

Resurrection Appearances of Jesus

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to many of His followers over a 40 day period, before He went back into heaven to the Father.

#1 ~ Read John 20:1-10... Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb while it is still dark, the stone covering the entrance has been moved aside, Jesus is gone!

Mary runs to find Peter and John, and to tell them but they don't understand (**Luke 24:11**), "these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them," they immediately go to the tomb see for themselves.

John arrives first, looks inside, and sees the burial cloths; but he doesn't go in, he waits (**John 20:5**) for Peter, who goes right in and finds Jesus' body is gone; now John (**John 20:8**) enters the tomb, but neither he nor Peter understood what had happened.

Luke 24:12 tells us, "Peter saw the linen wrappings; and he went away to his home, marveling at [wondering] what had happened."

#2 ~ Read John 20:11-17... Peter and John go to their homes; but Mary returned to the tomb, she saw two angels (although she thought they were just men). She asks where the Lord had been taken. At that moment she turned around and Jesus is there, but she doesn't recognize Him, thinking He is the gardener. Jesus then calls her name, she recognizes and clings to Him, then He tells her to go tell His disciples.

#3 ~ Read Matthew 28:1-10... Matthew records Jesus appearing to Mary Magdalene, and the "other" Mary (**27:56**, Mary the mother of James and Joseph), and then Jesus instructs them to go tell the disciples that they will see Him in Galilee.

#4 ~ Read Luke 24:13-35... Jesus appears to two disciples, as they are walking to Emmaus. They don't seem to know it is Jesus walking with them. As they talk about what happened to Jesus, a prophet of God who was arrested, crucified, buried, and yet when some of His followers went to the tomb, it was empty, but there were angels telling them that Jesus was alive!

As they approached Emmaus, it began to get dark; they invite Him to their house to have something to eat. Jesus takes the bread and blesses *it*, then breaking *it*, He *begins* giving *it* to them and at that moment, "their eyes are opened and they recognize Him; He then vanishes from their sight!"

They immediately head to Jerusalem and find the eleven (and others with them), gathered together. They *began* to tell of the others of their experience with Jesus.

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#5 ~ Read Luke 24:36-44 (pp. **John 20:19-21**)... Jesus appears in the house where the disciples (Thomas absent) are gathered (**verse 19**) "...*the doors were shut...*" *Note:* The word translated "door" implies a *large* and *solid* door. The word translated "shut" means *locked or secured*, this was often done with a heavy bolt that slid through rings attached to the door and the door frame; this door would have been nearly impossible, to break down.

Jesus passed through walls like a spirit, yet He had a body and was able to eat?

Read Luke 45-47... Jesus then opened their minds to understand *all that had been written about Him that must be fulfilled* (see **Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 53:1-12; Daniel 9:25-27; Psalm 16:10; Psalm 22:27-31; Romans 1:1-4; Hebrews 1:1-4**).

#6 ~ Read John 20:26-29... On the following Sunday, one week later, the Lord came to His followers again, but this time, Thomas was present. The Lord invited Thomas to touch His wounds, so that he might believe; we have Thomas's strong confession of faith and belief in the risen Jesus, who is both Lord and Christ (**v. 28**), "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus accepts Thomas's confession of faith, and then declares that in the future, after He has returned to heaven, those who believe in Him without seeing Him (**verse 29**), will indeed be blessed, having been born into God's family, made righteous by believing.

Read John 20:30-31... These accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus are to provide forgiveness and eternal life, to those who believe.

#7 ~ Read John 21:1-14... This is the third time Jesus appears to the disciples, this time there are only seven of them (Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the *sons* of Zebedee (John and James), and two others who are unnamed; but it is very likely they are Philip and Andrew who were often listed with Peter, James and John). Jesus came to them at the Sea of Tiberias [Sea of Galilee], standing on the shore He called to them, to cast their nets on the other side of the boat.

They caught so many fish that they weren't even able to pull their net into the boat. Peter jumped into the sea and dragged the full net of fish, 153 large fish, about 100 yards to the shore, where Jesus had a fire going to cook some of the fish for them..

#8 ~ Read 1Corinthians 15:6... The next appearance of Jesus seems to take place on a mountain in Galilee for, "He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep."

Jesus had told His followers (**Matthew 28:1, 5-10**) to go to Galilee and there they would see Him. This is very likely where Jesus had gave the Great Commission in **Matthew 28:18-20**.

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#9 ~ Read 1Corinthians 15:7a... It is likely that the James mentioned here is the Lord's half-brother, who did not come to saving faith until he saw the risen Lord; although we don't know where Jesus appeared to him.

There are four James mentioned in the New Testament (cf. **Mark 3:16-19; Luke 6:12-16**): James the brother of John (sons of Zebedee), James the son of Alphaeus, and James the father of Judas (not Iscariot).

#10 ~ Read 1Corinthians 15:7b... I believe the statement here, "then to all the apostles," mostly applies to what occurred in appearance **#6 (John 20:26-29)**, it was on the second Lord's Day after Jesus rose from the grave, when He appeared to all eleven of the disciples who were again hiding in a house with the doors/windows secured, just like ten of them (Thomas absent) had done the week before in appearance **#5 (Luke 24:35-43; John 20:19-21)**....

There is also a possibility that "all the apostles" could be related to what is recorded in **Acts 1:1-12**. What do you think, any thoughts on this?

#11 ~ See 1Corinthians 15:8-9... All the apostles had seen Him while He was alive and after He had risen; but Lord didn't appear to Paul until several years later, after the Lord had already returned to heaven, on the road to Damascus (see **Acts 9:1-9; 22:6-11; 26:1-18**).

Did Saul actually see and hear the Lord?

See **1Corinthians 9:1; 15:5-7...**

Note: The Greek word *phone* [fo nay] translated *voice*, means sound, speech, voice. Most common use in the Bible is the voice of God, human, angel, or any sound in general (cf. **John 3:8; Revelation 1:10-15**).

Acts 26:14... A *goad* [noun] is a *spiked stick used for driving cattle*; the verb form, to *goad* someone, means to *provoke or to stimulate someone to action or reaction*.

What difference does Jesus' resurrection make to us now, in the present, as well as for eternity? (See **Philippians 4:12-13, 19; 2Peter 1:2-4**).

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