

**JESUS IS THE ONE
WHO CONFIRMS**

John 20:24-31

INTRODUCTION

- The disciples gather together once again. This time Thomas is present.
- They tell Thomas about previously seeing Jesus, but Thomas is in disbelief.
- Jesus appears and confronts the unbelief of Thomas by showing Thomas His wounds.
- John concludes by explaining his gospel is written to show that Jesus was the Christ.

JESUS AND THOMAS

JOHN 20:24-29

STATEMENT

- Statement by Thomas (24-25) shows that not all Christians are gullible.
- He is the original skeptic who says “show me.”
- Judas depicts betrayal, Peter illustrates denial, and Thomas demonstrated skepticism.
- Disciples “told” him - is in the imperfect tense, could be translated - “disciples keep on telling him.”

STATEMENT

- After hearing this, Thomas is fed up with such nonsense. He is tired of trying to maintain faith.
- He takes the motto “seeing is believing” to the next dimension using strong language.
- Unless I see the mark (*tupon*) and place finger in the place (*topon*) along with the place into his side.
- No mention of nailing the feet in any gospel.

OBSERVATION

- Observation by Thomas (26-27) illustrates his transition from doubt to faith.
- Thomas at least joined the Sunday evening service a week later.
- Even though the doors were locked Jesus appeared.
- Jesus doesn't say much to the other disciples but focuses instead on Thomas.

OBSERVATION

- Jesus invites empirical investigation. This is a characteristic of Christianity: rational conclusion.
- Notice that Jesus did not scold Jesus or even condemn his hesitation.
- Jesus provided evidence for His resurrection.
- He then said to stop doubting (do not disbelieve) but instead believe.

EXCLAMATION

- Exclamation by Thomas (28-29) shows his doubt has been abandoned.
- Notice how he moves from a rough-talking skeptic to a willing worshiper.
- This is the first time in the gospel we hear the exclamation: “My Lord and my God.”
- The word “blessed” appears more than 375 times in Old Testament, and 100 times in the New Testament.

MAN OF DOUBT & FAITH

- We have heard the expression “doubting Thomas.”
- He showed this even before this passage:
 - Lazarus - “Let us go that we may die with him.”
 - Upper room - “How can we know the way?”
 - After resurrection - “Unless I see.”

MAN OF DOUBT & FAITH

- Jesus chose Thomas as a disciple - all four gospels mention him, but John gives him more attention.
- He was with Jesus when he raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:16). He came to die with Jesus and instead saw Jesus raise a man from the dead.
- Jesus prepared him and the disciples for His own death - yet he says that they don't know the way.

MAN OF DOUBT & FAITH

- It is unlikely that the disciples were calmly and rationally tried to convince Thomas they saw Jesus.
- They were no doubt excited and full of assurance.
- The response by Thomas shows the pain, agony, and agony they all felt before Jesus appeared to them.
- He rejects the eyewitness testimony of ten disciples and will only believe what he sees and feels.

MAN OF DOUBT & FAITH

- Jesus appears once again, apparently just to remove the doubts that Thomas had.
- He says to them, “Peace to you,” and then turns immediately to Thomas and shows He knows what Thomas said before. Jesus was there all the time.
- With humility and confession, Thomas declares “My Lord and my God.” All eleven disciples are now witnesses of the resurrection.

PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

JOHN 20:30-31

JESUS AND SIGNS

- (vs. 30) Jesus did other signs that aren't recorded in the gospels.
- Scholars are divided on how many miracles Jesus performed in the presence of the disciples, but at least 35 can be documented in the four gospels.
- John merely recorded 10 miracles in his gospel.
- The next verse explains why he chose less than 1/3 of the miracles of Jesus to record in his gospel.

GOSPEL

- (vs. 31) John explains the gospel was written so that his readers might believe.
- He chose the works and words of Jesus that would prompt readers to faith.
- That faith would give meaning to experience as believers found life in the name of Jesus.
- The resurrection of Jesus is anchor of faith.

PRINCIPLES
OF
DOUBT

1. DOUBTS ARE NORMAL

- The Bible honestly tells us that the people of faith often had doubts. We shouldn't be surprised.
- Thomas had doubts, and yet Jesus did not condemn him or criticize him for doubts.
- John the Baptist apparently had doubts when he was in prison. He began to wonder if Jesus was really the Messiah. Jesus points to his miracles as a demonstration that He is indeed the Messiah.

