



That You May

BELIEVE

"BELIEVING THOMAS" -

[Blessed Are They Who Do Not See & Yet Believe]"

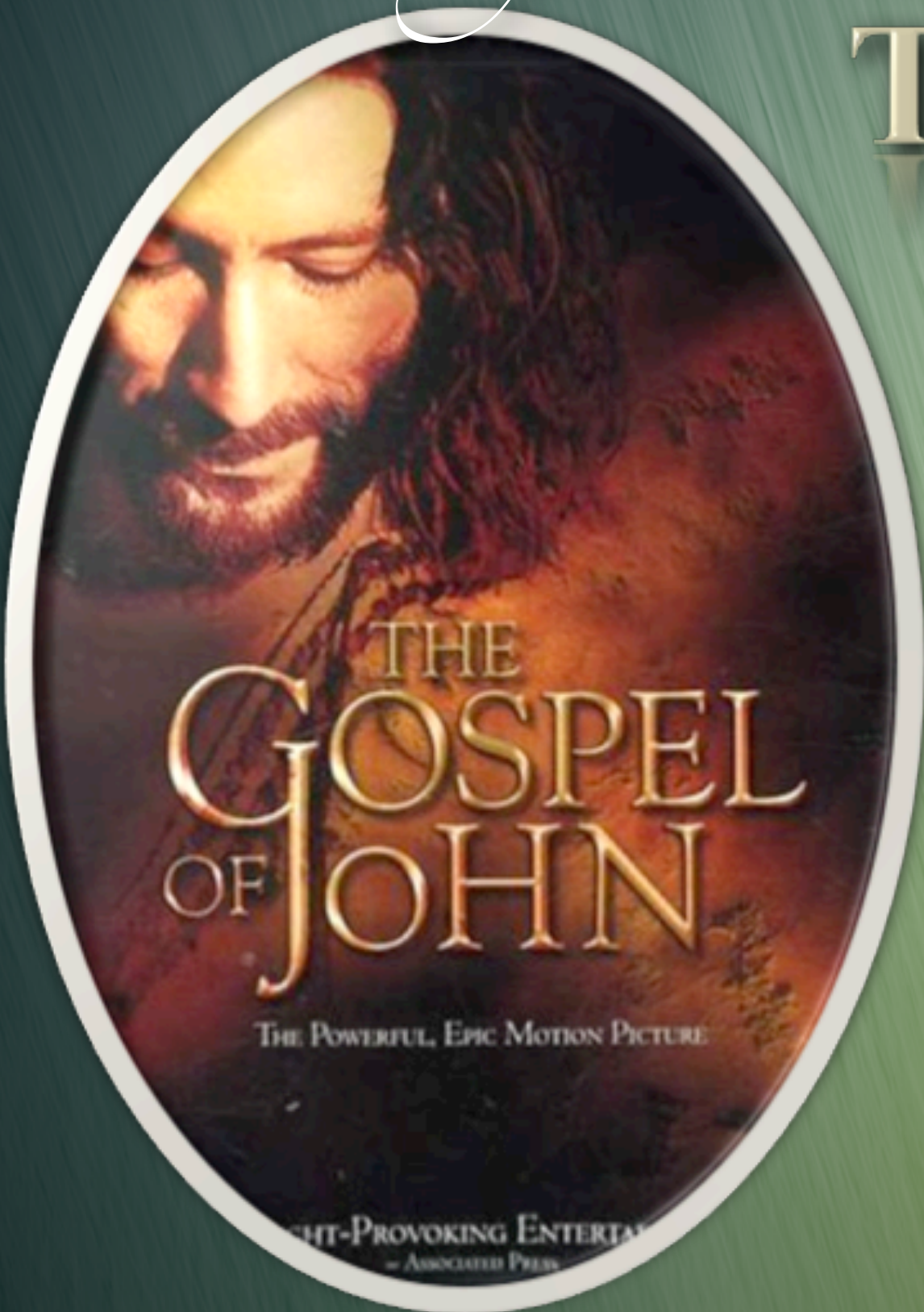
(JOHN 20:24-31)

“Believing Thomas” *[Blessed Are They Who
Do Not See And Yet Believe]*

THEME

John 20:30-31 (NKJV)

³⁰ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.



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JESUS' CRUCIFIXION & DEATH - 19:16-30

✦ The plans of wicked men:

2:13-22; 5:16-18;
7:7-49; 8:21-59;
9:22; 10:22-39;
11:47-57; 12:9-11,19;
13:2,27-30



✦ The plan of Almighty God

1:1,14; 3:14-16;
6:51-58; 7:30;
8:20,59;
10:14-18,31,39;
11:8-10; 12:20-36

Jesus does NOT appear in the narrative as a mere victim - nor is he overcome by an external superior power!

His death was entirely voluntary - 10:14-18; 14:30,31

None but Jesus has mastery of the circumstances -

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THE LORD HE IS RISEN – 20:1-29



- ✦ Things had unfolded just as Jesus had foretold – (He had been put to death, buried and arose from the dead – 14:29)
- ✦ Mary Magdalene saw Him first – (20:15-18; Mark 16:9)
- ✦ The women reported to the 11 disciples that they had seen the risen Lord – but they did not believe – (Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43)

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THE LORD HE IS RISEN — 20:1-29

Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43

Mark 16:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.

