

Chronology of the Resurrection

After His resurrection, Jesus did not appear to the people at large. The reason appears to have been that those who saw Jesus were constituted to act as witnesses to the many people who could not see Him, and this obligation was not laid on people who were unfit for it, but only those who had been prepared by lengthy association with Jesus and by sharing his work of mission (Cf. Acts 10:39-41).

1. Dawn of Resurrection Day (Matt 28:1; Mark 16:1)
2. Opening the Tomb (Matt 28:2-4)
 - a. Earthquake
 - b. An angel appeared and rolled away the stone
 - c. Roman guards scared stiff
3. Arrival of the Women (Matt 28:5-8; Mark 16:2-8; Luke 24:1-9; John 20:1)
 - a. Mary Magdalene - started out alone, first to arrive at tomb; saw the stone rolled away, left quickly; did not see angels.
 - b. Group of Women - saw stone rolled away; saw angel (2 angels) upon entering tomb; angel instructed them to tell disciples of His resurrection and instruct them to go to Galilee
4. Reports of the Women (Luke 24:9-12; John 20:2-10)
 - a. Based on Report of Mary Magdalene, Peter & John go to the tomb (John 20:3-8)
5. First Appearance: Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-18)
 - a. After Peter and John left the tomb, Mary Magdalene returned
 - b. She saw two angels, but did not recognize them
 - c. Jesus appeared to her; she thought He was the gardner (Mark 16:9; John 20:15-16)
 - d. Jesus instructed her to not touch Him, as He had not yet ascended (John 20:17)
 - e. Jesus cleanses the heavenly tabernacle with His blood (Heb 9:11-12,23-24; 10:12)
 - f. Mary returns to the disciples, but they do not believe her
6. Second Appearance: The Women (Matt 28:9-10)
 - a. After Mary Magdalene left, the women returned to the tomb and saw Jesus
 - b. They grabbed His feet to worship Him; Jesus instructed them to tell the disciples to go to Galilee and that they would see Him; (this was the 3rd time they were instructed to go to Galilee...during last Passover, by Mary Magdalene, now by the women)

- c. The disciples didn't believe their testimony and didn't follow the instructions to go to Galilee.
7. Report of the Guard (Matt 28:11-15)
 - a. The Roman guard went to the Jewish chief priests (Sadducees), who assembled the elders (Pharisees), to report the missing body; he was fearful to report the incident to Pilate because his failure could mean a death sentence
 - b. They (Pharisees and Sadducees) bribed the guard and conspired to tell a story (in Jewish circles only) that the disciples had stolen the body. If the story got back to Pilate, they would intervene to protect the guard.
 8. Third Appearance: The Road to Emmaus (Mark 16:12-13; Luke 24:13-32)
 - a. Jesus gives two apostles (Cleopas and one other) a 7-mile Bible study on Messianic prophecy in the OT
 - b. They invite Him into their home; He breaks bread, they see the nail prints, and Jesus departs immediately.
 - c. The two apostles immediately go back to Jerusalem to report to the 11 disciples, but they do not believe their report (Mark 16:13)
 9. Fourth Appearance: Peter (Luke 24:33-35; 1 Cor 15:5)
 - a. Peter was the first of the disciples to see the resurrected Jesus
 10. Fifth Appearance: Ten Disciples (without Thomas) (Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 19:25)
 - a. The disciples remained in Jerusalem, ignoring the instruction (given 3x) for them to go to Galilee. Therefore, Jesus met them in Jerusalem.
 - b. This meeting was on Sunday, resurrection day, before sundown (John 20:19)
 - c. The disciples were locked in a room because they feared the Jewish leaders
 - d. Jesus appeared to them suddenly, without opening a door; the disciples were afraid and thought they were seeing a ghost
 - e. Jesus scolded them for their unbelief and hardness of heart; to calm their unbelief, He allowed them to examine Him (Luke 24:39-40; John 20:20)
 - f. Jesus requested food (Luke 24:41-43); He did this because ghosts do not eat, not because He was hungry.
 - g. During this visit, Jesus also gave the 10 disciples (minus Thomas) the First Final Commission (John 20:21-25)
 - h. Jesus gave the disciples authority in their ministry (John 20:21)
 - i. Jesus gave the disciples the Holy Spirit (John 20:22); this was different than the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2. They received the Holy Spirit's OT ministry of illumination rather than the permanent indwelling and baptism of the Holy Spirit.

- j. Jesus extended the disciples authority in the sense of church discipline and order (John 20:23); this authority was for the 11 apostles only, and was not passed on to anyone else.
11. Sixth Appearance: The Eleven (John 20:26-31; 1 Cor 15:5)
- a. This appearance occurred eight days after the resurrection (John 20:26); a week passed between the Fifth appearance and the Sixth appearance.
 - b. Jesus appeared to all eleven disciples, including Thomas; during the Messiah's Fifth Appearance, only ten disciples were present; when the ten disciples reported to Thomas that they had seen the resurrected Messiah, Thomas refused to believe (John 20:24-25); for this reason, the disciples still did not go to Galilee, as they had been instructed 3x, but remained in Jerusalem
 - c. Jesus appeared out of nowhere and spoke directly to Thomas (John 20:27)
12. Seventh Appearance: The Seven (John 21:1-25)
- a. This was Jesus' third appearance to the disciples
 - b. This appearance was to seven disciples by the Sea of Galilee; after all eleven disciples believed in the resurrection did they finally journey to Galilee (John 21:1); the disciples were: Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James, John.
 - c. The disciples did not understand their new commission, so they went back to fishing; they fished, but caught nothing; Jesus appeared again while they were out on the water (John 21:5-6)
 - d. Jesus instructed them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat, where they caught 153 fish; they came back to shore, where Jesus was cooking breakfast; Jesus was demonstrating that they did not need to go back to the fishing industry for provision, but He would provide for them
 - e. After breakfast, Jesus had a private conversation with Peter (John 21:15-23), where Peter was commissioned to ministry, and his previous threefold denial is rectified by his threefold affirmation of love.
13. Eighth Appearance: The Five Hundred (Matt 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-18; 1 Cor 15:6)
- a. This group included more than 500 believers (1 Cor 15:6), including the eleven disciples, who were his primary audience
 - b. The second commission Jesus gave the disciples was the Great Commission.
14. Ninth Appearance: James (1 Cor 15:7)
- a. This is not James the disciple, but rather James the half-brother of Jesus; he, along with his three brothers (all half-brothers of Jesus) were unbelievers through His life. No doubt that this encounter resulted in James' conversion. James was later the head of the Jerusalem church and wrote the Epistle of James.
15. Tenth Appearance: The Eleven Apostles (Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:3-8)
- a. This appearance occurred at the time of His Ascension

- b. In this appearance, Jesus gave the disciples their third and final commission: wait for the coming Holy Spirit

Post-Ascension Appearances of Christ

1. To Stephen at his stoning (Acts 7:55-60)
2. To Paul at his conversion (Acts 9:3-8, 17; 22:6-15; 26:12-19; 1 Cor 9:1; 15:8)
3. To Paul at Corinth (Acts 18:9-10)
4. To Paul in the temple (Acts 22:17-21)
5. To Paul later in Jerusalem (Acts 23:11)
6. To Paul in another vision (2 Cor 12:1-4)
7. To John on Patmos (Revelation)