

***Prayer:***

**Slide # 1**

***Theme: Christ the King***

***Outline:***

Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)

Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King’s baptism.

Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)

Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)

Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)

Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.

Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.

Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.

Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.

**Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.**

Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.

Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.

Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

In the context of our study in Matthew 22 we are in what is called Passion Week – the last week of Christ’s earthly ministry culminating in the crucifixion. We might also call this TESTING week.

Exodus 12:1-6 was very clear that the Passover lamb was to be taken and set aside on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month. It was then to be thoroughly inspected to make sure it was “without blemish” and then if it passed inspection it was to be killed 4 days later on the 14th day of the month.

The thorough and challenging exam that the religious leaders put Jesus through during Passion Week was the fulfillment of this typology. And Jesus as the spotless Lamb of God passed every test He was given with flying colors.

It was still Tuesday....

## **Slide # 2**

### **Sunday**

Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem  
 Jesus weeps over Jerusalem  
 Jesus observes Temple Activities

### **Monday**

Jesus Curses Fig Tree  
 Jesus Clears the Temple

### **Tuesday**

Jesus Explains the Withered Fig Tree  
**Temple Controversies with Religious Leaders**

First the Pharisees and the Herodians came to Jesus and with great flattery asked Jesus, "Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" They thought this was a "gotcha question" that no matter how Jesus answered would get Him in trouble. But Jesus profoundly answered saying, "**Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.**" This answer was so profound that even His critics marveled and went away in silence.

Now come the Sadducees with their challenge as seen in Matt. 22:23-33 (with parallel texts in Mk. 12:18-27 and Lk. 20:27-40).

### **Matthew 22:23–33 (NKJV)**

**23 The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him,**

The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection (Acts 4:1-2; 23:8). They didn't believe in miracles or the supernatural. It is often quipped that "**The Sadducees didn't believe in the resurrection and that is why they were SAD YOU SEE.**"

Not only did they not believe in the resurrection, they thought that a person went out of existence at the time of death. So, they literally thought their best and only life was now – and they lived accordingly.

The Sadducees were rationalists. They held the authoritative Scriptures to only be the books of Moses – the first 5 books of the Bible known as the Pentateuch.

The Sadducees were wealthy aristocrats who had a lock on the high priesthood and controlled the activities of the temple. They were closely tied to the Roman government which allowed them favors to maintain their power position among the Jews. There were various Jewish groups on the scene at this time.

### **Slide # 3**

***Pharisees:*** Religious conservatives; held to truth of the resurrection; anti-Roman.

***Sadducees:*** Religious liberals; Aristocrats who controlled the priesthood and temple. Rationalists who didn't believe in the resurrection. Pro-Rome.

***Herodians:*** Jews who were supportive of the Herodian family and their political agenda. Pro-Rome.

***Zealots:*** Nationalistic Jews who were political/military activists. Anti-Rome.

***Essenes:*** Reclusive legalistic sect who majored on copying the OT Scriptures (produced the Dead Sea Scrolls).

The Sadducees were not happy with Jesus because He had just cleansed the temple throwing out the money changers and teaching with authority on the temple premises -which they considered to be their turf.

***Footnote:*** When the temple was destroyed in A.D. 70 the Sadducees as a group along with the priesthood ceased to exist. While there is record of various Pharisees coming to true faith (most famously Saul turned apostle Paul) there is no record of any Sadducees coming to a saving faith.

So here they come to Jesus with all their rationalistic thought focused through the prism of Moses – the 1<sup>st</sup> five books of the Bible. And they too thought they had a “gotcha question” for Jesus.

**24 saying: “Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother.**

Notice that these Sadducees also come very respectful calling Jesus “Teacher”.

They quote from Moses – believing that he authoritatively taught the Scriptures – and he uniquely above all others. They put great stock in the concluding verses of Deuteronomy which exalted Moses above all others.

#### **Slide # 4**

##### **Deuteronomy 34:10–12 (NKJV)**

**10** But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

**11** in all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, before Pharaoh, before all his servants, and in all his land,

**12** and by all that mighty power and all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

But they believed that the teaching of Moses only had reference to this life and they here quoted a passage that they thought made their point in an air-tight manner. The text they referenced here is from Deut. 25.

