

NOW THOMAS, ONE OF THE TWELVE, CALLED THE TWIN, WAS NOT WITH THEM WHEN JESUS CAME. 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." EIGHT DAYS LATER, HIS DISCIPLES WERE

**JOHN 20:24-29**

INSIDE AGAIN, AND THOMAS WAS WITH THEM. ALTHOUGH THE DOORS WERE LOCKED, JESUS CAME AND STOOD AMONG THEM AND SAID, "PEACE BE WITH YOU." 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." THOMAS ANSWERED HIM, "MY LORD AND MY GOD!" JESUS

**JOHN 20:24-29**

SAID TO HIM, “HAVE YOU BELIEVED BECAUSE YOU  
HAVE SEEN ME? BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE  
NOT SEEN AND YET HAVE BELIEVED.”

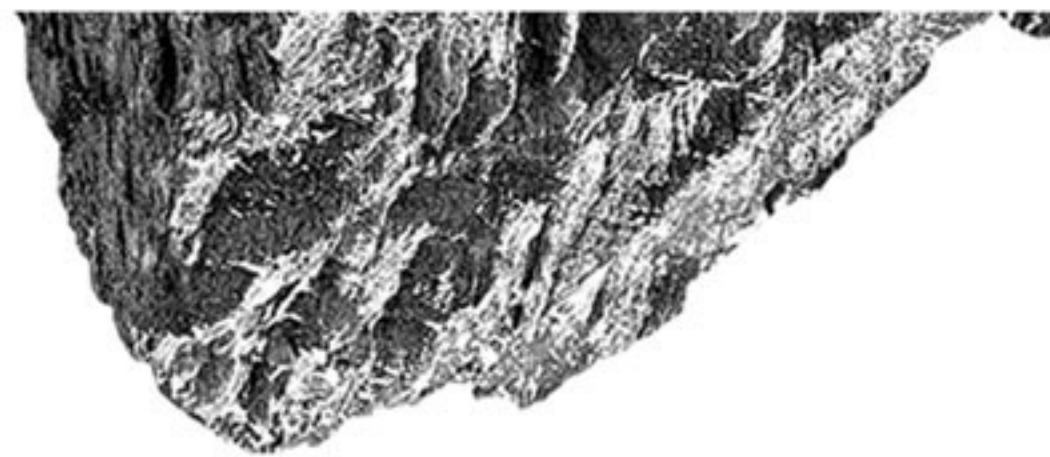
**JOHN 20:24-29**



**I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE**



**OBSTACLES & OBJECTIONS TO FAITH**



# **JOHN 20**

**(PAGE 529 IN OUR BIBLES)**



**80 % OF PEOPLE  
IN KNOX COUNTY  
DESCRIBE THEMSELVES AS  
“NONES” OR “DONES”**





**WHO THIS SERIES IS FOR:**





# **WHO THIS SERIES IS FOR:**

- THOSE WHO OPENLY STRUGGLE WITH THESE QUESTIONS



## **WHO THIS SERIES IS FOR:**

- THOSE WHO OPENLY STRUGGLE WITH THESE QUESTIONS
- THOSE WHO SECRETLY STRUGGLE WITH THESE QUESTIONS



## **WHO THIS SERIES IS FOR:**

- THOSE WHO OPENLY STRUGGLE WITH THESE QUESTIONS
- THOSE WHO SECRETLY STRUGGLE WITH THESE QUESTIONS
- OTHERS WE KNOW WHO STRUGGLE WITH THESE QUESTIONS





