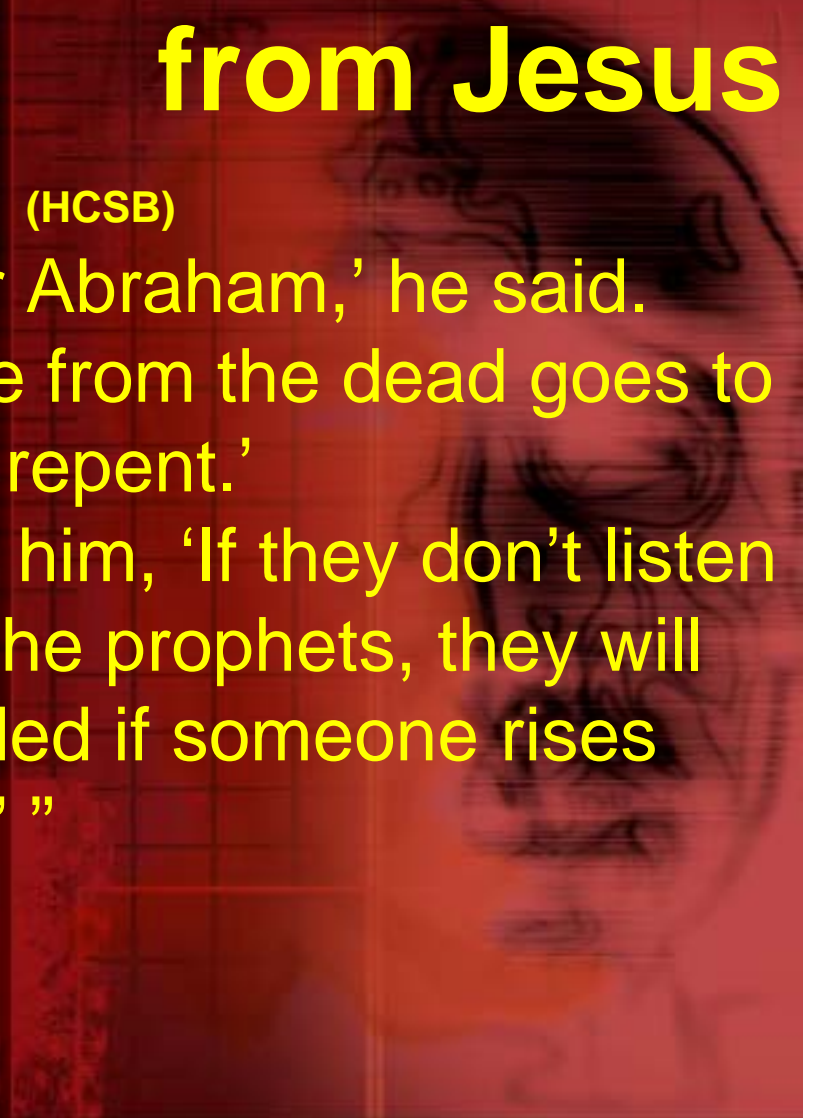
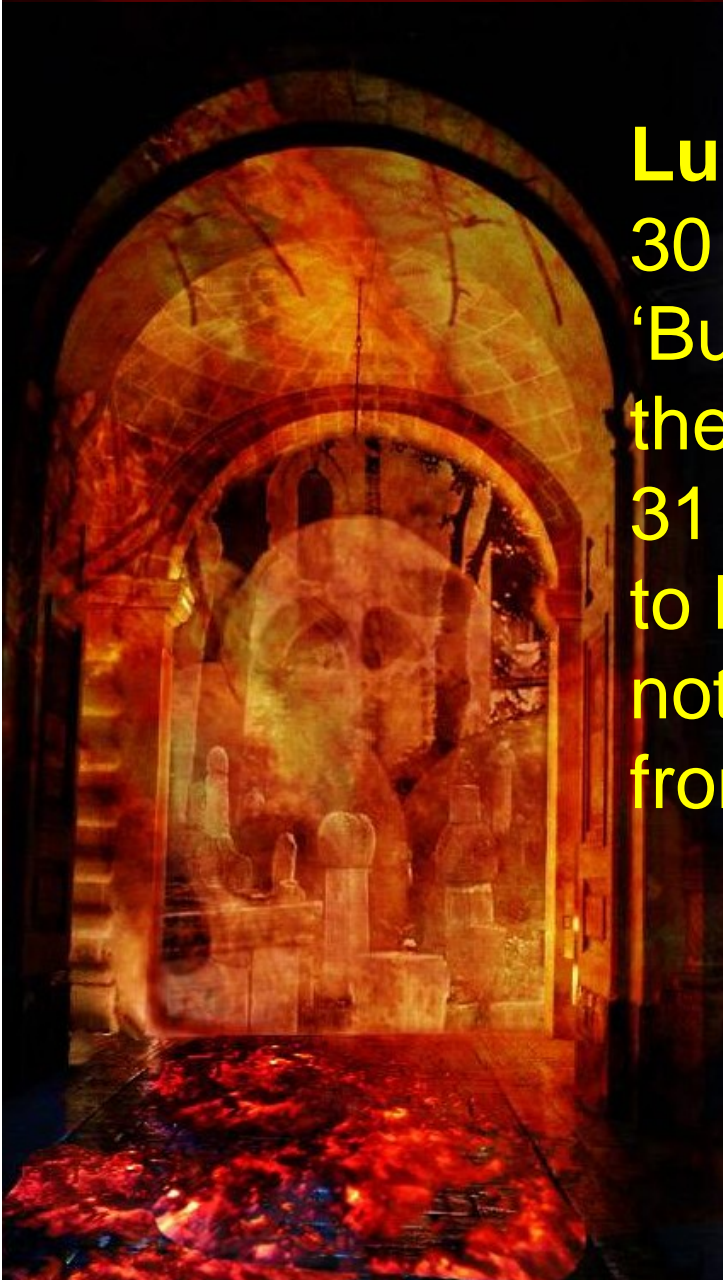


