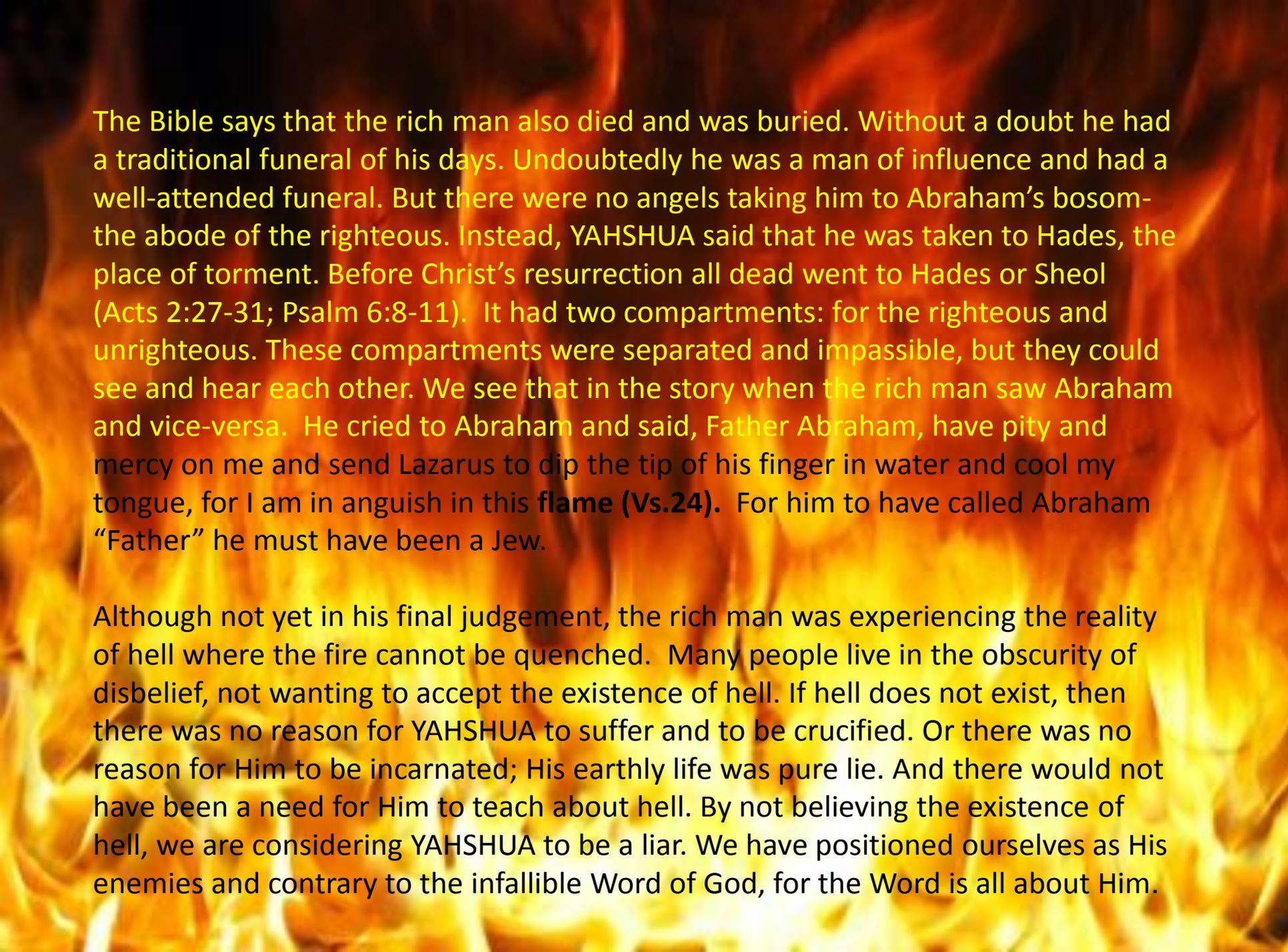


The Fire That Will Not Be Quenched

(Mark 9: 43-48; Matt. 5:22; 18:9; Rev. 20: 14-15)