# **I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE...**

**AUG. 18 ...THAT BELIEF IS REASONABLE**

**AUG. 25 ...IN THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE**

**SEP. 1 ...THAT GOD WOULD ALLOW THIS MUCH SUFFERING**

**SEP. 8 ...THAT GOD WOULDN'T WANT ME TO BE HAPPY**

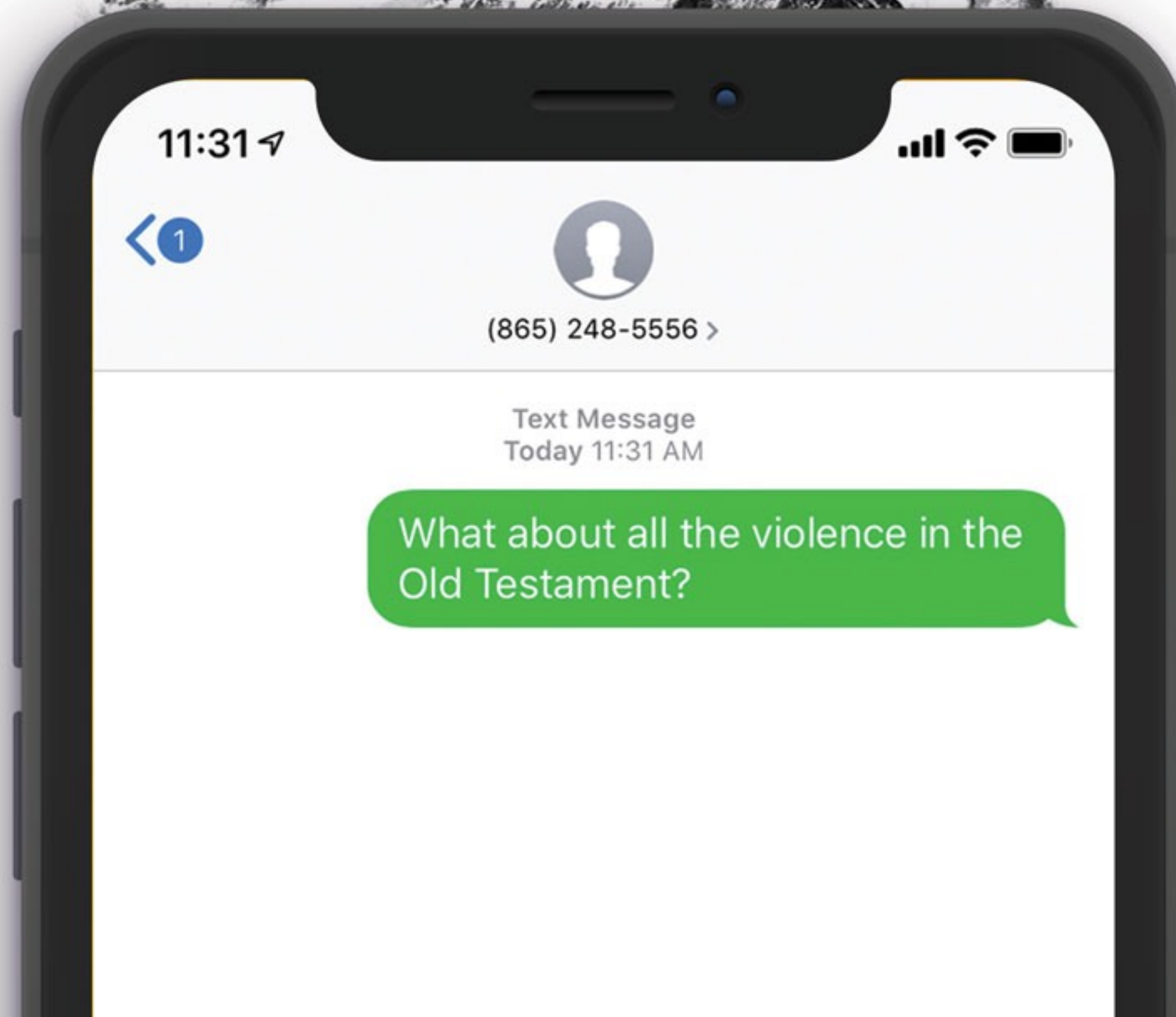
**SEP. 15 ...BECAUSE CHRISTIANS ARE SO INTOLERANT**

**SEP. 22 ...BECAUSE CHRISTIANS ARE HYPOCRITES**



**TEXT IN YOUR QUESTIONS**

**TO (865) 248-5556**





**“RELIGION IS BASED ON  
EMOTION, SENTIMENTALISM,  
AND SUBJECTIVITY, WHILE  
SECULARISM IS BASED ON REASON,  
EVIDENCE, AND OBJECTIVITY.”**





# **JOHN 20**

**(PAGE 529 IN OUR BIBLES)**





**BOTH BELIEF AND  
UNBELIEF ARE  
COMPLEX.**



**I HAD MOTIVE** FOR NOT WANTING THE WORLD TO HAVE A MEANING; **CONSEQUENTLY ASSUMED** THAT IT HAD NONE, AND WAS ABLE WITHOUT ANY DIFFICULTY TO FIND SATISFYING REASONS FOR THIS ASSUMPTION [...] FOR MYSELF, THE PHILOSOPHY OF MEANINGLESSNESS WAS ESSENTIALLY AN INSTRUMENT OF LIBERATION, SEXUAL AND POLITICAL.

**ALDUOUS HUXLEY**



**I WANT ATHEISM TO BE TRUE** AND AM **MADE UNEASY** BY THE FACT THAT SOME OF THE MOST INTELLIGENT AND WELL-INFORMED PEOPLE I KNOW ARE RELIGIOUS BELIEVERS. IT ISN'T JUST THAT I DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD AND, NATURALLY, HOPE THAT I'M RIGHT IN MY BELIEF. **IT'S THAT I HOPE THERE IS NO GOD!** I DON'T WANT THERE TO BE A GOD; I DON'T WANT THE UNIVERSE TO BE LIKE THAT.

**THOMAS NAGEL**





**BOTH BELIEF  
AND UNBELIEF  
REQUIRE “LEAPS.”**



THERE IS A **GAP** BETWEEN THE PROVABLE AND THE PROVED. **HOW WAS I TO CROSS IT?** IF I WERE TO STAKE MY WHOLE LIFE ON THE RISEN CHRIST, I WANTED PROOF. I WANTED CERTAINTY. I WANTED TO SEE HIM EAT A BIT OF FISH. I WANTED LETTERS OF FIRE ACROSS THE SKY. I GOT NONE OF THESE...IT WAS A QUESTION OF WHETHER I WAS TO ACCEPT HIM-OR REJECT. MY GOD! **THERE WAS A GAP BEHIND ME AS WELL!** PERHAPS THE LEAP

**SHELDON VANAUKEN**





TO ACCEPTANCE WAS A HORRIFYING GAMBLE—BUT  
**WHAT OF THE LEAP TO REJECTION?** THERE MIGHT  
BE NO CERTAINTY THAT CHRIST WAS GOD—BUT, BY  
GOD, THERE WAS NO CERTAINTY THAT HE WAS  
NOT. THIS WAS NOT TO BE BORNE. I COULD NOT  
REJECT JESUS. THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING TO  
DO ONCE I HAD SEEN THE GAP BEHIND ME. I  
**TURNED AWAY FROM IT AND FLUNG MYSELF  
OVER THE GAP TOWARDS JESUS.**

**SHELDON VANAUKEN**



