

Study of John 20
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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 Sabbath 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 in, 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 the meal that he had received, and 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 that 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 He is saying that He is never going to go through that again, and he is never returning to the Tomb, once was enough; **BUT** 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 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 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, that Messiah's own disciples, did **NOT** know that He was going to be resurrected. What are **WE** to learn from this? We are to learn that the Scriptures that the Disciples relied on, was the Torah and the Tanach (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 Miriam 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 thought that Messiah might be resurrected has 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 Miriam 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 Him that was talking to 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, because 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 Miriam 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 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 claim, that first of all, Messiah broke the Shabat, that He ate what He wanted to eat and did **NOT** follow the dietary laws as they are laid out in *Vayiqra 11*, that He made His own commandments, and furthermore, they claim that He 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, Messiah, had indeed 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** teaching us, that **NOTHING** of what the church fathers believe and teach, about Messiah, choosing **NOT** to obey the Words of our heavenly Father, **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 Saturday evening, 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 have been there, the moment that Messiah finally appeared to His disciples, in a room, where all the doors were shut and 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 Him 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:

(שְׁלוֹם לְכֶם, Shalom Lekem, where the word Shalom means entire, whole, complete, healthy, safe, unharmed, perfect, at peace, and the word Lekem 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)

*As my Father has sent Me, to give you His message of everlasting Life contained in the Words of His Torah of Life, 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**, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, 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 that means that He 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 YiIsrael, Thus says Yahweh Elohim: I do **NOT DO** this for your sake, O house of Israel, **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 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. 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, **IS** to willingly and lovingly choose, to **ALLOW** the Holy Spirit to **CAUSE** each and every surrendered contrite obedient heart, 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, they are remitted unto them; and Whosoever's Sins you retain, they are retained.

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 a part of**) He has given them the power to forgive Sins, and or retain them, based on the Elohim given discernment that the Holy Spirit will give them IF they choose to allow Him to cause them to believe, follow and obey the Words of the Father's Torah of Life. That my friends, according to *Ezekiel 36:26-27* **IS** the Holy Spirit's Elohim given mandate, He is mandated by Yahweh to cause all people that will allow Him to indwell them, to believe, follow and Obey all the Words of the Father's Torah of Life, and once the Holy Spirit has the people's permission to indwell them, their obedience to the Words of the Torah of our heavenly Father **IS** what gives them the discernment to judge the people's heart condition, to see if they should or should **NOT** be forgiven of their sins.

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**, who, for some reason or other, choose to believe and adhere to, the doctrines of their man made religions, which means, that 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 of Life, for they have been taught for years, that the Torah has been done away with, abolished in whole or in part, and according to their theology, anyone who willingly chooses to follow and obey the instructions of the Torah, **IS** under bondage, and heading straight to hell, even though according to Scripture there is no such place as hell.

Next we have a lesson on how we are to believe the Word of Elohim, believe the Words of the Fathers 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 for Thomas or for anyone else for that matter, 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 in front of you, 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 the nail holes of My Hands, and then, place your hand in my side where I was impaled with a lance, and at that point Thomas, chose to believe, that this person was actually Messiah, who had been crucified on the Cross for our salvation.

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 **TRUTH, BUT**, it is much better if people willingly choose to surrender their hearts, minds, souls and strength to our heavenly Father, and willingly choose 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, essence of)

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

The only proof that we are given that Messiah is risen and that He wants all of us to believe all the Words that our heavenly Father, commanded Him to give to us, is what Messiah Himself says, in *Matthew 12:39 But He answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation SEEKS after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, BUT the sign of the prophet Jonah: 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

This means that we have already been given the sign, that Messiah will be resurrected and that all who believe, follow and obey the Words that He teaches, will be resurrected onto everlasting Life in the kingdom of our heavenly Father.

Unfortunately, many people, throughout the ages and very many people, even today, **ARE** seeking for signs and wonders, and according to Messiah, they will **NOT** find any, because, our heavenly Father has already given us the sign that Messiah's followers would be resurrected, **THE SIGN** that He, along with all the people that willingly and lovingly choose to follow and obey the Words that Messiah was commanded by our heavenly Father, to teach us, which happens to be, the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of life. It is very simple my friends, **IF you believe the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, THEN you do NOT need ANY signs or wonders**, because, you already believe, **BUT, IF you or anyone else for that matter, chooses NOT to believe the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, then**, Messiah's makes it very clear, that **NO OTHER SIGNS** will be given them, than what has already been given, which means, that the people who are continuously seeking for Signs and Wonders will be like the **five unwise virgins**, and like the people that Messiah spoke to in *Matthew 7:21-27 Not every one that says unto Me, Master, Master, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the WILL of my Father, who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, Master, Master have we not prophesied in Your Name? And in Your Name have not rebuked devils? And in Your Name, done many wonderful works? 23 And then, I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity, you that transgress the Words of My Father's Torah of Life. 24 Therefore, whosoever hears these Words of Mine, the Words that My heavenly Father commanded me to speak, the Words of His Torah of Life, AND OBEYS THEM, I will liken him unto a WISE MAN, who built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it DID NOT FALL: for it was founded upon a ROCK, and Eben, which means that it was built on the Words of the Father, Av, and the Son, Ben. 26 And every one that hears these Words of Mine that were given to Me by My heavenly Father, to give to You, AND DOES NOT KEEP NOR OBEY THEM, shall be likened unto a FOOLISH MAN, who built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

This means, that anyone, that does **NOT** keep the Words of the Father, that Messiah was commanded to give to us, **IS FOOLISH**, and unless these people, stop looking for signs and wonders and learn to focus on, believe, follow and obey the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, they will indeed be left out in the cold where there will be crying and gnashing of teeth. 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