

**DOES ANYONE KNOW WHAT THIS BOOK IS? YEP,,
THAT'S CORRECT,, **IT'S CALLED A WEDDING ALBUM.**
WEDDINGS ARE SUCH AN EXCITING CELEBRATION!
PEOPLE PLAN THEM FOR MONTHS AND EVEN YEARS
SOMETIMES,, AND ALBUMS,, WELL,, THEY HELP US
TO REMEMBER THAT VERY SPECIAL DAY.**

**PEOPLE PAY LOTS OF MONEY,, TO MAKE THAT DAY A
VERY SPECIAL OCCASION. HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE
BEEN TO A WEDDING? THEY CAN BE GREAT CAN'T
THEY? AND LOTS OF FUN TOO!**

**JESUS ALSO THOUGHT,, THAT THEY WERE SPECIAL,,
AND HE SPOKE ABOUT MARRIAGE IN THE BIBLE.**

HE SAID:

***THE PEOPLE OF THIS AGE,, MARRY AND ARE GIVEN IN
MARRIAGE,, AND IN THE RESURRECTION FROM THE
DEAD,, PEOPLE WILL NEITHER MARRY NOR BE GIVEN
IN MARRIAGE.***

***NOW,, YOU MAY THINK THAT THIS IS SORT OF SAD,,
BUT,, WE NEED TO REALIZE,, **THAT HEAVEN,, WILL BE
SO WONDERFUL,, AND DIFFERENT FROM EARTH!*****

**WE THINK MARRIAGE AND WEDDINGS ARE SO
TERRIFIC,, *BUT HEAVEN WILL BE SO MUCH MORE,,
THAN ALL THAT. THIS IS NOT THE ONLY LIFE! GOD,,
HAS SO MUCH MORE TO OFFER TO US.***

**ONE OF THE MANY,, TOPICS,, THAT SEMINARIANS
ARE REQUIRED TO STUDIED ABOUT,, IS ABOUT
HEAVEN! IT'S A TOPIC WE ALL LOVE TO THINK AND
TALK ABOUT,, ISN'T IT?**

**HOWEVER,, I FOUND IT INTERESTING, THAT OUR
REVIEW OF THE SCRIPTURES REGARDING *HEAVEN*,,
INDICATED THAT *THERE WOULD BE NO MARRIAGE IN
HEAVEN!***

BUT,, WE FOUND IT ODD,, THAT *THE ONLY DISTINCT
THING THAT JESUS EVER TOLD US ABOUT HEAVEN,,
WAS THAT THERE IS NO MARRIAGE THERE!*****

SO,,,,, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN;

“NO MARRIAGE IN HEAVEN”?

WITHOUT MARRIAGE,,, **WOULD THERE BE,,, FREE SEX THERE?** NOW COME ON,,, THAT’S WHERE THE MINDS OF SOME PEOPLE MAY WANDER. **WOULD THERE BE,,, NO SEX THERE?** WELL,,, THAT’S WHAT WE WERE TAUGHT IN OUR CCD CLASSES,,, WASN’T IT;

“NO SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE”!

AND YET,,, SCRIPTURE,,, LEAVES OUR QUESTIONS ENTIRELY UNANSWERED,,, BECAUSE,,, **YOU SEE,,, IT’S NOT AT ALL ABOUT SEX,,, AND IT’S NOT EVEN ABOUT MARRIAGE! **IT’S ABOUT RESURRECTION!****

TODAY,,, IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE,,, WE TAKE A LOOK AT THE ATTITUDE OF THE SADDUCEES,,, WHO DIDN’T BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST.

LUKE TELLS US,,, THAT JESUS,,, WHILE TEACHING IN THE TEMPLE COURTS,,, WAS QUESTIONED BY THE CHIEF PRIESTS,,, (THE ELDERS OF THE LAW),,, BOTH THE PHARISEES AND THE SADUCEES.

THEY QUESTIONED JESUS ABOUT HIS RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY,,, HIS BIBLICAL KNOWLWDGE,,, AND HIS THEOLOGY.

THEY KNEW,,, JESUS WASN’T FORMALLY EDUCATED,,, **LIKE THEY WERE!**

HE HADN’T ATTENDED ONE OF THOSE FANCY PRESTIGIOUS,,, THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS,,, IN JERUSALEM AND HE DIDN’T HAVE ONE OF THOSE IMPRESSIVE DEGREES,,, AFTER HIS NAME,,, SO,,, WHENEVER THEY THOUGHT THEY COULD,,, THEY WOULD ALWAYS TRY TO ENTRAP HIM.

