

# John 20:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

**And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them**—Eight days after the initial resurrection appearance (v. 19), marking the following Sunday, Jesus appears again. This pattern establishes Sunday (the Lord's Day) as the Christian gathering day, commemorating resurrection. The phrase emphasizes Thomas's presence: he missed the first appearance (v. 24-25) but is now included. The disciples remained together despite Thomas's skepticism, modeling patient fellowship with doubters.

**Then came Jesus, the doors being shut** (*ἥλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τῶν θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων/ēlthen ho Iēsous tōn thyrōn kekleismenōn*)—The perfect participle *κεκλεισμένων* (kekleismenōn, "having been shut") indicates the doors were locked, yet Jesus entered miraculously. This demonstrates His resurrection body's unique properties: physical and tangible (v. 27), yet not bound by material limitations. He passes through barriers while remaining embodied—neither ghost nor mere resuscitation. Paul describes this as a "spiritual body" (*σῶμα πνευματικόν/sōma pneumatikon*, 1 Corinthians 15:44), transformed flesh suited for eternity.

**And stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you** (*εἰρήνη ὑμῖν/eirēnē hymin*)—Christ's signature resurrection greeting. *Εἰρήνη* (eirēnē, peace) is more than absence of conflict; it's shalom, the comprehensive well-being and reconciliation with God purchased at the cross. Jesus speaks His own accomplished work: "He is our peace" (Ephesians 2:14). This peace addresses the

disciples' fear (v. 19), Thomas's doubt, and all human anxiety before God. The risen Christ brings divine peace into locked rooms—and locked hearts.

## Historical Context

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The eight-day interval is significant in Jewish reckoning (counting inclusively: Sunday to Sunday). This establishes the Christian practice of gathering on the first day of the week, "the Lord's day" (Revelation 1:10), rather than the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday). Acts 20:7 and 1 Corinthians 16:2 confirm this early church pattern.

The locked doors reflect ongoing fear of Jewish authorities who had crucified Jesus (v. 19). The disciples risked arrest as His followers. Yet Christ penetrates their fear-induced isolation with His presence. This scene provides apologetic evidence for bodily resurrection—not hallucination or spirit vision, but physical Jesus entering impossibly.

For John's late first-century audience facing persecution and expulsion from synagogues, Christ's appearance to doubting, fearful disciples offered profound encouragement. The risen Lord comes to struggling believers, addresses their doubts, grants His peace despite locked doors and fearful hearts.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What does Jesus's patience in returning specifically for Thomas teach us about dealing with doubters in the faith?
2. How does Christ's resurrection body—both physical and transcendent—prefigure our future resurrection bodies (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)?
3. In what ways do we 'lock the doors' of our hearts through fear or doubt, and how does Christ's peace penetrate those barriers?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ μετ' ἡμέρας ὀκτὼ πάλιν ἦσαν ἔσω οἱ μαθηταὶ  
And after days eight again were within G3588 **disciples**  
G2532 G3326 G2250 G3638 G3825 G2258 G2080 G3101

αὐτῶν καὶ Θωμᾶς μετ' αὐτῶν ἔρχεται ὁ Ἰησοῦς τῶν  
his And Thomas after his then came G3588 **Jesus** G3588  
G846 G2532 G2381 G3326 G846 G2064 G2424

θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων καὶ ἔστη εἰς τὸ μέσον καὶ  
the doors being shut And stood in G3588 **the midst** And  
G2374 G2808 G2532 G2476 G1519 G3319 G2532

εἶπεν Εἰρήνη ὑμῖν  
said Peace be unto you  
G2036 G1515 G5213

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 20:19** (Peace): Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

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