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## **John 20: JESUS – IS...**

Introductory Statement: In this Gospel John, son of Thunder, original member of JESUS' disciples, the one whom JESUS loved, apostle to the world, and recipient of apocalyptic visions presents JESUS as the Son of GOD. He emphasizes our LORD's divinity to all who would read his good-news account of JESUS. In this chapter John continues the final discourse between JESUS and the eleven disciples, leading to the passion week, and shares insight into JESUS' priestly prayer for current, and future, disciples.

### *Objectives:*

*Following this study we should be able to...*

- *Understand the setting of events in this chapter*
- *Gain insight into the events immediately following JESUS' resurrection*
- *Identify John's purpose in writing this Gospel*
- *Associate encounters with JESUS with corresponding commissions by JESUS*
- *Appreciate how true faith, active belief without active sight, comes with a blessing*
- *Believe on JESUS as the scriptures declare HIM*



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## THE SETTING

- Locations:
  - Jerusalem
  - Tomb of Joseph of Arimathea
  - Closed off Room
- Mary Magdalene (Mary of Magdala)
  - Magdala – a fishing town on the west side of the Sea of Galilee
  - Disciple of JESUS
  - Supporter of JESUS
    - Luke 8:1-3

<sup>8:1</sup> Soon afterward, Jesus *began* going around from one city and village to another, preaching and proclaiming *the good news* of the kingdom of God. The twelve [disciples] were with Him, <sup>2</sup> and *also* some women who had been healed of evil spirits and diseases: Mary, called Magdalene [from the city of Magdala in Galilee], from whom seven demons had come out, <sup>3</sup> and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod’s household steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means [as was the custom for a rabbi’s disciples].
  - Mentioned more than any other woman in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
  - Set Free from demonic possession/oppression
    - Luke 8:2
    - Mark 16:9

<sup>16:9</sup> [Now Jesus, having risen [from death] early on the first day of the week, appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons.



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- Peter
  - Jewish fisherman from Bethsaida – north or east side of Galilee
  - Disciple of JESUS – among the first
  - Matthew 4:18-20

<sup>4:18</sup> As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He noticed two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> And He said to them, “Follow Me [as My disciples, accepting Me as your Master and Teacher and walking the same path of life that I walk], and I will make you fishers of men.”

<sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed Him [becoming His disciples, believing and trusting in Him and following His example].
  - Apostle to the Jews
  
- John (author of this book)
  - Jewish fisherman from Bethsaida – north or east side of Galilee
  - Disciple of JESUS – youngest disciple; brother of James
  - Matthew 4:21-22

<sup>4:21</sup> And going on [further] from there He noticed two other brothers, James the *son* of Zebedee, and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets; and He called them [to follow Him as His disciples]. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him [becoming His disciples, believing and trusting in Him and following His example].
  
- Angels – messengers from heaven



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- JESUS
- Thomas (Didymus)
  - Galilee
  - Disciple of JESUS
  - Twin
  - Inquisitive seeker – “seeing is believing”
  - Mark 3:14  
<sup>3:14</sup> And He appointed twelve [disciples], so that they would be with Him [for instruction] and so that He could send them out to preach [the gospel as apostles—that is, as His special messengers, personally chosen representatives], <sup>15</sup> and to have authority *and* power to cast out demons. <sup>16</sup> He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter), <sup>17</sup> and James, the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, that is, “Sons of Thunder”); <sup>18</sup> and [He also appointed] Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew (Nathanael), and Matthew (Levi the tax collector), and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus (Judas the son of James), and Simon the Zealot; <sup>19</sup> and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him.

## The Disappearance

- John 20:1-10  
<sup>20:1</sup> Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw the stone [already] removed from the [groove across the entrance of the] tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple (John), whom Jesus loved (esteemed), and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him!” <sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple left, and they were going to the tomb.



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<sup>4</sup> And the two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and arrived at the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> Stooping down and looking in, he saw the linen [wrappings [neatly] lying *there*; but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came up, following him, and went into the tomb and saw the linen wrappings [neatly] lying *there*; <sup>7</sup> and the [burial] face-cloth which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the [other] linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> So the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, went in too; and he saw [the wrappings and the face-cloth] and believed [without any doubt that Jesus had risen from the dead]. <sup>9</sup> For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back again to their own homes.

