

## **RESURRECTION REALITIES** *(Mark 12:18-27)*

*Anticipation of life after death has been seen in various cultures throughout human history. But most of those see the afterlife as a mere extension of this life, and so did the Pharisees. Atheists see no afterlife at all; neither did the Sadducees. But the Son of God says they are both wrong.*

### **I. THE RESURRECTION IS DECLARED BY THE WORD OF GOD**

1. The Sadducees put up a stock riddle they had used to silence and embarrass the Pharisees.
2. Jesus first told them they were off track.
  - The Greek word *planan* (planet), translated *wrong*, literally means “to wander off track.”
  - They were wrong at the center of their belief system.
    - They had denied the Word of God.
3. Sadducees only accepted the books Moses wrote, so Jesus went straight there.
  - Jesus’ argument is exegetical—they were denying the Scriptures.
    - In Exodus 3:6, Moses wrote that God told him, “I am the God of...” That’s present tense.
    - Exodus 3:6 makes no sense if those guys were presently dead.
  - The Old Testament has numerous places that declare the resurrection.
  - The New Testament says that these Old Testament saints had an earthly mission but they looked toward heaven.
  - Jesus basically said the Bible clearly declares the resurrection. You wander off track when you don’t read your Bible!!

### **II. THE RESURRECTION IS SECURED BY THE POWER OF GOD**

1. Jesus’ response was also theological—they were denying the power of God.
  - The phrase “God of...” in Exodus 3:6 means *helper, savior* and is tied to the concept of redemption.
  - How could God promise to sustain them through all things and then not sustain them through the most important thing?
    - We are sustained by the power of God. God’s character is at stake to keep His covenant.
    - That power raised Jesus from the dead.
2. Part of their problem was the theologically false idea of what heaven is like.
  - Life in heaven is not an extension of this life. Jesus was warning against the simplistic assumptions based on earthly experience.
  - They thought whatever brought pleasure here was even better in heaven.
  - Jesus pointed out that they are two different “ages” or “dimensions,” two different kinds of life.
3. There is no marriage in heaven.
  - Marriage was given in part to be a picture of what love could be until we get to heaven where our love with others will be increased exponentially.
4. There is no death in that age/dimension.
5. There is an exalted existence in that age/dimension.
  - Jesus says we will be like angels. We will not *be* angels, but we will be *like* angels. Jesus often used the phrase “sons of” (Luke 20:34). We are part of God’s family because we have been born into it by a spiritual birth.

*God is not the God of the dead, but of the living! Christian, be encouraged: We have a family reunion to attend one day!*