**THE FOUR ESSENTIAL FACTS OF SALVATION and THE RESURRECTION**

**1 COR 15:12-17**

***12Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?13But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:14And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.15Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.16For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:17And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.***

***PRAYER***

***PAUL HERE WAS ADDRESSING THE CHURCH AT CORINTH WHO AMONGST THEM THE SADDUCEES AND PHARISEES WERE PROBABLY ALSO PRESENT.***

***First of all, LET US UNDERSTAND WHO THE SADDUCEES WERE THROUGH THIS SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THEM…..***

The Sadducees were a Jewish political party. They were members of the priesthood that made up part of the Jewish council- called the Sanhedrin. The high priest was usually taken from among the Sadducees. Although they were few in number, they were well educated and usually very wealthy. We read in the Book of Acts an account of them…..

The Sadducees say that there is no such thing as a resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but on the other side of the isle the Pharisees acknowledge them all ([Acts 23:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/acts/23/8/s_1041008)).

The Sadducees were opposed to the Pharisees. So the Apostle Paul used their theological differences to cause a division between them.

***(***[***Acts 23:6***](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/acts/23/6/s_1041006)***,***[***7***](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/acts/23/7/s_1041007)***). Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, "My brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee. I stand on trial because of my hope in the resurrection of the dead." When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided…… and havoc broke out amongst them. All because of the RESURRECTION!!!***

**But their main objective was that they were out To Trap Jesus in His teachings.**

The Sadducees came to question Jesus about the resurrection.

***That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question ..***

 ***Luke 20:27-38 27Then came to him certain of the Sadducees, which deny that there is any resurrection; and they asked him,28Saying, Master, Moses wrote unto us, If any man's brother die, having a wife, and he die without children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.29There were therefore seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and died without children.30And the second took her to wife, and he died childless.31And the third took her; and in like manner the seven also: and they left no children, and died.32Last of all the woman died also.33Therefore in the resurrection whose wife of them is she? for seven had her to wife.34And Jesus answering said unto them,” The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage:35But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:36Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.37Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.38For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him.”***

**They Were Ignorant Of Two Basic Truths**

In reply, Jesus said the Sadducees were ignorant of two things.

***Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God" (***[***Matthew 22:29***](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/matthew/22/29/s_951029)***)***.

**So What did they do?...They Joined With The Pharisees Against Jesus**

Although they were usually opposed to the Pharisees we find them uniting together in their mutual hatred of Jesus.

**The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked him to show them a sign from heaven !!!!**

**(**[**Matthew 16:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/matthew/16/1/s_945001)***). The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.2He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red.3And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?4A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.***

Their contention with the resurrection motivated them to devise a hypothetical question whereby they intended to make Jesus look foolish. He shut them down hard. Their premise was irrelevant and the truth of what they denied was very evident in one of the most basic stories of Israel’s history.

***NOW BECAUSE THEY COULDN’T GET THROUGH TO JESUS THEY TURNED TO HIS FOLLOWERS….***

**They Continued The Persecution Of Jesus' through His Followers**

***PETER AND JOHN SPEAKING….. And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,2Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through the resurrection from the dead.3And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold (JAIL) unto the next day: for it was now eventide.***

The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day ([Acts 4:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/acts/4/1-3/s_1022001))

Beloved I have great news for you this day….for it was on a day such as today that our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST put everything to its final rest concerning the resurrection when He came forth in full resurrection glory and Power of the Father OUT OF THE GRAVE!!!

As for the sorry…. sad- u – sees. For they saw only what they wanted to see, and that was the veil of Moses!

**They Completely Disappeared After A.D. 70**

Along with the destruction of Jerusalem the Sadducees disappeared from history. We hear no more from them after this time. However, There are demonic spirits with a Sadducee nature today!!! WE NEED TO Beware OF Them!!!!

Now to the Resurrection……

Beloved it is a fact that the Old Testament is full with evidence of the resurrection.

1. **THE LIVING ASCENDED**

Enoch’s earthly life ended deathlessly. If death is the end, what became of him?
A. ***Genesis 5:24; 24And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.***

***Hebrews 11:5 5By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.***

Elijah also ascended, bodily, to heaven.
***2nd Kings 2:10-*11 8And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.9And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.10And he said, Thou h*ast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.11And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.***

**There is someplace to go beyond this world.**

**THE DEAD ROSE**Beloved the Multiple examples of physical resurrections in the Old Testament ought to have been sufficient evidence to have convinced the Sadducees but their eyes were too blinded by the veil on Moses face.

A. 1st Kings 17:17-***2417And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him.18And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?19And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed.20And he cried unto the Lord, and said, O Lord my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?21And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the Lord, and said, O Lord my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.22And the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.23And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth.24And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth.***

So did Elisha.
B. 2nd Kings 4:18-37 with the Shunamite woman.

1. Even Elisha’s skeletal remains had the power to resurrect the dead!
C. ***2nd Kings 13:20-2120And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year.21And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.***
2. THE DEAD WERE CALLED BACK TO LIFE
A. 1st Samuel 28:3-20
After he died, Samuel was summoned by a medium the which at Endor,at the request of King Saul.

Samuel complained that his rest had been disturbed.

B. ***Deuteronomy 18:10-11 10There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch.11Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.***

Of course, necromancy is absolutely wicked, and Saul was a raging hypocrite for having engaged in this. Nevertheless, it demonstrates the reality of the existence of life beyond death.

**IV. CHRIST’S RESURRECTION WAS FORETOLD**

David prophesied that Messiah would not stay dead.
A. ***Psalm 16:10 10For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.***

This prophecy’s fulfillment was explained clearly, after the fact, by the apostle Peter.
B. ***Acts 2:22-32 22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:23Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:24Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.25For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:26Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:27Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.28Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.29Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.30Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;31He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.32This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.***

1. **RESURRECTION WAS ANTICIPATED**

**Hannah understood the resurrection. (mother of Samuel)**A. ***1st Samuel 2:66The Lord killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.*Job understood the resurrection.**B. ***Job 19:25-27 25For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:26And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:27Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.***

**David understood the resurrection.**

C. ***Psalm 17:15 15As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.*Korah understood the resurrection.**D. ***Psalm 49:15 5But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.*Asaph understood the resurrection.**E. ***Psalm 73:24 24Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.*Isaiah understood the resurrection.**F. ***Isaiah 25:8; 8He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it.***

***Isaiah 26:19 19Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.*Daniel understood the resurrection.**G. ***Daniel 12:2 2And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.***

**VI. CHRIST SETTLED THE MATTER**
A. ***Matthew 11:2-6 2Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,3And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?4Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:5The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.6And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.***

Beloved, even if the Sadducees sect could be pardoned for misapprehending the truth of the resurrection earlier, once Christ arrived, there was no excuse. He was raising the dead!
1. ***Matthew 9:18-26 18While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live.19And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did his disciples.20And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment:21For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.22But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.23And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise,24He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn.25But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose.26And the fame hereof went abroad into all that land. JESUS PROVED THE RESURRECTION POWER!!!!***

LISTEN,
Jesus was so good at raising the dead, He could even work a miracle of healing on His way to a resurrection! Mind you, this girl was certainly dead: she had passed on, she was no more, she ceased to be, she was expired and gone to meet her Maker, she was a stiff, she was bereft of life, she was resting in peace, she was pushing up the daisies, , she was off the twig, she had kicked the bucket, she had turned off her mortal coil, she had run down the curtain and joined the choir invisible!

We know because this because “they laughed Him to scorn” when Jesus said, “the girl is not dead, but sleeping”. Jesus brought her back anyway! So He put out “the doubters”, and brought in “the shouters” and resurrected the girl back to life!!!

Another case….
2. ***Luke 7:11-16 11And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people.12Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.13And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.14And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.15And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.16And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.***

Jesus was so good at raising the dead, He didn’t even need to touch this boy’s corpse. Just touching the coffin was enough to bring him back to life.
3. **John 11:1-44 Death of Lazarus**Jesus was so good at raising the dead, he delayed his arrival at the home of a sick friend, so he’d die first, just to be able to bring him back! He was four days dead at that point and stinking. Jesus brought him back with a word.
B. Acts 1:1-3 we read where….
Christ Himself rose from the dead and “presented Himself alive… by many infallible proofs… during forty days”!
C. 1st Corinthians 15:1-20……to over 500 at one time

The four essential facts of the saving gospel are that Christ died, was buried, arose from the dead, and was seen by a substantial number of witnesses. If he didn’t rise, then our preaching and faith are futile and we are hopeless. No religion makes sense without the prospect of life beyond death.

**CONCLUSION**The Sadducees had every reason to believe the resurrection, but refused. Inspite of all the infallible proofs written in the Bible, We could try to compassionately understand what interfered with their faith, but it would be pointless for they couldn’t see the forest for the trees the law and the veil of Moses blinded them so much they simply chose to reject truth.

Are there Saducees present amongst us today, yes they go by different cloaks…..

Many times, we use Scripture after Scripture after Scripture to persuade our Mormon friends that the New Testament is sufficient, we sometimes speak to our JW friends that Jesus really is God, or our denominational friends that baptism is necessary for salvation, and they just won’t accept it. We may think our efforts are faulty and try to change tactics, but the reality is they just don’t want to believe because they are blind!

Here’s what the Bible says….
A. ***John 5:28-29 28Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,29And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.***
Beloved The Resurrection and judgment are real. We must prepare for the last day.
B. ***Romans 6:3-7 3Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?4Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.5For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:6Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.7For he that is dead is freed from sin.***
To be prepared for the resurrection we must undergo a kind of spiritual resurrection right away in baptism, wherein we kill our old man of sin, bury him in water, and rise to new life!