



**Facts and Faith:
Thomas in the Upper Room
(John 20:19-31)**

John 20:19-20

- **19** On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jewish religious leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."
- **20** When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

John 20:21-23

- ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."
- ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."
- ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

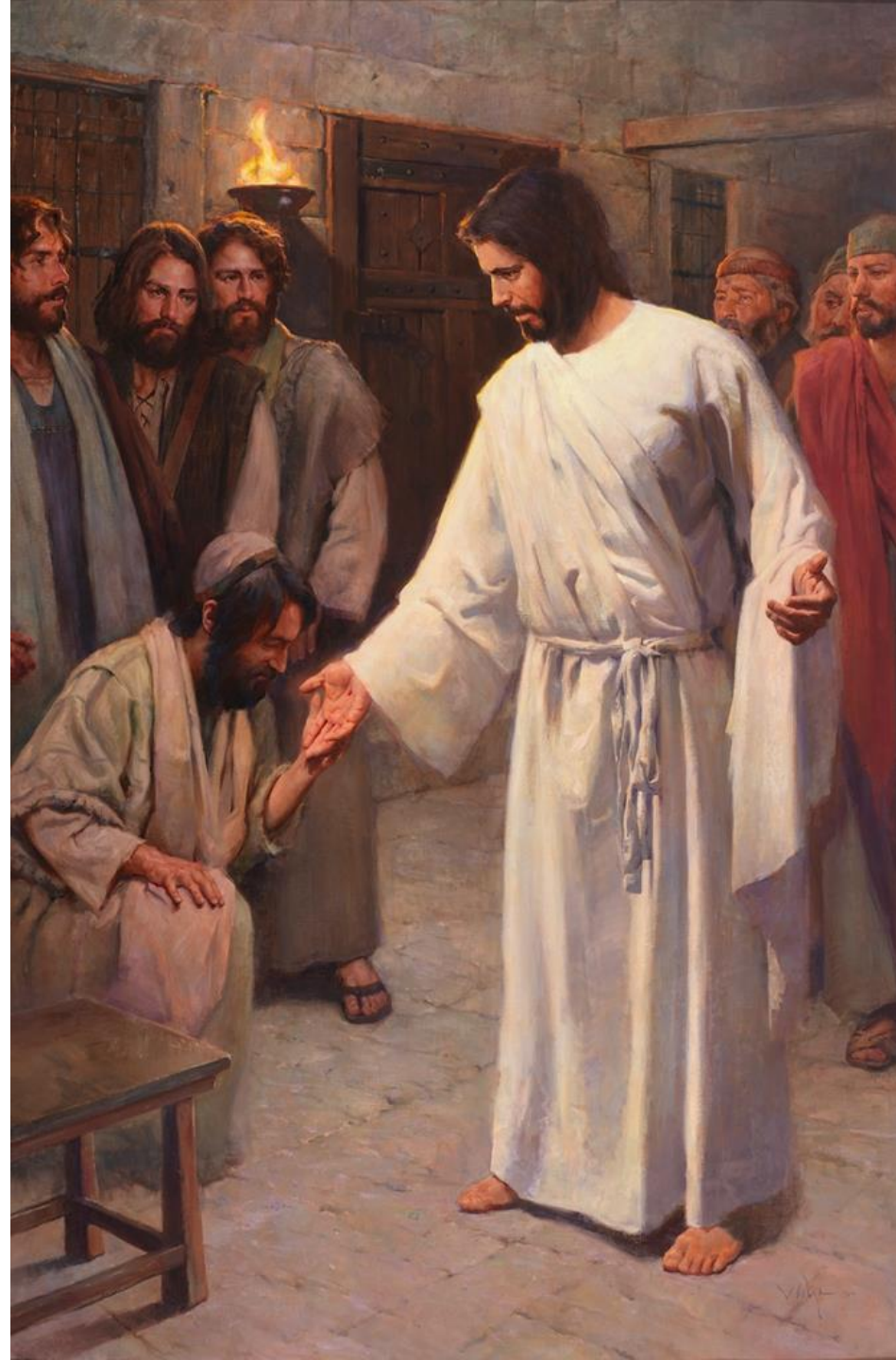


John 20:24-25

- 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."

