

Introduction

1. What is your reaction to this question? *Is there life after death?* (**Show**)¹
 - a. Some of greatest minds of our times have said emphatically, **No!**
 - i. **Cosmos is all that ever was and all that ever will be.**² Period!
 - ii. **Neither can I believe indiv. survives death, tho feeble souls harbor such thots thru fear or rel. egotism.**³
 - iii. **Belief that death is the door to a better life = oldest, strongest, & most insistent wish of mankind.**⁴
 - b. Even some Bible students said, **No!** (Read v. 18)
 - i. Jewish aristocratic party - wealthy, influential, cooperated w/Romans.
 - ii. **Strange views:** 5 books Moses Scripture. No belief in supernatural.
 - iii. So, no angels, spirits, life after death, judgment, rewards, penalties.
 - iv. Naturally, no resurrection of body.
 - c. Notice their question (Read vv. 19-23). Making fun of issue of life after death.
 - i. **If really is such thing as resurrection, imagine the confusion in heaven!**
 - ii. **She's my wife! No, she's mine! Your both wrong. She's mine? How ridiculous!**
 - iii. Sadducees so smug that they had Jesus stumped. No one answered before.
 - 1) **Ur so smart, why do U believe in God? Ur so smart, why don't U believe in God?**⁵
 - 2) That's the way to give it right back! And that's what Jesus does here.
2. J. didn't think story very funny. In fact, silly argument led to serious error (vv. 24, 27).
 - a. Like person who turned tables on Sagan, J., the master, going undress wise guys.
 - b. Are you ready? Let's follow master teacher as He answers 2 of life's most import. ??.

I. QUESTION #1: IS THERE LIFE AFTER DEATH (VV. 24, 26-27)?

A. The Proof Of Life After Death From Exodus 3:1-6

1. Sadducees taught that res. absent fr. Moses. So J. appealed to Ex. 3:1-6 (burning bush).
 - a. (**Show**)⁶ Brilliant strategy. Jesus took their own books and proved them wrong.
2. Jesus used **3 proofs** fr. text to teach resurrection.
 - a. **Jesus proved life after death grammatically.**
 - i. Grammar is the study of language. How words relate to convey meaning.
 - ii. **I am**, patriarchs alive. Living God = God of living, not dead (v. 27). Alive moment.
 - b. **Jesus proved life after death biologically. = study of life (natural & human)**
 - i. For Jewish people a person = unity w/material part (body)/immaterial (soul/spirit).
 - ii. One is incomplete w/o other. **Our bodies are part of who we are.**⁷
 - a. We tend make soul more important than body. The **REAL** you we say to kids.

¹ This question with graves clipart. http://i.vimeocdn.com/video/98845536_1280x720.jpg. Accessed 8/3/17.

² Carl Sagan, brilliant astronomer & host of TV show *Cosmos*.

³ Albert Einstein in Zuck, p. 209. Einstein was chose "Man of the 20th Century" for his brilliant work in physics.

⁴ Sigmund Freud in Zuck, p. 209.

⁵ Carl Sagan's question to and the response of professional Joan Brown Campbell. Jerry Adler, *Newsweek*, 3/13/97, p. 64-65. "Hopeless Death of Carl Sagan." www.preachingtoday.com/index.taf? 4/8/04.

⁶ Exodus 3:6. <https://i.ytimg.com/vi/NqzITk2zEdo/maxresdefault.jpg>. Accessed 8/4/17.

⁷ Hughes, R. K. (1989). *Mark: Jesus, servant and savior*. Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, Vol. 2, p. 111.

- b. Call body shell. Dr. Henry Savage, *When I die the nut will be gone!*
 - i. By using the names **Abraham, Isaac, Jacob**, G speaking of whole person.
 - ii. God was saying He was God of *whole person - body and soul*.⁸
 - iii. If soul still alive, then body must be resurrected. Whole person exper. et. life.
- c. **Jesus proved life after death theologically. = study of God**
 - i. ***I am the God of = cov. w/Abe ect. God as protector/redeemer of His people.***⁹
 - ii. Res. = log. extension of promise, for God not let death final and be faithful.¹⁰
 - iii. Abe/Moses understood. Abe = burial plot/grave. Moses = not even enter.
 - iv. Death didn't bother. Died in faith looking forward to a heavenly city built by God.
 - v. Knew God's promises demanded eternal life in a heavenly kingdom.

