

THE QUESTION ABOUT THE RESURRECTION: THE RESURRECTION DENIED, YET PROVEN

MATHEW 22: 23–33

Introduction

It was still Tuesday of the Lord's last week. (Note the statement, "that same day.") On this day, the challenges to His authority had been pressing in ever so heavily upon Him.

First, the chief priests and lay leaders (elders) had challenged His authority (see Mt. 21:23-27). Christ had met the challengers head on and routed them. In so doing, His mind had been focused upon His death and Israel's rejection. The very thought that Israel, in whom God had put so much trust, was failing God by putting His Son to death was bound to be ripping out the heart of Christ (see Mt. 21:33-46; 22:1-14).

Second, the Pharisees and Herodians (Herod's political party) had attempted to discredit Christ by pitting Him either against the government or the people (see Mt. 22:15-22). Again, Christ had met and routed His challengers; but again, the struggle had been tiring and pressuring, hard and heavy.

Now, for a third time, the Lord was confronted and challenged; and again, it was a different group who tried to out-argue and discredit Him. His challengers were the Sadducees, the religious and political liberals of the day. As Mathew pointed out, "[They] say that there is no resurrection" (v. 23). Luke added, "The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels, nor spirits" (see *False Teaching of Pharisees and Sadducees*, Mt. 16:12; *Sadducees*, Acts 23:8). Their liberal position caused two things.

1. It caused them to stumble at the spiritual and supernatural. They ridiculed and scorned both. In their minds, the teachings of Christ lacked philosophical analysis and natural or scientific proof; therefore, they were the teachings of an unthinking and illogical man.
2. Their liberal position caused them to feel threatened and to oppose Christ. The people were flocking to Christ and soaking up His teachings. This meant the Sadducees were losing their grip on the people; their position and wealth were being jeopardized. Therefore, they were compelled to attack and discredit Him before the people.

It was their liberal belief - their denial of the spirit and of a spiritual world, of life after death and of the resurrection - that they used to attack Christ.

- I. The Sadducees tried to discredit Christ (v. 23).
- II. The resurrection was denied and scoffed at (vv. 23-28).
- III. The resurrection was denied for two reasons (v. 29).
- IV. The resurrection exceeds earthly relationships (v. 30).
- V. The resurrection has four basic proofs (vv. 31-32).
- VI. The resurrection causes astonishment (v. 33).

I. Mathew 22: 23 Sadducees

The Sadducees had already opposed John the Baptist (Mt. 3:7f) and Christ (Mt. 16:1-12. See *False Teaching of Pharisees and Sadducees*, Mt. 16:12; *Sadducees*, Acts 23:8).

II. Mathew 22: 23–28 Sadducees Denied Resurrection

The resurrection was denied and scoffed at by the Sadducees. Down through the centuries many liberal-minded men have continued in their steps (see 1 Cor. 15:12-58; 2 Pet. 3:3-18). Note the argument of the Sadducees.

1. They used Moses' law, the levirate law, as the basis of their argument (Deu. 25:5-6). When a husband died without a son, the levirate law said that his brother was to marry his wife and bear a son. By law, the son was considered the first-born son of the deceased brother. This assured two things: (a) that the family name continued, and (b) that the property holdings were kept in the family. This was a law that had been given to help preserve and to enlarge the nation of Israel (see Ruth 4:5).
2. The Sadducees then suggested a logical situation that could have arisen. Note the words, "Now there were seven brothers among us." The first brother married, but he died before bearing children. Each of the other brothers obeyed the law, but each died before bearing a child. Finally, the woman died also.
3. The logical question was now asked, the question which in the Sadducees' mind showed the absurdity of the resurrection. They asked, "Whose wife will she be?" Note three things by reading through verses 23-28 several times.
 - a. The situation was logical; but the spirit of questioning was cold and coarse, egotistical and unbelieving, regrettable and revolting. The unbeliever's spirit is often self-incriminating and self-condemning.
 - b. The argument was thought to be irrefutable by the Sadducees. They believed it pointed out just how foolish the idea of another world was to the thinking person.
 - c. The Sadducees were thinking that the spiritual world would be just like the physical world, that it would be nothing more than a continuation of this world, both in *its nature and in its relationships*.

