

The God of the Living

Promise: there is a resurrection of the dead with believers inheriting the Kingdom

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 148; 2 Thess 2:1-8, 13-17; [Luke 20:27-40](#)
(Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost – Pr. 27, 11/10/19)

Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him. – v. 38

Lead In – I listened this past week to an interview with the famous atheist, Richard Dawkins, on a Joe Rogan podcast... Dawkins' interrogation of the Christian faith reminded me of the Sadducees in our Gospel Lesson...

I. Jesus' Run Ins With Leading Jewish Movements

- The Sadducees, wealthy aristocratic group...
- How is Jesus a threat? Where light not apprec...
- Tendency to put ourselves *over* the Scriptures...

II. Perhaps Jesus Can Be Discredited In A Teaching

- There are no bad questions. Really?
- Jesus exposes the hypocritically lack of belief!
- Jesus exposes lack of careful reading...

III. They No Longer Dared Ask Him Any Questions

- Odd bedfellows, what are scribes doing there?
- Need to stand *under* not *over* the Word!
- In addition to inerrant, and infallible... effectual

Parting Shot – I think I get it why we want to find loopholes and contradictions. That way we can avoid the parts that illumine and we fear to be true. G.K. Chesterton once said... It is tough to be exposed. There is a lot we want to keep hidden. But the disease won't go away because we are ignoring it. There is a physician who claims to be able to be able to heal it. It involves going under and then awakening post-surgery. And this surgeon has gone under himself in death and demonstrate the healing He is able to provide by conquering sin, death, and the power of the devil. For He claims to be one with, and the Son of, the God of the living.

Famous modern Atheist Authors: Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, Daniel Dennett, and Sam Harris. Dawkins is an English ethologist, and evolutionary biologist; author of "The God Delusion" and "Outgrowing God: A Beginner's Guide".

Sadducees: Party of the high priests, noble families, merchants. Held to first 5 Books as authoritative. Did not accept tradition of scribes and Pharisees: not believing in resurrection or angels.

John 3:19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.

Deut 25:5-6 "If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the dead man shall not be married outside the family to a stranger. Her husband's brother shall go in to her and take her as his wife and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. And the first son whom she bears shall succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.

Matthew 22:29 But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God."

Luke 20:27-40 ESV

Sadducees Ask About the Resurrection

²⁷There came to him some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection, ²⁸and they asked him a question, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, having a wife but no children, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. ²⁹Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife, and died without children. ³⁰And the second ³¹and the third took her, and likewise all seven left no children and died. ³²Afterward the woman also died. ³³In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife."

³⁴And Jesus said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, ³⁵but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, ³⁶for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. ³⁷But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. ³⁸Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him." ³⁹Then some of the scribes answered, "Teacher, you have spoken well." ⁴⁰For they no longer dared to ask him any question.

Exodus 3:6 And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Heb 4:12-13 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Isaiah 55:10-11 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Chesterton: "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult, and left untried."

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