

(7) Sadducees Question the Resurrection (Mt. 22:23-33; Mk. 12:18-27; Lk. 20:27-40)

1. The Sadducees presented their fantasy hypothetical as proof there could be no resurrection from the dead (Mt. 22:23-28; Mk. 12:18-23; Lk. 20:27-33).
 - a. The Mosaic Law procedure for levirate marriage was proof in their minds that no resurrection was possible (Deut. 25:5-10).
 - b. The Book of Genesis has a terrible example for how this mechanism could be abused (Gen. 38:6-11).
 - c. The Book of Ruth has a beautiful example for how this worked (Ruth 4:1-15).
2. Jesus rejects the premise of the question (Mt. 22:29; Mk. 12:24,27).
 - a. Failure to understand the Scriptures. Fixation upon Pentateuch supremacy fails to embrace a whole counsel approach the God's special revelation (Acts 20:20,27; Isa. 28:10,13; 2nd Tim. 3:16).
 - b. Failure to understand the power of God. Abraham had no Scriptures, but he understood the power of God (Rom. 4:17).
3. The resurrection existence for humanity will be "like" the present existence for angelity.
 - a. Angels were also denied by the Sadducees. Jesus used an illustration from another doctrinal blindness to answer the doctrinal blindness under consideration.
 - b. Humans don't become angels. This and other passages have sometimes been used to promote that belief.
 - 1) Matthew & Mark have ὡς ἄγγελοι.
 - 2) Luke coins the term ἰσάγγελοι isangeloi ^{#2465}_{Hap.}.
 - c. The resurrected state for humanity will be an eternal non-marital non-procreative estate.
4. Jesus provided a significant exegetical observation from Exodus.
 - a. YHWH called to Moses from the burning bush as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob (Ex. 3:6). The present tense of His relationship with the patriarchs is key exegetically and theologically.
 - b. The Abrahamic Covenant was promised *personally* to Abraham (Gen. 13:15,17; 15:7; 17:8), Isaac (Gen. 26:3), and Jacob (Gen. 28:13) in addition to their descendants.
 - c. God's promises to the patriarchs as well as their descendants demands that the patriarchs be resurrected (cf. Heb. 11:19).
 - d. Jesus insisted that the present tense relationship between Abraham and YHWH revealed a postmortem ongoing and living relationship (Lk. 20:38). This is clearly revealed throughout the Old Testament (Job 19:26; Ps. 16:9-11; Isa. 26:19; Dan. 12:2), and strongly implied by the Exodus text Jesus employed.
5. The crowds found this exegesis and exposition to be an awesome theological conclusion (Mt. 22:33; Mk. 12:28; Lk. 20:39).