

**"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan****JOHN 20****John 20**

John 20 opens at the empty tomb! Praise the LORD! All of the Gospels give various details of this day when the women came to the tomb and found the stone rolled away. Then, the disciples were told, and the forty-day period after His resurrection began. John gives details that only he and Peter would know, and that were meaningful to him and the story as it unfolded. For example, in v.4, John gives the detail that he outran the older Peter. John was the youngest of the disciples. He recalls the touching story of Jesus and Mary of Magdala, and of the first meeting with the disciples as a group without Thomas, then with Thomas, and that encounter when Jesus asked Thomas to touch the imprint of the nails and scars of His crucifixion.

Let's focus on the last two verses, which will help us to thread all of John from Chapter One until the end of the book in Chapter 21.

***"And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."*** (John 20:30-31)

This verse is a companion to John 21:24-25, where John states an elemental reality in the writing of the Gospels and of the entire body of Scripture from the Torah to the Revelation. This is the principle you must get into

your mind and heart if you are to properly understand the Word of God. One of the fundamental guidelines I give to my students, young and older, at the beginning of each and every class is, *"Every Bible writer, from Moses, who wrote the Torah, to John, who wrote the Revelation, assumed that the people to whom they were writing understood the language, the history, the geography, and the cultural context of the writing."* That is right; the Bible is filled with assumptions. *The Bible is a Jewish book written by Jews, to Jews, and primarily for Jews.* What these verses also tell us is the Bible is not complete in detail. John clearly states that Jesus did many miracles not written in this book. John had chosen seven miracles that only God could do, that every observant Jew would have recognized as Messianic, and that it was God Himself performing these miracles/signs. John picked these out and wrote them down along with seven discourses/sayings that only God could speak or say. He wanted to point out that the Words and Work of Jesus are the Words and Works of God Himself. By writing these down under Divine inspiration, he could show that Jesus is God walking, talking, healing, etc., and the people should recognize Him as such and believe in His name for salvation. John writes everything out to emphasize that Jesus is God. He is the Creator of the universe and the Savior of all those who come to Him.

**Prayer and Action Steps**

*Father, thank You that Jesus came and lived a perfect life in obedience to You in all things and that He died for my sins and rose again. Thank You that He is coming back again! Amen*