OUR SCRIPTURE TELLS US,,, THAT A GROUP OF THE SADDUCEES CAME TO JESUS,,, TRYING TO SEE HOW HE’D REACT,,, TO THEIR QUESTION,,, CONCERNING LIFE AFTER DEATH.

NOW,,, THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO USE THIS SAME ARGUMENT MANY TIMES,,, WITH THE PHARISEES.

SO,, THEY DECIDED; *LET'S TEST THIS COUNTRY PREACHER,, TO SEE IF WE CAN TRICK HIM!*

IN THE PENETUCH,, (*WHICH ARE THE FIRST FIVE BOOKS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT*),,, IT'S STATED THAT IF A WOMAN'S HUSBAND DIES,, AND THEY HAVE NO CHILDREN,, THE HUSBAND'S BROTHER WOULD MARRY THE WOMAN,, SO THAT THE FAMILY LINE WOULD GO ON.

THE SADDUCEES HOWEVER,, TOOK THIS PROBLEM TO THE BIZZAAR,, WHEN THEY SAID TO JESUS;

THIS WOMAN OUTLIVED SEVEN HUSBANDS AND HAD NO CHILDREN WITH ANY OF THEM.

THEN,, THEY SPRUNG THIER TRICK QUESTION;

IF HEAVEN,, OR THE AFTERLIFE,, IS LIKE THIS ONE,, WHOSE WIFE WILL SHE BE,, SINCE ALL OF THESE SEVEN MEN,, WERE HER HUSBAND?

THE SADDUCEES,, HAD THE PERSPECTIVE,, THAT HEAVEN,, OR THE AFTERLIFE,, IS GOING TO BE JUST LIKE THIS ONE,, SO,, WHICH HUSBAND WOULD THIS WOMAN LIVE WITH,, FOR THE REST OF ETERNITY?

NOW,, WE NEED TO TAKE NOTICE OF JESUS' RESPONSE; HE KNOWS,, THAT THEY'RE TRYING TO TRICK HIM,, SO JESUS,, AS HE USUALLY DID,, ANSWERS THEM FROM A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW.

HE SAYS TO THEM;

“THE CHILDREN OF THIS AGE,, MARRY AND REMARRY; BUT THOSE WHO ARE DEEMED WORTHY,, TO ATTAIN TO THE COMING AGE,, AND TO THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD,, NEITHER MARRY,, NOR ARE GIVEN IN MARRIAGE. THEY CAN NO LONGER DIE,, FOR THEY ARE LIKE ANGELS; AND THEY ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD,, BECAUSE THEY ARE THE ONES WHO WILL RISE. THAT THE DEAD WILL RISE,, EVEN MOSES MADE KNOWN IN THE PASSAGE ABOUT THE BUSH,, WHEN HE CALLED OUT;

**LORD,,, THE GOD OF ABRAHAM,,, THE GOD OF ISAAC
AND THE GOD OF JACOB,,, AND HE IS NOT GOD OF
THE DEAD,,, BUT OF THE LIVING,,, FOR TO HIM,,, ALL
ARE ALIVE!”**

**WHAT JESUS WAS SAYING HERE,,, BROTHERS AND
SISTERS,,, IS THAT;**

***LIFE AFTER THIS ONE,,, WILL BE ABSOLUTELY
DIFFERENT! SINCE THERE’S NO DEATH,,, THERE’S NO
NEED FOR MARRIAGE,,, SO DON’T WORRY ABOUT
WHOSE WIFE SHE SHALL BE.***

**JESUS SHOWED THE SADDUCEES,,,
*THAT LIFE AFTER THIS ONE,,, IS DIFFERENT!
BECAUSE THE HUMAN QUALITIES OF THIS LIFE,,,
DON’T MATTER IN HEAVEN!***

**JESUS SAID THAT HEAVEN WILL BE DIFFERENT,,, BUT
HE DIDN’T GO INTO ANY DETAILS ABOUT HEAVEN.**

HE LEAVES THAT UP TO THE FATHER IN HEAVEN.

