

What Brought You Here?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian church

Luke 16:19-31 tells the story of the rich man and Lazarus. Both of them died and while Lazarus was comforted, the rich man found himself in hell, tormented by the flames. Abraham was asked to send Lazarus to bring him a drop of water, but was told that could not happen. He had lived a life of comfort on earth while Lazarus had suffered, but now the situation was reversed. Lazarus was comforted and the rich man was in torment.

If a person could have asked the rich man what brought him to such a place, what would he have said? Maybe he would have said, "My love of riches brought me here." The love of money and what it can buy causes many to forget God. Trusting in money is foolish, but that doesn't stop people from doing it. People still worship idols even though most would not think that they do. They may not bow to an image, or burn incense to one, but they worship one anyhow.

An idol is whatever you put before God. When a person gives their time, resources, and affection

to something they have created their idol. It may be sports, money, the pursuit of pleasure, or any other thing that they give their lives too. If you are not serving God, what is your idol that you have chosen over him?

The gospels tell of several rich men who lived for their riches. The man who came to Jesus and asked what he could do to inherit eternal life was such a person. He was told to go and sell what he had, give to the poor, and then to come and follow the Lord. He went away sorrowful because he was rich. His riches kept him from following the Lord so he was another who could say in hell, "My riches brought me here."

In **Luke 18** the Pharisee was full of pride and thought that he was righteous. He looked down on the publican thinking that he was a hopeless sinner. This poor, in spirit, publican repented of his sins and asked God to forgive him. He wasn't thinking of the Pharisee and didn't judge him. Jesus said that the publican went to his house justified rather than the Pharisee. If in hell the Pharisee could be asked what brought him there, he could say, "Pride brought me here." In our world today there are a lot of folks that seem to have a lot of pride. It may be because they have a lot

of money, education, or some other worldly success. This kind of pride is wrong no matter what the reason.

Some of the priests and other people who hated Jesus lied and committed other sins to get him convicted and crucified. He hung before them on the cross and they mocked at his suffering, not realizing that one day they would stand before him in judgment. Those who will wind up in hell might be asked, "What brought you here?" The answer would be unbelief, lying, and hate, among other things."

Jesus said, "That ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins," **John 8:24**. Rejecting Jesus for the things of the world is going to cause a lot of people to go to hell. A "Good" person without Jesus is still a lost person. Even one who goes to church without giving his heart to the Lord and obeying God's Word is lost. So such a person could answer the question of what brought him to hell by saying, "My unbelief, I had religion, but didn't know Jesus."

If a person in heaven were to be asked, "What brought you here?" What would the answer be? That's easy, "The grace of God - my savior Jesus!"