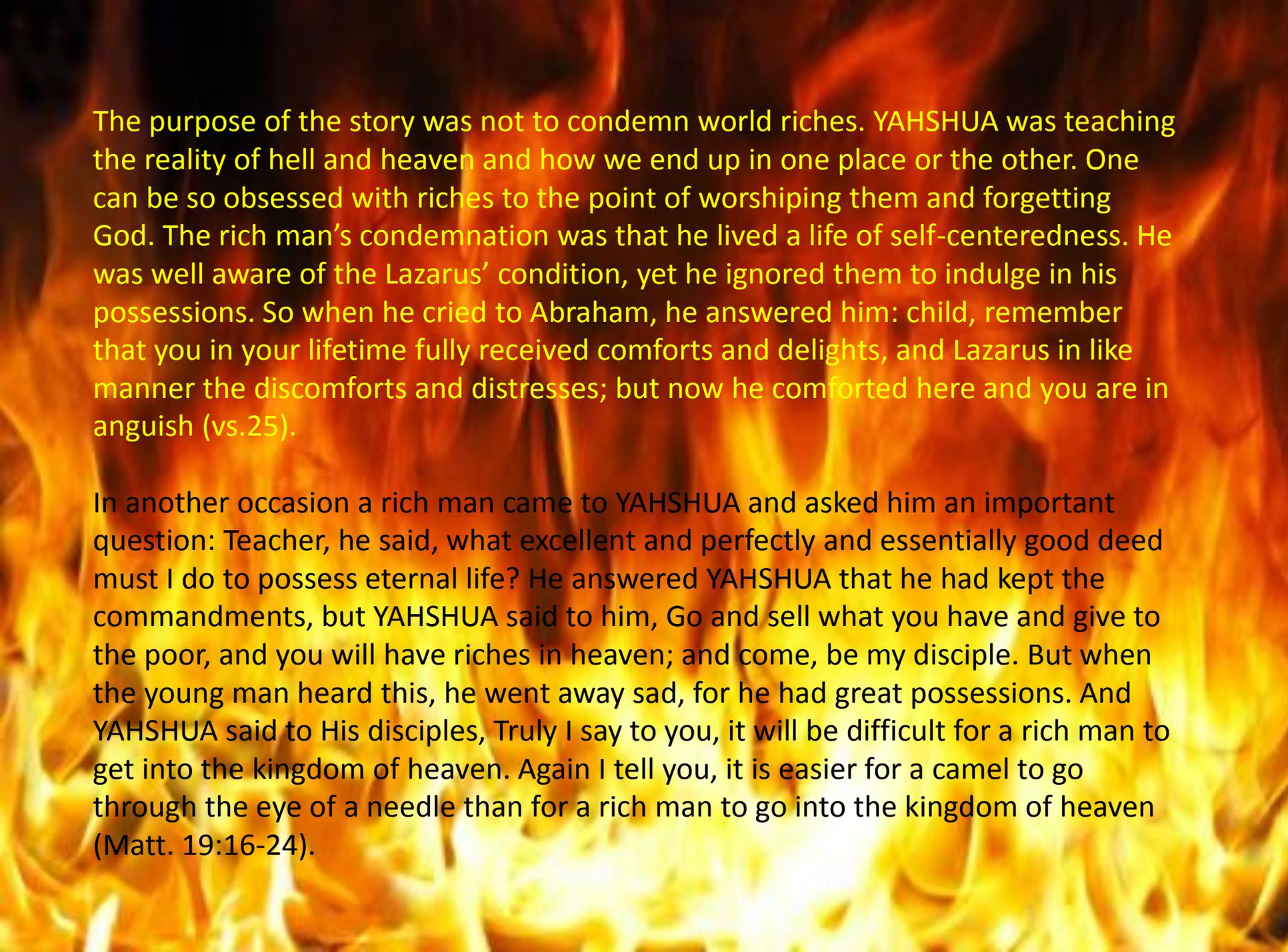
*And if your hand puts a stumbling block before you and causes you to sin, cut it off!
It is more profitable and wholesome for you to go into life maimed than
with two hands to go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out (Mark (:43).*

Eternity in hell is feared by all. YAHSHUA described it as “the fire that cannot be put out”. He told the disciples a story of comparison about a rich and a poor man. The rich man, He said, was clothed with fine lines and reveled and feasted and made merry in splendor every day. But the poor man, defined as destitute, covered with sores; the dogs even came and licked his sores. As the rich man indulged in his excess of food, the poor man tried to satisfy his hunger by eating the crumbs that fell from his table. Nevertheless, in time death visited both of them. The poor man first. He did not have a burial where all his friends came to mourn for him, or his body embalmed with rich perfume and spices. He was thrown in the trash pile to decompose. No one missed him. Perhaps he was a sore in people’s eyes. His death to them was a sort of relieve. But his final destiny compensated for all his earthly suffering. Invisible to the human eyes he was carried to eternity to Abraham’s bosom (side) and there he was comforted.