As this point is closed, a picture of what the Scripture says about the natural man, the man without the Spirit, is clearly seen.

1 Cor 2:14 *The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

Thought 1. Every generation has its Sadducees, those who are liberal minded and who scoff at the idea of the resurrection and of a spiritual world. God knows this. He has always known that many would scoff and ridicule, so He has dealt with the issue in at least two extensive passages of Scripture (1 Cor. 15:12-58; 2 Pet. 3:3-18).

1 Cor 15:12 *But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?*

2 Pet 3:3-4 *First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."*

Thought 2. Today's arguments against the existence of a spiritual world and resurrection arise from...

- logical and rational thought
- philosophical positions
- a natural and scientific hypothesis
- humanistic beliefs
- an unwillingness to change one's lifestyle
- a fear of rejection and ridicule by one's peers
- a refusal to admit that one's former position was wrong

Thought 3. Most unbelief in the spiritual world arises not from a thinking position, but from a worldly position. Few study through both the natural and spiritual positions. Most just love the world and the things of the world so much that they wish to reject the restraints which the spiritual world puts upon them.

III. *Mathew 22: 29 Reasons for the Denial of Resurrection*

Christ said very pointedly to the Sadducees and to all who followed their liberal position: “You are in error. You deny the resurrection for two erroneous reasons.”

1. “You do not know the Scriptures.” The Scriptures are plain and clear. They leave no doubt that there is a spiritual world - that there is to be a resurrection into the spiritual world or spiritual dimension of being.

Job 19:25-27 I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes - I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

Isa 26:19 But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead.

Dan 12:2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

John 5:25 “I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.”

John 5:28-29 “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out - those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.”

John 6:40 “For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.”

Acts 24:15 And I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

1 Cor 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

2 Cor 4:14 Because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.

1 Th 4:16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Psa 49:15 But God will redeem my life from the grave; he will surely take me to himself. (see *Psa. 71:20; Hos. 13:14*)

Thought 1. There are three reasons why a person may not know the Scriptures.

- 1) He simply has not *studied* the Scriptures, not *really studied*.
 - 2) He does not believe the Scriptures. He rejects the Scripture as God’s Word.
 - 3) He does not take the Scriptures for what they say. He spiritualizes or allegorizes them.
2. “You do not know the power of God.” There are three reasons why a person does not know the power of God.

- a. He is ignorant of God. He knows nothing about God and seldom, if ever, gives any thought to God and His power.
- b. He does not believe in God or His power. He refuses to acknowledge God's eternal power and Godhead seen in creation and goes about *creating* gods of his own (both mental and physical images). (See Rom. 1:20-32.) He refuses to acknowledge the picture of nature that clearly illustrates the resurrection:

1 Cor 15:36-38 How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.

- c. He believes, but his belief in God and His power is weak. He cannot picture much happening beyond the physical world and the power of natural laws.

Thought 1. The idea of a spiritual world is perplexing to the natural man. Just imagine! While we are sitting here surrounded by all that we see...

- there is another world, a spiritual world, an unseen spiritual dimension of being that actually exists.
- there is a spirit, the real life within our bodies, that is destined to exist forever.
- there is to be a resurrection of all the dead bodies that have been lying scattered and decaying in the graves for ages and ages. God shall *call* all the parts of decayed bodies back together again, no matter where they are scattered, and these bodies shall be perfected and glorified to live and work again. How can He do such a thing? By the Word of His power *as God*.

Thought 2. When we really think about the facts of the resurrection, two confessions have to be made by every man, believer and unbeliever.

- 1) The natural man, that is man within himself and his world, *can never know* about a spiritual world. He is bound by the physical and material world of which he is a part. He can only think and guess and theorize that a spiritual world exists and speculate on details such as a resurrection. Man cannot, while living in this world, penetrate the spiritual world with his body to scientifically prove the existence of the spiritual world.
- 2) God alone can reveal the reality of the spiritual dimension and the fact that a resurrection will take place. Such can be known and experienced only by the power of God. No man has the power to bring it about. If a resurrection is to take place, God's power will have to do it.

Thought 3. By its very nature of permanence, the spiritual world supersedes and becomes much more important than the physical and dying world. Therefore, the spiritual world demands that man give pre-eminence to it. It is these demands that man rebels against. Therefore...

