**Research on: Jesus’ Resurrection and Ascension**

Mark 16:6, 9, 14

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“That Jesus was seen by his disciples during the forty days following his resurrection is a fact carefully authenticated and verified by the Gospel writers. By tarrying on earth the Master gave proof of his resurrection. Ten appearances are specifically recorded as having occurred during this period, five of these taking place on the day of Resurrection.

“In each of these five appearances he sounded out the understanding of those to whom he appeared. He found them slow to believe. The acceptance for centuries of the inevitability of death was so predominant that the realization of his living presence was almost beyond their grasp” (Shotwell 329).

 “No ‘stone’ set or sealed by the authority of men could keep the Christ entombed, and early in the morning on the first day of the week came Jesus’ glorious resurrection . . . The Resurrection, confirmed by Jesus’ subsequent appearances, revived the fainting faith of the apostles and filled them with renewed spiritual strength and confidence. His physical presence convinced them of his resurrection and he became to them the Risen Christ. This rising gave incontrovertible evidence of the truth of his teachings and authenticated every precept he had uttered” (Shotwell 328).

6 Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen;

“*he is risen*] When exactly He had risen no man knoweth, for no man saw. But that it was true did not admit of doubt. When the Apostles Peter and John visited the tomb an hour or so afterwards ([John 20:3-10](http://biblehub.com/context/john/20-3.htm)), they went in undismayed, but it was empty. The Holy Body was gone! There were no traces of violence. All was order and calm. The linen bandages lay carefully unrolled by themselves. The facecloth that had covered the Face lay not with them. It was folded up in a place in the empty niche by itself. But He was not there. He had risen even as He had said” (Cambridge Bible, www.biblehub.com).

9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

 “*When Jesus was risen early, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene*— “There is something very remarkable in this passage of the history. None of the apostles, or male disciples, were honored with the first visions of the angels, or with the immediate news of Christ’s resurrection, far less with the first appearances of Jesus himself. The angels in the sepulchre kept themselves invisible all the time Peter and John were there. Perhaps the male disciples in general had this mark of disrespect put on them, both because they had with inexcusable and shameful cowardice forsaken their Master when he fell into the hands of his enemies, and because their faith was so weak, that they had absolutely despaired of his being the Messiah when they saw him expire on the cross, [Luke 24:21](http://biblehub.com/luke/24-21.htm). How different was the conduct of the women! Laying aside the weakness and timidity natural to their sex, they showed an uncommon magnanimity in the whole of this melancholy transaction. Hence, in preference to the male disciples, they were honored with the news of Christ’s resurrection, and had their eyes gladdened with the first sight of their beloved Lord after he arose, so that they preached the joyful tidings of his resurrection to the apostles themselves” (Benson Commentary, www.biblehub.com).

“She had gone with the other women to the sepulchre (Mr 16:1), parting from them, perhaps, before their interview with the angel, and on finding Peter and John she had come with them back to the spot; and it was at this second visit, it would seem, that Jesus appeared to this Mary, as detailed in Joh 20:11-18.

To a woman was this honor given to be the first that saw the risen Redeemer; and that woman was not his virgin-mother” (Jamieson 3.214).

“That Jesus chose to make a woman the first witness to his resurrection was the most dramatic confirmation of his belief in her spirituality. He entrusted her with the most significant message of his mission on earth—that he had overcome death—and in so doing paid the highest tribute to her faith and to her love. Above all he held her up as the person most worthy of his trust” (Sergio 106).

“The plan was that the women should return first thing on the Sunday morning to complete the task of burying Jesus properly. Waking before dawn, meeting somewhere in the city, quietly going through the Garden Gate in the city’s wall, they made their way out to the disused quarry—a place now associated in their minds with barbaric torture, political injustice and human tragedy. It was likely to have been a damp, chilly April morning. They were a small group—probably four of them (Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, and another Mary). They hoped that they would not draw attention to themselves, and that their combined efforts would be sufficient to roll the stone away. Although a tiny expedition, it was destined to become perhaps the most famous of all time. For when they came within sight of the tomb, they could see that the stone had already been rolled away” (Walker 180).

One of the religious tenets of Christian Science states:

“5. We acknowledge that the crucifixion of Jesus and his resurrection served to uplift faith to understand eternal Life, even the allness of Soul, Spirit, and the nothingness of matter” (*S&H* 497).

14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

“Afterward he appeared unto the eleven - Judas was dead, and the apostles were then called "the eleven." This was done even when one of them was absent, as Thomas was on this occasion” (Barnes’ Notes, www.biblehub.com).

“The same evening, as the apostles (except Thomas), met together behind closed doors because of their fear of the authorities, Jesus suddenly stood among them” (Shotwell 331).

“*And upbraided them with their unbelief*&c. — “That after so many assurances from his own mouth that he would rise again the third day; and after the testimony of so many eye-witnesses, that he had performed his promise, they believed not” (Benson Commentary, www.biblehub.com).

“The rebuke Jesus gave his disciples is particularly severe - more severe, in fact, than any other rebuke he gives them elsewhere in the Gospels” (*EBC* 8. 789).

“*And upbraided them*. Rebuked them, or reproached them. This was done because, after all the evidence they had had of the resurrection, still they did not believe. . . This is a most important circumstance in the history of our Lord’s resurrection. It shows, conclusively, that they had not conspired to impose on the world; that they had given up all for lost when he died; that they did not expect his resurrection; and all this is the strongest proof that he truly rose” (Barnes 178).