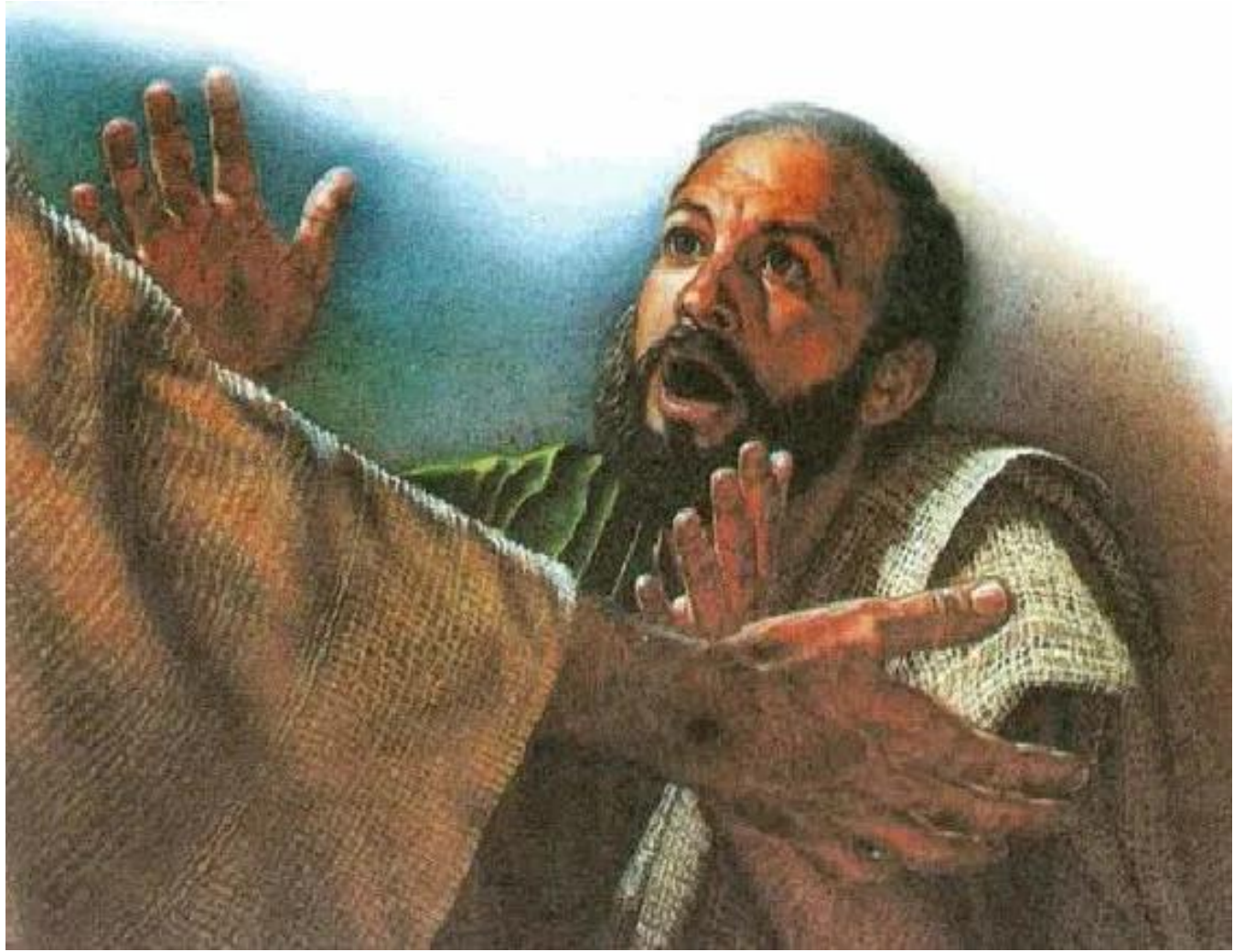
John 20:26

- 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.”