**PERHAPS,,, BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, THERE JUST
ARE SOME THINGS,,, THAT ARE BETTER LEFT TO THE
WONDER,,, THE MYSTERY,,, AND THE AWE OF GOD?**

REMEMBER,,, JESUS SAID THAT;

***HE WAS GOING TO HIS FATHERS HOUSE,,, TO PREPARE
A PLACE,,, FOR US!***

THE PLACE THAT HE PREPARED,,, IS;

***“AN ETERNAL HOME FOR BELIEVERS,,, IT’S A PLACE
CALLED HEAVEN!”***

**IT’S A PLACE,,, WHERE OUR INDIVIDUALITY WILL BE
PRESERVED,,, AND IT’S A PLACE,,, BROTHERS AND
SISTERS, WHERE WE WILL RECOGNIZE OUR LOVED
ONES,,, BECAUSE,,, AS SCRIPTURE SAYS;**

“WE SHALL BE KNOWN,,, AS WE ARE KNOWN”

**IT’S A PLACE,,, WHERE OUR RESURRECTED BODIES
WILL BE PERFECT! SOUNDS GREAT,,, DOESN’T IT?
THE NEW WORLD IS COMING AND IT WILL NOT BE
LIKE THIS OLD WORLD AT ALL!**

AND IT'S NOT JUST,,, A CONTINUATION,,, OF LIFE AS WE KNOW IT,,, WITH ALL IT'S STRUCTURES AND TRADITIONS INTACT.

ON THE CONTRARY,,, THE NEW WORLD,,, IS A COMPLETE REVOLUTION,,, WHERE THE FIRST,,, ARE LAST,,, AND THE LAST,,, ARE FIRST,,, WHERE DEATH ITSELF,,, HAS BEEN COMPLETELY ABOLISHED,,, AND WHERE EVEN,,, THE MOST PRESCIOUS,,, GOD-GIVEN INSTITUTIONS OF THEM ALL – MARRIAGE AND FAMILY,,, WILL BE A THING OF THE PAST.

THE SADDUCEES HAD MADE A HUGE ERROR! THEY TRIED TO CHALLENGE JESUS. YOU SEE,,, THEY HAD STUDIED ALL THE SCRIPTURES,,, VERY CLOSELY,,, BUT SOMEHOW,,, THEY MISINTERPRETED THEM! BECAUSE OF THAT,,, THEY CONCLUDED THAT JESUS WAS WRONG,,, AND AS A RESULT,,, THEY GAMBLED WITH THEIR ETERNAL SOULS.

NOW,,, I'M SURE THAT NONE OF US,,, WANT TO TAKE THAT SAME GAMBLE,,, DO WE?

SO,,, PERHAPS WE SHOULD LEARN FROM THE ERRORS OF THOSE QUESTIONING SADDUCEES, PERHAPS WE SHOULD BE A WE BIT LESS CONCERNED ABOUT;

- (*) WHO WE WILL BE WITH IN HEAVEN,,, OR,,,
- (*) WHAT WE'LL LOOK LIKE,,, OR EVEN,,,
- (*) WHAT HEAVEN WILL LOOK,,, LIKE WHEN WE DO GET THERE?

JESUS IS CONCERNED WITH YOUR EARTHLY LIFE AND YOUR INTIMATE LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM! HE ISN'T CONCERNED WITH WHAT THE WORLD THINKS.

HIS CONCERN IS; THAT WE SPEND ETERNITY TOGETHER WITH HIM,,, IN HIS FATHER'S HOUSE.

THERE WILL BE A RESURRECTION AND THERE IS LIFE EVERLASTING,,, AFTER THIS MORTAL LIFE!
LIFE IS LIVING,,, NOT DYING!

**AND CHRIST OFFERS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US,,
THE PROMISE OF: LIFE ETERNAL.**

**SO PERHAPS IT WOULD BE WISE,, FOR US TO FOCUS
OUR ATTENTION ON OUR FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS AND
ON TRUSTING,, IN THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER.**

**THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE,, GIVEN TO US AS,,
BELIEVERS IN JESUS,, WHO ACCEPT HIM,, AS THE
SON OF GOD,, AS OUR LORD,, AND,, AS THE SAVIOR
OF OUR LIFE!**

**EVERYTHING IS ABOUT TO CHANGE,, SAYS THE LORD
AND **OUR OWN RESURRECTION** AND **ETERNAL LIFE**
AWAITS US!**

**BROTHERS AND SISTERS,, THE ONLY QUESTION IS;
WHETHER WE ARE READY AND WILLING TO BE
CHANGED,, ALONG WITH IT.**

+++AMEN+++

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