

“The Test of the Resurrection”
Matthew 22:23-33

I. The Jewish religious leaders were trying to trap Jesus in His Words (vs. 15-40).

- A. Jesus was asked about paying taxes (15-22).
- B. Jesus was asked about the resurrection (23-33).
- C. Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment (34-40).

II. After seeing Jesus answer the Pharisees, the Sadducees attempted to test Jesus (vs. 23-33).

- A. The Sadducees believed that they had come up with a question that Jesus could not answer.
- B. Jesus affirms the reality of the resurrection.

(Genesis 26:24; 28:13; Exodus 3:3-6; Deuteronomy 25:5-10; Luke 20:34-36; 37-38; Acts 23:6-9)

III. In the test of the Resurrection, we see three truths that speak to us today.

- A. We see affirmation that Jesus Christ truly is the Son of God.
- B. We see that the Scriptures truly cannot be broken.
- C. We see that those who have passed on are safe in the hands of God.

(Psalm 16:9-10; 49:15; Daniel 12:2; Matthew 5:17-18; John 10:35; 11:25-26; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

Scripture References and Notes

Acts 23:6-9

⁶ But perceiving that one group were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, Paul *began* crying out in the Council, “Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees; I am on trial for the hope and resurrection of the dead!” ⁷ As he said this, there occurred a dissension between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. ⁸ For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. ⁹ And there occurred a great uproar; and some of the scribes of the Pharisaic party stood up and *began* to argue heatedly, saying, “We find nothing wrong with this man; suppose a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?”

Deuteronomy 25:5-10

⁵“When brothers live together and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the deceased shall not be *married* outside *the family* to a strange man. Her husband’s brother shall go in to her and take her to himself as wife and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her. ⁶It shall be that the firstborn whom she bears shall assume the name of his dead brother, so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel. ⁷But if the man does not desire to take his brother’s wife, then his brother’s wife shall go up to the gate to the elders and say, ‘My husband’s brother refuses to establish a name for his brother in Israel; he is not willing to perform the duty of a husband’s brother to me.’ ⁸Then the elders of his city shall summon him and speak to him. And *if* he persists and says, ‘I do not desire to take her,’ ⁹then his brother’s wife shall come to him in the sight of the elders, and pull his sandal off his foot and spit in his face; and she shall declare, ‘Thus it is done to the man who does not build up his brother’s house.’ ¹⁰In Israel his name shall be called, ‘The house of him whose sandal is removed.’

You are mistaken

- *πλανάω* (planaó)
- to cause to wander, to wander
- I lead astray, deceive, cause to wander.
- properly, go astray, get off-course; to *deviate* from the correct path (circuit, course), *roaming* into error, *wandering*; (passive) be misled.
- (*planáō*) is the root of the English term, *planet* ("wandering body"). This term nearly always conveys the *sin* of roaming (for an exception – see Heb 11:38).

Luke 20:34-36

³⁴Jesus 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 the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; ³⁶for they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

Exodus 3:3-6

³So Moses said, “I must turn aside now and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up.” ⁴When the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” ⁵Then He said, “Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶He said also, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Luke 20:37-38

³⁷But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the *passage about the burning bush*, where he calls the Lord THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB. ³⁸Now He is not the God of the dead but of the living; for all live to Him.”

astonished

- *ἐκπλήσσω* (ekpléssō)
- to strike out, to strike with panic, to amaze
- I strike with panic or shock; I amaze, astonish.
- *ekpléssō* (from *ek*, "wholly out," intensifying *pléssō*, "to strike") – properly, "*strike out* of one's senses" (*BAGD*), i.e. with the *outcome* of being utterly amazed (dumbfounded) or left "at a loss" from witnessing the *incredible* (causing the viewer to *gape in astonishment*).

John 10:35

If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken)...

Matthew 5:17-18

¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Psalms 16:9-10

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will dwell securely. ¹⁰ For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.

Psalms 49:15

But God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol, For He will receive me. *Selah*.

Daniel 12:1-2

¹ “Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. ² Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace *and* everlasting contempt.

John 11:25-26

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.