

JESUS CHRIST TRULY ROSE FROM THE DEAD

The New Testament states that Jesus Christ appeared to the following people after His resurrection:

- 1) Mary Magdalene: “Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, **He appeared first to Mary Magdalene**... She went and told those who had been with Him” (Mk. 16:9-10).
- 2) Two men: “After that, **He appeared in another form to two of them** as they walked and went into the country” (Mk. 16:12).
- 3) The Myrrh-bearers: “So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy.... and as they went to tell His disciples, **behold, Jesus met them, saying, ‘Rejoice!’**” (Mt. 28:8-9).
- 4) The two men walking to Emmaus: “So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that **Jesus Himself drew near and went with them**” (Lk. 24:13-31).
- 5) The disciples in Thomas’ absence: “Then, the same day at the evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, **Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’** When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side” (Jn. 20:19-25).
- 6) The disciples with Thomas present: “And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. **Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, ‘Peace to you!’ Then He said to Thomas, ‘Place your finger here, and look at My hands, and place your hand here, and put it into My side’**” (Jn. 20:26-28).
- 7) The disciples at Tiberias: “After these things **Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples** at the Sea of Tiberias” (Jn. 21:1).
- 8) The disciples on the mount in Galilee: “then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. **When they saw Him, the worshipped Him**” (Mt. 28:16-17).
- 9) The Apostle Peter: “And that **He was seen by Cephas**” (1Cor. 15:5).
- 10) Five hundred followers: After that **He was seen by over five hundred brethren** at once, whom most of them are still alive” (1Cor. 15:6).
- 11) The Apostle James: “After that **He was seen by James**” (1Cor. 15:7).

- 12) All the disciples during His ascension: “Now when He had spoken these things, **while they watched, He was taken up**, and a cloud received Him out of their sight” (**Acts 1:9**)
- 13) The Apostle Paul: “Then last of all **He was seen by me also**” (**1Cor. 15:7-8**).

These accounts are true for the following reasons:

If the Apostles had not seen Jesus Christ resurrected, they would never have proceeded to preach that He rose from the dead. On the contrary, they would have felt misled by Him and resentment for Him, because He had not risen again after three days as He had promised, and they would have proclaimed Him to be a fake. What would they be hoping to accomplish by leading the nations to faith in their teacher Who had not risen from the dead?

If the Apostles had not seen Jesus Christ risen from the dead, they would never have set out to convince the entire world to become Christians. On the contrary, they would have become discouraged, lost hope, and returned to their normal lives. How could they possibly have had the drive and zeal to convert the nations to Christianity if they had not seen the Lord Jesus resurrected?

If the Apostles had not received divine power from their resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, they would never have been able to convince their listeners that He indeed rose from the dead. How could they have expected to convince people that Christ rose from the dead without performing miracles? Who would believe them? Everyone knew that Christ had been crucified and buried, but no one had seen His resurrection.

If the Apostles had not seen Jesus Christ resurrected, they would never have given up their lives attesting to this truth nor would they have endured martyrdom for a lie. A renowned Christian would say, “**I gladly accept and believe the testimony of the Apostles because they supported it not only with moral and logical arguments but also with their own blood.**”

The Apostle Peter was ashamed to admit to a young maiden that he knew Christ. All the Apostles ran scared and went into hiding after Christ was apprehended, abandoning their Lord in order to save themselves. The Apostle Paul persecuted Christians relentlessly. How did these fearful disciples become roaring lions, and how did this relentless persecutor become a fiery herald, unless they had seen Jesus Christ resurrected?

Yes, the Apostles were completely convinced that they had seen their Lord resurrected, something that even the harshest critics have acknowledged to be true: **“The resurrection of Jesus,”** states Baur, **“was a subject of unshakable certainty for the Apostles.”** And Strauss notes, **“Some exceptional event must have occurred, on account of which the Apostles did not in the least doubt the resurrection of Jesus.”** The Apostles were completely convinced and attested to Christ’s resurrection because they saw Him and conversed with Him after He rose from the dead for forty consecutive days, up until the time He ascended into Heaven before their very eyes: **“to the Apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God” (Acts 1:2-3).**