- a scientific society questions what it cannot prove
- a materialistic society questions what it cannot use to satisfy its lust for more
- an immoral society questions what it fears will correct its behaviour
- a worldly society questions what it fears will restrain its pleasure
- a power society questions what it fears will loosen its grip and lessen its authority

IV. *Mathew 22:30 Resurrection, Spiritual Dimension*

Christ said that the resurrection exceeded earthly relationships. The Sadducees did not know the Scriptures nor the power of God. When they thought of being resurrected into another world, they simply saw life continuing on as it does now. They pictured heaven as being just a continuation of this world. Very simply, they could not conceive that the qualities of life would be changed and that man would be given a totally new environment in which to live.

Christ said two things.

1. Future life and relationships shall exceed earthly relationships - even the bond of marital relationships. The strong union and bond of marriage will not be less, it will be greater and stronger.
2. Future life and relationships shall be equal to that experienced by the angels and God. This means at least two things. (Note: Christ had just admitted the existence of angels, refuting the disbelief of the liberal minded Sadducees.)
 - a. Heavenly life and relationships will be perfect. In heaven our relationships will not cease to be. They will be changed in that selfishness and sin will not affect our love and lives. Our love will be perfected; thus, we shall love everyone perfectly. A wife on this earth will not be loved as she was on this earth - imperfectly. She shall be loved more and loved perfectly. Everyone will love everyone else perfectly. God will change all relationships into perfection, even as the relationships between angels and God are perfected.

- b. Heavenly life and relationships shall be eternal. There will be no ending of relationships. A man and wife will always have the other to love. One shall not cease to be (die) before the other (as is the case now). Everyone will always have everyone else to love. God will change the brief time we have with each other now into an eternal relationship. We shall enjoy the presence of each other eternally, even as the relationship between angels and God is enjoyed eternally.

Thought 1. Two warnings must always be issued when thinking of heaven and eternal life.

- 1) A person can *materialize* heaven and *humanize* eternal life; that is, we can conceive heaven to be nothing more than a *glorified* world and eternal life to be nothing more than physical life plus a little more. This was the mistake of the Sadducees and is often the concept pictured by liberal thinkers when they hear about the resurrection.
- 2) A person can *idealize* heaven and *allegorize* eternal life. We can think of heaven as little more than an ideal land for which we should seek and toward which we should direct our lives. And we can think of eternal life as little more than a utopian state of being, a utopian dream of an indefinite quality, or of floating around and being free of trouble and trials.

The teaching of Scripture or of God's revelation must always be kept in mind when thinking of heaven and eternal life. Scripture teaches that the very nature of things will be changed.

1. Heaven is said to be a spiritual dimension, a real world of being, and Scripture declares that the heavens and earth shall one day be transformed into that spiritual dimension of being. There will be a new heavens and earth, a perfect and eternal heavens and earth (2 Pet. 3:3-13; Rev. 21:1, 5).
2. Eternal life is said to be life that shall exist forever in the spiritual dimension of being. The Scripture says:

1 Cor 15:42-44 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. (see 1 Th. 5:13-18)

1 Cor 15:49-54 And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed - in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

(See *Judging, Eternal Life*, Mt. 19:28; *Eternal Life*, Jn. 17:2-3; *Deleverance from Death*, 2 Tim. 4:18. See Jn. 1:4.)

MATHEW 19:28 JUDGING (KRINO), ETERNAL LIFE

Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Mathew 19:28

To judge, govern, direct; to administer affairs, supervise, and oversee. The assignment of responsibility, of duties, of work to be done is being taught here. There is to be *judging*, that is, governing, giving direction and supervision and oversight throughout eternity. Christ told the apostles that they would govern and oversee Israel. Paul said that believers would direct and oversee the world and angels (1 Cor. 6:2-3). All this activity and responsibility, of course, is under the direction of Christ.