#### **Slide # 5**

##### **Deuteronomy 25:5–6 (NKJV)**

**5** “If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband’s brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her.

**6** And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.

This command required the available brother of a deceased man to marry his brother’s widow. The firstborn son was then to be regarded as the son of the deceased brother and carry on the family name and inheritance. This also served as welfare protection for the widow.

This was called **“the levirate [lehvruht] law”**. Levirate is from the Latin word “levir” which means “husband’s brother”. We see Judah trying to apply this law in Genesis 38 but with difficulty (cf. Gen. 38:8-10). We also see it in relation to Boaz taking Ruth as a wife (cf. Ruth 4:1-10).

With this levirate law in view, they pose this hypothetical situation to Jesus thinking it makes the idea of resurrection look ridiculous. Thus, they are seeking to discredit Jesus in this way.

**25 Now there were with us seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having no offspring, left his wife to his brother.**

**26 Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh.**

**27 Last of all the woman died also.**

**28 Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her.”**

This question was totally disingenuous because they didn’t even believe in the resurrection. It was not an intellectually honest question. It was all intended to make Jesus look silly and lose credibility.

It is thought that the Sadducees had probably often used this question on the Pharisees who had no real answer and so they thought they could stump Jesus with it as well.

In their question they made some assumptions. The question assumes that life in the after life will be on the same basis as our experience in this life – which by the way the Pharisees also assumed – but which has no backing from Scripture.

In other words, they assumed that if people were married here, they would also be married in the afterlife – if there really was such a thing. There were no children involved so none of them had a “priority” claim to the woman. In their way of thinking it was impossible for her to morally be married to 7 men at the same time and therefore the idea of resurrection life was ridiculous.

We could stop right here: When you get your assumptions wrong you most certainly get the conclusion wrong. And that was the case here. Sometimes people are so dogmatic on their presuppositions, but the problem is they are wrong in their assumptions. And it’s really serious when these errors involve God’s truth.

**29 Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.**

Jesus points out two errors. He tells them they are mistaken because they don't properly know the Scriptures and they don't understand the power of God. They are ignorant of the Scriptures, and they have a low view of God – and they go together.

The word “mistaken” (Gk. *planao*) means to go astray. When Jesus says, “**You are mistaken**” it could literally be translated “**You have misled (or deceived) yourselves**”. The problem was that they were wrong in accepting only the books of Moses. Their selective treatment of the Scriptures led them astray. One of the great warnings from God is that we dare not take away from or add to the Scriptures.

### **Slide # 6**

#### **Deuteronomy 4:2 (NKJV)**

**2** You shall **not add** to the word which I command you, **nor take from** it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

#### **Deuteronomy 12:32 (NKJV)**

**32** “Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall **not add** to it **nor take away** from it.

### **Slide # 7**

#### **Revelation 22:18–19 (NKJV)**

**18** For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone **adds to** these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

**19** and if anyone **takes away from** the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Thus, the Bible both begins with the Books of Moses and concludes with the Book of Revelation by giving a STRONG warning not to add to God's revelation or take away from it. Invariably, those who take away from the Scripture err greatly because they are not holding to the whole counsel of God.

All of the errors of the Sadducees stemmed from a wrong view of Scripture and thus a lack of proper understanding of God's Word.

1 Cor. 2:15-16 says the believer has the “mind of Christ” and because of this we have the potential to appraise all things. And where we find the mind of Christ is in the Scriptures. Paul in 2 Tim. 3:15-17 says the inspired Scriptures are able to show one how to be saved and then fully equip us for every good work. This is known as the sufficiency of Scripture. But in order to be fully equipped you have to have a grasp on the whole counsel of God.

John MacArthur was asked what is the greatest need today in the Church and he said, “**a lack of discernment**”. How true this is: We don’t know the Scriptures. Recently Ligonier Ministries and LifeWay Research partnered to find out what is the state of Evangelicalism in America. Their report is called “The 2022 State of Theology”. Those responding to this survey were professing evangelicals who supposedly strongly agreed in the Bible as the highest authority and the importance of encouraging non-Christians to trust Jesus as their Savior. What did they find out?

