

BIBLICAL ANSWERS ABOUT ETERNITY (Mk. 12:18-27)

March 16, 2025

TEXT—Mk. 12:18-27

MAIN IDEA—The Lord Jesus Christ gives hope to the hopeless through the scriptures and the promise of the resurrection.

MEMORY VERSE—1 Cor. 15:3-5

I. AN ABSURD QUESTION (Mk. 12:18-23)—Following the Pharisees and Herodians question about taxes (V14-15), the Sadducees were next in line. Attempting to flatter Jesus they called Him ‘Teacher,’ yet they had no intention of learning from Jesus. Instead they posed a ridiculous question in the hope that Jesus wouldn’t be able to answer it, and discredit Him and prove to others that He wasn’t the Messiah.

Verse 18 introduces the Sadducees. The Sadducees were the ruling class of the religious leaders made up of the wealthiest and most influential Jewish men. All the high priest, chief priests, and most of the Sanhedrin were Sadducees. They ignored the oral traditions and scribal laws of the Pharisees, only viewing the Pentateuch (Gen.-Deut.) as God’s authoritative word.

The OT clearly teaches there will be a future, bodily resurrection (**See Job 19:25-27; Ps. 16:9-11; Ps. 73:24; Dan. 12:2**).

Verse 19—Since the Sadducees knew what Moses wrote they asked Jesus a hypothetical question based on the law of marriage given in (**Duet. 25:5-6**).

Verses 20-23. Since Jesus had the highest regard for Scripture as the word of God, the Sadducees appealed to the Law of Moses thinking they would expose Jesus’ lack of understanding through their ridiculous question.

Ps. 139:2

II. AN AWESOME

ANSWER (Mk. 12:24-27)—The Lord not only answered their absurd question but exposed the

ignorance of the Sadducees regarding the resurrection in two important areas: 1) ignorance of the scriptures and 2) ignorance of the power of God.

Verses 25. The Sadducees were ignorant of God's Power so Jesus affirmed the reality and belief in the resurrection by stating, '*When they rise from the dead*' not if, so Jesus taught this truth as a fact to be expected. Then the Lord corrects the wrong thinking related to marriage and one's spiritual condition in the life to come.

*Marriage is an earthly institution designed for companionship (**Gen. 2:18**), continuation of the human race (**Gen. 1:22**), and fulfillment of sexual needs (**1 Cor. 7:22**). Yet in glory, we'll be 'like the angels' (i.e. spiritual beings having no need of the earthly life, deathless, sinless, glorified and eternal). Yet unlike the angels, we'll be like Jesus (**1 Jn. 3:1-3**).

Jer. 32:17

Though the OT has several witnesses regarding the truth of the resurrection, the Sadducees only focused on the first 5 books of the Bible (the Pentateuch/law of Moses). Yet the OT clearly speaks of the resurrection in the life to come, including the law books.

Is. 26:19; Dan. 12:2

Hosea 4:1-3, 6; 1 Tim. 3:16-17

Rom. 15:4

John MacArthur--For believers, the truth of the resurrection is a comforting reality. The sorrow, suffering, and sin that makes this present life will end. We will one day receive a glorified body, perfect in every way, when God 'transforms the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of [Christ's] glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things Himself' (Phil. 3:21). We will perfectly love God and each other, and be able to worship God in holy perfection. We will have perfect knowledge: 'Now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known' (1 Cor. 13:12). We will be perfectly motivated to do perfect service, rendering perfect obedience. The redeemed will never be weary, tired, bored, discouraged, or disappointed but will experience eternally undiminished joy, unmarred by any sadness or sorrow, because God 'will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away' (Rev. 21:4; Is. 25:8).

John 11:23-28