christian advance archives

# advance in the word – sadducees and the resurrection

**SADDUCEES AND THE RESURRECTION**

 An understanding of the New Testament players and their theological stands will help you in understanding the point of many Gospel passages like Mark 12:18-27. Jesus is adressing the challenges from the leaders of the people in Chapters 12 & 13. He has already more than met the deceitful inquiries of the Elders, Scribes, Chief Priests, Pharisees, Herodians and now the Sadducees. Mark lets the reader know that Sadducees do not believe in the resurrection of those who die.
 The Sadducees cook up an illustration to prove their point with the story of a wife who has seven husbands which would (in their eyes) naturally lead to chaos in heaven. Knowing their theological stance makes all the difference when we hear Jesus' response. Keep in mind the Sadducees did not believe all the Old Testament was inspired Scripture, only the Pentateuch (First five books - Books of Moses). They had combed through it and found no support for a theology of resurrection.
Jesus tells them they are wrong because of two main issues. They do not understand the Scriptures. Also, they do not understand the power of God. (Mark 12:24).
Jesus clearly promotes resurrection thinking when He then says, "When they rise ..." (Mark 12:25).
Then, if that wasn't clear enough to them and their theological error Jesus said, "But regarding the fact that the dead rise again ..." (Mark 12:26).
Jesus then uses a passage from Exodus (PART OF THE PENTATEUCH!) to make the point that God is the God of the resurrected living founding fathers of their faith and not the dead. This is right out of what they hold to be inspired Scripture. Jesus pulls no punches and tells them from the point of understanding God and His word, they have failed miserably (Mark 12:27).