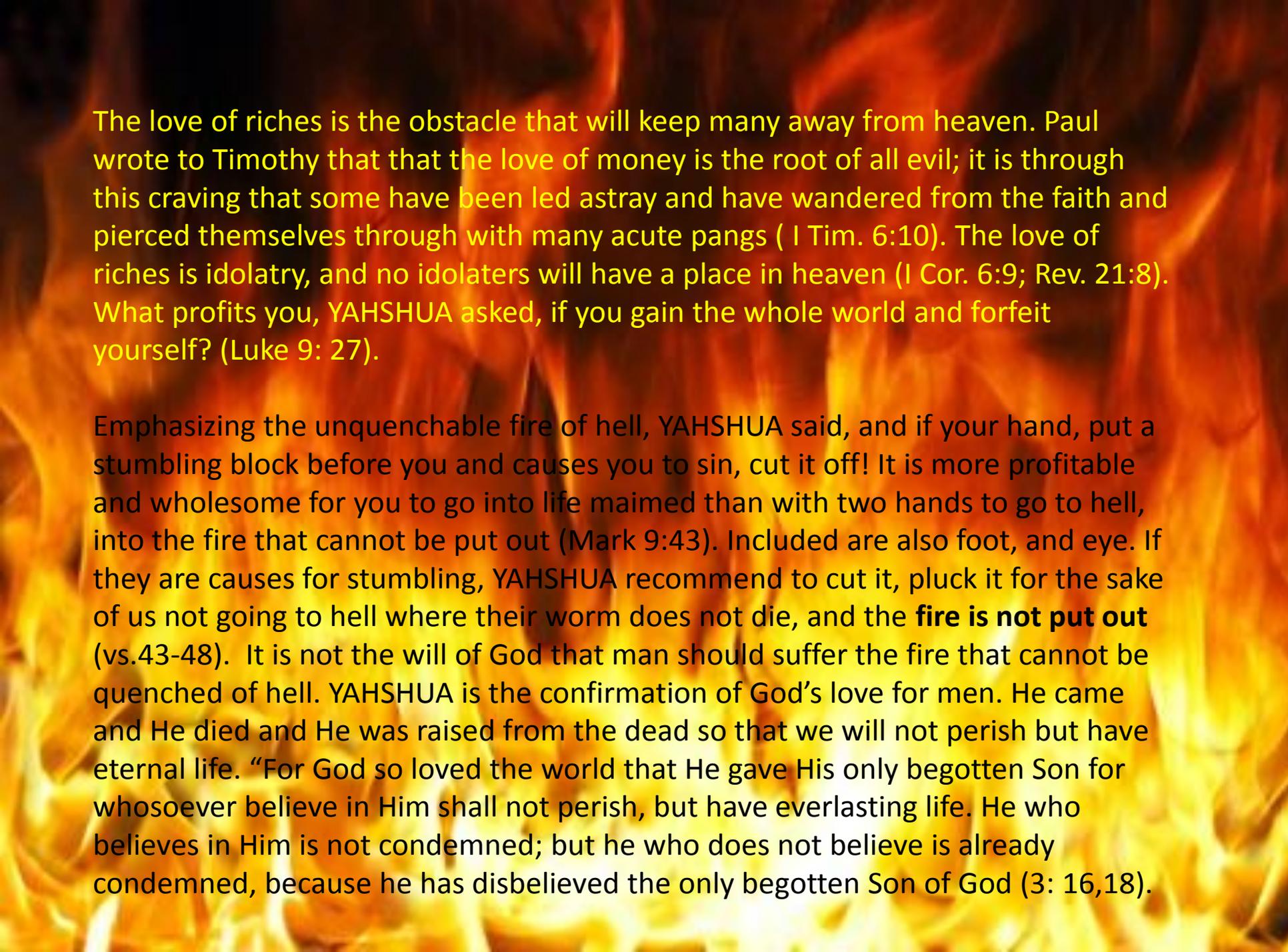
The Bible says that the rich man also died and was buried. Without a doubt he had a traditional funeral of his days. Undoubtedly he was a man of influence and had a well-attended funeral. But there were no angels taking him to Abraham's bosom—the abode of the righteous. Instead, YAHSHUA said that he was taken to Hades, the place of torment. Before Christ's resurrection all dead went to Hades or Sheol (Acts 2:27-31; Psalm 6:8-11). It had two compartments: for the righteous and unrighteous. These compartments were separated and impassible, but they could see and hear each other. We see that in the story when the rich man saw Abraham and vice-versa. He cried to Abraham and said, Father Abraham, have pity and mercy on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this **flame (Vs.24)**. For him to have called Abraham "Father" he must have been a Jew.