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WHO WAS THOMAS?



- * The main incident for which he has always been remembered, & for which he has been called 'Doubting Thomas', is his unbelief in the resurrection.
- * He missed the appearance of Christ to the other apostles (Jn. 20:24) & said he needed visual proof of the resurrection (20:25).
- * A week later Christ appeared again to the Eleven & offered Thomas the opportunity to see & feel for himself.

JOHN 20:24-31 (NKJV)

²⁴ Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

JOHN 20:24-31 (NKJV)

²⁶ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

JOHN 20:24-31 (NKJV)

²⁸ And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

JOHN 20:24-31 (NKJV)

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WHO WAS THOMAS?



- ✦ In the lists of the Twelve which are arranged in three groups of four each, Thomas occurs in the second group (Mt. 10:2–4; Mk. 3:16–19; Lk. 6:14–16; Acts 1:13).
- ✦ He is linked with Matthew in Mt. 10:3 and with Philip in Acts 1:13.
- ✦ The name comes from Aram. *te'ômā'*, meaning 'twin', John three times uses the Gk. version of it, 'Didymus' (11:16; 20:24; 21:2).

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WHO WAS THOMAS?



- ✦ It is only in the Fourth Gospel that there are any personal references to Thomas.
- ✦ He was prepared to go with Jesus to the tomb of Lazarus and to possible death at the hands of the Jews (Jn. 11:16).
- ✦ He confessed himself unable to understand where Jesus was going when he warned the Twelve of his impending departure (Jn. 14:5).

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WHO WAS THOMAS?

Many Unfounded Assumptions

- * According to some traditions Thomas preached in present day Iraq, & present-day Iran, sailed south to the west coast of India in 52 AD, converting high caste Brahmins, as well as others.
- * When the Portuguese land in India in the early 1600s, they find a group of Christians there -- the Mar Thoma Church supposedly established through Thomas' preaching.



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WHO WAS THOMAS?

Many Unfounded Assumptions

- ✳ Supposedly Thomas travels to the east coast of India, preaching relentlessly where he was thrown into a pit, then pierced through with a spear thrown by a Brahmin. He was killed near Mylapore about 72 AD, near present-day Madras.



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WHO WAS THOMAS?

Many Unfounded Assumptions

Thomas V. Moore’s 1867 book, *The Last Days of Jesus*, describes Thomas:

“a man of gloomy spirit, prone to look on the dark side of everything.... There was little in him of the bright, sunny and hopeful, and hence he was not as ready to believe good news as bad. This frigidity of his temperament made him skeptical, hasty in coming to unfavorable conclusions.”



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WHO WAS THOMAS?

Many Unfounded Assumptions

John MacArthur - Twelve Ordinary Men - biographical sketches on 12

“Thomas was a somewhat a negative person; he was a worry wart, a brooder, tended to be anxious and angst ridden. He was like Eyore in Winnie the Pooh. He anticipated the worst all the time, pessimism, rather than doubt, seems to have been his besetting sin.”



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WHO WAS THOMAS?

Many Unfounded Assumptions

J. I. Packer - Never Beyond Hope

Packer argues that Thomas was the less bright of the twins, and that he lived with some kind of inferiority complex about it, which resulted in expressions, not only of gloom, but of pride.



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WHO WAS THOMAS?



Many Unfounded Assumptions

Why was Thomas absent the previous week?

“Thomas was off brooding.”

“Thomas was lost in the depths of despair.”

“Thomas was engulfed by clouds of darkness and wanted to wallow in self pity. He didn’t want to be in the company of others, least of all, those who would be asking him all kinds of questions. He just wanted to be in his own company.”

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WHAT DID THOMAS MISS BY NOT ASSEMBLING?



- ✦ Joy of Receiving the Peace of Christ (v. 19)
- ✦ Evidence To Strengthen His Faith (v. 20)
- ✦ Reminder of His Mission in Life (v. 21)
- ✦ Confirmation of the Promise of Jesus (v. 22)

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THE DOUBT OF THOMAS



- ✦ Thomas was in the same boat as the other disciples – they did not believe until they saw either! – (Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36–43)
- ✦ Thomas had demonstrated great trust and loyalty previously – (Jn. 11:16; 14:5)
- ✦ How much evidence had been presented to Thomas?

