

SPECIAL RESURRECTION APPEARANCES



1 Corinthians 15:3-10

The sovereign, all-wise Lord had determined ahead of time to whom He would appear after His resurrection. These special appearances are fascinating, as God certainly had unique purposes for each one.

* 1) **To the Women:** In a Roman society dominated by males, His first two appearances were to women (John 20:14-17; Matt. 28:9). Frutchenbaum commented, “The fact that the second appearance was also to women and not to men strengthens the argument that the Gospel accounts are genuine. Any Jewish author fabricating a story would not have written it this way, but the Gospel writers reported the truth.”

* 2) **To Peter:** We are given no details of this encounter, except that it happened (Luke 24:33-35; 1 Cor. 15:5). This was the first recorded time that Peter saw the Lord since Jesus gave him a piercing glance after the three denials (Luke 22:61). What the Lord said to Peter on that resurrection Sunday is shrouded in secrecy, and later Jesus would deal with him further (John 21:15-19).

* 3) **To Thomas:** Doubting Thomas instantly became Convinced Thomas, and a blessing was pronounced upon all believers who had not seen the risen Lord (John 20:26-29).

* 4) **To James:** This was the pivotal event in the life of James, the half-brother of Jesus, who would become the faithful leader of the Jerusalem church (1 Cor. 15:7). He was in unbelief prior to this life-changing event (John 7:5).

* 5) **To Saul:** This appearance led to a spectacular conversion as the church’s greatest persecutor became its greatest apostle (Acts 9).

* 6) **To Stephen:** The church’s first martyr was given a comforting glimpse of His risen Saviour as Christ stood to welcome him to glory (Acts 7:54-60).

* 7) **To John:** The aged disciple whom Jesus loved saw the risen Christ on the island Patmos, and became God’s instrument to show us things to come (Revelation 1).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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