THE DOUBTERS

In the final days of Christ’s ministry, a group of Sadducees came to Him intending to ridicule the doctrine of the resurrection. According to the apostle Paul, the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection (Acts 23:7, 8; Acts 4:1–3). The “Sadducees denied the existence of angels, the resurrection of the dead, and the doctrine of a future life, with its rewards and punishments.” (Ellen G. White, The Desire of Ages (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press, 1898), 603.)

The Sadducees rejected the resurrection on two grounds. First, in their estimation, resurrections were contrary to observable scientific principles. (see White, The Desire of Ages, 538.) Historical-critical theologians use the same argument to discard miracles today. Appealing to what they call the principle of analogy, they claim that because there are no resurrections today, we cannot believe that they occurred in the past either. Thus, neither the Sadducees nor liberal theologians believe in the power of God.

The second reason the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection is that they could not find support for it in the Pentateuch, and for them, only the Pentateuch had unquestionable authority. Jesus could have quoted many OT verses that teach the resurrection in response to the Sadducees (cf. 1 Kings 17:17–22; Dan. 12:2; Job 19:25–27). Because the Sadducees brought forth an example from the Pentateuch, however, Jesus responded from the same source, for they believed that only the writings of Moses were fully authoritative.
Write out Luke 20:27–40 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Luke 20:34–38. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

**Draw Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?


What are the implications of God not being bound to time as we are?

What are the implications of God being in time exactly as we are?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dead11-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What are some promises God made in the past that you can claim today to be a reality in the future?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dead11-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Acts 23:7–9
Matthew 22:29
Exodus 3:6, 13, 14
Genesis 17:4, 5
Romans 4:17
Titus 1:2, 3
Revelation 17:8

What other verses come to mind in connection with Luke 20:27–40?

Where is Jesus in Luke 20:27-40?

How does your ministry existing before the world was created impact your personal ministry for Jesus today?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?
inSight

Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, how does it impact your personal life?

How does it impact your public life?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/dead11-7
inQuire

Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

Where does the Sadducean disbelief exist today?

What does Jesus’ choice of a passage from the writings of Moses reveal about Him?

How does the apostle Paul in Romans 4:17 interpret the meaning of Genesis 17:4, 5?

How does the phrase “all live to Him” bring comfort to those who lose loved ones today?

How does this concept help us understand that Jesus was slain from the foundation of the world?

According to Romans 8:29, how does the foreknowledge of God relate to predestination? Does the foreknowledge of God annul our free will? Why or why not?

How can we live unto Him?

Can you honestly say that you live unto Him, past, present, and future? Why or why not?