

Unbelievable?

Easter for skeptics, doubters, scientists, and those who won't be taken in by scams, conspiracy theories, or blind faith.

April 4, 2021

John 20:24–31 (ESV)

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place

it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

INTRODUCTION:

"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins." 1 Corinthians 15:17

"Any belief in miracles is flatly contradictory not just to the facts of science but also to the spirit of science."
—Richard Dawkins

1. Consider our bias against the supernatural

"The universe is all there is or ever was or ever will be." —Carl Sagan

Naturalism is the belief that the natural universe is the sum total of reality.

Miracles are impossible because

- 1) there is nothing outside the universe that can have an effect within the universe
- 2) everything that happens in the universe can be explained in terms of natural causes

Supernaturalism is the belief that there is a supernatural reality (God) that exists within and beyond the natural universe.

Miracles are possible because God is free to act within his universe.

The debate about miracles is not actually the debate about miracles at all; it is actually the debate about the existence of God.

2. Consider our bias against ancient people

“As he was saying these things . . . Festus said with a loud voice, ‘Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind.’” Acts 26:24

It is not true to say ancient people were more predisposed to believe miracle stories than we are today.

a) John challenges us to believe Jesus rose from the dead on the basis of what type of person Thomas was.

John 20:24–25

b) Believe on the basis of the transformation that happened to doubting Thomas.

John 20:26–27

John 20:28

3. Consider our bias against God himself

Could it be that our bias against miracles is actually a bias against God himself?

“I want atheism to be true. . . . It isn’t just that I don’t believe in God . . . I don’t want there to be a God; I don’t want the universe to be like that.” —*Thomas Nagel*

“I had always wanted, above all things, not to be ‘interfered with.’” —*C.S. Lewis*

John 20:30–31

“Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’” John 20:28

John 20:29