

Study of John 20
by
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John 20:1-31

1 The first day of the week

In the Greek Scriptures it says *And on the first of the Sabbaths,* (Sabbaton, Strong's number G4521 *σάββατον*, *sábbaton*, of Hebrew origin (07676); the Sabbath or Shabbat, the day of weekly repose from secular avocations, by extension, a se'nnight, or seventh night, the interval between two Sabbaths; likewise the plural in all the above applications, Sabbath Day or Week)

To understand the time frame, of when Miryam of Magdala came to the tomb, we first have to understand that a day in the Scriptures is not defined as beginning at midnight nor does it end at midnight the next day, Scripture makes it quite clear that the day begins at evening and concludes at evening the next day, *Genesis 1:5 And Elohim called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*

The Scribes have purposely changed the words of the Scriptures to make it read *the first day of the week*, so that it would line up with their false assertion that Yeshua rose from the dead on Sunday morning, while in fact, He rose at evening on Saturday, just before it became the next day, and therefore that is why it was dark when Miriam of Magdala came to the tomb, because the Shabat had just ended and she rushed to the Tomb site, where Yeshua was entombed but as we will see, as we read on, the Tomb was empty.

*An on the first of the Sabbath, came Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and sees the stone taken away from the sepulchre. 2 Then she ran, and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Yeshua loved, and said unto them, They have taken away the Master out of the sepulchre, and we do **NOT** know where they have laid Him.*

It is very obvious by Miriam's and Peter's words, that they had **NOT** yet completely **believed** Messiah's words, when He told them, before He was crucified, that three days and three nights after His death, He would be resurrected, therefore, they were very sad because they believed that His body was taken away, which they believed robbed them of the opportunity to give Him a proper burial.

*Verse 3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. 4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. 5 And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet he did not go in. 6 Then came Simon Peter following him, and he went into the sepulchre, and saw the linen clothes lying there, But the **napkin***

(Soudarion, Strong's number G4676 *σουδάριον*, *soudárium*, of Latin origin; a Soudarion, a sweat-cloth, to cover or bind the face of a corpse)

*But the Soudarion, that was about His head, was **NOT** lying with the linen clothes, it was **wrapped together***

(Entylíssō, Strong's number G1794, ἐντυλίσσω, entylíssō, from 1722 and τυλίσσω, tylíssō, which means, to twist, to entwine, wind up, roll up, wrap in, wrap together)

In a place by itself.

*John 11:43 And when Yeshua thus had spoken, He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. 44 And he that **was dead** came forth, bound hand and foot with grave-clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin (Soudarion, σουδάριον). Yeshua said unto them, Loose him, and let him go.*

I know that many of you have been told that the meaning of the folded napkin is that Messiah was leaving a message that He was **NOT** going to return to this place, because according to the people that tell this story, If someone was happy with the meal that he had received, and, with the way that he was treated, then, he would just crunch up the napkin and throw it on the table, **BUT** if he was not happy with the way that he was treated, he would fold the napkin as a sign of disgust, which meant, that he was **NOT** happy about the way that he was treated, and, because of that very poor treatment, he would never return to that place again. This is suppose to show us that Messiah was not happy about the way that He was treated, scourged, humiliated and crucified, and dying on the cross, therefore, they say that Messiah is communicating the message to all of us, that He is never going to go through that again, and he is never returning to the Tomb, once was enough; **BUT**, I have rto tell you that that is just a story, that someone dreamt up, and there is no support for it anywhere in Scripture. **SO**, what does the rolled up Soudarion really represent, what message was Messiah trying to tell us through this particular clue of the rolled up Soudarion? As I said, the word translated as napkin is the Greek word Soudarion, which is a cloth that they put over the face of the corpse, it is not a napkin, and according to the Greek text, it was not necessarily folded, it was rolled up. The fact that the grave clothes were still there, in the Tomb, is evidence that it was **NOT** grave robbers that stole the body, **NOR** was it the Roman soldiers, **NOR** the religious leaders, for if they had stolen the body of Messiah, they would have, without a doubt, taken all the grave clothes with them, to remove any doubt that He was resurrected, **BUT** the grave clothes were left exactly where Messiah had been placed in the Tomb, which I believe means, that Messiah actually rose **through the grave clothes**, just like Messiah will later on, walk **though locked doors to be with His Disciples**, and I believe that Messiah Himself, rolled up the Soudarion, to show all who would see and or read about this incident, that **IT** was He, Messiah that did this, and no one else. I believe that Messiah is saying, I did this exactly as I prophesied I would, I am now resurrected, and you will see me again soon.