- Half of the respondents said they believe that God does change.
- Two-thirds believe that people are born innocent and not in sin with a majority agreeing with the statement “Everyone sins a little, but most people are good by nature.” (57%)
- 73% believe that Jesus was a created being and not eternal God.
- 53% believe that Scripture is not literally true.
- 56% do not believe that Jesus is the only way to God.
- 60% believe the Spirit is a force and not a person.

What does this tell us about most professing evangelicals? They don’t know the Scriptures – and in truth they don’t know God. They are not saved.

### **Slide # 8**

Had they [the Sadducees] recognized the authority of all the Scriptures, such as Isaiah 26:19; Dan. 12:2; and Job 19:25-27, they would have known that resurrection was clearly taught.

– **Ed Glasscock**

Lots of people champion their own thoughts instead of putting stock in God’s word. They are rationalists. The Sadducees were rationalist. “They brought the Bible to the bar of human reason instead of bringing human reason to the bar of Holy Writ.” (John Phillips)

We don’t figure out God or His revelation. He must reveal it to us.

Our thoughts are not His thoughts (Isa. 55:8-9). That's why the Bible says...

**Proverbs 3:5 (NKJV)**

**5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

They did not really know the Scriptures and therefore they did not know the power of God. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). A low view of God comes from an errant view of Scripture. Get the Scriptures right and you will properly understand the greatness of God.

The Sadducees had a low view of God because they had an errant view of Scripture. What you think of God and what you think of God's Word go hand in hand.

**Slide # 9**

**Psalm 138:2 (ESV)**

**2** I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for **you have exalted above all things your name and your word.**

The Scriptures exalt God and tell us of His omnipotence. The Scriptures define God as "Almighty" (Ex. 6:3) and tell us that "with God all things are possible" (Mk. 10:27). He as the Creator of all has the power to give life and as the God of life He most certainly has the power to resurrect the dead back to life. It is a very small view of God to think He doesn't have the power to resurrect the dead. The resurrection of Christ has forever answered this question.

The idea of "power" is the exertion of a dynamic force, and they were ignorant of God's dynamic energy, which is greater than even the force of death. Their view of God was too small. They believed His authority or influence was limited to the realm of the material world – thus, part of their failure lay in a weak view of God. – ***Ed Glasscock***

But again, not knowing the Scripture and not knowing the power of God go together. They had a weak view of Scripture and that translated into a weak view of God.



### **30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.**

In the OT they saw in a mirror more dimly than we do now with further revelation (cf. 1 Cor. 13:11-12). The fact of the resurrection was known but they did not know that God could and will translate bodies into a whole other form that we call glorified bodies.

#### **Slide # 10**

##### **1 Corinthians 15:51–53 (NKJV)**

**51** Behold, I tell you a mystery:... the dead will be **raised incorruptible**, and we shall be **changed**. ....

**53** For this corruptible must put on **incorruption**, and this mortal must put on **immortality**.

#### **Slide # 11**

##### **Philippians 3:20–21 (NKJV)**

**20** For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

**21** who will **transform our lowly body** that it may be **conformed to His glorious body**, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

The idea of a resurrected glorified body was new revelation. Jesus here in Matt. 22:30 says in the resurrection they will not marry (emphasizing males) nor will they be “given in marriage” (emphasizing females) which is a way of saying there will be no marriage in heaven. Rather, when it comes to the issue of marriage, we will all be like the angels of God.

Angels don’t marry, and they don’t procreate, but they will live forever in God’s presence.

In heaven, men will be like angels, equally spiritual in nature, equally deathless, equally glorified, and equally eternal. – ***John MacArthur***

Notice Jesus did not say we will be angels but in regard to the issue of marriage we will be like them.

#### **Slide # 12**

This passage does not imply that the dearest of earthly relationships will be forgotten in the life to come. Just how these relationships will be affected by the possession of glorified bodies is not explained, but all Scripture supports the view that the resurrected state is one of blessedness and perfect fellowship. – *Wycliffe Bible Commentary*

I would remind us that in 1 Thess. 4 Paul says when the Lord comes we will be caught up together with departed believers and Paul says these are words of comfort (cf. 1 Thess. 4:13-18). We will certainly know each other. We will not lose our identity. Note what Jesus said will be the kingdom experience....

