

Thoughts on the Daily Word:

33rd Week of Year. Saturday 21st November. Readings of Day: Apoc. 11:4-12; Psalm: 1143; Gospel: Luke 20:27-40.

The Sadducees are essentially materialists. They have no vision of a future world other than their own. They are, of course, the wealthiest group in the land and intend to hold on to the power their wealth gives. The Pharisees tend to be what we would call middle class. Both groups are a small portion of the nation, the vast majority being peasants and labourers. The vision of a future world of justice and a prophetic word that makes it come true is as old as the Old Covenant. That scriptural vision is of a people of equals and with equal justice for all. All share and participate in the Promised Land. Hence the symbols of 'witnesses' and 'scroll' are drawn from the prophetic tradition, like much of the Apocalypse. The new Christian community, as seen in the Acts, is a vision of a restored People of God, now open to all. A prophetic Church is called to 'Come up here', to enter that new and restored Promised Land.