Although not yet in his final judgement, the rich man was experiencing the reality of hell where the fire cannot be quenched. Many people live in the obscurity of disbelief, not wanting to accept the existence of hell. If hell does not exist, then there was no reason for YAHSHUA to suffer and to be crucified. Or there was no reason for Him to be incarnated; His earthly life was pure lie. And there would not have been a need for Him to teach about hell. By not believing the existence of hell, we are considering YAHSHUA to be a liar. We have positioned ourselves as His enemies and contrary to the infallible Word of God, for the Word is all about Him.

The background of the entire page is a close-up, high-contrast image of fire. The flames are bright yellow and orange, with darker, almost black, shadows between the tongues of fire, creating a dramatic and intense visual effect.

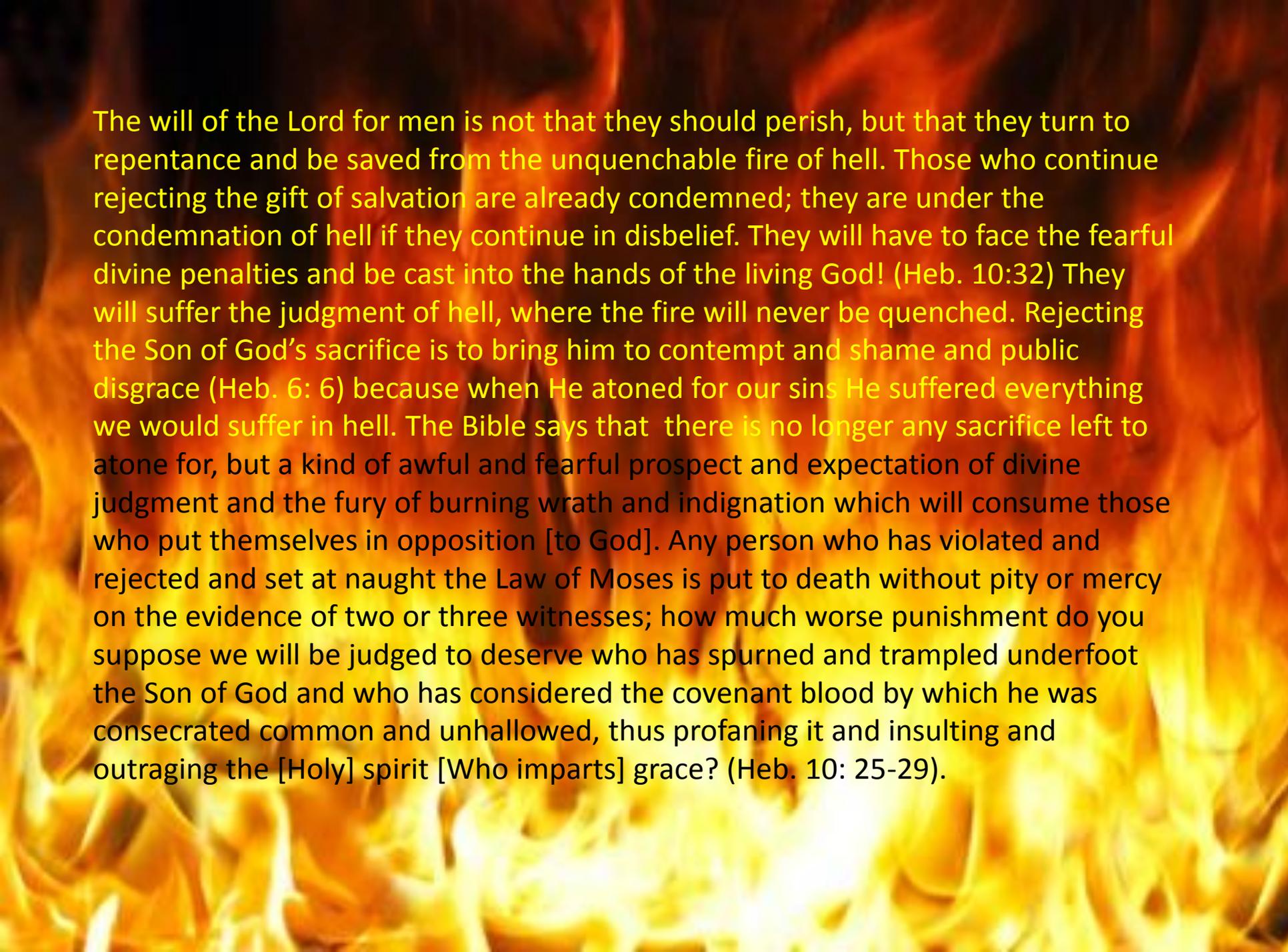
The purpose of the story was not to condemn world riches. YAHSHUA was teaching the reality of hell and heaven and how we end up in one place or the other. One can be so obsessed with riches to the point of worshiping them and forgetting God. The rich man's condemnation was that he lived a life of self-centeredness. He was well aware of the Lazarus' condition, yet he ignored them to indulge in his possessions. So when he cried to Abraham, he answered him: child, remember that you in your lifetime fully received comforts and delights, and Lazarus in like manner the discomforts and distresses; but now he comforted here and you are in anguish (vs.25).