*Verse 8 Then the other disciple who arrived at the sepulchre first, also went in, and **he saw, and believed.***

Since it says that the other disciple, which is said to be John, **saw** and **then believed**, it means **that before he saw the evidence of the grave clothes being exactly where Messiah had been laid in the Tomb, he either doubted or did NOT believe what Messiah had said about Himself**, that He would **RISE** from the dead after three days and three nights in the Tomb. That is very significant, because, we have to remember, that His disciples were with Him for three and half years, and they saw all the miracles that He did, they listened to all of His teachings, and since they stayed with Him, it means that they believed His Words and according to Messiah, they also believed that the Father had sent Him.

*Verse 9 For as **YET** they did **NOT KNOW** the Scripture, that He **MUST** rise again from the dead.*

This is talking about Messiah's very own disciples, the people that were with Him for three and a half years, and it says that **AS YET, THEY DID NOT KNOW** that the Scriptures stated that Messiah must rise again from the dead, even though, Messiah told them many times, and Scripture also prophesied it. That is absolutely unbelievable to me, that Messiah's own disciples, did **NOT** know that He was going to be resurrected.

What are **WE**, you and I, to learn from this? We are to learn that the Scriptures, that the Disciples relied on, was the Torah and the Tanach (*what the church fathers have erroneously called the Old Testament*), for the Apostolic Scriptures had **NOT** yet been written, and we **KNOW**, that the Torah **IS** Yahweh's eternal and everlasting **TRUTH**. Therefore, we have to understand that we are **NOT** to be like Messiah's Disciples, before His death, who even though, they had been with Messiah for over three years, and even though they were told by Messiah Himself, that He would be resurrected from the dead, **DID NOT BELIEVE HIM**, until they got proof. **WE**, on the other hand, **ARE** to believe His Words, **without having to be shown by some physical evidence**, like John, Peter and all the other disciples needed, in order to believe that Messiah had actually been resurrected.

*Verse 10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. 11 But Mary, stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, 12 And she saw two angels (witnesses) in white, sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Yeshua had lain. 13 And they said unto her, Woman, why do you weep? She said unto them, Because they have taken away my Master, and I do **NOT** know where they have laid Him.*

Here we see that Miryam of Magdala also **doubted** and or **did Not** believe the words that Messiah had spoken about His resurrection, therefore, she is distressed because she believes that someone has stolen the body of Messiah. It doesn't appear, that the idea or thought, that Messiah might be resurrected had occurred to her yet.

*Verse 14 And when she had said this, she turned around, and saw Yeshua standing, **BUT did NOT KNOW** that it was Yeshua. 15 Then Yeshua said unto her, Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?*

Here, we see that Miryam of Magdala is confronted by the resurrected Messiah, and she still does **NOT** recognize Him, which simply tells us, that she did **NOT** expect Him to be resurrected or else she would have been looking for Him, and more than likely, **IF** she had indeed believed that He was resurrected, and therefore was looking for Him, she would have recognized right away, that it was Messiah, that was talking with her.

*Verse 15 She, **supposing** Him to be the **gardener**, said unto him, Sir, if you have taken Him somewhere, tell me where you have laid Him, to rest, and I will take Him away.*

Again, this just reaffirms to us, that none of the women or the disciples of Messiah, actually **believed** that Messiah would be resurrected from the dead, even though they all witnessed the miracle of Lazarus being resurrected for the dead, and even though, this was indeed the third day, after He had been entombed, and **IF** any of them had believed that He was going to be resurrected, they would have been looking for Him, and **NOT** be surprised to see Him.

Verse 16 Yeshua said unto her, Mary. She then turned herself, and said unto Him, Rabboni; which is

to say, *Master*:

Now whether it was His voice, His presence, or the Holy Spirit prompting her, we do not **KNOW**, **BUT** it is evident that she finally recognizes Him and calls Him Master, and she moves toward Him to give Him a hug because she was so happy that He was alive, however Messiah said in *Verse 17* *Yeshua said unto her, Do NOT touch Me;*

WHY?

