

The Priests in Jesus day were wealthy – often at the expense of those they were supposed to be protecting

The name Lazarus is a Greek variant on the Hebrew name Eliezer, Abraham's servant (Gen. 15:2).

Eliezer, a gentile, ends up with the inheritance of Abraham's blessing.

The Sadducees – the Priests and the Levites – did not believe in the afterlife, nor justice in the afterlife. They said, "all justice is meted out in this lifetime."

The Sadducees – only accepted the Torah (Genesis – Deuteronomy) as God's word. They did not accept the Prophets – which speak of resurrection (Dan. 12:2).

The Sadducees – did not believe in the resurrection of the dead (Acts 23:6).

Exodus 28:5
Priestly Garments

The dogs had more compassion than the "rich man." Dogs were used for medicinal purposes in the ancient Near East.

"Abraham's bosom" indicates the 2nd guest of honor at the heavenly banquet. See: Isaiah 25:6-8; Matt. 8:11-12; Luke 13:28-30.

The High Priest Annas (Luke 3:2) served from 6 AD to 15 AD. Annas had (5) sons and (1) son-in-law, Caiaphas.

Caiaphas served as High Priest from 18 AD – 36 AD. Although Caiaphas was the "official" High Priest – his father-in-law Annas held power behind the scenes (John 18:13).

Levi – son of Jacob – also has five brothers from the same mother, Leah (Genesis 35:23).

¹⁹ "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

²² "The time came when the beggar died, and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity 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 fire.'

²⁵ "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

²⁷ "He answered, "Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

²⁹ "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

³⁰ "No, Father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

³¹ "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"