

Post – Resurrection Appearances

Luke, the writer of the third Gospel and the book of Acts tells us that the disciples repeatedly saw Jesus after His crucifixion: “To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion [suffering] by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:” (Acts 1:3). Paul testified to the fact that he had seen Him, and that He was seen of above five hundred at once – of whom the greater part was still alive. Furthermore, He was seen of James and all the apostles.

Some propose that Jesus’ followers suffered from some kind of hallucination. This view says the witnesses just saw what they wanted to believe to be true. They wanted to see Jesus after His death. Therefore, they saw Him in their own mind. They had some kind of hallucination. But, hallucinations are rare events (even those that “appear” to be credible) that occur only to individuals, not to groups. Yet, Jesus was seen of over five hundred at once – all five hundred saw Him at the same time. Hallucinations happen to people who expect them. But the disciples were not expecting Jesus to appear. They had returned to their business of fishing and had not expected to see Jesus. This theory also does not explain how the disciples physically touched Jesus nor how He ate with them. And if Jesus’ appearances were merely hallucinations, why didn’t someone simply produce the body of Jesus and end the rumor?

The biblical documents claim that after His death, Jesus appeared several times too many people in different groups and situations for several weeks. Names of the witnesses and details are given in the biblical narratives. The resurrection narrative is not a poorly documented fantasy, only verifiable by one or two people who have their facts twisted. “The evidence is overwhelming that Jesus was seen alive by hundreds of people after He died.”

The resurrection of Jesus Christ was real, and it changed the life of His followers, as it changes lives today!

Scripture: King James Version: John 20:11-29; 21:1-14; Acts 1:1-11; I Corinthians 15:1-8.

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