John 20:27

- 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."



John 20:28

- ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

John 20:29

- ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

John 20:30-31

(Signs, Signifiers, and Insights)

- 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.

The Big Bang Theory (2007-2019)



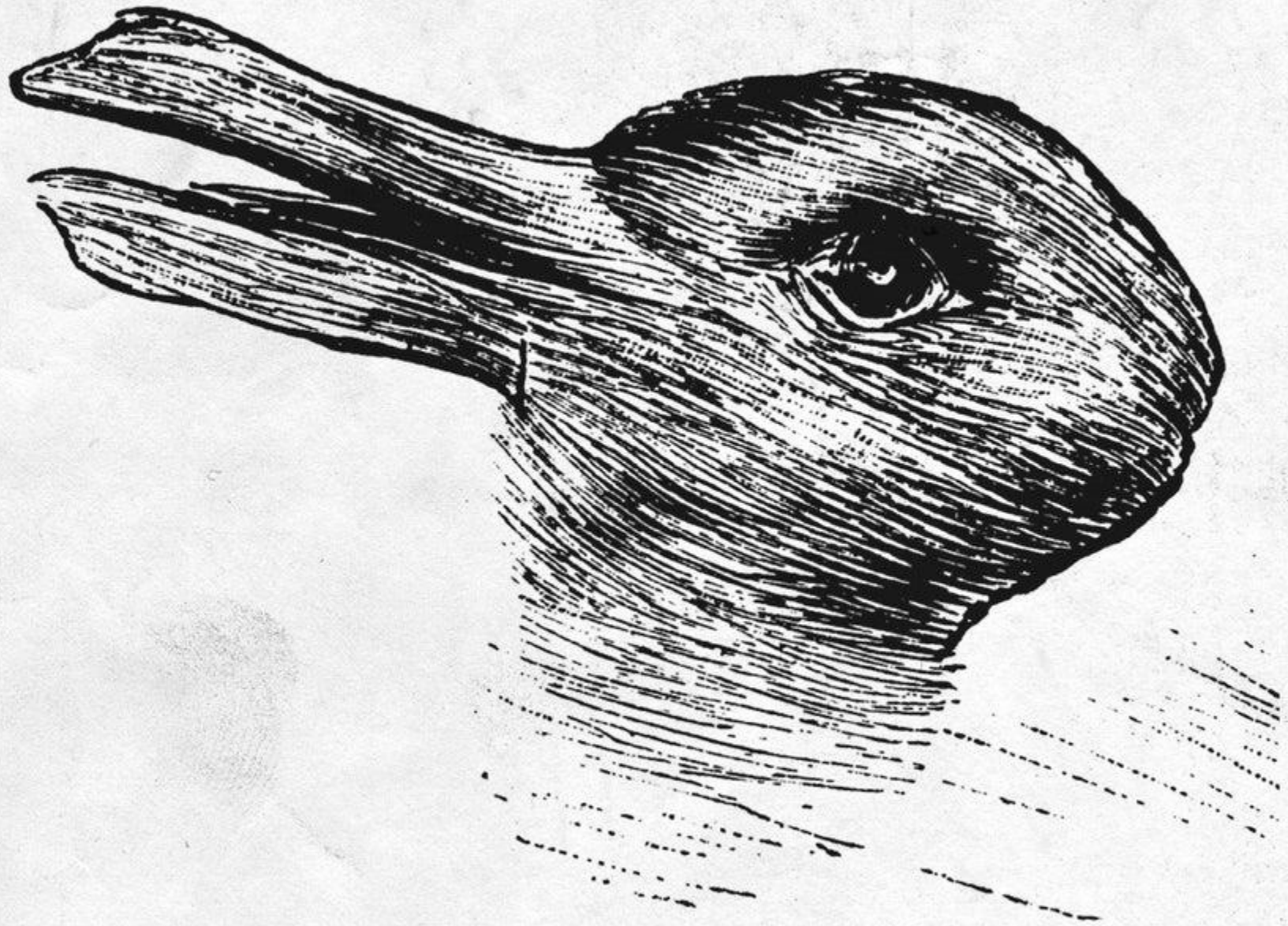
“Phenomenon”: definition

- In philosophy, any object, fact, or occurrence perceived or observed. **In general, phenomena are the objects of the senses (e.g., sights and sounds)** as contrasted with what is apprehended by the intellect.

