

The title of the message is “The God of the Living”.

This is because God is not the God of the dead but He is

The God of the Living

This phrase was part of the response Jesus gave to the Sadducee's when they gave him a hypothetical question that was meant to trap him.

They asked Jesus about a woman who married seven brothers one after the other as they each died.

Their question was in [Mark 12:23](#) where they asked, “In the resurrection, when they rise, whose wife will she be?”

Jesus responded in

[Mark 12:25–27 LEB](#)

²⁵ For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ²⁶ Now concerning the dead, that they are raised, have you not read in the book of Moses in the passage about the bush how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I *am* the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob?’ ²⁷ He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are very much mistaken!”

The Sadducees had several errors in their understanding about God which is why Jesus said “You are very much mistaken!”

- There is no marriage in the resurrection so there was no context in God’s Kingdom for this question.
- They pushed this whole question of the resurrection off to some time in the future and by doing this they also pushed their relationship with God off to some future time. Jesus reminded them that God spoke to Moses. Jesus was saying, God is with us now.
- And finally, Jesus said in vs 27, “He is not God of the dead, but of the living”

This is a central message of Christianity but it is also one of the most difficult for us to comprehend.

Dead

This is found in

[Luke 24:5](#) “Why are you looking for the living among the dead?”

but lets go back to

[Luke 24:1 LEB](#)

¹ Now on the first *day* of the week, at very early dawn, they came back to the tomb bringing the fragrant spices which they had prepared.

It says they came back to the tomb, they had been there before as they laid Jesus there.

And why did they come back to the tomb? It says, to bring the fragrant spices they had prepared.

It is clear here that through the whole time of the Sabbath and Passover they were living in their grief and loss and only thinking about their separation from Jesus.

In [Luke 24:2](#) they found the stone had been rolled away. The stone was too heavy for them to move.

In vs 3 they did not find the body.

In vs 4 they were perplexed, and so perplexed that they didn't notice the two angels standing near them.

In vs 5 it says “as they were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground”, they were so grief stricken that they couldn't stand.

But now, the angels are perplexed. The angels don't understand what the women are doing there and say “Why are you looking for the living among the dead?”

For the angels, what Jesus has said, what God has said, is absolute.

The angels don't understand this human frailty that we forget, that we don't trust the words people speak, that we react with emotion to what is happening at the moment.

But for the angels, they responded with the words of Jesus in

[Luke 24:6-8 LEB](#)

⁶ He is not here, but has been raised! Remember how he spoke to you *while he*

the women but instead, the Apostles respond in

[Luke 24:11-12 LEB](#)

¹¹ And these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they refused to believe them. ¹² But Peter got up *and* ran to the tomb, and bending over to look, he saw only the *strips of* linen cloth, and he went away to his home wondering what had happened.

“nonsense”.

How is it that we can hear what God has to say and even see it being fulfilled in front of us and still walk away as Peter did in vs 12 “wondering what had happened”?

What Else Has God Spoken?

The whole context is in [Ezekiel 36:1-38](#) as the Lord speaks to Ezekiel and tells him to prophesy.

Mountains of Israel Hear

The Lord tells Ezekiel to prophesy to the mountains in

[Ezekiel 36:1 LEB](#)

¹ “And you, son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel; and *so* you must say, ‘Mountains of Israel, hear the word of Yahweh;

Ezekiel is to tell the mountains, in v 6 for a time “the insults of the peoples you have endured” but now the land will prosper as Israel takes over in

[Ezekiel 36:8-11 LEB](#)

⁸ “ ‘ “But you, mountains of Israel, your branch you will shoot, and your fruit you will carry for my people Israel, for they *are* soon to come. ⁹ For look! I *am* for you, and I will turn to you, and you will be tilled, and you will be planted. ¹⁰ And I will cause your population to increase for you, all of the house of Israel, all of it. and the towns will be inhabited. and the ruins will be built. ¹¹ And I will

⁴ The hand of Yahweh was upon me, and he brought me by the Spirit of Yahweh, and he let me rest in the midst of the valley, and it *was* full of bones.

Ezekiel is in a valley full of bones, not even of skeletons, but of disconnected bones. As the vision unfolds in vs 2 and 3, the bones are very dry as if they have been dead a long time.

The Lord asks in vs 3 “can these bones live?”

Clearly they can’t by any natural means but Ezekiel knows that it is God speaking to him so he responds “Lord you know”.

Now, the Lord tells Ezekiel to Prophecy in

[Ezekiel 37:4 LEB](#)

⁴ And he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and you must say to them, *to* the dry bones, ‘Hear the word of Yahweh!

The Lord tells Ezekiel, “you must say to them (these bones), ‘Hear the word of the Lord’ ”

As Ezekiel speaks, in

[Ezekiel 37:10 LEB](#)

¹⁰ And I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they became alive, and they stood on their feet, a very, very large group.

“they became alive”, “a very large group”

As we speak the Word of the Lord in our situation, the Lord will accomplish what He has said.

Now the Lord explains who these bones are in

God goes on with the prophesy in [Ezekiel 37:15-28](#)

One Nation from Divided Kingdoms

Again the word of the Lord comes to Ezekiel in vs 15.

The Lord tells him to take a piece of wood and to write the name of Judah on one and Israel on the other and hold them together in his hand before the people.

The Lord then explains in

[Ezekiel 37:21-22 LEB](#)

²¹ And speak to them, 'Thus says the Lord Yahweh: "Look! I *am* taking the Israelites from among the nations to which they went, and I will gather them from everywhere, and I will bring them to their *own* soil. ²² And I will make them into one nation in the land on the mountains of Israel, and they will all have one king as their king, and they will not again be two nations and will not again divide into two kingdoms again.

God said He would make one nation of them and we have seen God doing this in our generation.

The Jewish people have come from all around the world and they have become one nation, no longer divided.

DON'T GIVE IN TO POPULAR FEARS

The first, a warning about giving in to popular fears, began in [Isaiah 8:11](#) “he warned me not to walk in the way of this people”. We are to distinguish ourselves from the way (lifestyle, or characteristic modes of thought and conduct) “of this people”.

[Isaiah 8:12 LEB](#)

¹² “You must not call conspiracy everything that this people calls conspiracy, and you must not share its fear, and you must not be in dread.

And this is that we should not follow popular thinking regarding some conspiracy.

In Isaiah’s time, there was danger for the nation from the king’s policy of alliance with Assyria which led to rumor and fear of accusation of treason by the royal court.

In our day it is our support, or lack of support for things like

- LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning) ac

behind, the dead can be only shadows of what they were ([Isa. 14:10](#)); the dead Samuel knows no more after death than he proclaimed when alive ([1 Sam. 28:16ff.](#)). See on 19:9.

Jesus Was Raised From the Dead

[Romans 8:11](#) LEB

¹¹ And if the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, the one who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also make alive your mortal bodies through his Spirit who lives in you.