### **Slide # 13**

#### **Matthew 8:11 (NKJV)**

**11** And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob do not lose their identity in the kingdom and neither will we. On the Mount of transfiguration which was a kingdom preview Moses and Elijah were there. They did not lose their identity (Lk. 9:30-33). In the kingdom we will still be who we are only in glorified form.

And the love and fellowship we will know there will be on a greater level than anything we have known here. And we will know this depth of fellowship with everyone. We really can't imagine exactly how it will be – but it will be glorious. And it would be in error to think that our relationships in heaven will be inferior to that which we have known on earth.

Jesus' reference to "the power of God" suggests that God is able to establish relationships of even deeper friendship, joy, and love in the life to come. God has not revealed anything more about this, though Scripture indicates that the eternal glories awaiting the redeemed will be more splendid than anyone can begin to ask or think (cf. 1 Cor. 2:9; Eph. 3:20). – *ESV Study Bible*

What the Sadducees failed to realize is that in the resurrection the after life will be of a different order than what we have known here. It will be infinitely greater as we will live in glorified bodies. Everything about it will be BETTER!

### **Slide # 14**

### 1 Corinthians 15:42–43 (NKJV)

**42** So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

**43** It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

**Footnote:** In Genesis 6:1-4 there is great discussion about “*the sons of God*” marrying and having sexual relations with the beautiful “*daughters of men*”. Commonly “*sons of God*” is descriptive of angels, albeit in this case fallen angels. Therefore, it would seem that we have demonic activity in relation to these beautiful women, but exactly the nature of it is debated.

Consistent with Christ’s emphasis that angels don’t marry or procreate, I take the view that these “*sons of God*” were demons working through the bodies of fallen men.

These demons, in conjunction with this arrangement, in keeping with the strategy of the devil were seeking to produce a super- human race of extra-large people – with the goal of wiping out God’s people. Apparently, the offspring of these fallen angels, working through human agency in connection with the daughters of men, produced giants in the land.

Thus, I believe that all humanity is traced back to Adam as Paul indicates in Romans 5 and that there is no such thing as a half-angel and half human person.

Angels themselves do not marry nor procreate. However, fallen angels can possess people and work through them on such a level that they are controlling what is happening in the life of the person. I believe these fallen angels were so bad that at the time of the flood they were bound in a special place called “Tartarus” (1 Pet. 3:18-20; 2 Pet. 2:4-5; Jude 6-7).

This coincides with Christ’s teaching here that angels are different in that they don’t marry.

Have established that there is going to be a different order of relations in the resurrection Christ then went on to specifically address the Sadducees double error that people go out of existence at the time of death and that there is no resurrection.

**31 But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying,**

These Sadducees thought they had an airtight theological argument, but Jesus takes them right back to a portion of Scripture that they considered to be inspired and authoritative, namely one of the books of Moses, and more specifically to the book of Exodus. Not only were they wrong about the canon of inspired Scripture, but they were also wrong about the portion that they did consider the authoritative Word of God.

As a form of rebuke concerning their error about the resurrection He said, ***“have you not read what was spoken to you by God”***. Again, this would have been a major insult as it calls into question their knowledge of the Scriptures which they prided themselves on.

And note how Jesus put this: ***“what was spoken to you by God”***. This was spoken by God, specifically to Moses (as the quote goes on to show) but it specifically applies ***“to you”***. We need to take the Word of God personally. God is speaking to you and me! All Scripture is given by God and is profitable. God has something to say to each one of us in all of the Scriptures.

Specifically, in view here Jesus goes on to quote Exodus 3:6 where God said...

**32 ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”**

Jesus used this verse to prove to them that the books of Moses, (the Pentateuch) does indeed teach the truth of the resurrection. This involves precision interpretation in rightly dividing the Word (2 Tim. 2:15). The sense of what Jesus is saying is made to turn on the sense of ***“I am”*** – and not ***“I was”***. As Jesus said in Matt. 5:18, ***“one jot or one tittle will be no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”*** Every last little detail must be fulfilled.

Jesus here in this verse makes two major interrelated points. 1) The patriarchs are still very much alive, and 2) God is still in covenant relationship with them meaning the terms of the covenant must yet be fulfilled which requires the truth of the resurrection.

The patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had been dead for hundreds of years. Yet, when God speaks to Moses He says ***“I am”*** (not I was) the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God was right then still at that very moment their God, indicating that they were still in existence.

They were not dead in the sense of ceasing to exist for **“God is not the God of the dead, but of the living”**. These men were still living – alive in their spirit and alive in their soul although their bodies had been dead for centuries.

By saying, **“I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob”** God makes it clear that He was still in personal relationship with each one of these men. Death had not changed that reality.

The word **“death”** means separation. Until we are born again, we are spiritually dead – spiritually separated from God. But when we put our faith in Christ, we are united with Christ and made spiritually alive and from then on forever share in His life for all eternity. Nothing can ever separate us from the spiritual life we now have in Christ.

### **Slide # 15**

#### **John 5:24 (NKJV)**

**24** “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”

### **Slide # 16**

#### **John 11:25–26 (NKJV)**

**25** Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”

**26** And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

For the believer death is merely a physical reality, but there is spiritual life on the other side of death. At physical death the spirit and the soul depart to live in God’s presence. As Paul says in 2 Cor. 5:8, **“absent from the body – present with the Lord.”** And Paul says in Phil. 1:21 that **“to die is gain”**. He then goes on to say in Phil 1:23 that **“to depart and be with Christ...is far better.”** Ps. 16:11 says that in the presence of the LORD is fullness of joy!

In John 11:26 When Jesus said, **“whoever lives and believes in Me”** He was referring to physical life. You have to believe in this life. You have to believe while you are still living. The sense then is, **“whoever is LIVING in this life and believes in Me shall never die.”**

Once you die it is too late to believe. You have to do it while you are alive. Heb. 9:27 says, “**it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment**”. Death seals the deal! Wherever one is at the time of death – whether a believer or an unbeliever – that is where they will be for all eternity (cf. Rev. 22:11).

Whoever lives (physically) and believes in Jesus shall never die (that is spiritually). In the Greek “**never**” in John 11:26 involves a double negative with the idea being “**never never die**”. The emphasis is emphatic!

This truth is so strong in the NT that it uses the word “sleep” for the death of a believer. Sleep is a temporary condition. Spiritually we will never never die although the body may “sleep” for a while.

**One day when my mom was dying I was** talking to a lady and it came up that my mom was dying. She tried to use some religious jargon – some kind of “*comfort words*” to make me feel better. But I told her my mom was currently in the land of the dying but on her way to the land of the living. She didn’t know what to say to that!

But that is exactly what Jesus emphasized! Those who believe in Him will NEVER NEVER die. At death they go to the glory land where all are ALIVE – more alive than they have ever been here. And there they await the resurrection of the body where glorification will be complete. “**God is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living!**”

When God said to Moses, “***I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob***” that not only meant they were still existing, but it also meant that He as their covenant keeping God was still in covenant relationship with Him. Everywhere you find this phrase “the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob” in the Scriptures it is code for covenant relationship.

This quote here in Mt. 22:32 comes from Exodus 3 in the context of God appearing to Moses in the burning bush. God had been silent for centuries. It may have seemed like God had forgotten His promises to the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac & Jacob), but then – SUDDENLY, this supernatural interaction with Moses occurred with God revealing Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In Exodus 3:13 we then read...

**Slide # 17**

**Exodus 3:13 (NKJV)**

**13** Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?”

Moses was not merely asking, “**Who are You?**” in terms of a title. The question then would have been phrased in terms of, “**Who?**” But here, the question is framed in terms of “**what**” – as in, “**What is His name?**”

What Moses really wants to know is what kind of a God are You? What defines You, in terms of our circumstances as a people? After all, they had been languishing in Egypt for hundreds of years with no clear revelation from God. Moses in effect asks, “*In light of all that we have gone through, and are continuing to go through the people are going to want to know: WHAT KIND OF A GOD ARE YOU?*”

In response God told Moses to tell them that His eternal name is “I AM” which is indicative of His **eternal unchanging character**. And in that context, He said, “*Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.’* (Ex. 3:15).

Thus, God for time and eternity here linked His name “I AM” which signifies Him as the eternal unchanging God in an eternal covenant relationship with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their descendants.