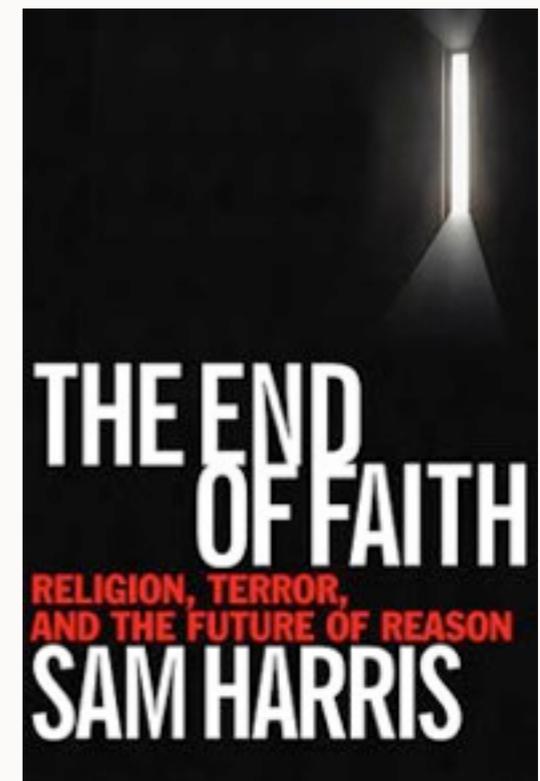
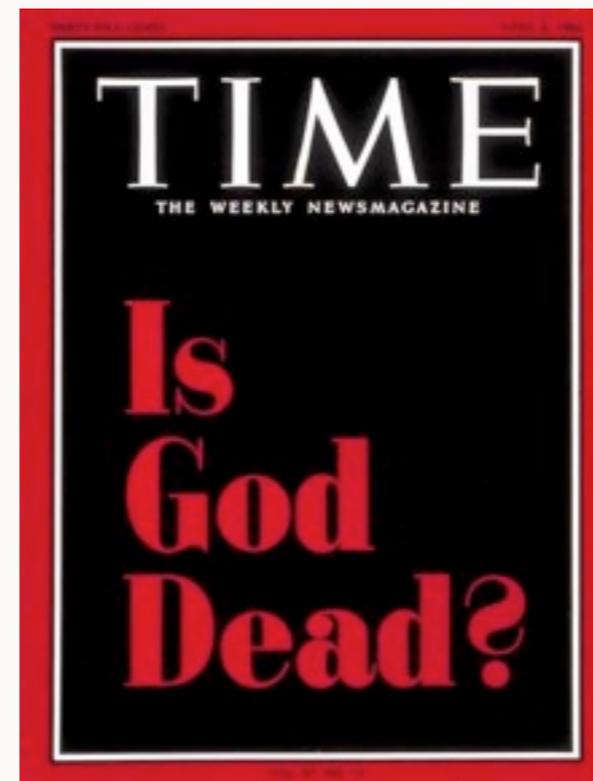
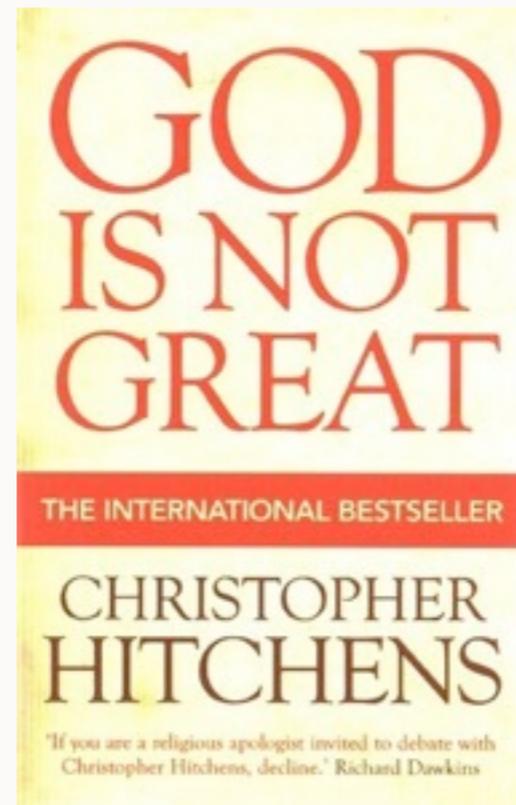
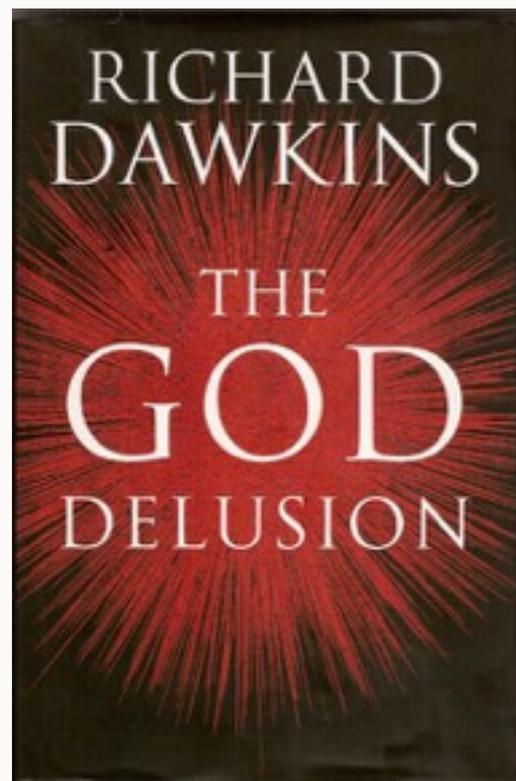
1. DOUBTS ARE NORMAL

