(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 ἵσαγγελοι 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).