In another occasion a rich man came to YAHSHUA and asked him an important question: Teacher, he said, what excellent and perfectly and essentially good deed must I do to possess eternal life? He answered YAHSHUA that he had kept the commandments, but YAHSHUA said to him, Go and sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven; and come, be my disciple. But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had great possessions. And YAHSHUA said to His disciples, Truly I say to you, it will be difficult for a rich man to get into the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to go into the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 19:16-24).



The love of riches is the obstacle that will keep many away from heaven. Paul wrote to Timothy that the love of money is the root of all evil; it is through this craving that some have been led astray and have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves through with many acute pangs (I Tim. 6:10). The love of riches is idolatry, and no idolaters will have a place in heaven (I Cor. 6:9; Rev. 21:8). What profits you, YAHSHUA asked, if you gain the whole world and forfeit yourself? (Luke 9: 27).

Emphasizing the unquenchable fire of hell, YAHSHUA said, and if your hand, put a stumbling block before you and causes you to sin, cut it off! It is more profitable and wholesome for you to go into life maimed than with two hands to go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out (Mark 9:43). Included are also foot, and eye. If they are causes for stumbling, YAHSHUA recommend to cut it, pluck it for the sake of us not going to hell where their worm does not die, and the **fire is not put out** (vs.43-48). It is not the will of God that man should suffer the fire that cannot be quenched of hell. YAHSHUA is the confirmation of God's love for men. He came and He died and He was raised from the dead so that we will not perish but have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son for whosoever believe in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is already condemned, because he has disbelieved the only begotten Son of God (3: 16,18).



The will of the Lord for men is not that they should perish, but that they turn to repentance and be saved from the unquenchable fire of hell. Those who continue rejecting the gift of salvation are already condemned; they are under the condemnation of hell if they continue in disbelief. They will have to face the fearful divine penalties and be cast into the hands of the living God! (Heb. 10:32) They will suffer the judgment of hell, where the fire will never be quenched. Rejecting the Son of God's sacrifice is to bring him to contempt and shame and public disgrace (Heb. 6: 6) because when He atoned for our sins He suffered everything we would suffer in hell. The Bible says that there is no longer any sacrifice left to atone for, but a kind of awful and fearful prospect and expectation of divine judgment and the fury of burning wrath and indignation which will consume those who put themselves in opposition [to God]. Any person who has violated and rejected and set at naught the Law of Moses is put to death without pity or mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses; how much worse punishment do you suppose we will be judged to deserve who has spurned and trampled underfoot the Son of God and who has considered the covenant blood by which he was consecrated common and unhallowed, thus profaning it and insulting and outraging the [Holy] spirit [Who imparts] grace? (Heb. 10: 25-29).



My friend, the Bible says that after death comes judgment. There will not be another chance for you if you continue rejecting YAHSHUA. Every day is an opportunity God has given you to make the right decision. You may go to sleep tonight and wake up in hell, so uncertain is life! Choose to accept the gift offered you and be saved.

THINK ABOUT IT!