

Luke 20:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then came to him certain of the Sadducees, which deny that there is any resurrection; and they asked him,

Analysis

Then came to him certain of the Sadducees, which deny that there is any resurrection (Σαδδουκαῖοι λέγοντες ἀνάστασιν μὴ εῖναι, Saddoukaioi legontes anastasin mē einai)—Luke introduces the Sadducees by their defining denial. The ἀνάστασις (anastasis, 'resurrection') refers to bodily resurrection at the end of the age, which Sadducees rejected, accepting only the Torah (not Prophets or Writings) as authoritative.

After Pharisees and Herodians failed with the tax question, the Sadducees—aristocratic priests who controlled the temple—try a different angle. Their question will attempt to make resurrection doctrine appear absurd through reductio ad absurdum. The theological coalition against Jesus is comprehensive: every major Jewish faction seeks to discredit him.

Historical Context

Sadducees were the priestly aristocracy, including the high priest's family, who collaborated with Rome and controlled temple operations. Unlike Pharisees, they rejected oral tradition, belief in angels, spirits, and bodily resurrection (Acts 23:8). They accepted only the five books of Moses. Most disappeared after the temple's destruction in AD 70.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Why does denial of resurrection naturally lead to different priorities and values in this life?
2. How do theological denials often stem from philosophical commitments rather than biblical exegesis?
3. What does it reveal that every Jewish faction united against Jesus despite their mutual disagreements?

Interlinear Text

Προσελθόντες	δέ	τινες	οι	Σαδδουκαίων	οι
came	Then	to him certain	which	of the Sadducees	which
G4334	G1161	G5100	G3588	G4523	G3588
ἀντιλέγοντες	ἀνάστασιν	μὴ	εῖναι	ἐπηρώτησαν	αὐτὸν
deny	resurrection	any	that there is	and they asked	him
G483	G386	G3361	G1511	G1905	G846

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 15:12 (Resurrection): Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

Acts 5:17 (Parallel theme): Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation,

Matthew 16:1 (Resurrection): The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.

