

Luke 20:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now 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.

Analysis

Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush (ὅτι δὲ ἐγείρονται οἱ νεκροί, καὶ Μωϋσῆς ἐμήνυσεν ἐπὶ τῆς βάτου, *hoti de egeirontai hoi nekroi, kai Mōysēs emēnysen epi tēs batou*)—Jesus proves resurrection from the Torah itself, the only Scripture Sadducees accepted. The verb μηνύω (*mēnyō*) means 'to disclose' or 'reveal.' At the burning bush (Exodus 3:6), Moses encountered God's self-revelation.

When he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—Present tense: 'I AM the God of Abraham,' not 'I WAS.' God identifies Himself by relationship to men long dead, implying those men still exist. God is the God of the living, not the dead—therefore Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob must be alive to God. Brilliant exegesis that defeats the Sadducees on their own textual ground.

Historical Context

The burning bush episode (Exodus 3) was foundational to Jewish identity—God's self-revelation to Moses, commissioning him to deliver Israel. That God calls Himself 'the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob' (centuries after their deaths) became a classic proof-text for resurrection in later Jewish and Christian tradition. Jesus established this reading.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God's eternal presentness ('I AM') guarantee the resurrection of those who belong to Him?
2. What does it mean that your identity is secure in being someone 'whose God is the LORD'?
3. How does Jesus's exegetical method—drawing implications from God's nature—teach us to read Scripture?

Interlinear Text

ὅτι	δὲ	ἐγείρονται	οἱ	νεκροὶ	καὶ	Μωσῆς	ἐμήνυσεν	ἐπὶ
that	Now	are raised	G3588	the dead	and	Moses	shewed	at
G3754	G1161	G1453		G3498	G2532	G3475	G3377	G1909
τῆς	βάτου	ὡς	λέγει	κύριον	τὸν	θεὸν	Ἀβραὰμ	καὶ
G3588	the bush	when	he calleth	the Lord	G3588	the God	of Abraham	and
	G942	G5613	G3004	G2962		G2316	G11	G2532
τὸν	θεὸν	Ἰσαὰκ	καὶ	τόν	θεὸν	Ἰακώβ		
G3588	the God	of Isaac	and	G3588	the God	of Jacob		
	G2316	G2464	G2532		G2316	G2384		

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 3:15 (References God): And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of

Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

Genesis 32:9 (References God): And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee:

Genesis 17:7 (References God): And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Genesis 28:21 (References God): So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God:

Genesis 28:13 (References God): And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

Deuteronomy 33:16 (Parallel theme): And for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof, and for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren.