

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

The Mystic Interval

The Risen Christ (Cont.)

And as they thus spoke, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and feet.

—*Luke* 24:36-39

Christ opened their eyes that they might understand the Scriptures. It was not physical food with which He was concerned, but the mysteries pertaining to His mission and the furtherance of the great work. Each appearance before the Ascension is a deeper revelation and a promise of the bestowal of greater spiritual powers.

And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day;

And thus repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

And ye are witnesses of these things.

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. — *Luke*: 46-49.

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. 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.

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.

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.

And Thomas answered and said unto him, my Lord and my God. — *John* 20:24-28.

John tells of the appearance of the Christ to eleven of the Disciples. Eleven is a master number, the number of polarity. The other Gospel writers record Christ's appearance to ten of the Disciples. Only those who had attained to the polarity represented by eleven were in that upper room of high spiritual consciousness and were found worthy to commune with and receive the deeper work of the Risen Christ.

After the doubts of Thomas had been allayed he commenced his glorious career as an eminent apostle of healing, and preached the truths of the new Christianity. Skepticism was replaced by that faith that removes mountains, and Thomas, the doubter, became Thomas the believer. Among the final works are the conquest of doubt and the ascendance of faith as the dominating principle of a life dedicated in love.

During the forty days or the traditional interval between the Resurrection and the Ascension, Christ was engaged in many works connected with all the life waves evolving upon this earth. This also included work with the various Race and Group Spirits who guide their progression. These beings are all stragglers of the archangelic host of which the Christ is the highest Initiate. They are, by their sacrificial services, retrieving their lost estate. Their task will be finished when the love and unity radiated by the Christ shall have obliterated the boundary lines of race and nation. Christ's coming, therefore, was not for man only, but for the Angels and Archangels; that is, for the fallen Angels or Lucifers and for the backward members of His own archangelic life wave. (Cont.)