

Wed Night



FRESH ENCOUNTER

## I WILL NOT BELIEVE

SEPTEMBER 11, 2024 | TOBI ENGLAND

*"But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. 26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. 27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. 28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. 29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. 30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." (John 20:24-31)*

### INTRODUCTION

- Jesus had 3 year ministry during Roman reign of Tiberius Caesar
- Roman emperor ruled between 81-96 AD - Domitian
  - \* Son of Vespasian
  - \* younger brother of Titus
- John wrote epistles of John, book of Revelation, & gospel of John under rule of Domitian
- John wrote the most about apostle Thomas
- Thomas asks several questions during Upper Room Discourse (John chap 14)

- Jesus did not rebuke Thomas  
\* Jesus answered Thomas' doubt

## 1. THE Doubt OF THOMAS (v. 24-25)

- John's gospel refutes Domitian

## 2. THE Demonstration OF GRACE (v. 26-29)

### A. Condescension of Jesus (v. 26-27)

Jesus appears again after 8 days

DELAY OF GOD. JESUS WORKS ON HIS TIMETABLE  
GRACE OF GOD. GOD IS THE SOURCE OF REVELATION  
GOD IS NOT AFRAID OF YOUR DOUBT. GO TO HIM WITH IT.

### B. Confusion of Thomas (v. 28)

God takes doubt leading to faith

ROMAN EMPEROR DOMITIAN CLAIMED THE TITLE "OUR LORD AND GOD."  
"our hands have handled" (1 John 1:1) eyewitness  
STRONG FAITH IS NOT IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION OF YOUR DOUBT, BUT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF IT.

### C. Congratulations of Jesus (v. 29) -

Blessings to those who believe without seeing Jesus

"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:  
9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls."  
(1 Peter 1:8-9)

## 3. THE Design OF SCRIPTURE (v. 30-31)

### A. Bountiful evidence

"Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know." (Acts 2:22) Peter preaching on Pentecost  
Paul speaks to Herod Agrippa II "For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner." (Acts 26:26)

### B. Purpose of Revelation (vs 31) these things written...

- Emperor Domitian started custom of calling Caesar "Dominus et Deus"  
\* saying means "my lord & my God"  
- But Jesus came...  
- John, "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ..."