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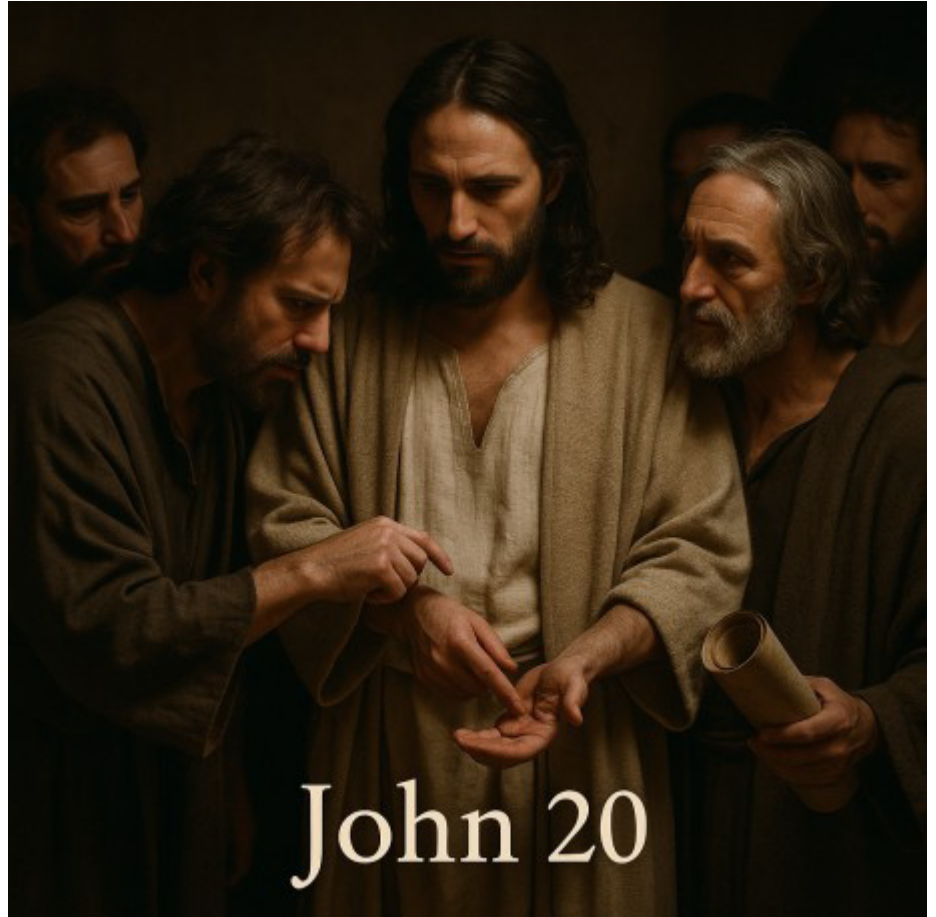
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John 20 This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

John 20

John 20:1

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already removed from the tomb.

† Mary was the first witness, showing God's choice of the humble and marginalized. The stone rolled away revealed resurrection, not theft.

† Josephus (Antiquities 17.3.3) notes stone-sealed tombs in

Jerusalem, confirming the historical setting.

John 20:2-4

So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we do not know where they have put Him." So Peter and the other disciple left, and they were going to the tomb. The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead, faster than Peter, and came to the tomb first.

† Her assumption was removal of the body, not resurrection, proving the disciples were not expecting this miracle.

John 20:5-7

And he stooped to look in, and saw the linen wrappings lying there; however he did not go in. Simon Peter also came, following him, and he entered the tomb; and he looked at the linen wrappings lying there, and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings but folded up in a place by itself.

† The orderly placement of cloths disproved grave robbery. The folded face cloth revealed intentional resurrection.

John 20:8-9

So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb also entered then, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead.

† John believed based on evidence, though full understanding of prophecy came later.

John 20:10-12

So the disciples went away again to their own homes. But Mary was standing outside the tomb, weeping; so as she wept, she stooped to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white

sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying.

† Angels confirmed resurrection. Their placement recalled the cherubim on the ark of the covenant, symbolizing God's presence.

John 20:13-14

And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they put Him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and yet she did not know that it was Jesus.

† Mary's grief blinded her recognition. Often despair obscures Christ's presence.

John 20:15-16

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Thinking that He was the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you put Him, and I will take Him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher).

† Recognition came when Jesus called her name, fulfilling John 10:3: "He calls His own sheep by name."

John 20:17

Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"

† Mary was commissioned as the first herald of the resurrection. His ascension would complete His redemptive work.

John 20:18

Mary Magdalene came and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said these things to her.

† The first apostolic proclamation came from Mary, overturning cultural expectations.

† Celsus, a pagan critic (cited by Origen, Against Celsus 2.59), mocked women as witnesses, showing why this account could not be fabricated.

John 20:19-20

Now when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were together due to fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst, and said to them, "Peace be to you." And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

† Jesus overcame locked doors, proving resurrection body yet continuity with crucifixion wounds. His greeting fulfilled John 14:27, "My peace I give to you."

John 20:21-23

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you; just as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain any sins, they have been retained."

† This anticipates Pentecost. His breathing paralleled Genesis 2:7, the giving of life. Apostolic authority was rooted in Him.

John 20:24-25

But Thomas, one of the twelve, who was called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my

finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

† Thomas embodied skepticism. His demand for evidence makes his later confession more powerful.

John 20:26-27

Eight days later His disciples were again inside, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be to you." Then He said to Thomas, "Place your finger here, and see My hands; and take your hand and put it into My side; and do not continue to be unbelieving, but be believing."

† Jesus condescended to Thomas' demand, turning doubt into faith.

John 20:28

Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

† Thomas gave the highest Christological confession in the Gospels, acknowledging Jesus as God.

† Polycarp and other early fathers cited this as proof against heresies denying Christ's deity.

John 20:29

Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you now believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

† Faith is not blind but trusts reliable testimony. Believers after the apostolic era are especially blessed.

John 20:30-31

So then, many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not recorded in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that by believing you may

have life in His name.

† John's purpose statement anchors the Gospel. Signs were selected not for curiosity but for faith and life.

How it applies to us today

† The resurrection is the heart of the gospel, giving life and hope.

† Christ calls His people by name, as He did Mary, proving intimate relationship.

† Doubt, like Thomas', can be overcome by Christ's presence and evidence.

† Our faith rests in apostolic testimony, written so that we may have life in His name.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Josephus, Antiquities 17.3.3 – stone-sealed tombs

† Celsus (cited in Origen, Against Celsus 2.59) – mockery of women witnesses

† Polycarp, Epistle to the Philippians – confession of Christ's deity

† Dead Sea Scrolls imagery – light and truth as signs of God's presence

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