

Matthew 22:23-33

What Comes Next?

April 5, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro -

For most of his life Antony Flew was a champion of atheism. Flew wrote books, taught at Oxford University and spoke frequently on atheism. His paper *Theology & Falsification* is considered a classic by most atheists. Then, in 2007, Flew wrote a new book: *There is a God: How the World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind.*

“I now believe there is a God...I now think it [the evidence] does point to a creative Intelligence almost entirely because of the DNA investigations. What I think the DNA material has done is that it has shown, by the almost unbelievable complexity of the arrangements which are needed to produce life, that intelligence must have been involved in getting these extraordinarily diverse elements to work together.”

v. 23 The same day the Sadducees, who say there's no resurrection, came to Him

4 Things We Ought To Know About The Sadducees:

1. The Sadducees were the ruling class in Israel.

The High Priest was a Sadducee.

- **So they were the religious ruler.**

The Sanhedrin (Jewish Supreme Court) was comprised of Sadducees.

- **So they controlled the court system**

And the Sadducees were pro-Rome.

- **So they were the political rulers**

2. The Sadducees were religious liberals.

Matthew 22:23-33

What Comes Next?

April 5, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Acts 23:8 - The Sadducees say there's *no resurrection or angels or spirits.*

3. The Sadducees only accepted the Pentateuch.

The word "Penta" means five.

The Sadducees only accepted the first five books of the Bible as being the Word of God.

They believed the rest of the OT was a commentary on the Pentateuch.

4. The Sadducees were wealthy.

The same day the Sadducees, who say there's no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, 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."

Deut. 25:5-6 - If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her. The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother so that his name won't be blotted out from Israel.

v. 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. Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh. Last of all the woman died also. Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her."

v. 29 - Jesus answered and said to them, "You're mistaken, (to go astray) not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.

Jesus: In the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.

Matthew 22:23-33

What Comes Next?

April 5, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Genesis 2:18 - Then the LORD God said, "It's not good for the man to be alone."

Gen 1:28 - God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth."

Is there sin in heaven?

Is there death in heaven?

Is there loneliness in heaven?

1 Cor. 13:12 - Now we see but a dim reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully.

The word "know" here is the Greek word *ginosko* = experiential knowledge.

Michael Andrus: I want to propose this principle: We won't enjoy less friendship and intimacy in heaven but more. When you read about heaven in Scripture, it always portrays the joys of earth but to an even greater degree. When it speaks of a river of water, the water is no longer muddy or polluted but crystal clear. When it speaks of the productivity of the trees, they're yielding not one or two crops a year

Matthew 22:23-33

What Comes Next?

April 5, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

but twelve—one crop every month. When it speaks of light, it's no longer the light of a lamp or even the light of the sun but the light that emanates from the glory of God Himself. If the best things of earth will be enhanced and made even better in heaven, would this principle not also apply to friendships and family? While Jesus says that the institution of human marriage will end, He never even hints that deep relationships between married people would end. Our family will always be our family, but we'll also be part of one big happy family... When you stop and think about it, this change almost seems necessary in order for heaven to be heaven for everyone. Some of us have deeply satisfying marriages and our spouses are devout believers in Christ. But what about those believers whose spouse isn't a Christian? Or what about those who deeply desired to marry but were never able to? What about those who wanted to have children but were never able to? There's a hole in their hearts that's never completely filled here on earth. Are they condemned to be single and childless for eternity, while the rest of us enjoy marriage for eternity? No. *God will give everyone relationships that will meet those heart-felt needs completely.* If you never had a parent you could trust, you'll find trustworthy parents everywhere in heaven... There will be no advantage for those who had wonderful families over those who missed out here on earth.

Daniel 12:2 - Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

Job 19:26 - After my skin has been destroyed, this I know, in my flesh I'll see God.

Psalms 17:15 - As for me, I'll see Your face in righteousness; I'll be satisfied when I *awake in Your likeness.*

Isaiah 26:19 - Your dead will live; their bodies will rise.

Matthew 22:23-33

What Comes Next?

April 5, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

v. 31 - Concerning the resurrection of the dead, haven't you read what was spoken to you by God, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God isn't the God of the dead, but of the living.”

v. 33 When the multitudes heard *this*, they were astonished at His teaching.

1. Understand that heaven is different and better.

2. Know God's Word and know God's power.

Jesus said, “You're *mistaken*, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.

2 Cor. 12:8-10 - Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for *My power* is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I'll boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that *Christ's power may rest on me*. That's why, for the sake of Christ, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I'm weak, then I'm strong.

Matthew 22:23-33

What Comes Next?

April 5, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Pray: "Father, thank you that for each one that knows you as Savior, the future holds something different and better. I pray that this week, we would be committed to knowing Your Word and Your power."