For I am NOT yet ascended to My Father:

What are we to learn from this, why was Miryam of Magdala **NOT** permitted to touch Yeshua? It is because He was in a purified state, and **IF** anyone touched Him, they could have polluted Him, and then the sacrifice, which happens to be Him, could **NOT** have been presented to our heavenly Father, and the Father's plan of Redemption on to Salvation, would have been nullified, because the sacrifice **MUST** be unblemished, before it is acceptable.

Instead, go to My brethren, and say unto them, I Messiah, ascend unto My Father, and your Father; and to My Elohim and your Elohim.

As you know the Christian church father's believe and teach that Messiah did **NOT** obey the Father's Commandments, because they say, that He broke the Shabat, He ate what He wanted to eat, He made His own commandments, and they say that He also did many other things, that were contrary to the Words of the Father's Torah of Life. **BUT** here, Messiah says, that He is going to the Father to be presented to the Father, **as the acceptable sacrifice**. Therefore we have to understand that **IF** He had done even one of the things that the church father's believe and teach that He did, then Messiah would have been **disqualified from being the sacrificial Lamb and we would ALL still be in our original sin**, with no possibility of redemption onto salvation. Therefore, it is very evident or should be very evident, that this event of Messiah going to the Father first, before dealing with His Disciples, **IS** telling us that **NOTHING** of what the church fathers believe and teach, about Messiah **NOT OBEYING THE WORDS OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER'S TORAH OF LIFE, IS TRUE**, for Messiah Himself said, **I do NOTHING except what I have seen the Father do, and I say NOTHING except what My Father has Commanded Me to say**.

Verse 18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen Messiah, and that He had spoken these things unto her. 19 Then being evening the same day at evening, being the first day of the week,

What *verse 18* actually says is *Then it was evening of the First of the Sabbaths*, which means, that it was evening on Saturday, just before the beginning of Sunday, since according to Scripture, **the Biblical day begins at evening and ends at evening the following day**. Therefore, this is telling us that as far as the Roman calendar is concerned, it is still Saturday evening, when Miryam of Magdala ran to meet the disciples and tell them that she had seen Messiah and that she had spoken with Him. Next we are told that once the disciples were in room with the doors locked because they were afraid of retaliation by the Jewish leaders, it says in the balance of *verse 19*:

When the doors were SHUT where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, Yeshua came and stood in the midst of them, and said, Peace be unto you.

Now I certainly would have liked to be there, the moment that Messiah finally appeared to His disciples, in a room where all the doors were locked, which means, that there was no earthly way for Messiah to get into that room with His disciples, and **YET**, we are told that He appeared before them, which means that He either materialized before their very eyes, or He walked through wooden doors as if there was nothing there. Either way, it is a miracle, which helped them to finally realize that Messiah was indeed alive, and that what He had prophesied about Himself being resurrected from the dead **WAS AND IS INDEED TRUE**.

Verse 20 And when Messiah had said these things, He showed unto them His hands and His side.

Messiah had been with His disciples for three and half years, and He knew their hearts, their prayers, their hopes, and the level of belief they had, and He knew that even though He was standing right in front of them, that some of them, still needed **proof**, therefore, He showed them His pierced hands and His side where He was pierced with a lance.

Next we are told in *verse 21 Then the disciples were glad, when they saw the Master.*

The word **then** tells us that it took some convincing, some proof, for them to believe, but once they were presented with **the irrefutable proof that this was their Messiah standing in front of them**, they were glad, because they now knew, that it was the real Messiah, the one sent from the Father.

Then Yeshua said to them again, Peace be unto you:

(שְׁלוֹמִים לָכֶם, Shalom Lakem, where the word Shalom means, entire, whole, complete, healthy, safe, unharmed, perfect, at peace, and the word Lakem means, to you, plural, therefore Messiah is saying, I am now here to make you whole and complete, to bring peace into your lives, by teaching you the **TRUTH**, for when you know the **TRUTH**, it will set you **free**, and you will be free indeed, and the word Lakem, means, to or unto you)

*As my Father has sent Me, to give you His message of everlasting Life contained in the Words of His Torah of Life, which happens to be, the Words of His eternal and everlasting **TRUTH**.*