For some unknown reason we so often picture *eternal life* as some dreamy sleep or semi-conscious type of existence. We think of it as some future existence that puts us on a fluffy cloud upon which we float in an eternal state of inactivity. Why man cannot accept the simple statement of Christ that life is to be eternal is difficult to understand. Eternal life is life that goes on and on. There is, however, one basic difference: life shall be perfected - perfected in body, mind, and spirit. It is life lived in the midst of a new heavens and earth (perfected) - life lived before Christ and responsible to Christ in all that it is assigned (Jn. 3:16; 5:24; Rom. 8:19-23; 2 Pet. 3:9-18; 1 Jn. 5:11-13; Rev. 21:1). □

JOHN 17: 02-03 ETERNAL LIFE (AINIOS)

“For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.

03 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

John 17:02-03

Life, real life. It is the very life of God Himself. It is the very energy, force, being, essence, principle, and power of life. It has more to do with quality and with what life really is than with duration. To live forever in the present world is not necessarily a good thing. The world and man's body need changing. That changed life is found only in eternal life. The only being who can be said to be eternal is God. Therefore, life - supreme life - is found only in God. To possess eternal life is to know God. Once a person knows God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent, that person has eternal life - he shall live forever. But more essential, the person has the supreme quality of life, the very life of God Himself.

John 3:14-15 *“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”*

John 3:36 *“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.”*

John 5:24 *“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”*

John 6:40 *“For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

John 11:25-28 *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” “Yes, Lord,” she told him, “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.” And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.”*

John 12:25 *“The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”*

Rom 5:21 *So that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Gal 6:8 *The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*

2 Tim 1:10 *But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*

1 John 3:14 *We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death.*

1 John 5:11-12 *And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. □*

2 TIMOTHY 04:18

DELIVERANCE FROM DEATH, ETERNAL LIFE

“The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” 2 Timothy 04:18

The phrase “will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom” is a picture of God transporting Paul right through this world into the next world. It is the picture of time - of unbroken time. God preserves Paul right through time into eternity. In one moment of time, Paul is living in this world, conscious and aware; but within the same moment - in a split second - he is transported into God’s heavenly kingdom. That one moment of time happens quicker than the blinking of an eye (11/100 of a second). Just imagine! There is no loss of consciousness, no experience or awareness of death. One moment Paul is a citizen of this world, and within the same split moment he stands before the Lord as a citizen of His kingdom (2 Cor. 5:6-8). It is the beautiful picture of the believer never having to taste death. (See Col. 3:1-4; Heb. 2:9; cp. 2 Cor. 5:5-8.) □

V. *Mathew 22: 31–32 Proofs of the Resurrection*

Jesus said the resurrection had four basic proofs.

1. God had spoken and revealed the truth of the resurrection in His Word (see Job. 19:26; Eze. 37:1f; Dan. 12:2). The Sadducees held only to the first five books of Moses as God’s Word, that is, Genesis through Deuteronomy (see *Sadducees*, Acts 23:8). Therefore, Christ used this Scripture to prove the resurrection.

Note three facts about what Christ said: “Have you not *read* what God said to you?” (v. 31).

- a. Christ said that God had spoken to man; God had revealed the truth to man in the Scripture.
 - b. Christ said the Scripture *is* God’s Word.
 - c. Christ questioned why they had not read what God had spoken. “Have you not read” hints that they were without excuse. They should have read and understood; therefore, they should have known the truth of the resurrection (and all other truths) as God had revealed it.
2. God is; God exists. The fact that *God is* proves the resurrection. The Greek (ego eimi) means the self-existent, eternal One (see “*It is I*” (eimi), Jn. 6:20; 18:4-6).

Mat 22:32 “*I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob*’ ? *He is not the God of the dead but of the living.*”

Heb 11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

Since God is, He possesses omnipotent power - power that is perfect and eternal. God can do anything, and He can do it perfectly and eternally. He can call the elements of a decayed body back together again and raise it up to live in the spiritual world both perfectly and eternally.

Note carefully: the argument for *God’s being* (living) is irrefutable. Note carefully the great passage in Ephesians dealing with the spiritual blessings that are ours in Christ: “In whom we were also chosen...in order that *we...might be*” (Eph. 1:11-12).