Complementarity Principle: Physics

(e.g. Is it a basketball or the wind?)

- **Complementarity principle:** (announced in 1928 by the Danish physicist Niels Bohr.)
- **Depending on the experimental arrangement**, the behaviour of such phenomena as light and electrons is sometimes wavelike and sometimes particle-like; *i.e.*, such things have a wave-particle duality.
- **It is impossible to observe both the wave and particle aspects simultaneously.** Together, however, they present a fuller description than either of the two taken alone. . . .
Knowledge of a small-scale phenomenon is essentially incomplete until both aspects are known.





Complementarity Principle: Jesus

- Jesus is both God AND man
- Jesus both has a material body and an immaterial body
- Jesus can both pass through walls and be touched

Complementarity Principle: Scripture

- ⁸ He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To do **justice** and to love **mercy**
and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

Complementarity Principle: Life

- A Place to Call Home . . . A Desire to Explore
- Avoiding Boredom . . . Feeling Overwhelmed
- The Excitement of Beginning . . . The Satisfaction of Closure

I. Stability without Stagnation (John 20:19-23)

A. Practical Precautions

B. The Lord's Peaceful Presence ("Peace be with you.")

C. The Power to Proceed in the Spirit (He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.")

II. The Breakthroughs of Belief (John 20:24-31)

- A. The Pitfalls of Phenomenology
- B. The Rush of Recognition
- C. The Bible, Belief, and Abundance

A. The Pitfalls of Phenomenology

- **“In the modern era, scientific knowledge had become fragmented into an objectivistic-physicalist knowledge and a transcendental knowledge. Until recently this split could not be overcome.** It led, rather, to the attempt to develop the human sciences in accordance with the procedures used in the exact sciences of nature (naturalism) [objectivism]—an attempt doomed to failure. In opposition to this attempt, Husserl wished to show that **in the new approach one must reflect on the activities of the scientists.**”
- 1. Scientific knowledge based on physical evidence
- 2. Plus the viewpoint and experiences of the person interpreting it
- 3. But no acknowledgment of an external, transcendental knowledge given by God

B. The Rush of Recognition

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28)



C. The Bible, Belief, and Abundance

- Words and wonders point us to Jesus (God's Holy Word and His revelations through it to us)
- "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly"
(John 10:10b)

Takeaway:

Both types of knowledge are necessary

- Facts, measurements, observations, analysis, science (*L.* “ratio”)
- Retain empirical, physical, practical criteria, but do not be chained/limited to them as the only criteria for making decisions

- Insights, intuition, epiphany, faith (*L.* “intellectus”)
- Strive for spiritual insights and energies in following the Lord, but tether your spontaneity to God’s Holy Word

- Applications to Thomas and to yourself. (For Thomas, “God’s Holy Word” was Jesus himself.)

Conclusion:

The Grand Unification Theory

- **Unified field theory**,, in particle physics, an attempt to **describe all fundamental forces** and the relationships between elementary particles **in terms of a single theoretical framework**. . . . Einstein and others attempted to construct a unified field theory in which electromagnetism and gravity would emerge as different aspects of a single fundamental field. They failed, and to this day gravity remains beyond attempts at a unified field theory.

Conclusion:

The Christian Unification Theory

- **The Center Holds!**
- ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, **and in him all things hold together.** ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ **and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.**
(Colossians 1:15-20)

Let Us Pray