*Even so, I Messiah send **YOU, to do the same**, to bring the Father's message of everlasting Life that is contained in His Words of **TRUTH**, in the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life, to the people.*

Verse 22 And when Messiah had said this, He breathed on them, and said unto them, Receive the Holy Spirit:

What does that mean? Well, first of all, we have to understand that **IF** Messiah breathed on them, on His disciples, and they received the Holy Spirit, **THEN**, it means that the Holy Spirit was in Messiah, when He breathed upon His Disciples, and **IF** the Holy Spirit was indeed in Messiah, it means that according to *Ezekiel 36:26-27* that Messiah had **allowed** the Holy Spirit to **CAUSE** Him to believe, follow, obey and **DO** all the Words of the Father's Torah of Life, or else, the Holy Spirit would **NOT** have been in Him, and if that were the case, it means that Messiah could **NOT** have passed on the Holy Spirit to His Disciples, as He professed He has done.

What is the biblical definition of receiving the Holy Spirit?

For the answer to that question we have to go to Scripture, to *Ezekiel 36:22-38*

*Therefore say unto the house of Yisrael, Thus says Yahweh Elohim: I do **NOT DO** this for your sake, O house of Yisrael, **BUT for My holy Name's sake, which YOU have profaned among the heathen, where YOU went.** And I will sanctify My Great Name, which was profaned among the heathen, which **YOU have profaned** in the midst of them; and the heathen shall **KNOW** that I am Yahweh, says Adonai Yahweh, when I shall be **sanctified in YOU before their eyes.** For I will take **YOU** from among the heathen, and **gather YOU** out of all countries, and I will **bring YOU** into your own land. Then, I, Yahweh, will sprinkle clean water upon **YOU, AND YOU SHALL BE CLEAN:** from all **YOUR filthiness,** and, from all **YOUR idols,** will I cleanse **YOU.** A **New Heart** also will I give **YOU,** and a **New Spirit will I put within YOU:** and, I will take away the **stony heart** out of **YOUR** flesh, and I will give **YOU a heart of flesh** (a malleable heart, a heart that I can and will shape). **And I WILL PUT MY HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN YOU,** and I will **CAUSE YOU** to walk in My Statutes (Torah), and **YOU SHALL KEEP My Judgments** (Torah), and **DO** them. **And YOU SHALL** dwell in the land that I gave to **YOUR** fathers; and **YOU SHALL** be My people, and I will be **YOUR** Elohim. I will also save **YOU** from all **YOUR uncleanness:** and I will call for the corn, and I will increase it, and **lay no famine upon YOU.** And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that **You** shall receive no more reproach of famine among the heathen. Then, **SHALL YOU** remember your own evil ways, and **YOUR** doings that were **NOT GOOD,** that did **NOT** function in the manner that Yahweh wanted you to function, and shall **loathe YOURSELVES** in **YOUR** own sight, for **YOUR iniquities** and for **YOUR abominations.** Not for **YOUR** sake do I this, says Yahweh Elohim, be it known unto **YOU:** be **ashamed and confounded for YOUR OWN WAYS,** O house of Yisrael. Thus says Yahweh Elohim; In the day that **I shall have cleansed YOU** from all **YOUR iniquities, YOUR Torah transgressions,** I will also **CAUSE YOU** to dwell in the cities, and the waste places shall be built. And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, **This land that was desolate, IS become like the garden of Eden;** and the waste and desolate and ruined cities **are become fenced,** and are **inhabited.** Then the heathen that are left round about **YOU** shall **know** that I Yahweh build the ruined places, and plant that which was desolate: I Yahweh have spoken it, and **I WILL DO IT.** Thus says Yahweh Elohim; I will yet for this, be inquired of by the house of Yisrael, to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock. As the holy flock, as the flock of Jerusalem in **her solemn feasts;** so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of men: and they shall **KNOW** that I am Yahweh.*

To be filled with the Holy Spirit of Yahweh, means that a person has chosen to acquiesce and or permit, our heavenly Father's Holy Spirit to **CAUSE** them to believe, follow, obey and **DO** what the Father has Commanded us to do, in His Directives for everlasting Life, the Words of His Torah.

Verse 23 Whosoever's sins you remit (forgive), they are remitted (forgiven) unto them; and Whosoever's sins you retain (you do not forgive), they are retained (not forgiven).

