

twin. We do not know if he had a twin brother or a sister. We do not know if the twin was still living or not.

We do know that the Bible tells us Thomas was called Didymus, and that Thomas was a devoted follower of Jesus.

Did Thomas serve Jesus, leaving a twin to do so? Perhaps. If so, this fact should further deepen one's appreciation for Thomas.

Details From John Chapter 20

*"...where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. (20) And when he had so said, **he shewed unto them his hands and his side.** Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord... (24) But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came." (John 20:19-20, 24)*

Jesus appeared to the others and showed them His hands and side, but Thomas was not there.

*"And after eight days... 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." (John 20:26-27)*

Jesus came to them again and this time Thomas was there. Jesus showed Thomas His hands and side, and Thomas believed. Take note that Jesus had eight days earlier showed the others His hands and side as well. Perhaps Thomas was only seeking to see what the others had already been shown. Perhaps he felt "left out".

*"And Thomas answered and said unto him, **My Lord and my God.**" (John 20:28)*

We should rejoice in this result of Christ showing Himself to Thomas in order to assuage Thomas's doubts. The outcome of this interaction is one of the **most clear** declarations in Scripture that **Jesus IS God!**

There are many Biblical statements regarding the deity of Jesus; however, this is one of the most bold and straight forward of them.

*"Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: **blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.**" (John 20:29)*

Because of Thomas' doubts, Jesus proclaims a special blessing upon all of us who have **not** physically seen Jesus, but yet we **still believe.**

Conclusions:

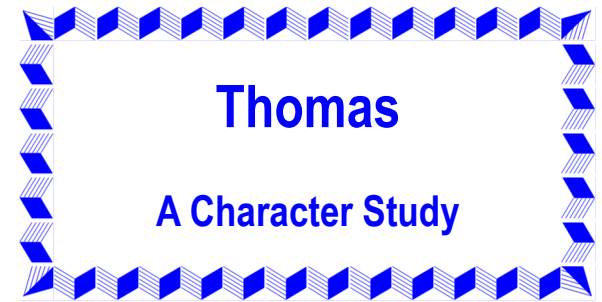
There are many things we can learn from what the Bible says about Thomas. Some include:

- * Don't jump to conclusions - probably most of us have labeled Thomas as a **doubter.**
- * Don't believe the first thing you hear about others. There is likely **more to the story.**
- * The Bible has a **lot to say** (even about seemingly obscure subjects)! Thomas is mentioned by name in only 12 verses and five of those are lists of disciples.

Thomas - **Loving, Bold Friend, Twin, Loyal, Doubting** - perhaps this is a more complete and accurate picture of Thomas.

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By: Robert Dallmann

*"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.**" (John 20:25)*

When one mentions the name of the biblical "Thomas", most people immediately think of "**Doubting Thomas**". Is this the reality of the character of Thomas? What does the Bible actually say about Thomas and his life?

The conclusion of this brief study will reveal a man of deep love for Jesus and dedication to his Savior and Lord.

Doubting Thomas

Let's begin by addressing the concept of "Doubting Thomas". The source of this moniker is clearly the passage quoted above as well as the following text:

*"Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. **Stop doubting and believe.**" (John 20:25)*

THOMAS - A CHARACTER STUDY

Clearly, Thomas “doubted” that Jesus had risen from the dead. It is not inaccurate to believe that Thomas had been faithless in this instance.

But is this the only characterization of Thomas in the Bible? Is this the complete story?

Doubting Other Apostles

The resurrected Jesus had appeared on different occasions to people other than the apostles... and **ALL THE APOSTLES DOUBTED!**

“9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

*11 And they, **when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not***

12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

*13 And they went and told it unto the residue: **neither believed they them.**”*

(Mark 16:9-13)

As we can see from this passage of Scripture, **ALL** of the disciples did **NOT believe** that Jesus was alive.

Mary Magdalene testified of the resurrected Jesus... **but the disciples doubted.**

Two of them testified of seeing the resurrected Jesus on the country road... **but the disciples doubted.**

The only difference between Thomas and the others is that Thomas **doubted** one time more than the others.

Loving Thomas

*“Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, **Let us also go, that we may die with him.**” (John 11:16)*

The above verse comes from the story where Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. Lazarus dies and is buried. The religious leaders had recently sought to kill Jesus in this region and the disciples did not want Jesus to go back there. Jesus tells them Lazarus had died and He had to go to raise him from the dead.

Thomas reveals his love for Jesus by saying “Let’s go with Jesus so that we may also die with Him.” Thomas did not understand the plan... but he loved Jesus so much that he wanted to be with Him, even at the cost of his own life!

Thomas The Bold Friend

*“Thomas saith unto him, Lord, **we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?**” (John 14:5)*

In this section of Scripture, Jesus tells His disciples that He is going away and will prepare a place for them. Jesus tells them that they know the way.

Thomas loves Jesus so much and does not want to be parted from Him, so Thomas tells Jesus that **“we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”**

It appears, since Thomas said **“WE”** don’t know the way, that he may have been speaking for the others as well as for himself. Perhaps the others were too timid to ask. Perhaps Thomas desperately wanted to

know. While we don’t know why Thomas alone spoke up at this point, what we do know is that the next verse is a favorite truth of evangelists. Jesus answers Thomas and says...

*“Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**” (John 14:6)*

Thomas The Twin - Didymus

*“There were together Simon Peter, and **Thomas called Didymus,** and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.” (John 21:2)*

Three times in John’s Gospel, the apostle John tells us that Thomas was also called “Didymus”. Why does John point out this fact? We don’t know. What we do know is that it is in the Scriptures and therefore is information that God decided was important to include.

In light of this, we will look at the definitions of the Bible words for “Thomas” and “Didymus”. Both words are related to being “twins”.

Thomas = Strong's G2381 - Thōmas - “of Chal-dee origin (compare H8380); **the twin**”

Didymus = Strong's G1324 - Didymos - “prolongation from G1364; double, i.e. **twin**”

Since both Thomas and Didymus mean **twin**, it is very likely that Thomas was a twin. For some reason God wants us to know that.

Twins are very often **closer** than other siblings, routinely they are inseparable. However, the Bible does not tell us anything about Thomas’