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THE DOUBT OF THOMAS



- ✦ Who told Jesus? (vs 27)
- ✦ Was Jesus critical of Thomas' demand for evidence? (Yes)
Mark 16:11–14; Luke 24:38
- ✦ See the gentleness of Jesus. (27)

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THE FAITH OF THOMAS



- ✦ “My Lord and my God.”
John 1:1,14; Rev 1:8,11; etc.
- ✦ “Blessed are they who did not see and yet believed.”
A mild reproof.
- ✦ We need to be sure that what we believe is the truth – Acts 17:11,12; 2 Cor 13:5; Heb 11:1,2; 2 Tim 2:15

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THE FAITH OF THOMAS



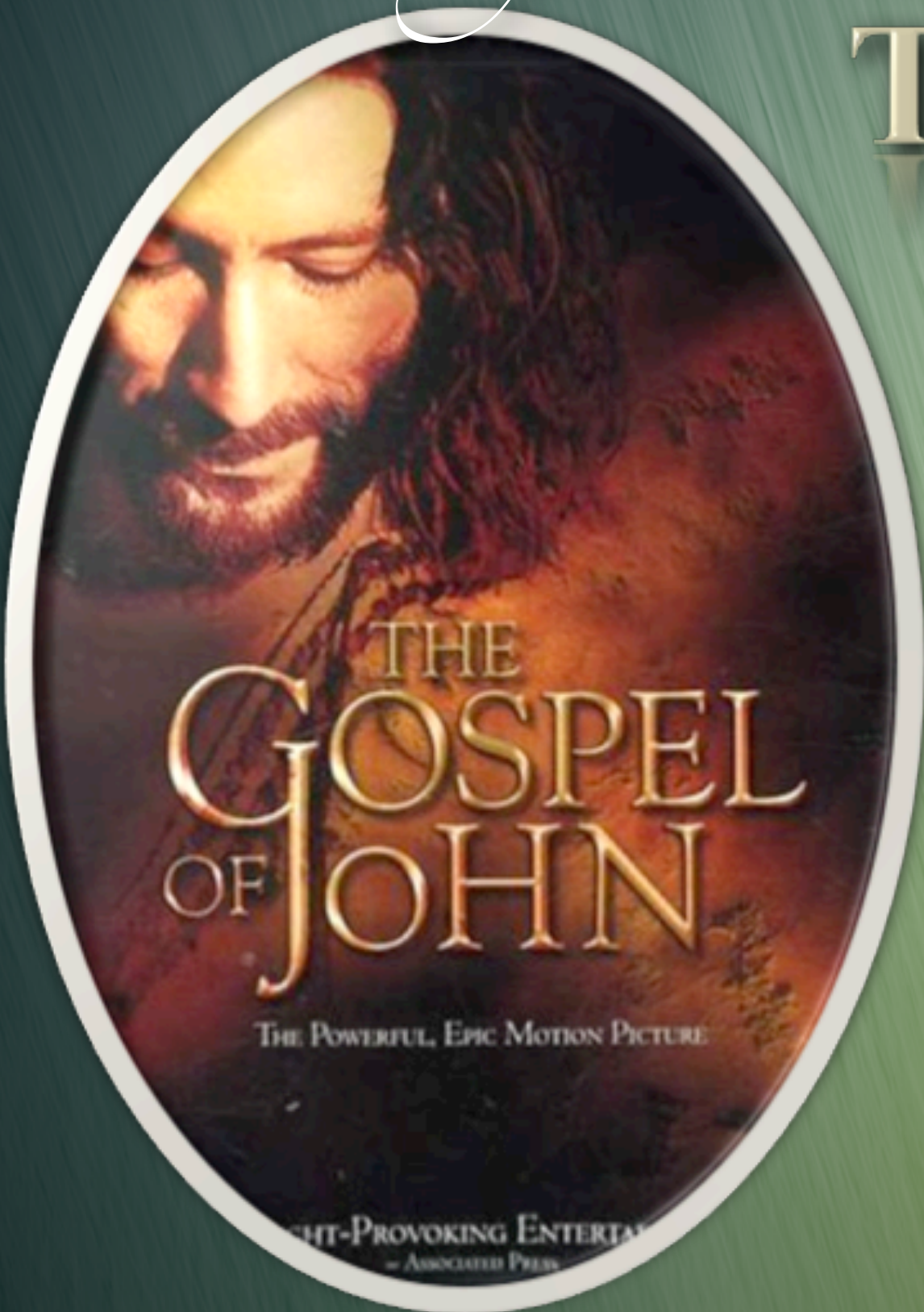
- ✧ How can we come to believe without “seeing?” – 20:30,31; 21:24,25; Rom 10:17; Eph 3:3–5; 2 Th. 2:13, 14; 2 Tim 3:15–17; Jam 1:18–21; 1 Pe. 1:23–25; Heb 11:1
- ✧ Let us examine everything we are taught by objectively examining the evidence –
- ✧ Let us also be quick to believe the truth – 1 Thes 2:13

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DO YOU BELIEVE?



- ✦ The Word Has Been Confirmed. John 20:30-31
- ✦ Faith Comes by Hearing. Romans 10:17
- ✦ Who Has Believed? Romans 10:16; 2 Thes 1:6-9
- ✦ Those who: Repent - Acts 17:30; Confess - Acts 8:37; & Are baptized - Mk 16:16; Acts 2:28

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MARK 16:9-14 (NKJV)

⁹ Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. ¹⁰ She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept. ¹¹ And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.

MARK 16:9-14 (NKJV)

¹² After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country. ¹³ And they went and told it to the rest, but they did not believe them either. ¹⁴ Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.