

# God Of The Living

Matthew 22:23-33



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**FOCAL** Matthew 22:23-33 The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him, (24) Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. (25) Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother: (26) Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh. (27) And last of all the woman died also. (28) Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her. (29) Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. (30) For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. (31) But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, (32) I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. (33) And when the multitude heard [this], they were astonished at his doctrine.

## **God Is Not The God Of The Dead**

Leave it to the unbeliever to come up with foolish questions. I have heard the unbeliever make statements like, “God is all powerful – right? If all powerful, can He make a rock that He can't lift? If He can't lift that rock, then can He truly be all powerful?” Unbelievers would rather create foolish questions rather than confront their own sinful nature. The Bible says:

**John 3:19** And this is the condemnation, **that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.**

This is so true. God is holy, and just, and at the same time most loving – for if He were not the Most Loving God then He would have long ago wiped all life from the face of this sinful earth. Yet He is long suffering – notice how Jesus answered these *religious unbelievers*. They thought to fool the Master, to give Him one of those ignorant questions that unbelievers love to use, and they expected the Lord would be fooled by their foolishness. Man cannot fool God! They asked Jesus about a hypothetical woman who, having married one of seven brothers, her husband dies. According to Mosaic Law the woman was then to be married by one of the remaining brothers. This happened, then that brother died. The process was repeated seven times until the woman died. The Sadducees, convinced they had stumped Jesus, stood back and grinned. They asked – I'm sure with a smug look on their faces - “If the resurrection is true, then *who's wife would this woman be* in the next life?” Jesus answered them quite simply:

**FOCAL** Matthew 22:23-33 ... **Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. (30) For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.**

The error of the *religious unbeliever* – like the Sadducee – is that **they do not know the Scriptures, nor do they understand the power of God**. God will not make a rock that He cannot lift, nor will God's Word ever make a statement that will lead to error. The Sadducees assumed that the Mosaic Law, which stipulated:

**Deuteronomy 25:5** **If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her.**

**If brethren dwell together and one of them die and have no child, the wife of the dead brother was to marry the living brother.** Our Almighty God wanted to make sure that the widow was cared for, and at the same time that the bloodline of that family continue in Israel. This was the reason that the childless widow of a brother marry a living (but childless) brother. Jesus told the Sadducees “**You neither understand God, nor the Word of God**” because that which they took so lightly was a great proof that **our God is love, and order, and peace**. God always wants the best for His creation, and God's Laws are not grievous, but if they are followed:

Proverbs 6:23 For **the commandment [is] a lamp; and the law [is] light; and reproofs**

## **of instruction [are] the way of life:**

The Law of God is a lamp and the light – without which we easily stumble and fall.

Unbelievers do not like the Law, nor do they care for the Gospel of God. The unbeliever, not knowing the ways of God, **love the darkness**. They wish to go every person their own way. To them God is a kindly but rich uncle sitting in Heaven, out of the way and unobserved until needed, but willing to bless when need arises. So many unbelievers think nothing of God until times of trial come – then they cry out to Heaven for relief. Yet Jesus said:

**FOCAL** Matthew 22:31-32 ... have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, (32) **I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.**

**God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.** The dead do not praise God. The dead do not worship God. The dead have no relationship with God, no prayer life, no time to go to Church nor to read His Holy Word. When the dead pick up the Word of God it is to look for error, to try and find something that they can use to stump Jesus, to prove the Lord of Glory to be a fraud. Oh Dear Ones, He is not the **God of the dead, but of the living**. God does not bless the ways of darkness, for He is light. The unbeliever – **spiritually dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:3)** – will go to the Lord of glory with all types of prayers. Some will gamble or play the

Lottery and, as they do so, try to come to the Throne of the Most High that they might fill their unbelieving pockets. Yet **He is not the God of the dead, but of the living.**

**1 John 1:5 “God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all”**

**2 Corinthians 6:14-16 “What communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? And what agreement hath the Temple of God with idols?”**

God will never bless darkness nor the works of darkness. The Lord says of those who turn away from Him, who refuse the Way of the Cross:

**Proverbs 28:9 He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer [shall be] abomination.**

What can the unbeliever expect from the Almighty God? When trial comes their way, can they expect the Lord to heal them, to bless them, to show His abundant mercy to them? The Lord will not hear the everyday prayer of the unbeliever intent on doing darkness. **God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.** He is a living and loving God, holy and without peer. What then can the unbeliever expect from Him?

