

Witnesses to the Resurrection

PERSONS VISITED	SCRIPTURE REFERENCE	DATE OR TIME	PLACE OF APPEARANCE	WHAT TRANSPIRED	ITEMS OF INTEREST
Mary Magdalene	Jn 20:1–18	Resurrection, early morning	At the tomb of Jesus Christ	Mary talked with Jesus; she did not recognize him at first but was soon convinced it was him.	
Other women	Mt 28:1–10	Resurrection day, early morning	Somewhere between the tomb and Jerusalem	They held Jesus by the feet and worshiped him.	
Two disciples	Mk 16:12–13; Lk 4:13–32	Resurrection day, afternoon	On the road to Emmaus	They walked, talked, and ate with Jesus, not recognizing him until he broke bread. Their hearts burned within them.	The hymn “Abide with Me; ’Tis Eventide” (<i>Hymns</i> , no. 165) recalls this event.
Simon Peter	Lk 24:34; 1Cor 15:5	Sometime on the day of the resurrection	Not specified	Not specified	
Ten of the Twelve	Lk 24:36–53; Jn 20:19–24	Resurrection day, evening	A room with shut doors somewhere in Jerusalem	Jesus invited them to handle him so they would know that he had flesh and bone. He ate fish and honey before them.	Although Lk 24:33 refers to “the eleven,” it seems certain that neither Judas nor Thomas was present.
Eleven of the Twelve	Jn 20:26–31; Mk 16:14	Eight days after the resurrection	Apparently the same room as above	Jesus showed Thomas his hands and his side; this was convincing evidence for Thomas.	
Seven of the Twelve	Jn 21:1–14	Morning, at a time subsequent to the episode with Thomas	On the shore of the Sea of Tiberias (Galilee)	After the seven had fished all night and caught nothing, Jesus gave them directions from the shore; they caught a multitude of fish. They recognized him and went to shore. He ate with them.	This is similar to the first draught of fishes (see Lk 5) that accompanies Jesus’ call of Peter and others to the ministry.
Eleven of the Twelve	Mt 28:16–20	Not specified	A mountain in Galilee, by previous appointment of Jesus Christ	Jesus appeared to them on the mountain. They talked with him and worshiped him.	
More than 500 brethren	1Cor 15:6	Not specified	Not specified	No information	This visitation probably took place in Galilee.
James	1Cor 15:7	Not specified	Not specified	No information	

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Eleven apostles at the ascension	Mk 16:14, 19; Lk 24:50–51; Acts 1:3–11	Forty days after the resurrection	Near Bethany	Jesus bade farewell to the apostles and ascended to heaven. They watched him ascend.	
Paul	1 Cor 9:1; 15:8		Near Damascus	As Paul traveled toward Damascus to persecute believers, Jesus identified himself and spoke to him. Paul was blinded for three days but was converted to Christ.	Paul saw Jesus but the time of his appearance is not clear (see Acts 9:3–18). Paul's own account of the event near Damascus tells of seeing a light and hearing the Savior's voice (see Acts 22:5–11; 26:12–18). Other participants speak of seeing a light but not hearing a voice (see Acts 9:7 JST).
John	Rev 1:9–18	Between A.D. 81 and 96	Isle of Patmos, in the Aegean Sea	Jesus appeared to John, spoke to him, and touched him with his hand.	The scripture gives one of the few descriptions of the glorified Savior.
2,500 Nephites	3 Nephi 11:1–18:39; 19:2, 15–26:15	About A.D. 34, soon after the ascension	Land of Bountiful in America, by the temple	The multitude saw Jesus, heard him, and went forth one by one. They touched him and knew of a surety that he had risen.	Jesus visited the Nephites several times; not all of the visits are talked about in detail (see 3 Nephi 26:13).
The Nephite Twelve	3 Nephi 27:1–28:12	After previous appearance to the Nephite people	Not specified	They saw Jesus and conversed with him. He touched all but three with his finger.	The three Nephite disciples not touched by Jesus would remain on earth until his second coming.
The lost tribes of Israel	3 Nephi 16:1–5; 17:4	No information, but soon after appearance to Nephites	Not specified	Jesus said he would show himself to them and they would hear his voice.	
Moroni	Ether 12:39	Not specified	Not specified	Moroni saw Jesus who instructed him in “plain humility.”	Moroni's father, Mormon, was also “visited of the Lord” (Mormon 1:15).
Joseph Smith	Joseph Smith—History 1:14–20	Spring 1820	Sacred Grove, near Manchester, New York	Joseph Smith saw the Father and the Son and conversed with them. The Father introduced the Son.	In subsequent visits Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon saw the Lord and conversed with him (see D&C 76:14–24). Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery saw him in the Kirtland Temple; they describe him in D&C 110:1–10.

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Explanation

Each of the four Gospels concludes with an account of Jesus' resurrection. Taken together with the additional witnesses, mentioned especially by Paul and in the Book of Mormon, numerous people bear testimony of the reality of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Chart 10-18 lists eighteen recorded appearances of the resurrected Christ. In most cases, the time and place of the appearance are known, and specific details of the event are reported. These true and faithful witnesses are more numerous than people usually recognize. In the mouth of many witnesses, this all-important event has been established for all the world to see and, hopefully, accept.

References

- John Gee, "Jesus Christ: Forty-day Ministry and Other Post-Resurrection Appearances of Jesus Christ," *EM*, 2:734–35.
- Douglas L. Callister, "Resurrection," *EM*, 3:1222–23.
- "Postresurrection Appearances," and "Resurrection," *WRC*, 46–49.