- Was Mary Unaware that JESUS' body had already been dressed for burial?
  - Mark 16:1-3

<sup>16:1</sup> When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome purchased [sweet-smelling] spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. <sup>2</sup> Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. <sup>3</sup> And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?"
  - John 19:38-41

<sup>19:38</sup> And after this, Joseph of Arimathea—a disciple of Jesus, but ***secretly*** for fear of the Jews—asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away His body. <sup>39</sup> Nicodemus, who had first come to Him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, [weighing] about a hundred [Roman] pounds. <sup>40</sup> So they took Jesus' body and bound it in linen wrappings with the fragrant spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup> Now there was a garden at the place where He was crucified, and in the garden a new tomb [cut out of solid rock] in which no one had yet been laid.



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- Where was the body of CHRIST?
  - Mary presumed it was stolen
  - Not certain...They did not understand the scriptures
    - Psalm 16:10  
<sup>16:10</sup>For You will not abandon me to Sheol (the nether world, the place of the dead),  
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.
    - Matthew 12:40 (NLT)  
<sup>40</sup>For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.
    - Jonah 1:1:17; 2:10 (AMP)  
<sup>1:17</sup>Now the LORD had prepared (appointed, destined) a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.-<sup>2:10</sup> So the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land
  - The evidence pointed to the Truth: HE Is Not Here
    - Although they didn't fully understand or know where HE was, they Believed that HE had risen from the dead (so much so that they left the scene and went home)

## The Re-Appearance

- Some disciples chose to walk by Sight instead of by Faith



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- John 20: 11-29

<sup>11</sup> But Mary [who had returned] was standing outside the tomb sobbing; and so, as she wept, she stooped down and looked into the tomb; <sup>12</sup> and she saw two angels in white sitting *there*, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. <sup>13</sup> And they said to her, “Woman, why are you crying?” She told them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.” <sup>14</sup> After saying this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you crying? For whom are you looking?” Supposing that He was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you are the one who has carried Him away *from here*, tell me where you have put Him, and I will take Him away.” <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means, Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, “Do not hold Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’” <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene came, reporting to the disciples that she had seen the Lord and that He had said these things to her. <sup>19</sup> So when it was evening on that *same* day, the first day of the week, though the disciples were [meeting] behind barred doors for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.” <sup>20</sup> After He said this, He showed them His hands and His side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with great joy. <sup>21</sup> Then Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you [as My representatives].” <sup>22</sup> And when He said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of anyone they are forgiven [because of their faith]; if you retain *the sins* of anyone, they are retained [and remain unforgiven because of their unbelief].” <sup>24</sup> But Thomas, one of the twelve [disciples], who was called Didymus (the twin), was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples kept telling him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the marks of the nails, and put my finger into the nail prints, and put my hand into His side, I will never believe.” <sup>26</sup> Eight days later His disciples were again inside *the house*, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, though the doors had been



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barred, and stood among them and said, “Peace to you.” <sup>27</sup> Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and put out your hand and place it in My side. Do not be unbelieving, but [stop doubting and] believe.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, do you now believe? Blessed [happy, spiritually secure, and favored by God] are they who did not see [Me] and yet believed [in Me].”

- After seeing the evidence of resurrection, Mary still didn’t believe
- Upon seeing JESUS Mary did not recognize HIM
  - Glorified body?
  - John 3:6
    - <sup>3:6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh [the physical is merely physical], and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
  - 1 Corinthians 15:50-57
    - <sup>15:50</sup> Now I say this, believers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit *nor* be part of the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable (mortal) inherit the imperishable (immortal). <sup>51</sup> Listen very carefully, I tell you a mystery [a secret truth decreed by God and previously hidden, but now revealed]; we will not all sleep [in death], but we will all be [completely] changed [wondrously transformed], <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at [the sound of] the last trumpet call. For a trumpet will sound, and the dead [who believed in Christ] will be raised imperishable, and we will be [completely] changed [wondrously transformed]. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable [part of us] must put on the imperishable [nature], and this mortal [part of us that is capable of dying] must put on immortality [which is freedom from death]. <sup>54</sup> And when this perishable puts on the imperishable, and this mortal puts on immortality, then the Scripture will be fulfilled that says,





