



LESSON 128 MARK 12:18-27

Then come unto him the Sadducees, which say there is no resurrection; and they asked him, saying, Master, Moses wrote unto us, If a man's brother die, and leave his wife behind him, and leave no children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. Now there were seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and dying left no seed. And the second took her, and died, neither left he any seed: and the third likewise. And the seven had her, and left no seed: last of all the woman died also. In the resurrection therefore, when they shall rise, whose wife shall she be of them? for the seven had her to wife. And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God? For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven. And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto 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 the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.

1. Who were the Sadducees and what did they believe?
2. What does the question the Sadducees asked Jesus show about them?
3. Jesus' answer is two-fold. He speaks first about why they were in error in their thinking. What were the two things in which they erred?
4. What does Jesus reveal about resurrection?
5. Who wrote about resurrection in the Old Testament?
6. Does the Old Testament teach resurrection principles?

Possible Answers

1. The Sadducees were Jews from the leading families of Israel, namely priests, merchants and aristocrats. Many were wealthy and enjoyed privileged position and power. They followed the laws written in the first five books of the Old Testament, those written by Moses. They thought, incorrectly, that those books did not teach the existence of angels, spirits, the resurrection, or the immortality of the soul, and therefore, no rewards and no punishments. However, believing that the free will of man made him responsible for his actions, the Sadducees were strict in their ideas of justice and had little mercy toward one who had been accused of wrong doing.

2. It shows that in bringing a question about resurrection, they were mocking the Pharisees who did believe in resurrection. The Sadducees thought they were smarter than the Pharisees and Herodians, and that they would be able to trip Jesus up, where the others had not succeeded.

They proposed a situation of a widow who had had seven husbands and no children, asking whose wife would she be in the resurrection. They cared nothing for the answer. They simply

wanted to trump the Pharisees by trapping Jesus in His words.

3. a. They didn't know the scriptures. To say this to Sadducees was to attack what they prided themselves on the most. They considered themselves very learned men. b. They didn't know the power of God.

4. The resurrection was a "when" event, not an "if." Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God? For when they shall rise from the dead... Resurrection will happen.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (hinder) them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Cor 15:42-57 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It (the body) is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body... And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Resurrection, the rejoining of spirit-soul with a body of flesh, is a fact, not a fantasy or a product of someone's imagination. In the gospels, we read about Jesus after His resurrection, eating, talking, been seen, being touched, walking, etc. One day we will experience the same transformation when our bodies are reunited with our spirit-souls and we live in glorified, resurrected, eternal bodies, no more subject to physical death, disease or pain.

5. Moses...The Sadducees quoted the book of Deuteronomy 25:5, and Jesus quoted from Exodus 3:6; both were books written by the Holy Spirit through Moses.

6. The Sadducees thought the OT scriptures did not teach resurrection, but they were wrong. Beside the book of Moses that Jesus refers to in this passage (Exodus 3), Job spoke of it:

Job 19:23-27 "Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book! That they were engraved on a rock With an iron pen and lead, forever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed,

this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

David referred to it. Psalm 17:5 As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.

The prophet Isaiah taught about resurrection of the body in Isa 26:19 Your dead shall live; Together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; For your dew is like the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead.

The prophet Daniel wrote what he was told about resurrection of a body that would live forever. Dan 12:2-3 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.

Ezekiel even described resurrection in detail in chapter 37, verses 1-14 of his book, and showed it was a type of the reestablishment of Israel in the kingdom of Christ. **The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know." Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord."'" So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. Also He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live."'" So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army. Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' Therefore prophecy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it," says the Lord.'**

Resurrection is a fact and will be a demonstration of the power of God. Romans 8:14-25

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