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10-2018

A Biographical Study of Thomas

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Recommended Citation

Willmington, Harold, "A Biographical Study of Thomas" (2018). *New Testament Biographies*. 5.
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Thomas

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. The call of Thomas (Matt. 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15)
- II. The confusion of Thomas (John 14:1-7)—“In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:2-6).
- III. The conflicts of Thomas
 - A. His despair preceding the resurrection of Lazarus (John 11:7-16)—“Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judaea again. His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again? . . . These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him. Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him” (John 11:7-8, 11-16).
 - B. His doubt following the resurrection of Christ (John 20:24-29)
 1. The report to Thomas (John 20:24-25)—“But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the LORD” (John 20:24-25a).
 2. The reluctance of Thomas—“But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe” (John 20:25b).
- IV. The convincing of Thomas (John 20:26-29)
 - A. The manifestation—“And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you” (John 20:26).
 - B. The invitation—“Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing” (John 20:27).
 - C. The adoration—“And Thomas answered and said unto him, My LORD and my God” (John 20:28).
 - D. The observation—“Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed” (John 20:29).

STATISTICS

Brother: Thomas had an unnamed twin brother (John 11:16; 20:24; 21:2).

First mention: Matthew 10:3

Final mention: Acts 1:13

Meaning of his name: Thomas means “twin” (from the Greek); Didymus also mean “twin” (from the Aramaic).

Frequency of his name: Referred to 15 times

Biblical books mentioning him: Five books (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts)

Occupation: Apostle

Place of birth: The area of Galilee

Place of death: Tradition says he died in India.

Circumstances of death: Tradition says he died a martyr, killed by arrows as he was praying.

Important fact about his life: He was known as the doubting apostle.