



## Life After Death

### Key idea:

Jesus showed that Scripture teaches that life continues after death when God's people experience the fullness of life and the promises of God.

### Key text:

Mark 12:18-27

Then the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. <sup>19</sup>“Teacher,” they said, “Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and have children for his brother. <sup>20</sup> Now there were seven brothers. The first one married and died without leaving any children. <sup>21</sup> The second one married the widow, but he also died, leaving no child. It was the same with the third. <sup>22</sup> In fact, none of the seven left any children. Last of all, the woman died too. <sup>23</sup> At the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?” <sup>24</sup> Jesus replied, “Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God? <sup>25</sup> When the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. <sup>26</sup> Now about the dead rising — have you not read in the book of Moses, in the account of the bush, how God said to him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? <sup>27</sup> He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are badly mistaken!”

### Key points:

1. The Sadducees were a power group in Israel who were closely related to Jerusalem and the Temple, only accepted the Torah as Scripture, and denied the existence of angels, spirits, and the resurrection of the dead.
2. The Sadducees presented a story to ridicule the idea of life after death.
3. Jesus initially rebuked the Sadducees for not knowing the power of God and not understanding the Scripture.
4. Jesus taught that the life of the age to come, when we will be resurrected, is very distinct from this age and will not include things like marriage.
5. Jesus shows that even in the Torah it was apparent that life continues after death, for the covenant promises of God only make sense in light of eternal life.

## Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Why is it important to understand that the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection when understanding their question and Jesus' answer?
3. Why does Jesus state the Sadducees are in error both at the beginning and end of His answer? Since He does not do this in any of the other conflicts in the Temple, what does this tell me about how seriously He viewed their error?
4. Jesus says the Sadducees' error is rooted in the fact that they do not understand the power of God. How is a misunderstanding of the power of God the root of their refusal to believe in the resurrection?
5. Jesus also says the Sadducees' error is rooted in the fact that they do not understand the Scripture rightly. How is a misunderstanding of the Scripture the root of their refusal to believe in the resurrection?
6. Why does Jesus first indicate that they misunderstand the nature of eternal life? How is this relevant to their question?
7. In what ways does the Scripture teach that life in eternity and the age to come is different than our current life? In what ways does it teach that they are similar to one another? Why is it important to understand both of these aspects?
8. Jesus proved that life continues after death from Exodus 3. Can I think of other Old Testament passages that would also teach that life continues after death?
9. When I consider eternal life, what do I look forward to the most? How does this help me live faithfully for God now?
10. Who can I reach out to this week to share the Good News of God's grace?

## **For Further Study**

The following teachings give much more detail on what happens after death:

[Death and the Intermediate State](#)

[The Resurrection of the Body - Part 1](#)

[The Resurrection of the Body - Part 2](#)

[The New Heavens and the New Earth - Part 1](#)

[The New Heavens and the New Earth - Part 2](#)

[Life In the New Heavens and Earth](#)