The resurrection is a fact. It will be experienced by all men of all ages because *God is*. God has willed to give us an inheritance to *be*, that is, to live eternally with Him. We shall undergo a transformation of nature, a transformation of perfection and permanency. For this reason, we need to pay close attention to what Scripture says: “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that *he* [God] *exists* and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

We must believe that God is, and that He is a rewarder of those who earnestly seek after Him; that is, He rewards all who seek to live eternally with Him.

Phil 3:11 And so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

3. God is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Christ meant at least two things in this point.
 - a. God’s relationships are active relationships not inactive. God says, “I am the God of...,” not “I was the God of....” His relationships with His people are continuous. They are maintained. God is eternal; therefore, He creates and maintains eternal, active relationships. God’s people enter into the spiritual realm of His presence and actively relate to Him. The resurrection is a fact.
 - b. God’s relationships are good and rewarding. The patriarchs of old were promised rewards, personal rewards (see Heb. 11:13-16). There has to be a resurrection if our relationship with God is good and rewarding. To die and be left dead as a decayed corpse is not good nor rewarding. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob have a good and rewarding relationship with God. They are alive, more alive than they were while on earth, for they are now perfected and eternal. They are with God Himself. And so shall we be. The resurrection is a fact.

4. God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. God is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, not the God of dead, decayed corpses. When Moses wrote these words, the three patriarchs had been dead for many years. If they were dead, God was not their God. Since He was their God, they were alive, living in God’s presence and living in relationship to Him, perfect and eternal. There is to be a resurrection.

Rom 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

Christ makes one point, and makes it very clearly: since God exists, God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

Acts 26:8 Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?

Acts 24:15 And I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

Note what Scripture says about the resurrection.

1. Note the emphatic statements of Christ:

John 5:29 And come out - those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.

John 6:39-40, 44, 54 “And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.” “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me

draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.” “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 11:25-26 *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”*

2. Note the personal testimony of Paul.

Acts 23:6 *Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, “My brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee. I stand on trial because of my hope in the resurrection of the dead.”*

Acts 24:14-15, 21 *“However, I admit that I worship the God of our fathers as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that agrees with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, and I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked, unless it was this one thing shouted as I stood in their presence: ‘It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today.’”*

3. Note the unquestionable teaching of Scripture.

Rom 6:5 *If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.*

Rom 8:11 *And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.*

1 Cor 6:14 *By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.*

1 Cor 15:12-14 *But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. (cp. 1 Cor. 15:12-58)*

2 Cor 4:14 *Because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.*

Phil 3:11 *And so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

1 Th 4:16-18 *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.*

Heb 11:35 *Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection.*

Rev 20:5-6 *(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.*

4. Note the reactions of men to the resurrection (see Pet. 3:3-18).

Acts 4:1-2 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.

Acts 17:18 A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to dispute with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbling trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

1 Cor 15:12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

Phil 3:7, 11 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

JOHN 06: 20 "IT IS I" (EIMI)

But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid" John 06:20

This is one word in the Greek, *eimi*, which is simply "I AM" (Jn. 18:6). Jesus was saying, "I AM" has come – fear not. He was reminding the disciples who He was the Son of God Himself. He possessed all power; therefore, there was no need to fear. This was the same message that God gave to Moses at the burning bush, "I AM WHO I AM" (Exo. 3:13-15, esp. 14). It was the same message that Jesus used as a defence against the religionists, "Before Abraham was born, I am" (Jn. 8:58). It is the same message that Col. 1:15-17 claims for Him; and it is the same message that is proclaimed by the book of *Revelation*, He "who is and was and is to come" (Rev. 1:4, 8; 11:17; 16:5).

There are several "I Am's" claimed by Christ.

=> I Am the Messiah (Jn. 4:26).

=> I Am (It is I); don't be afraid (Jn. 6:20).

=> I Am the Bread of Life (Jn. 6:35).

=> I Am from Above (Jn. 8:23).

=> I Am the Light of the World (Jn. 8:12; 9:5; 12:46).

=> I Am before Abraham was born, I am (eternal) (Jn. 8:58).

=> I Am the Gate or Door (Jn. 10:7).

=> I Am the Good Shepherd (Jn. 10:14).

=> I Am the God's Son (Jn. 10:36).

=> I Am the Resurrection and Life (Jn. 11:25).

=> I Am the Lord and Teacher (Jn. 13:13).

=> I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (Jn. 14:6).

