

The Confrontation—Part 6
“Is There a Resurrection”
Matthew 22:23-33

(cf. Mark 12:18–27; Luke 20:27–40)

I. **The Sadducees’ A_____ (vs. 23-27)**

- a. **On that day** = it’s still Wednesday
- b. **Sadducees** (cf. Matt. 3:7; 16:1-12; Acts 23:8; Josephus *Antiquities*, XX.ix.i)
 - i. Politically: the majority of the Sanhedrin, compromisers with the Romans, wealthy, aristocrats who controlled the priesthood and the Temple
 - ii. Religiously: theological liberals, only saw the Pentateuch as authoritative and didn’t believe in the resurrection, angels, or spiritual things
- c. **Teacher** = empty flattery
- d. **whose wife of the seven will she be?** = an absurd worst-case scenario to make the resurrection of the dead look foolish
 - i. The Law of Levirate Marriage (cf. Deut. 25:5-10; Gen. 38:7–8; Ruth 3:1ff; 4:1–17)
 - ii. Levir = brother-in-law

II. **The Lord’s A_____ (vs. 28-32)**

- a. **mistaken, not understanding** = led themselves astray
- b. **Ignorant Regarding the P_____ of God**
 - i. God will TRANSFORM us in the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:35-42)
 - ii. **neither marry nor are given in marriage** = where there is no death, there is no procreation and therefore no need for marriage
 - iii. **are like angels in heaven** = angels don’t marry either

c. **Ignorant Regarding the W_____ of God**

- i. **have you not read what was spoken to you by God**
= a divine sarcastic rebuke
- ii. There are numerous passages outside of the Pentateuch referencing resurrection (cf. Dan. 12:1–2; Job 14:7–15; 19:25–27; Isa. 26:19; Ps. 16:9–10; 49:15; Ps. 73:24; Hos. 6:1–2)
- iii. But Jesus purposefully chose to quote Exodus 3:6 because of the Sadducees belief that only the Pentateuch was authoritative.
- iv. **‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’?** (cf. Gen. 26:24; 28:13; 43:23; 46:3; 49:25; 50:17; Ex. 3:6, 15–16; 4:15; 2 Kings 20:5; 2 Chron. 21:12; Isa. 38:5)
 1. Present Tense vs Past Tense = there is an afterlife and a future resurrection because the 3 Patriarchs are still alive and with God
 - a. Therefore, **He is not the God of the dead but of the living** (cf. 2 Cor. 5:1ff)
 2. Literal, Grammatical, Historical Hermeneutic (Interpretation of the Bible)

III. **The Crowd’s A_____ (v. 33)**

- a. The crowd’s reaction proves they understood Jesus’ argument
- b. Some of Pharisees apparently cheered the Sadducees defeat (cf. Luke 20:39)
- c. The Sadducees were silenced and humiliated (cf. Luke 20:40)