

**Mark 12:18-27 — “Jesus Speaks Afterlife Truth to Mocking, Religious Liberals”**

Do you ever ponder these questions?

- ✓Is there even a resurrection from the dead? What's the afterlife like?
- ✓What about the age to come? What's it like? Is it similar to the way things currently are?
- ✓What will I be like? Will I have gender? Personality? Uniqueness? Identity?
- ✓How will we be like the angels? What will worship-filled life look like?
- ✓What about relationships - What about my marriage, my spouse and my companionships?
- ✓What about my close relationships, friendships, family ties ... what will happen to them?
- ✓What about my worship and devotion to God...what will it be like?

To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Better than fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, or children, or the company of any, or all earthly friends. These are but shadows; but the enjoyment of God is the substance. These are but scattered beams; but God is the sun. These are but streams; but God is the fountain. These are but drops, but God is the ocean. (Jonathan Edwards)

The Passion Week of Jesus

- Sunday - a day of Messianic presentation
- Monday - a day of Messianic power
  - ➔ **Tuesday - a day of Messianic proclamation** (*controversy/conflict/debate*)
- Thursday - a day of Messianic preparation
- Friday - a day of Messianic perfection
- Sunday - a day of Messianic pronouncement

## **I. THE RIDICULOUS QUESTION (18-23)**

- A. The Sadducees —
- B. The Scripture —
- C. The ludicrous, hypothetical Scenario —

## **II. THE COURAGEOUS DECLARATION (24-27)**

- A. v.24- The REBUKE! You are mistaken!
- B. The ANSWER! don't you know?

1. **a theological answer** - in resurrection, we are like angels (v.25)
  
2. **an exegetical answer** - in the Burning Bush text: God *IS* God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (v.26-27)

The point? *There IS an afterlife. You better prepare now.*

***Some Theological Points:***

1. Marriage is a God-given institution for this age only (25a).
2. There is still gender, identity, personality & uniqueness in heaven. (26b)
3. All in heaven will never die again but will live eternally (26b)
4. All in heaven are like the angels in total dedication to God in worship (25b)
5. Marriage in this life is swallowed up in the ultimate marriage with Christ in the next.  
>> So Jesus answers **theologically** & shows their faulty presuppositions/assumptions.

***Some Additional Points from the Text:***

1. There IS an afterlife/age to come (v.25 - for WHEN they shall rise)
2. Heaven is \*NOT\* just a continuation of how things currently are. (v.25a)
3. Those in glory have gender, identity, personality, uniqueness (v.26b— masculine)
4. Those in glory are *alive* with fullness of life & communion with God, never to die again (v.27a)
5. There will be no marriage but there will be close relationships, memory and togetherness (v.25-26)
6. Worship and devotion to God will be supremely satisfying, infinitely enjoyable, never-ending in the immediate presence of the blazing holiness of God. (v.25b — like the angels; cf. Isa 6; Rev 7.11 - angels fell on faces and worshiped God)
7. Heaven is the ultimate possession of and enjoyment of & worship of the Triune-God. (v.26b-I am the *God of...* - the phrase “the *GOD OF*” in Greek signifies intimacy in relationship).

My Soul, you shall swim in happiness, you shall dive in seas of inconceivable delight by reason of your union with Christ and your delight in Him and His delight in you! I know no better idea of Heaven than to be eternally content with Christ and Christ to be eternally content with me! And all this will happen within a very little time. Therefore, lay aside your cares, dismiss your fears, murmur no more. Such a destiny awaits you that you may well be content. (Charles Spurgeon)

## **CHRIST OUR HOPE IN LIFE AND DEATH**

What is our hope in life and death?  
Christ alone, Christ alone  
What is our only confidence?  
That our souls to him belong  
Who holds our days within his hand?  
What comes, apart from his command?  
And what will keep us to the end?  
The love of Christ, in which we stand!

**O sing hallelujah!**  
**Our hope springs eternal**  
**O sing hallelujah!**  
**Now and ever we confess**  
**Christ our hope in life and death**

What truth can calm the troubled soul?  
God is good, God is good

Where is his grace and goodness known?  
In our great Redeemer's blood  
Who holds our faith when fears arise?  
Who stands above the stormy trial?  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh  
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

Unto the grave, what will we sing?  
"Christ, he lives; Christ, he lives!"  
And what reward will heaven bring?  
Everlasting life with him  
And we will rise to meet the Lord  
Then sin and death will be destroyed  
And we will feast in endless joy  
When Christ is ours forevermore!

**Mark 12:18-27 — “Jesus Speaks Afterlife Truth to Mocking, Religious Liberals”**

**SINGING PSALM 119:153-176**

*Tune: “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”*

**RESH**

153 Look on my suffering—rescue me!  
Your law I don’t forget.  
154 Defend my cause, redeem my life;  
Your Word revives me yet.  
155 Salvation’s far from wicked ones;  
They don’t seek Your decrees.  
156 Great are Your mercies, Lord, revive  
me as Your law grants me.

157 The foes who persecute are great;  
Still, I Your statutes keep.  
158 I loathe the faithless, treach’rous ones—  
Your word they will not keep.  
159 See how I love Your precepts, Lord;  
Revive me in Your love.  
160 Your word is truth; Your righteous laws  
forever stand above.

**SIN/SHIN**

161 The rulers hate me without cause;  
I hold Your word in awe.  
162 I find joy in Your promises,  
Like treasure is Your law.  
163 I hate false ways—despise them all—  
But how I love Your law!  
164 I praise You seven times each day,  
For all Your righteous laws.

165 Great peace have those who love Your law;  
When stumbling comes, they stand.  
166 I hope in Your salvation, Lord,  
And follow Your commands.  
167 Your testimonies I obey,  
And love them earnestly.  
168 Your statutes, precepts, I do keep;  
My ways are known to Thee.

**TAV**

169 Let my cry come before You, Lord,  
Give insight by Your word.  
170 My supplication comes to You;  
Deliver by Your word.  
171 May my lips overflow with praise;  
You teach me Your decrees.  
172 May my tongue sing, for Your commands  
are righteousness indeed.

173 May Your hand help me, for I chose  
Your precepts, good and right.  
174 I long for Your salvation, Lord;  
Your law is my delight.  
175 O may I live to praise You, Lord,  
May Your laws help me stand.  
176 I’ve strayed like a lost sheep – seek me!  
I’ve not lost Your commands.

**A Meditation on Heaven** (tune: “How sweet and awful is the place”)

My thoughts go up past lower skies,  
And look within the veil,  
There springs of endless pleasure rise,  
The waters never fail.

There I behold, with sweet delight,  
The blessed Three-in-One;  
And strong affections fix my sight  
On God’s incarnate Son.

His promise stands for ever firm;  
His grace shall ne’er depart;

He binds my name upon his arm,  
And seals it on his heart.

Light are the pains that nature brings;  
How short our sorrows are,  
When with eternal, future things,  
The present we compare!

I would not be a stranger still  
To that celestial place,  
Where I forever hope to dwell,  
Near my Redeemer’s face.