2. An Illustration from Jesus

Luke 16:19-31 (HCSB)

30 “ ‘No, father Abraham,’ he said. ‘But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ ”

31 “But he told him, ‘If they don’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.’ ”



2. An Illustration from Jesus

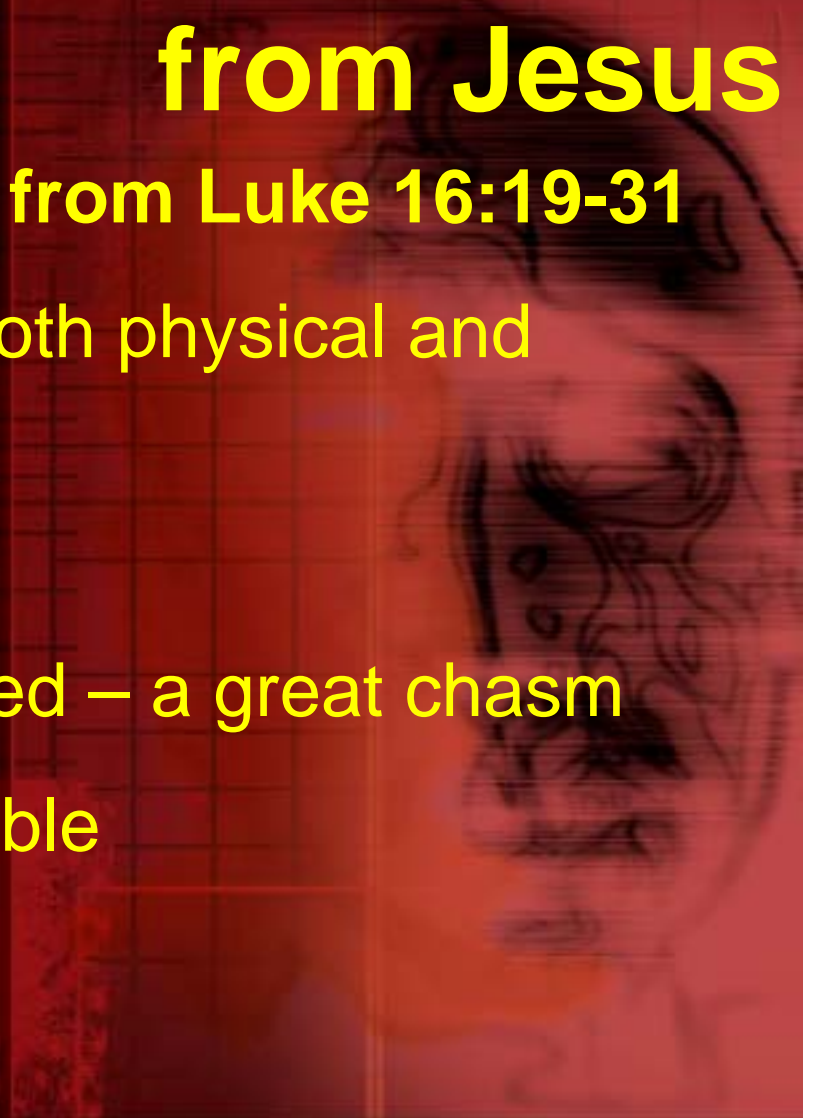
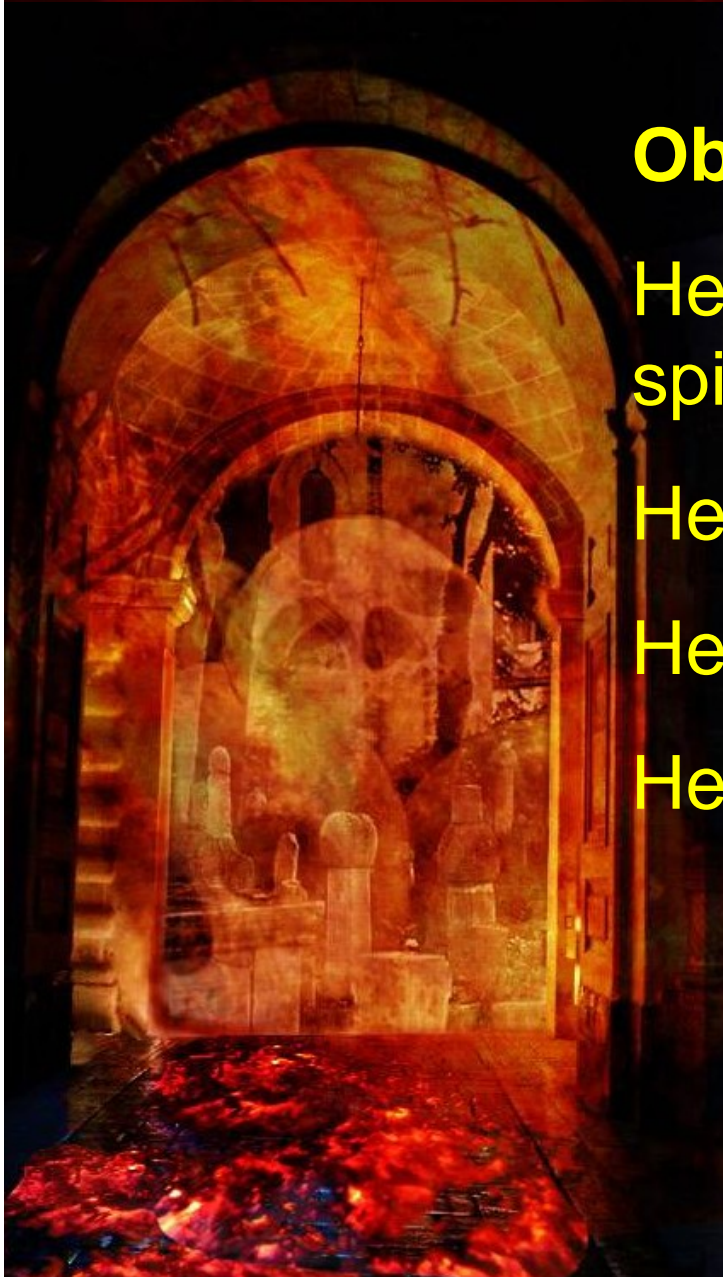
Observations from Luke 16:19-31

Hell is real – Both physical and spiritual

Hell is eternal

Hell is separated – a great chasm

Hell is irreversible




3. Why the World Objects

(a) Hell is unduely harsh.


Whatever men will experience in hell, Jesus Christ has already suffered on Calvary. This means that while hell is severe, it is no more severe than is required.

(b) Hell is unfair.

When we say that hell is unfair, we mean that it is unjust. In effect, we are saying that God is not just in sending anyone to hell.



The doctrine of eternal damnation should cause all those who are not saved to take another look at the question, where will I spend eternity?



The doctrine of eternal damnation should cause those who are saved to take sin more seriously. Like unbelievers, Christians are inclined to minimize sin.