

Luke 20:27-40

²⁷Then some of the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to question Him.

²⁸“Teacher,” they said, “Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man is to marry his brother’s widow and raise up offspring for him.

²⁹Now there were seven brothers. The first one married a wife, but died childless. ³⁰Then the second ³¹and the third married the widow, and in the same way all seven died, leaving no children. ³²And last of all, the woman died. ³³So then, in the resurrection, whose wife will she be? For all seven were married to her.”

³⁴Jesus answered, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. ³⁵But those who are considered worthy to share in the age to come and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage. ³⁶In fact, they can no longer die, because they are like the angels. And since they are sons of the resurrection, they are sons of God.

³⁷Even Moses demonstrates that the dead are raised, in the passage about the burning bush. For he calls the Lord ‘the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’

³⁸He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to Him all are alive.”

³⁹Some of the scribes answered, “Teacher, You have spoken well!” ⁴⁰And they did not dare to question Him any further.

Berean Study Bible

1

Happily, ever after. Luke 20:27-40

Human relationships on earth. 20:27-33

We care for our peers. 28a “man’s brother dies and leaves a wife”

We care across generations. 28b “raise up offspring”

Human relationships in Heaven. 20:34-36

We are worthy of Heaven. 35 “considered worthy to share in”

We are citizens of Heaven. 36 “they are like the angels”

Human relationships with God. 20:37-40

Our confidence is in the Word of God. 37 “in the passage about the burning bush”

Our confidence is in the Person of God. 38 “the God of the... living”

2

Start living your eternal life. Luke 20:27-40

Really live life on earth. 20:27-33

God's Word is for here and now. 28 "Moses wrote for us"

God's care is for those around us. 28 "a man's brother dies and leaves a wife"

God's concern is for those who follow us. 28 "raise up offspring"

Live life, ready for Heaven. 20:34-36

My life is an illustration of Heaven. 34 "marriage" Revelation 21:2

My life is preparation for Heaven. 35 "considered worthy"

My life will be different in Heaven. 36 "like the angels"

Live life, like you are alive. 20:37-40

Live life based on God's Word. 37 "Even Moses demonstrates"

Live life that is God's life. 38 "the God of the... living"

Live life speaking God's facts. 39 "You have spoken well"

3

Even unbelievers believe. Luke 20:27-40

Unbelievers believe in eternal life. 20:27-33

Unbelievers are usually bold in their rejection. 27 "say there is no resurrection"

Unbelievers are always wrong in the thinking. 33 "whose wife will she be"

Believers believe in eternal life. 20:34-36

Believers attitude is usually thankful. 35 "considered worthy to share"

Believers understanding is usually humility. 36 "they are sons of God"

God believes in eternal life. 20:37-40

God gives eternal life. 37 "the Lord 'the God of Abraham...'"

God is eternal life. 38 "not the God of the dead, but of the living"

4

The most logical way to live. Luke 20:27-40

Unbelievers have faulty logic. 20:27-33

Believe the untrue. 27 "say there is no resurrection"

Human-centred 29 "Now there were seven brothers"

Earth-based. 33 "whose wife will she be?"

Jesus reveals eternal logic. 20:34-36

Time is not eternity. 34 "The sons of this age marry"

No marriage in Heaven. 35 "resurrection from the dead will neither marry"

Like the angels. 36 "like the angels"

Scripture shows solid logic. 20:37-40

The Bible has the answers. 37 “in the passage about the burning bush”

The dead are alive. 35 “he calls the Lord, the God of Abraham...”

The God of Life gives life, 38 “not the God of the dead, but of the living”

5

The logic of facts and faith. Luke 20:27-40

Faulty logic ridicules faith. 20:27-33

Faulty logic fails to understand who God is.

Faulty logic fails to understand how things function.

Divine logic is based on facts. 20:34-36

Jesus is the experience of eternity.

Jesus is the One who explains eternity.

Factual logic supports faith. 20:37-40

The Bible is a record of facts. 37

The Bible is an affirmation of faith. 38

Other possible titles

Husbands and wives in Heaven

A genuine ‘marriage made in Heaven’

Until death do us part

How going to Heaven changes your marriage

You won’t be together forever

Marriage is to prepare you for Heaven, not Hell

You can silence the sceptics

Poking fun at the future is not funny

Partly right is completely wrong

Resurrected, to what?

Swap your god for the God of Life

What do you know! There are stupid questions.

Your marriage will not last

You are counted worthy, v35

Life after life

Quotes and illustrations

At the funeral of former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, a silent protest carried out by Brezhnev's widow. She stood motionless by the coffin until seconds before it was closed. Then, just as the soldiers touched the lid, Brezhnev's wife performed an act of great courage and hope, a gesture that must surely rank as one of the most profound acts of civil disobedience ever committed. She reached down and made the sign of the cross on her husband's chest.

