

Mark 12:18-27

Do We Understand the Scriptures and
the Power of God?

The Sadducee's Challenge to the Resurrection

Mark 12:18-23 Some Sadducees (who say that there is no resurrection) came to Jesus, and began questioning Him, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that IF A MAN'S BROTHER DIES and leaves behind a wife AND LEAVES NO CHILD, HIS BROTHER SHOULD MARRY THE WIFE AND RAISE UP CHILDREN TO HIS BROTHER. There were seven brothers; and the first took a wife, and died leaving no children. The second one married her, and died leaving behind no children; and the third likewise; and so all seven left no children. Last of all the woman died also. In the resurrection, when they rise again, **which one's wife will she be?** For all seven had married her.+"

2

Jesus' Rebuttal Part 1

Mark 12:24-25 Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that **you do not understand the Scriptures or the power of God?** For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are **like angels** in heaven.+"

Acts 23:8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, **nor an angel**, nor a spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.

3



Jesus' Rebuttal Part 2

Mark 12:26-27 But regarding the fact that the dead rise again, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the burning bush, how God spoke to him, saying, **I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, and the God of Jacob?** **He is not the God of the dead, but of the living;** you are greatly mistaken.+

Genesis 15:1 NIV After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: **Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.**+

4

Applications

1. We must know that God keeps His covenant promises with His people which necessitates our resurrection!
2. People who think the Bible is concerned primarily with life here and now don't know the Scriptures or the power of God.
3. We must remember to focus on the promises of the resurrection and Christ's kingdom to come.

5

God Unilaterally Keeps His Covenant

Genesis 15:18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, **To your descendants I have given this land,** From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates

2 Timothy 2:11-13 It is a trustworthy statement: **For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.**+

6



The Covenant Necessitates The Resurrection

Genesis 13:15 all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever.

Galatians 3:16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, %And to seeds,+as referring to many, but rather to one, %And to your seed,+that is, Christ.

Revelation 5:10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.

7

Those Who Deny the Power of God Today

"A staggering number of people have been taught that a select few Christians will spend forever in a peaceful, joyous place called heaven, while the rest of humanity spends forever in torment and punishment in hell with no chance for anything better.... This is misguided and toxic and ultimately subverts the contagious spread of Jesus' message of love, peace, forgiveness, and joy that our world desperately needs to hear+ (Bell, *Love Wins*, preface).

"This participation is important, because Jesus and the prophets lived with an awareness that God has been looking for partners since the beginning, people who will take seriously the divine responsibility to care for the earth and each other in loving, sustainable ways+ (Bell, pg. 36).

8

Those Who Deny the Power of God Today

1. Emergents: Missional
2. Theological Liberals: Social gospel
3. Secular Left: Utopian

- Only here and now matters
- Man creates %the kingdom+
- Focusing on Christ's coming is counterproductive

Matthew 16:26-27 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?...[For] the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.

9



Focus on the Future Promises

Romans 8:22-23 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.**

10

Focus On The Future Promises

Colossians 3:1-4 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. **For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.**

11