- Abraham had doubts that God would protect him and later even doubted that he could be the father of the Jewish nation.
- Job asks God if He really loves him, and begins to ask questions about God's wisdom.
- Many of the Psalms express doubts about God's sovereignty and even God's goodness.
- Doubt is part of the human condition.

2. DOUBTS ARE UNIQUE

- Doubts come in many forms are are due to critics, circumstances, and conscience.
- Critics cause us to doubt God and the Bible.
- The Bible warns us that in the last days, there will be scoffers (2 Peter 3:3).
- There have been skeptics throughout the ages, but this is especially true today (New Atheists).

SKEPTICS AND SCOFFERS



2. DOUBTS ARE UNIQUE

- Circumstances can cause us to doubt God.
- When we go through the valley and face difficulties, doubts are almost inevitable. When we don't feel God answered our prayers, doubt is likely.
- Most Americans believe in God, but their view of God is tested in adversity. That is when we ask questions like, Where is God in the storm?

2. DOUBTS ARE UNIQUE

- Conscience can also be an avenue leading to doubt.
- It is the hardening of the mind to truth. It is the result of denial and disobedience.
- 1 Timothy 1:19 - “Cling tightly to your faith in Christ, and always keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their conscience, as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked.”

3. DOUBTS BUILD FAITH

- Sometimes the strongest faith comes from the human struggles with doubt.
- The doubts of Thomas were an opportunity for him to learn and then proclaim the gospel.
- Many of the leading apologists (Josh McDowell, Lee Strobel, Nancy Pearcey) of our day were skeptics and doubters that put God and the Bible to the test. Now they proclaim the gospel.

DEALING
WITH
DOUBT

1. ADMIT YOUR DOUBTS

- We shouldn't be surprised if we have doubts or if others have doubts.
- The church should be a safe place to express doubts, but many young people never feel they can ask questions about their faith in church.
- Having doubts doesn't mean you lack faith or aren't a Christian. As we have already seen, doubts are normal - great men of faith also had doubts.

2. DOUBT YOUR DOUBTS

- Turn doubt around. Often we doubt our beliefs and believe our doubts. We have this backwards.
- Proverbs 3:5 - “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding.”
- Who are you listening to these days? Do you listen to God’s Word, or do you listen to the world? Do you listen to your feelings of doubt or do you listen to what the Lord has said to you in His Word?

2. DOUBT YOUR DOUBTS

- Hebrews 11:6 - “believe God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him.”
- Begin with God, and ask Him your tough questions.
- Learn from others who had the same doubts and found a resolution in God’s Word and with evidence from science, history, and archaeology.
- Be skeptical of your doubts.

3. FAITH AND DOUBTS

- Apply faith to your doubts.
- We have a story of a man who asks Jesus to help him with his doubts (Mark 9:24).
- It may sound contradictory, but when you have doubts about God, go to God to help you with your doubt.
- If you lack faith, have faith to ask God for more faith.

3. FAITH AND DOUBTS

- Step out in faith, and you will often find that doubts will disappear.
- William Rainey - “Why didn’t somebody ever tell me that I could become a Christian and work on all my doubts afterwards?”
- Essentially Jesus was saying to Thomas (and ultimately to us) to stop doubting and start believing. Faith will eventually dispel doubt.

RESOURCES