There in the citadel of secular, atheistic power, the wife of the man who had run it all, hoped that her husband was wrong. She hoped that there was another life. And she hoped that that life was best represented by Jesus who died on the cross, and that the same Jesus might yet have mercy on her husband. (With thanks to Gary Thomas)

You cannot have peace in this life until you have made peace with the afterlife. Anonymous

It is people, not institutions (like marriage), that live forever. IBD

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can fathom the work that God does from beginning to end. Ecclesiastes 3:11
God has put eternity in our hearts and that is why death is so strange and painful.

One of the iconic lines from the movie Jerry Maguire is the lover's line, "You complete me". But, your spouse is there, not to complete you, but to complement you. Only God can complete you. Husbands and wives bring complementary elements into their marriage.

Commentary

Sadducees

This group was one of the two main denominations within Judaism. The other main denomination was the Pharisees.

The Sadducees say that there is neither a resurrection, nor angels, nor spirits, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. Acts 23:8

Levirate marriage

The term "levirate" is derived from the Latin word "levir" meaning "husband's brother". This is a form of marriage in which the brother of a deceased man is obliged to marry his brother's widow. The practice was extremely important in ancient times, and remains so today in parts of the world, especially in societies with a strong clan structure. The marriage provides

protection and provision for the widow. Having children enables the inheritance of land, which offers security and status.

And Judah said unto Onan, Go in unto thy brother's wife, and marry her, and raise up seed to thy brother. Genesis 38:8,11,26

When brothers dwell together and one of them dies without a son, the widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother is to take her as his wife and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law for her. Deuteronomy 25:5

Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? Ruth 1:11,12

The passage about the burning bush

Then He said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Exodus 3:6

This self-description by God was first given in Jacob (when he saw the vision, often called 'Jacob's Ladder', in which angels descended from Heaven to Earth, then returned, Heavenward. Above this staircase was the Lord who said, "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac." (Genesis 28:13) The date was 1903 BC. Jacob's grandfather, Abraham (2140 BC – 1965 BC) had died, but his father, Isaac (2040 BC – 1860 BC) was still alive. God made no distinction between those who were living on Earth and those alive in Paradise.

The date of the burning bush was 1420 BC. God's self-description has gone from being, "the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac" (Genesis 28:13) to being, "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." (Exodus 3:6) In the Old Testament, God had used the Present Tense to describe the relationship between Himself and the patriarchs. Jesus also used the Present Tense when He added, "He is not the God of the dead, but of the living" (Luke 20:38). This grammatical feature emphasises both sides of the relationship. The Lord is the God of the patriarchs, and the patriarchs are still currently worshipping the Lord as their God.

The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Romans 8:16

Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. 1 John 3:1

Beloved, we are now children of God, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when Christ appears, we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is. 1 John 3:2

David's Psalm of praise. I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever. Psalm 145:1,2

If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Romans 14:8

As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. John 6:57

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: John 11:25,26

Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. John 14:19

we would not grieve like the rest of men who have no hope. 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Music and songs

Songs about marriage / family / singleness

Songs about church as a family

Friends, all in the family of God (Petra)

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God (Bill Gaither)

We are the Lord's own family

Songs about Heaven

Heaven is a wonderful place, filled with glory and grace.

How beautiful Heaven must be. CWH 99

I am a stranger here, within a foreign land... This is the message... H 736

I want to stroll over Heaven with you

No tears in Heaven. CWH 38

O-o-ooo Heaven is in my heart, Ot 31

O what a wonderful... Heaven came down and glory filled my soul, CWH 46

Some day the silver cord will break... And I shall see Him face to face. H 689

There's gonna be a better day (Gaither)

When all my labours and trials are o'er... O that will be glory for me. H 706

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound... when the roll is called up yonder. H 708

Songs about life and death

A pilgrim was I and awandring... Surely goodness and mercy, CWH 10

Face to face with Christ my Saviour... I shall see Him by and by. H 638

I was standing by my window... Will the circle be unbroken

I will sing the wondrous story, of the Christ who died for me. H 658

I'm not ashamed to own my Lord... At the cross. H 732
Jesus is all the world to me, my life, my joy, my all. H 663
O happy day, that fixed by choice, on Thee my Saviour and my God. H 673
There is a fountain filled with blood... When this poor lispings... H 153 / 694
There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus, no not one; no not one. H 699
Thine is the glory, risen conquering Son... bring us safe through... H 169

Songs about the eternity of God

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. Ladies, can you imagine being suddenly widowed, then thrust into a position as second wife to your brother-in-law (v28)? What do you think may be some advantages and some disadvantages of this system of social welfare?
 2. Unbelievers often argue that they are more concerned about people, and the environment, than believers. Why would they believe that; and how can we thoughtfully respond to them?
 3. Some people are "considered worthy to share in the age to come" (v35). How can we be sure to be considered worthy?
 4. I will never be an angel, but I will become "like the angels" (v36). So, what are the angels like, and what are you looking forward to?
 5. Why do you think Jesus based His logic on an incident in Moses' life?
 6. The Lord did not say, "I was..." but "I am the God of your forefathers..." indicating that, "To Him, all are alive." (v38) What are some implications of everyone being still alive?
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