



## **The Story & Way of Jesus**

### **The Power of God**

Mark 12:18-27

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### **Mark 12:18-27**

Then the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. “Teacher,” they said, “Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. Now there were seven brothers. The first one married and died without leaving any children. The second one married the widow, but he also died, leaving no child. It was the same with the third. In fact, none of the seven left any children. Last of all, the woman died too. At the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?”

Jesus replied, “Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God? When the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given

in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. Now about the dead rising—have you not read in the Book of Moses, in the account of the burning bush, how God said to him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are badly mistaken!”

“They also championed the sovereign’s authority over the judiciary, in opposition to the concept of a separation of powers which would assign to a self-perpetuating establishment of ordained scribes absolute authority in question of Jewish law.”

- William L. Lane, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament: The Gospel of Mark*

If the resurrection is true and we are resurrected, what are we resurrected to?

### **John 20-25b-27**

“Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

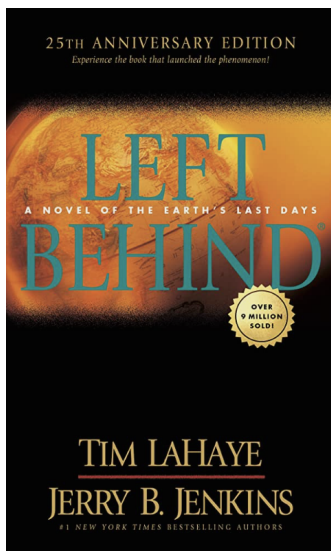
“It would be a fine thing if I would have the capabilities athletically that I had when I was in my mid 20’s with the life experience and intellect I would have right now. That would be fantastic. And then life forever, bring it on. But we have examples of people getting old and their body and mind failing and fading all around us. So watching ourselves die is to me overwhelming evidence that there is no life after death. There is certainly no reason to think that when you die you become your optimum self. But if it turns out that it is true, to become your optimal self. Cool! But what would you do differently?”

Wouldn't you just go and end this life at a certain point to enter the life of the optimal self?"

- Bill Nye, *Big Think: Is there life after death?*

## **Ecclesiastes 8:10**

So I commend the enjoyment of life, because there is nothing better for a person under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany them in their toil all the days of life God has given them under the sun.



The power of God is his ability to redeem or transcend anything that we could ever imagine.

## **1 Corinthians 15:42-44**

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.

## **Revelation 21:2-5**

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

"We thus arrive at the last and perhaps the greatest image of new creation...in the whole Bible. This scene, set out in Revelation 21-22, is not well enough known or pondered. This time, the image is that of marriage. The new Jerusalem comes down out of heaven like a bride adorned for her husband. We notice right away how drastically different this is from all those would-be Christian scenarios in which the end of the story is the Christian going off to heaven as a soul, naked and unadorned, to meet its maker in fear and trembling. As in Philippians 3, it is not we who go to heaven, it is heaven that comes to earth; indeed it is the church itself, the heavenly Jerusalem, that comes down on earth."

- N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope*

"In Revelation the holy city is also described as the bride of the Lamb (21:2); the new Jerusalem is this equivalent to God's people. This complex image suggests the redemption of humanity in its sociocultural, even urban character; God redeems not human abstractions, but rather people in their

inextricably communal and cultural realities. And, given the human purpose at the start of creation, the movement from the garden to city is to be expected. For what happens when humans faithfully work the primitive landscape of the garden throughout history? The complexity of a city is a natural outcome. But this city, unlike all cities we have known, will be without sin.”

- J. Richard Middleton, *A New Heaven and A New Earth*

“Jesus’s resurrection is the beginning of God’s new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven, but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord’s Prayer is about.”

- N.T. Wright

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name.  
Your Kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
On earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
As we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
The power and the glory are yours.  
Now and forever.  
Amen.