B. Application

1. In 400 B.C. the renowned philosopher, Socrates, was sentenced to death.
 - a. Fallen out of favor w/authorities & was executed by poisoning.
 - b. After drinking the poison hemlock, Socrates lay down to die. Friends gathered,
 - i. ***Shall we live again? I hope so, but no man can know***, said the dying teacher.
 - ii. Then Socrates died, and he's never been heard from again.
2. 433 yrs. later another great teacher walked the earth. He too was sentenced to die.
 - a. People asked him the same ques. ***Shall we live again?*** He said...
 - b. Grammatically? Yes. Biologically? Yes. Theologically. Yes.
 - c. Then executed by crucifixion & laid in a tomb. 3 days later he rose again & said,
 - d. ***See, I told you so. And it's because I live, that you too shall live.***

II. QUESTION #2: WHAT IS IT LIKE (VV. 24, 25)?

A. New Type Of Existence

1. J. not say ***become*** angels, but be ***like*** angels.¹¹ Res. bodies similar to angels.
2. Point is that be raised to a new existence. Immortal like angels are.
3. Raises questions. Have wings? Recognize each other? Sexless? Married?¹²

B. The Nature Of Life After Death

1. ***Believers will have a spiritual body.***
 - a. ***flesh/blood cannot inherit kingdom of heaven*** (1 Cor. 15:50).
 - b. Jesus had body materialize thru doors. 1 sec. not there, next sec. was there.
 - c. ***Spir. body not limited space/time. I think we'll be able move around w/speed of thot.***¹³
2. ***Believers will be recognizable.***

⁸ Ibid., p. 111.

⁹ Grant Osborne. Class Notes on the Gospel of Mark, p. 45.

¹⁰ Ibid., p. 45.

¹¹ Heard about the 2 ladies that were talking about their jobs. One asked, ***How's your boss?*** She replied, ***Oh, he's an angel!*** The other replied, ***Your lucky. Mine's still alive.***

¹² Jerry Vines, *Exploring the Gospels*. Chicago: Moody Press, p. 241.

¹³ Hughes, op. cit.,

- a. Will know each other in heaven? **Know now, not bigger fool then!**¹⁴
- b. Will be difference. Jesus not always recognized at 1st.
- c. But when said to Mary Magdalene, **Mary**, she knew Him.
3. **Believers will have their individuality preserved.**
 - a. I will have all that properly makes me me. But more than that. Best me I can be.
 - b. I'll be the Brian God intended me to be.
 - c. **Will we know each other when we get to heaven? We won't really know each other until we get to heaven.**¹⁵
 - d. **then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.** Know Ellen depth never knew.
4. **Believers will be one happy family.**
 - a. **Be like the angels** - No marriage relationships.
 - b. Love be so perfected no exclusive relationships like have in marriage.
 - c. That's the sad part here. Love so imperf. often broken relationships.
 - d. Two sisters so bitter one wouldn't even acknowledge baby daughter.
5. **Believers will have no death.** Angels don't die. No more separation.

Conclusion

1. Remember film **Field of Dreams?** **"If you build it they will come."** (Show)¹⁶ (Show)¹⁷
 - a. About longing all have for place where dreams come true.
 - b. Ray (K. C.) in film longed for renewed relationship w/deceased father died young.
 - c. Wanted spend time again. Get to know. Enjoy. Erase hurt in past. Heaven is that place.
2. **Sad? An interviewer after Field of Dreams asked Kevin Costner if he believed in heaven.**¹⁸
 - a. **I desperately want to! I mean, I really want to believe that a part of me will continue on after this life and that there's more to me and to this life than just what's here on Earth. Yes, I want to believe.**
3. **Kevin, if you want to, then why don't you?**
 - a. Jesus proved it. Rose again to secure it. Told us what it would be like. Building it now.
 - b. Why not believe it and receive the One who can make it happen? The LJC.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 111.

¹⁵ Question to W. A. Criswell in Michael Green, *1500 Illustrations for Preaching & Teaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House. #639.

¹⁶ <https://wpcdn.clearvoice.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/fieldofdreams.jpg>. Accessed 8/4/17.

¹⁷ <https://i1.wp.com/kathyperret.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Slide22.jpg>. Accessed 8/4/17.

¹⁸ "An Interview with Kevin Costner and Tom Shadyac," www.Crosswalk.com (accessed 2/28/02 by Chuck Sacke).
"Kevin Costner Wants to Believe in Heaven." www.preachingtoday.com/index.taf? 4/8/04.