

A week later the disciples were assembled together. Probably they were in the same place where they had been on the day of resurrection. This time Thomas was present. Jesus comes into the midst of the disciples. Jesus at once speaks to Thomas. He says, "Reach hither thy finger, and see My hands; and reach hither thy hand, and put it into My side; and be not faithless, but believing." (verse 27) At once Thomas passes from the depths of despondency and doubt to the most exalted heights of faith and trust. The words "My Lord and my God" are surely addressed to Jesus. Here is a triumphant confession of faith. The words of Thomas are a very lofty tribute which the apostle bears to his Lord. This is a very distinct assertion of the deity of Christ. At Caesares Philippi Peter had given a unique confession of the Messiahship of Jesus, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Still earlier in the ministry of Jesus we note the frank confession of the Messiahship in the words of Nathanael, "Thou art the Son of God; Thou art King of Israel." Here Thomas not only expresses faith in the resurrection, but also recognizes the Deity of Jesus. Jesus saith unto Thomas, "Because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." (verse 29)

This chapter closes with a statement of the evangelist's high purpose in writing his Gospel. The Gospel is a record of the "signs" which Jesus did. These are written both for Faith and life. "Many other signs therefore did Jesus in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye may have life in His name." (verses 30,31)

We have already given some attention to the three appearances of the risen Lord which are narrated in chapter 20. All three of these appearances took place in Jerusalem. Two of them happened on the