The Lord wants to save all men, so He does hear prayers that ask for salvation. The Bible tells us:

**2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**

God has made a way for all people to come unto Him, and that way is through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord. **He alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life - no man comes to the Father but by Him (John 14:6).** It pleases the Lord to save souls when those souls call upon the Name of the Lord. **He is the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. He is the God of the Living, not of the dead.**

Abraham was not born **Abraham**, but he was born **Abram**, born in a pagan country called **Chaldea** or **ancient Babylon**. Here the **Tower of Babel** had been built as men tried to work their way into God's Heaven. The *dead tried to invade Heaven*, but **God is not the God of the dead, but of the living**. The Almighty God, the **Father of Lights (James 1:17)** knew Abram's heart, and knew that Abram sought the One True God. So the Lord came to Him and said:

**Genesis 12:1-2 ... Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will**

**shew thee: (2) And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing ...**

Abram, later to be called **Abraham**, obeyed God and was saved. Jesus would later tell the Pharisees (another unsaved religious sect):

**John 8:56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw [it], and was glad.**

Abraham sought the Lord, saw Jesus, and believing on Him was saved. All those who seek life through Jesus will be saved. **God is not the God of the dead, but of the living**. God wants to **bring many sons unto glory (Hebrews 2:10)**, wants to redeem all who will believe if they will but repent of the darkness and turn toward the light. Jesus said:

**John 10:9-10 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. (10) The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly.**

**ILLUSTRATE** In every commercial building the exits are all marked with *brightly lit exit signs*. These signs are supposed to be brightly lit at all times – even if the power goes out in the building. This is so that you can

find your way to the door no matter how dark the hallway is.

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, a brightly shining “exit sign” to show us the Way unto God. God gives every unbeliever on the face of this earth an opportunity to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Once He is received by faith – turning away from the old pathway of darkness – you find yourselves to be in a place of **abundant life**. He is our light, our door, our Savior. And believing on Him we are taken from darkness and placed onto the King's Highway. Those who have believed on Him no longer walk in darkness, but they walk in glorious light. For

### **God Is The God Of The Living**

**FOCAL Matthew 22:32 I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.**

Though God is **not the God of the dead**, He is **the God of the living**. If you have been saved by faith in Christ then rest assured that God hears your prayers.

**a. God Only Hears The Prayers Of Saints In Fellowship With Him:** Again, **God is not the God of the dead, but of the living**. The Psalmist David wrote:

**Psalms 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear [me]:**

God expects those who are His to avoid evil. When we fall into evil, stumble into the quicksand of sin, the Lord commands that we come out and confess that sin before Him. The Father cries out to the *prodigal son*:

**2 Corinthians 6:17-18 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean [thing]; and I will receive you, (18) And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.**

What a joy it is to be a **son of God by faith in Christ**. How sad to allow sin to mar that wonderful union! **God is the God of the living** – we who are His are called to walk in light and in love. If you have moved out of fellowship and into sin, out of light and into darkness, the Lord bids that you *recognize you are eating the husks of the pigs in the pen*. Do like the prodigal son did. Come to your senses and say:

**Luke 15:17-19 ..... How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! (18) I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, (19)**

**And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.**

I can see the prodigal now, heading home not knowing what to expect. Would Father receive him – had he been gone so long that Father would cast him out? As the son came closer to home he saw Someone standing off in the distance. Perhaps this was a servant working in the fields, perhaps a watchman. But no! As the son got closer to the Father's house he slowly realized this was Father Himself, waiting for his return. Oh the joy of coming from the pig pen and to the place of blessing! Oh the wonder that the Almighty God of Heaven and Earth would receive such worms as we are into fellowship for all eternity. Yet God does, He does. The Bible says:

**1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

For the prodigal who had come home all suffering was passed. **God is the God of the living.** He loves us with an infinite love!

**b. God Always Hears The Prayers Of Saints In Fellowship With Him**

The Bible says:

**Proverbs 15:29 The LORD [is] far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.**

When the child of God prays, the Lord *immediately* hears their prayers. He knows our needs before we ever ask – but often waits until we ask before He will bless. Aren't we the same way. I know a man who loves to call up, but never asks for anything of me. He *hints around* as to what he wants, but never says “Brother David, will you ...”. For years I played the game with him and said, “What do you want me to do for you today”, but I've stopped doing that. If you want something from me, ask!

God wants you to ask Him to supply your needs. Jesus said:

**John 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

**Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**

There is never a time when a saint prays where God doesn't hear our prayers. He loves us, and **gave Himself for us (Titus 2:14)**. He always hears the prayers of His saints. Finally,

**c. God Eternally Watches Over His People:**

**FOCAL** Matthew 22:32 **I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.**

God is the God of **Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob**. He saved Abraham, and made a promise to our forefather that was started in **Isaac**. God continued to keep His covenant promises to Abraham by blessing **Jacob**. God eternally watches over His people, blessing them from generation to generation.

Though **Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob** have long departed from this earth, they are still very much alive because **God is not the God of the dead, but of the living**. If you have given yourself to Him by faith in Jesus Christ then God has promised you eternal life. One day we shall be with Him Who died for us, and rose again on the third day. We shall see Him Who forever sits on the right hand of God the Father, making intercession for His people.

I pray that you are part of that Heavenly crowd!



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