



Watchman's

Prayer Letter

Christian Friends of Israel

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Doubting that Doesn't Disqualify

(John 20:25-29, NKJV)

25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." 26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" 27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing. 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

Doubting Thomas. How's that for a name? Even though one day you came to believe, it is forever known that you once doubted; you once had trouble accepting something plainly revealed as truth. Sure you needed convincing, but must *everyone* know the shame of your former lack of faith? To be greeted, "Hey, it's Doubting Thomas!" Not exactly the welcome we want to have walking into a room. Not much is said in the Bible about Thomas, one of the twelve main disciples of Jesus and later an apostle. He got off to a bit of a rough start on his apostolic journey.

For three years, this chosen disciple heard first hand what thousands heard as Jesus preached about the Kingdom of God and the need for repentance to enter into it. What it must have been like to see so many miracles, to see the dead raised, and have divine power flow through his own body as, he too, cast out demons and healed the sick. Like the other disciples, Thomas heard Jesus prophesy that He would suffer, die, and be raised on the third day. Yet, having seen, heard, and walked with Jesus, some seed of doubt was deeply rooted in him and prevented him from surrendering all of his heart.

From my vantage point of being in the Land, at what seems like a global crossroads moment in history for the Jewish people here and abroad, I can't help but think about the Apostle Thomas. In this passage, Jesus had already appeared to the others in this same room where they had shut themselves in for fear of persecution. Amid the tremblings in the hours after Jesus crucifixion, Jesus came in greeting the disciples with *peace*. He stretched out His pierced hands to them and showed them His pierced side. For a reason the Bible does not explain, Thomas was missing from this first unveiling of the Risen Messiah. However, it seems clear that Thomas, full of doubt, was destined to be a part of the revelation. So, when the disciples were back in that room, Jesus came again, and this time Thomas was there with his brothers.

In meeting different people in the Land from different backgrounds with varying degrees of faith, and hearing their thoughts concerning the current plight of Israel with the Hamas War, global rise in anti-Semitism, and impending escalation on the northern border, a number have shared that all this turmoil must signal the Messiah's coming is near. If you've ever experienced severe trials, you'll agree that nothing brings the fragility of our human existence and the need for being saved from hard times to the fore like sickness, wars, and existential threats. Hard times can cause deep lingering

theological questions to surface for most people (there are always those who try to avoid the truth at all costs).



As we approach Purim and the spring feasts and celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, many people all over the world will be looking at these significant biblical narratives that shape their faith and identity. After October 7th, my prayer is that these precious biblical accounts will have a fresh new meaning and bring a sense of urgency to share why we

observe these days and feasts. They are not just traditions. These appointed times are meant to point to an end-time fulfillment when all things will be restored (Acts 3:21).

A new fallacy has arisen amongst Pro-Hamas supporters claiming Jesus was a Palestinian. This absurd claim has even reached the UN council chambers from Palestinian representatives. A pleasant surprise, however, is that in refuting this claim, there are credible Israeli news outlets and sources that have publicly stated that "Jesus was Jewish and born in Judea." For centuries, many Jews have refused to make any connection to Jesus' Jewishness, and at the least, doubted He was even if it were told to them. Though the enemy meant to sow doubt, this deception is forcing people to do

the research and connect the dots of historical truth that is the bedrock for our Judeo-Christian faith.

Like Thomas who was *out of the room* when Jesus first showed up and invited those present to touch Him, many people have been away from the place of encounter for 2,000 years. But, not wanting any of His *brothers* to miss the opportunity to see the hope of resurrection, Jesus appeared one more time on the eighth day for an up-close encounter with “Doubting Thomas.” Jesus—being gracious, patient, loving, and merciful—makes room even for the staunchest of skeptics. I see a parallel in Thomas as Israel finds itself “shut up in a room” after October 7th and sense an unveiling is taking place through the current crisis. Those who are behind closed doors, examining their hearts and doubts needing final proofs, will be given them.

When God wanted to prove to Pharaoh and the Egyptians that He alone was God, He didn't send one plague or miraculous judgment, He performed ten! Jesus, likewise, *“After His suffering, He presented Himself to them with many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a span of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3)”* God is inviting a whole generation of His people and all the nations to a second chance (or third, or fifth) to draw near to Him in these dark times. Maybe it's personal and you need to draw near again—cry out to God, He's gracious.

A frequently quoted prophecy concerning Israel among Christians comes from Zechariah 12:10 and says, *“Then I will pour out on the house of David and on the people of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and prayer, and they will look on Me, the One they have pierced. (BSB)”* I believe we're living in the days meant to prepare Israel for the “look.” How can we be a part of helping those around us to see Him and believe without a doubt that He is the Lord? Though we know God gives the increase and saves, He calls us to be salt and light in the world. As we await the return of over 100 hostages still captive in Gaza, and our IDF soldiers continue fighting in the south, and pushing back darkness in the north from rocket barrages coming from Hezbollah in Lebanon, let's intercede for a great awakening all over the world.



Let Us Pray:

-**Pray** for many veils to be removed during the spring feasts, Resurrection celebrations, and Ramadan. (**Isaiah 9:2; 2 Corinthians 3:14-17**)

-**Ask** God to show you how you can be a part of sharing the Good News about the resurrection of Jesus.

(Malachi 2:7; 2 Corinthians 5:20)

-**Intercede** for Jews all around the world to be comforted in God's covenant to them, and confident in His ability to keep His promises. **(Psalm 119:11, 105)**

-**Pray** for the Prince of Peace to comfort all the displaced and suffering people on both sides of this conflict, ask for the safe and immediate return of the hostages.

(Isaiah 9:6-7)

-**Pray** for peace and unity for Israel's war cabinet, Knesset, military, and across all sectors. **(Psalm 122:8; Psalm 133)**

-**Pray** for PM Bibi Netanyahu to be resolute in his governance of Israel. There is a push by international leaders to undermine his authority as Prime Minister of Israel. His authority is derived from God; pray that the fear of the Lord will keep him steadfast in the counsel and will of God **(2 Samuel 15:31; Isaiah 44:25)**

-**Intercede** for believers in the Land, that they will also share with the "Doubting Thomas" brothers in the hopes of preparing the way for the "second look."

(Acts 17:2; Acts 17:17)

Dear Prayer Partners:

Thank you for praying with us, whether through our newsletters, blogs, videos, or social media updates. We are grateful to stand in the gap alongside you full of faith to see His kingdom come and His will be done. We're called to the place of prayer with an unwavering commitment like the *Persistent Widow*. Though the war is prolonged, Jesus exhorted through the parable, "...*He will promptly carry out justice on their behalf. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth? (Luke 18:8, BSB)*" Answers to our prayers may seem long in coming, but we must not relent in asking—our defining quality in the last days will be our faith. Have faith, He who promised is Faithful to perform it.

Maranatha!

Suzie Georges

Wall of Prayer Project Coordinator

