

# Mark 9:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they kept that saying with themselves, questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean.

## Analysis

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The disciples 'kept that saying' (τὸν λόγον ἔκρατησαν), obeying Jesus' command but 'questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean' (πρὸς ἑαυτοὺς συζητοῦντες τί ἔστιν τὸ ἐκ νεκρῶν ἀναστῆναι). Their confusion reveals that resurrection was incomprehensible before its occurrence. Jews believed in general resurrection at history's end (Daniel 12:2; Martha's confession, John 11:24), but individual resurrection of the Messiah before the eschaton was foreign. Jesus repeatedly predicted His resurrection (Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:34), yet disciples couldn't grasp it. This demonstrates human inability to comprehend divine revelation apart from Spirit illumination. Even witnessing the transfiguration's glory didn't enable them to understand resurrection. Only after Easter did Scripture and Jesus' words make sense (Luke 24:25-27, 44-45; John 2:22). Reformed theology emphasizes that natural human reason cannot grasp spiritual truth (1 Corinthians 2:14)—revelation requires both objective word and subjective Spirit illumination.

## Historical Context

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First-century Jewish resurrection belief varied: Pharisees affirmed bodily resurrection at the end of the age (Acts 23:8), Sadducees denied it (Mark 12:18), apocalyptic literature described it (2 Maccabees 7). However, none anticipated the Messiah rising from the dead in the middle of history. The concept of dying-and-rising deities existed in pagan mystery religions (Osiris, Tammuz, Adonis), but Jewish monotheism rejected such myths. Jesus' resurrection was categorically

different—historical event verified by witnesses (1 Corinthians 15:3-8), not cyclical nature myth. The disciples' confusion demonstrates they weren't predisposed to resurrection belief; their later testimony came from overwhelming empirical evidence, not wishful thinking or theological invention.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. What does the disciples' inability to understand resurrection despite Jesus' teaching reveal about human spiritual blindness apart from divine revelation?
2. How does the resurrection's utter unexpectedness to first-century Jews strengthen the evidence for its historical reality?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ τὸν λόγον ἐκράτησαν πρὸς ἑαυτοὺς  
**And** G3588 **that saying** G3056 **they kept** G2902 **with** G4314 **themselves** G1438  
G2532 G4801 G5101 G2076 G1537 G3498

συζητοῦντες τί ἔστιν τὸ ἐκ νεκρῶν  
**questioning one with another** **what** **should mean** G3588 **from** **the dead**  
G4802 G5101 G2076 G1537 G3498

ἀναστῆναι  
**the rising**  
G450

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 17:18** (Parallel theme): Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other

some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.

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