In the Scriptures whenever this terminology “the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob” is given it consistently has in view that He is the God Who is in covenant relationship with them (cf. Gen. 24:12, 27, 48; 26:24; 28:13; 32:9; 46:1; 3-4; 48:15-16; 49:25). The Abrahamic covenant was first given to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3); then reiterated to Isaac (Gen. 26:3); and then to Jacob (Gen. 28:13).

**Slide # 18**

To Abraham...

**Genesis 17:8 (NKJV)**

**8** Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”

**Slide # 19**

To Isaac...

**Genesis 26:3 (NKJV)**

**3** Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for **to you and your descendants I give all these lands**, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father.

**Slide # 20**

To Jacob...

**Genesis 28:13 (NKJV)**

**13** And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie **I will give to you and your descendants.**

But here is the deal. Hebrews 11 says that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all dwelt in temporary tents. They never owned any of the land except for the burial plot that Abraham purchased (cf. Gen. 23). Hebrews 11:13 says, "***These all died in faith, not have received the promises...***".

Now let me ask you what good is the promise of land to you if you never possess it? Did God not carry through on His covenant promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that they personally would possess the land?

They all died – so how can it be that these covenant promises can be fulfilled for them? A. ***God's covenant relationship with them, God's covenant promises to them requires a future resurrection.*** They did not see it before they died so they must be resurrected to see the fulfillment of these promises. The language of covenant relationship demands a future resurrection!

Thus, Exodus 3:6 shows the truth of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob still living in the spirit realm, but also as people of covenant promise that they must be resurrected to see the good of God's covenant promises. God will raise the dead because He cannot fail to keep His covenant promises.

How can He who cannot fail to keep His promises fulfill those made to men who have already died? There is only one answer – resurrection. – ***William MacDonald***



Jesus was very clear when He said...

### **Slide # 21**

#### **Matthew 8:11 (NKJV)**

**11** And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob **in the kingdom** of heaven.

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will be in the kingdom by way of resurrection!

#### **33 And when the multitudes heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.**

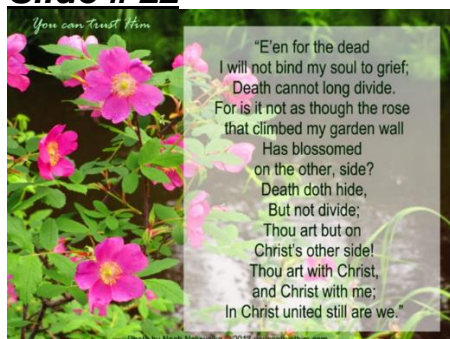
Jesus had seen something in the text that everyone else had missed; namely that the patriarchs are still living and by way of covenant relationship their resurrection is assured.

When the multitudes heard this, they were astonished at His teaching. No one had ever pointed this out before and the sense of it was true and irrefutable. It was so powerful that Luke 20:39 says that some of the scribes said, "***Teacher, You have spoken well***" and then it goes on to say, "***after that they dared not question Him anymore.***" (Lk. 20:40).

Once again Jesus silenced His critics and displayed His brilliance that knows no equal evidencing Him to be the Messianic God-Man.

If you don't know the Scriptures, you don't understand the power of God and that His omnipotence extends to having power over the grave. How wonderful to see from the Scriptures that "***God is not the God of the dead but of the living!***" His people who have passed from this life are fully alive in the spirit realm and one day their body that is pictured as sleeping will rise in glorified form to live in the kingdom.

### **Slide # 22**



When D.L. Moody was dying he said, “***Earth recedes, and heaven opens before me.***” Moody’s son, Will, who was by his father’s bedside, assumed his father must be dreaming. But Moody said, “***No, this is no dream. It is beautiful! It is like a trance! If this is death, it is sweet. There is no valley here! God is calling me, and I must go.***” And he died a short time later on Dec. 26, 1899.

One time D.L. Moody said, “***Someday you will read in the papers that Moody is dead. Don’t you believe a word of it. At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now.***”

**John 11:25–26 (NKJV)**

**25** Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

**26** And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. [And then He asked] Do you believe this?”

Do you believe this?