

Matthew 22:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

Analysis

Jesus' proof of resurrection—"I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living"—quotes Exodus 3:6. The present tense 'I am' (not 'I was') indicates Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob still live in God's presence though physically dead. God's ongoing relationship with the patriarchs requires their continued existence, implying resurrection. This demonstrates Scripture's careful reading reveals profound truth.

Historical Context

Jesus cites Torah (which Sadducees accepted) to prove resurrection. Exodus 3:6, spoken hundreds of years after the patriarchs' deaths, uses present tense—God currently is their God. Since God is the God of the living, the patriarchs must be alive, awaiting bodily resurrection. This shows resurrection is implicit even in passages not explicitly addressing it.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' argumentation model careful, faithful Scripture interpretation?
2. What comfort does knowing God is 'God of the living' bring regarding deceased believers?

Interlinear Text

Ἐγώ είμι ὁ Θεὸς Αβραὰμ καὶ ὁ Θεὸς Ἰσαὰκ καὶ
I am God of Abraham and God of Isaac and
G1473 G1510 G2316 G11 G2532 G3588 G2316 G2464 G2532

ὁ Θεὸς Ἰακώβ. οὐκ ἔστιν ὁ Θεὸς Θεὸς θεὸς νεκρῶν
God of Jacob not is God God of the dead
G2316 G2384 G3756 G2076 G2316 G2316 G3498

ἀλλὰ ζώντων
but of the living
G235 G2198

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 3:6 (References God): Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

Acts 7:32 (References God): Saying, I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold.

Hebrews 11:16 (References God): But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.