

# The Sadducees

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian church

The Sadducees are one of the groups that we read of in the gospels, beginning in **Matthew 3:7**. Usually they are mentioned along with the Pharisees and are opponents of Jesus. It is hard to understand what they believed and taught. They evidently believed some, but not all, of the scriptures. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection, nor in angels, and didn't believe in the spirit. **Acts 23:8**, "For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both." These men were like some folks today who believe only parts of the bible.

Caiaphas was the high priest and he was a Sadducee. He was appointed by the Romans after his father-in-law, Annas, was removed from the office. These men who were Sadducees, along with others of the council, were to be spiritual leaders of Israel. Is it any wonder that the nation was in such a state when the leadership didn't accept the scriptures as true? Jesus told them that they erred because they

didn't know the scriptures, nor the power of God. **Matthew 22:29**. They knew the scripture, the trouble was they just didn't believe it. The scriptures spoke of the resurrection which they didn't accept as true. In denying this they also denied the power of God.

To deny the power of the resurrection which God promised and which Jesus showed that it would happen when he raised Lazarus, and others, was to say that God was wrong. When someone says that he can do something and you don't believe it, you are saying that either they are mistaken, or that they have lied. If the Sadducees didn't believe God about the resurrection, angels, and spirits, what did they believe? In their belief there would be nothing after death, no judgment, no future; so what could they teach about God?

I wonder today when people say that they believe in God, but mock bible doctrines, what do they really believe? Can a person believe that God is right on part of the bible, but wrong in some areas? Well, some people do it, but it will not work out to the end that they want. We have seen "Ministers" writing in newspapers, or seen them on TV, who say that the

scripture is wrong on various teachings. Really? Because some doctrines are difficult to take, or understand, they are to be discounted in some people's minds. **2 Peter 3:16-17**, "As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness." Here Peter was speaking of Paul's writings and how they were twisted and misused by some.

Jesus said in **Luke 6:46**, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

Be not like the Sadducees who believed only part of the word of God. All of God's word is true and will help us to grow in grace and knowledge of his will. Don't let unbelievers, or those who claim to have secret, or great knowledge, cause you to doubt what the Lord has said. If we follow the truth, which is God, we will be alright, but if we follow anything, or anyone, else only darkness, and destruction awaits. Jesus will lead us by his Spirit if we will follow.

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ALTHOUGH THE ISRAELITES MAY HAVE ESCAPED FROM EGYPT AS A MOB OF STRAGGLING REFUGEES, MOSES KNEW THIS CONDITION MUST BE CHANGED! AND HE WAS RIGHT—THE PEOPLES THEY RAN INTO DURING THEIR DESERT WANDERINGS WERE UNFRIENDLY AT BEST, WHEN THEY WEREN'T DOWN-RIGHT WARLIKE! TO SURVIVE, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE ISRAELITES TO DEVELOP INTO A STRONGLY-ARMED FORCE, CAPABLE OF WITHSTANDING THOSE WHO WOULD DESTROY THEM. SO IT BECAME THE DUTY OF ALL MEN, AGES TWENTY TO FIFTY, TO BEAR ARMS, TO BE READY FOR BATTLE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE! THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT THESE MEN NUMBERED 603,550 WARRIORS FROM ALL THE TRIBES WITH AN EXCEPTION TO THE TRIBE OF LEVI, WHO WERE EXEMPT AS THE PRIESTHOOD. EVEN THEIR ENCAMPMENT WAS LAID OUT WITH MILITARY STRATEGY, THE TABERNACLE OF GOD BEING PROTECTED IN THE CENTER OF AN AREA WHICH COVERED SOME TWELVE SQUARE MILES.

BY THE TIME JOSHUA FINALLY LED THEM INTO CAANAN TO CONQUER THE PROMISED LAND, THE ISRAELITES MARCHED AS BATTLE-TESTED VETERANS, SKILLED IN THE ARTS OF WAR FROM MANY DESERT CAMPAIGNS!

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