Yahweh has given His disciples (of which **YOU, IF YOU** have chosen to believe, follow, obey **ALL** the Words of the Father's Torah of Life, are one of them) the power to forgive Sins, and or retain them, based on the Elohim given discernment that is in them, because they have allowed the Holy Spirit to indwell them, and cause them to Obey the Father's Words, which allows them to discern the heart condition of the people that they are judging.

*Verse 24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus (Twin), was **NOT** with them when Yeshua came. 25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Master. But he said unto them, **Except I shall see the print of the nails in His hands, and put MY finger into the print of the nails, and thrust MY hand into His side, I WILL NOT BELIEVE.***

Thomas is a perfect picture of the people that profess to believe in the Elohim of Abraham, Yitzchaq and Ya'aqov, but choose, to believe and adhere to, the doctrines of their man made religions, they will **NOT** believe the Words of the Father's Torah of Life, unless, they are given all kinds of proof, and even then, it has been my experience that very few, if any, will believe the evidence given to them from the Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Directives for everlasting Life, the Words of His Torah, for they have been taught for years, that the Torah has somehow been done away with or abolished in whole or in part, and that anyone who willingly chooses to follow and obey the instructions of the Torah is under bondage.

I have a Christian friend that I still speak with once and a while, and he said to me, once I see you curing the blind, the crippled and the diseased, and once you can raise people from the dead, for then I will believe what you say, but until then, I believe that you are under the law and that you are on the path to eternal damnation. Like Thomas, they too **NEED PROOF** before they will believe

Next we have a lesson on how we are to believe the Word of Elohim, believe the Words of the Father's Torah of Life made flesh.

*Verse 26 And after eight days again His disciples were within, and Thomas was with them: then Yeshua, came into the room even though **the doors were shut**, and He stood in the midst, and said, Peace Shalom be unto you.*

Now the fact that He appeared in the room, even though the doors were shut and locked, should have been enough proof that He was resurrected, but it was not enough proof for Thomas. What about you, if you were in Thomas' position, in a closed room and Messiah appeared to you, after you had witnessed Him being crucified and dying on the cross, would you believe that it was Messiah standing there, or would you need additional proof as Thomas needed?

*Verse 27 Then He said unto Thomas, **place your finger Thomas, and behold My hands; and reach here with your hand, and thrust it into My side: and do not be faithless anymore, BUT believe.***

Messiah understood that Thomas needed more proof and He was not angry with Thomas, He simply said come here Thomas, and place your finger in My Hand and then, once you have done that, place your hand in my side where I was impaled with a lance. Now I don't know if Thomas did put his finger in the holes of Messiah's hands, and if he put his whole hand in Messiah's side, but you can rest assured that he actually **SAW** the holes in Messiah's hands and the hole in His side, which caused him to say I believe.

***THEN**, Thomas answered and said unto Messiah, My Master and my Elohim.*

Messiah/Yahweh, the Words of the Living Torah made flesh, understands that many people will need more proof than just *words*, and in many cases, He will provide that **PROOF, BUT** it is much better for everyone concerned, if they simply willingly choose to surrender their hearts, minds, souls and strength to Yahweh, and commit to believe the Words of His Torah of Life, without having the need

to **SEE** any physical proof, because, according to Yahweh/Messiah, the people who believe without any physical proof being shown to them, **will be blessed**, and I for one want to be blessed. What about You?

*Verse 29 Yeshua said unto him, Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed: **BLESSED ARE THEY THAT HAVE NOT SEEN, AND YET HAVE BELIEVED.***

John tells us in *verse 30 And many other signs did Yeshua truly **DO** in the presence of His disciples, which are **NOT** written in this book: 31 But these miracles, (like being resurrected, walking through locked doors) are written, that **YOU might believe** that Yeshua **IS** the Messiah, the Son of Elohim; and that believing, **YOU** might have Life (everlasting Life) through His Name, His Shem*

(שׁם, Shem, means name, designation, reputation, renown, fame, character, the essence of, it could be said, that it is everything that person stands for, his beliefs, his way of life)

This tells us that Life everlasting can only be achieved through the Words of the Living Torah made flesh, Yeshua/Yahweh, for without Him, there is only death. Amein

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought, and your every deed. Until we meet again. Shalom Alechem! Amein