

EASTER 2022

“Did Jesus Really Come Back to Life?”

*On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were **wondering about this**, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! **Remember how he told you**, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’” **Luke 24:1-7 (NIV)***

Then they remembered** his words. When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. **But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.** Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, **wondering to himself what had happened.** **Luke 24:8-12 (NIV)

NONSENSE = “something that makes no sense; unintelligible language; or conduct or action that is absurd.”

*One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. They told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he replied, “**I won’t believe it unless** I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.”*

Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. Then he said to

Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!" "My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed. Then Jesus told him, "**You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.**"
John 20:24-29 (NLT)

EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE = "knowledge gathered by observation and experimentation."

THE RECORDED ACCOUNT

THE STONE MOVED

THE GUARDS GONE

THE SEAL BROKEN

THE WOMEN'S TESTIMONY

THE EMPTY TOMB

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come **so that** they may have **life**, and may have it **abundantly**. John 10:10 (NET)*