=> I Am the True Vine (Jn. 15:1).

=> I Am the Alpha and the Omega (Rev. 1:8).

=> I Am the First and the Last (Rev. 1:17). □

VI. *Mathew 22: 33 Resurrection*

The glorious hope of the resurrection not only caused amazement in Christ's day, it causes amazement today.

1. The believer is amazed that God would love him so much.
2. The unbeliever is amazed at such an idea as the resurrection, that anyone could believe such a thing. ■

MATHEW 16:12

FALSE TEACHING OF THE PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES

What is the yeast, the false teaching, of the Pharisees and Sadducees, that is, the religionists? Very simply put, it is just what the disciples finally understood: the doctrine (teachings) of the religionists. They fermented, soured, and brought disease to everyone they touched (see *Pharisees, Saducees*, Acts 23:8; see Mk. 8:15).

The Pharisees believed in a personal God and in the Scripture as God's Word to man, but they *added to* God's Word (see Lk. 6:2). They added rules and regulations, rituals and ceremonies laying undue restrictions upon man's behaviour. This led to three gross errors.

1. It led people to think that their good behaviour and their religious rituals and ceremonies made them acceptable to God. A religion of good works - of trying to do enough good to become acceptable to God - was being depended upon for righteousness.
2. It led to a religion of social respectability, an external religion. If a person were respected socially and did all the right things, then he was judged acceptable to God.
3. It led to an attitude and an air of self-righteousness. If a person kept the rules and regulations, he naturally felt righteous and sometimes demonstrated it. There was a dependence upon himself, upon keeping the right rules and thereby becoming righteous.

The Sadducees or Herodians were the liberal minded of their day. Their yeast or false teaching was twofold.

1. They *took away* from God's Word, denying all Scripture except the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament.
2. They were the free thinkers, the rationalists, the secularists, and the materialistic minded of their day. Thus they were willing to collaborate with the Romans in doing away with Jewish culture and in establishing Roman and Greek culture. Because of this, Rome placed their leaders in the governing positions (the Sanhedrin) and gave them wealth. Their worldly mindedness, their secular philosophy, and their liberal theology were always a threat to any man (see Mt. 16:1-12).

Mat 7:15 *"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves."*

Mat 5:19 *"Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."*

Mat 15:9 *"They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men."*

Acts 20:30 *Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.*

Rom 10:3 *Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.*

Rom 16:18 *For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.*

Eph 4:14 *Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.*

1 Tim 4:1 *The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.*

1 Tim 4:2 *Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.*

Titus 1:10-11 *For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach - and that for the sake of dishonest gain.*

2 Pet 2:1 *But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them - bringing swift destruction on themselves.*

1 John 2:18-19 *Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.*

1 John 2:22 *Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist - he denies the Father and the Son.*

2 John 1:7 *Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. □*

ACTS 23:08 SADDUCEES

The Sadducees were the religious and political liberals of Christ's day. They were the wealthy, the aristocratic, the governing class of leaders in Israel. Many Sadducees served on the nation's governing body, the Sanhedrin. The Chief Priest himself was usually a Sadducee who presided over the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin ruled the people in behalf of the Roman empire (Acts 4:1-2; 5:17). The Romans readily saw to it that the Sadducees held the positions of leadership in the nation, for the Sadducees favoured Greek customs over Jewish customs. And they aided the Romans in doing away with religious practices and instituting Greek and Roman customs (Hellenism).

They are thought to have arisen out of the same struggle as the Pharisees around B C 175. However, they were always the fewest in number among the various sects of Jewish belief.

Several things should be noted.

1. The Sadducees were secular and materialistic minded. They were the independent thinkers, the rationalists of their day.
2. They were heavily entrenched in the priesthood of Jesus' day (see Acts 4:1-2; 5:17). They readily collaborated with the Roman government in order to protect their position, power, and wealth.
3. For the most part they denied the supernatural: the resurrection and miracles, life after death, and the existence of beings in other dimensions such as angels and spirits (Mt. 22:23; Acts 23:8). To them there was no heaven or hell, no existence whatsoever except on this earth. A man died and was annihilated, just ceased to exist. There was no such thing as rewards or punishment in an afterlife, no eternal life. □