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“DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory (vanquished forever). <sup>55</sup> O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?” <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin [by which it brings death] is the law; <sup>57</sup> but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory [as conquerors] through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 2 Corinthians 5:1-5

<sup>5:1</sup> For we know that if the earthly tent [our physical body] which is our house is torn down [through death], we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup> For indeed in this *house* we groan, longing to be clothed with our [immortal, eternal] celestial dwelling, <sup>3</sup> so that by putting it on we will not be found naked. <sup>4</sup> For while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened [often weighed down, oppressed], not that we want to be unclothed [separated by death from the body], but to be clothed, so that what is mortal [the body] will be swallowed up by life [after the resurrection]. <sup>5</sup> Now He who has made us *and* prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave us the [Holy] Spirit as a pledge [a guarantee, a down payment on the fulfillment of His promise].

- Although Mary didn't immediately recognize JESUS, HE still knew her by name
  - Mary recognized JESUS voice
  - JESUS stated previously that My Sheep hear My Voice
  - John 10:27
    - <sup>10:27</sup> The sheep that are My own hear My voice *and* listen to Me; I know them, and they follow Me.
  - GOD knows you, by name, right where you are
- Along with the Encounter with JESUS came a Commission from JESUS



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- There's purpose in encountering JESUS
- Mary was instructed to share the Good News
  - John 20:17-18

<sup>20:17</sup> Jesus said to her, "Do not hold Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene came, reporting to the disciples that she had seen the Lord and that He had said these things to her.
- Disciples were instructed to receive the Holy Spirit and Share the Good News
  - John 20:21-23

<sup>20: 21</sup> Then Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you [as My representatives]." <sup>22</sup> And when He said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of anyone they are forgiven [because of their faith]; if you retain *the sins* of anyone, they are retained [and remain unforgiven because of their unbelief]."
  - Acts 1:8

<sup>1:8</sup> But you will receive power *and* ability when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses [to tell people about Me] both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth."
  - Matthew 9:1-8

<sup>9:1</sup> And Jesus, getting into a boat, crossed over *the Sea of Galilee* and came to [Capernaum] His own city.<sup>2</sup> They brought to Him a man who was paralyzed, lying on a stretcher. Seeing their [active] faith [springing from confidence in Him], Jesus said to the paralytic, "Do not be afraid, son; your sins are forgiven [the penalty is paid, the guilt removed, and you are declared to be in right standing with God]." <sup>3</sup> And some of the



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scribes said to themselves, “This *man* blasphemes [by claiming the rights and prerogatives of God]!”<sup>4</sup> But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts?”<sup>5</sup> For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven *and* the penalty paid,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? [Both are possible for God; both are impossible for man.]<sup>6</sup> But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority *and* the power on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Get up, pick up your stretcher and go home.”<sup>7</sup> And he got up and went home [healed and forgiven].<sup>8</sup> When the crowds saw this, they were awestruck, and glorified God *and* praised Him, who had given such authority *and* power to men.

- Luke 4:16-21

<sup>4:16</sup>So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.<sup>17</sup> The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,<sup>18</sup> “THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME (the Messiah), BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO ANNOUNCE RELEASE (pardon, forgiveness) TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED (downtrodden, bruised, crushed by tragedy),<sup>19</sup> TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD [the day when salvation and the favor of God abound greatly].”<sup>20</sup> Then He rolled up the scroll [having stopped in the middle of the verse], gave it back to the attendant and sat down [to teach]; and the eyes of all those in the synagogue were [attentively] fixed on Him.<sup>21</sup> He began speaking to them: “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing *and* in your presence.”

