

Luke 20:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the third took her; and in like manner the seven also: and they left no children, and died.

Analysis

And the third took her; and in like manner the seven also (ὡσαύτως καὶ οἱ ἑπτὰ, hōsautōs kai hoi hepta, 'likewise also the seven')—The tragic pattern completes: all seven brothers married the woman in succession, each fulfilling his duty, each dying without producing children. **They left no children, and died** (οὐκ ἀφῆκαν τέκνα, ouk aphēkan tekna)—the verb ἀφίημι (aphiēmi) means to leave behind or bequeath.

The repetition heightens the supposed dilemma: in resurrection, does she belong to all seven simultaneously? To none? To the first? The Sadducees assume this creates logical impossibility, therefore resurrection cannot exist. They mistake earthly institutions for eternal necessities, a category error Jesus will brilliantly expose.

Historical Context

The number seven in Jewish thought often indicated completeness or fullness. By having all seven brothers marry her, the Sadducees maximize the supposed absurdity. Rabbinic literature records similar hypothetical debates (though none this elaborate), showing this type of reasoning was common in Second Temple Judaism.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do we confuse earthly institutions (like marriage) with the essence of eternal existence?
2. When have you dismissed a doctrine because it didn't fit your preconceived categories?
3. What does the Sadducees' focus on legal puzzle-solving reveal about their spiritual priorities?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ὁ	τρίτος	ἔλαβεν	αὐτήν	ὡσαύτως	δὲ	καὶ	οἱ
And	G3588	the third	took	her	in like manner	and	And	G3588
G2532		G5154	G2983	G846	G5615	G1161	G2532	
ἑπτὰ	οὐ	κατέλιπον	τέκνα	καὶ	ἀπέθανον			
the seven	no	and they left	children	And	died			
G2033	G3756	G2641	G5043	G2532	G599			