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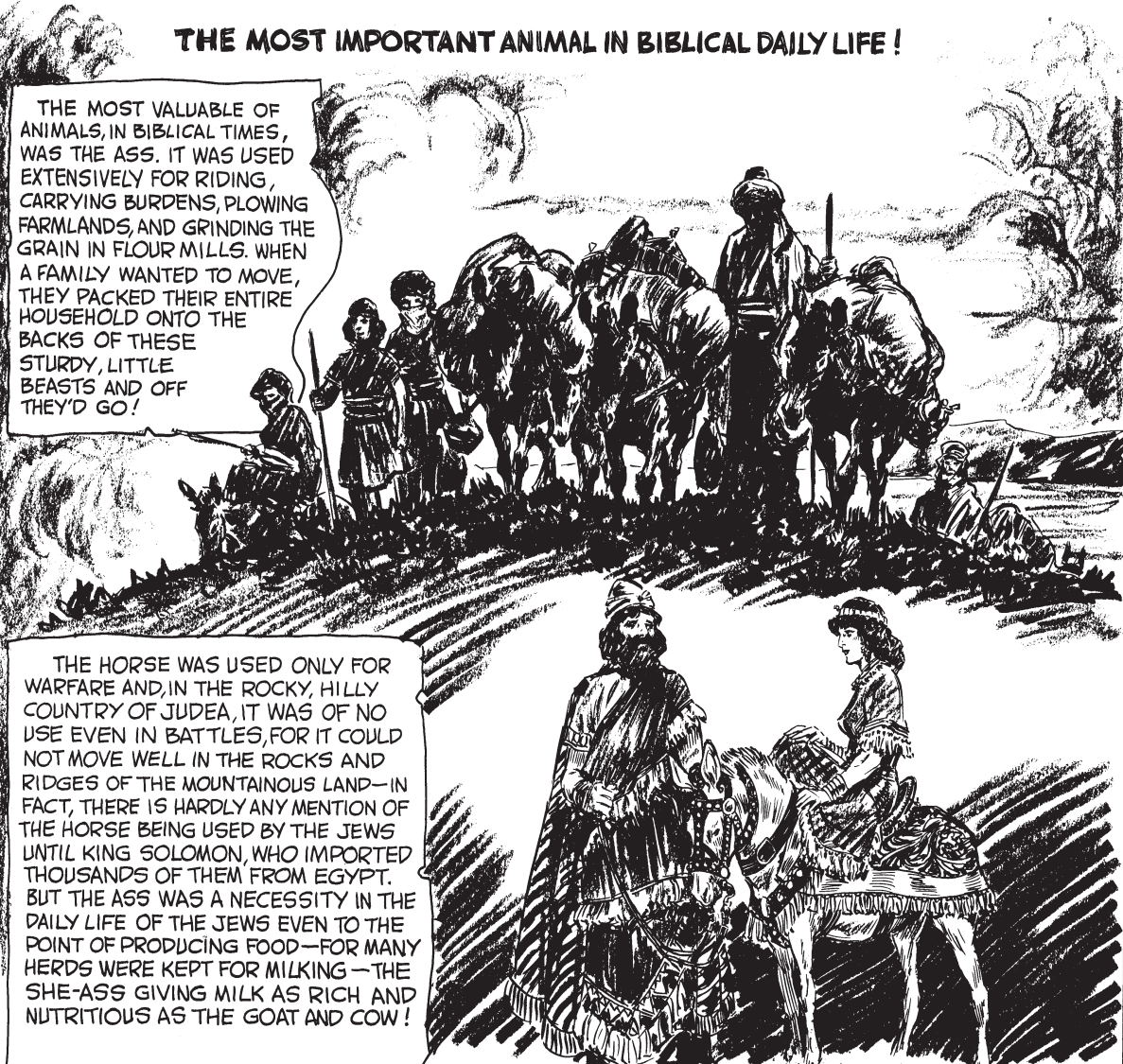
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THE MOST IMPORTANT ANIMAL IN BIBLICAL DAILY LIFE!



THE MOST VALUABLE OF ANIMALS, IN BIBLICAL TIMES, WAS THE ASS. IT WAS USED EXTENSIVELY FOR RIDING, CARRYING BURDENS, PLOWING FARMLANDS, AND GRINDING THE GRAIN IN FLOUR MILLS. WHEN A FAMILY WANTED TO MOVE, THEY PACKED THEIR ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD ONTO THE BACKS OF THESE STURDY, LITTLE BEASTS AND OFF THEY'D GO!

THE HORSE WAS USED ONLY FOR WARFARE AND, IN THE ROCKY, HILLY COUNTRY OF JUDEA, IT WAS OF NO USE EVEN IN BATTLES, FOR IT COULD NOT MOVE WELL IN THE ROCKS AND RIDGES OF THE MOUNTAINOUS LAND—IN FACT, THERE IS HARDLY ANY MENTION OF THE HORSE BEING USED BY THE JEWS UNTIL KING SOLOMON, WHO IMPORTED THOUSANDS OF THEM FROM EGYPT. BUT THE ASS WAS A NECESSITY IN THE DAILY LIFE OF THE JEWS EVEN TO THE POINT OF PRODUCING FOOD—FOR MANY HERDS WERE KEPT FOR MILKING—THE SHE-ASS GIVING MILK AS RICH AND NUTRITIOUS AS THE GOAT AND COW!

A SPECIES OF PURE-WHITE ANIMALS, BRED IN MESOPOTAMIA, WAS IMPORTED BY MANY COUNTRIES FOR CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES. RICHLY BRIDLED AND SADDLED, THEY WERE KEPT BY KINGS AND PRINCES FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF IMPORTANT GUESTS AND FOR THEIR FAVORITE WIVES! (JUDGES 5:10)

MILKING AN ANIMAL WAS DONE FROM THE REAR—THIS CUSTOM STILL PREVAILS IN PARTS OF NORTH AFRICA AND THE NEAR EAST!

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