- The Blessing is in Acting on HIS Word (Faith) without Seeing



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- Both Mary Magdalene and Thomas believed because they saw
  - John 20:25b  
<sup>20:25b</sup> “...But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the marks of the nails, and put my finger into the nail prints, and put my hand into His side, I will never believe.”
- JESUS declares the Blessing is upon those who Believe without Seeing
  - John 20:29  
<sup>20:29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, do you now believe? Blessed [happy, spiritually secure, and favored by God] are they who did not see [Me] and yet believed [in Me].”
- Abraham’s righteousness wasn’t credited to him because of what he saw, but because HE Believed GOD’s promises before he saw them. This made him Right with GOD.
  - Romans 4:18-25  
<sup>4:18</sup> In hope against hope Abraham believed that he would become a father of many nations, as he had been promised [by God]: “So [numberless] SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE.” <sup>19</sup> Without becoming weak in faith he considered his own body, now as good as dead [for producing children] since he was about a hundred years old, and [he considered] the deadness of Sarah’s womb. <sup>20</sup> But he did not doubt *or* waver in unbelief concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong *and* empowered by faith, giving glory to God, <sup>21</sup> being fully convinced that God had the power to do what He had promised. <sup>22</sup> Therefore his faith WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS (right standing with God). <sup>23</sup> Now not for his sake alone was it written that it was credited to him, <sup>24</sup> but for our sake also—to whom righteousness will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead— <sup>25</sup> who was betrayed *and* crucified because of our sins, and was



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raised [from the dead] because of our justification [our acquittal— absolving us of all sin before God].

## **The Purpose**

- John closes by disclosing his purpose in writing this narrative about JESUS' life
  - John 20:30-31
    - <sup>20:30</sup> There are also many other signs (attesting miracles) that Jesus performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these have been written so that you may believe [with a deep, abiding trust] that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed), the Son of God; and that by believing [and trusting in and relying on Him] you may have life in His name.
  - That others may read and believe...
    - JESUS is the CHRIST
    - JESUS is the Son of GOD
    - You have Eternal life in HIM

## **The Conclusion (Application)**

- What does it come down to? It comes down to this
  - Do you Believe?

What do you Believe about JESUS?

Isaiah 53:1-12

<sup>53:1</sup> Who has believed [confidently trusted in, relied on, and adhered to] our message [of salvation]? And to whom [if not us] has the arm *and* infinite power of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup> for He [the Servant of God] grew up



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before Him like a tender shoot (plant), and like a root out of dry ground; He has no *stately* form or *majestic* splendor that we would look at Him, nor [handsome] appearance that we would be attracted to Him. <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows *and* pain and acquainted with grief; and like One from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we did not appreciate His worth *or* esteem Him. <sup>4</sup> but [in fact] He has borne our griefs, and He has carried our sorrows *and* pains; yet we [ignorantly] assumed that He was stricken, struck down by God and degraded *and* humiliated [by Him]. <sup>5</sup> but He was wounded for our transgressions, He was crushed for our wickedness [our sin, our injustice, our wrongdoing]; the punishment [required] for our well-being *fell* on Him, and by His stripes (wounds) we are healed. <sup>6</sup> all of us like sheep have gone astray, we have turned, each one, to his own way; but the LORD has caused the wickedness of us all [our sin, our injustice, our wrongdoing] to fall on Him [instead of us]. <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth [to complain or defend Himself]; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before her shearers, so He did not open His mouth. <sup>8</sup> after oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation [His contemporaries], who [among them] concerned himself *with the fact* that He was cut off from the land of the living [by His death] for the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke [of death] *was due*? <sup>9</sup> His grave was assigned with the wicked, but He was with a rich man in His death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth. <sup>10</sup> yet the LORD was willing to crush Him, causing Him to suffer; If He would give Himself as a guilt offering [an atonement for sin], He shall see *His* [spiritual] offspring, He shall prolong *His* days, and the will (good pleasure) of the LORD shall succeed *and* prosper in His hand. <sup>11</sup> as a result of the anguish of His soul, He shall see it and be satisfied; by His knowledge [of what He has accomplished] the



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Righteous One, My Servant, shall justify the many [making them righteous—upright before God, in right standing with Him], for He shall bear [the responsibility for] their sins. <sup>12</sup>Therefore, I will divide *and* give Him a portion with the great [kings and rulers], and He shall divide the spoils with the mighty, because He [willingly] poured out His life to death, and was counted among the transgressors; yet He Himself bore *and* took away the sin of many, And interceded [with the Father] for the transgressors.

