

# **The God of the Living**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 22:23-33.

B. People brim with hope over the possibility of the resurrection life.

C. Man feels the pull of the afterlife.

D. Resurrection is in the nonbiblical writings as well as in the Old Testament. (Psalm 16:9, 49:15, 73:24, 139:8, Hosea 6:1-2, Daniel 12:2)

E. The Sadducees were the only group of Jews that denied the resurrection. (Acts 23:8)

F. The Sadducees gave primacy to the first five books of Moses. Since resurrection was not taught there, they denied it.

G. The Pharisees disagreed with them scrounging some weak support. (Numbers 18:28, Deuteronomy 21:16, 32:39)

## II. Both parties agreed on the need to get rid of Jesus.

A. Jesus cleaning out the temple was a violation of the religious leader's turf.

B. They were afraid that Jesus would start a revolution against Rome. (John 11)

## III. The Sadducees challenged Jesus with a complex question from the law regarding the remarriage obligations of a widow's brother in laws. They question whose wife the woman would be in the resurrection after all are raised. (Deuteronomy 12:5=6)

A. Jesus responded by saying that they erred.

B. They were wrong about the power of God. Sex, marriage and reproduction are only for this life so there would be no marriage in the next life.

C. Jesus points to Scripture in Genesis that shows that God "is" the God of Abraham and his descendents. This is said even though they were dead. Jesus argues that this points to the resurrection. They are still alive.

## IV. Three confidence builders.

A. Jesus' deity is shown in his omniscience.

B. Jesus affirms Scripture.

C. Jesus' resurrection is affirmed.

**Application Questions:**

1. Which Old Testament verse supporting resurrection do you find most convincing?

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2. Why did the Sadducees and Pharisees oppose Jesus?

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3. Why is there no marriage in eternity? Explain.

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