

People Who Witnessed the Risen Christ

Resurrection Appearances — Places

1. **At the Tomb** — Mary Magdalene, the 1st Apostle
2. Then he appeared to **James**, then to **all the apostles** (Mark 16?) Where we don't know.
3. **500 brethren** (unknown location or situation)
4. **Shore of Galilee** (1 time) “3rd time Jesus revealed to the disciples” (Jn 21:14)
5. **Mount Tabor (Transfiguration)** (Matt 28 and Great Commission) (1 time)
6. **Upper Room** without Thomas and with Thomas (2 times)
7. **Road to Emmaus** (1 time)
8. **Mount of Olives** at time a Ascension (1 time)
9. **Road to Damascus**

Resurrection Appearances — People

1. **Angels at the Tomb** (throughout the story)

- Matthew 28:1–2 Now after the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, **Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulchre.** ² And behold, there was a great earthquake; for **an angel of the Lord descended from heaven** and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it.
- Matthew 28:10 But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

2. God the Father and the Holy Spirit

- Acts 2:24 But **God raised him up**, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.
- Romans 8:11 If **the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead** dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit who dwells in you.

3. Roman Soldiers

- Matthew 28:2-4 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for **an angel of the Lord descended from heaven** and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.
- Matthew 28:12–13 And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a **sum of money to the**

soldiers and said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’”

4. Souls in Hades

- 1 Peter 3:19–20 In which **he went and preached to the spirits in prison**, who formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.
- 1 Peter 4:6 For this is why the **gospel was preached even to the dead**, that though judged in the flesh like men, they might live in the spirit like God.
- CCC 632 Jesus, like all men, experienced death and in his soul **joined the others in the realm of the dead**. But he descended there as Savior, proclaiming the Good News to the spirits imprisoned there.

5. Devil, Satan

- 1 Corinthians 2:8. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

6. Mother Mary (at Tomb and Upper Room)

- Many saints and theologians consider it quite certain that Mary was at the tomb in the morning.

7. **Mary Magdalene and the “Gardener”** (1st Apostle),

- Mary had evidently thrown herself at Jesus’ feet and was attempting to demonstrate her love by throwing her arms about his knees. Jesus must tell her, however, that the old relationships are no more, and he must not be hindered in completing the drama of his glorification. Now he must return to the Father, thus accomplishing the destiny that has been the goal of his entire earthly life. (*The Jerome Biblical Commentary*, 463.)
- ‘*Do not cling to me*’. The reason of the prohibition is that just now she must be a messenger, “Apostle to the Apostles” (*apostolorum apostola*). The content of the message is that he is risen and is still with his brethren, till he ascends to his Father—not immediately. There are many interpretations of these difficult words, but the above seems the simplest. (*A Catholic Commentary on Holy Scripture*, ed. Bernard Orchard, 1015–1016.)

8. **Peter and John running to the Tomb**

- John 20:4–5 They both ran, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first; ⁵ and stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in.

9. **Angels again at the Tomb**

- Luke 24:4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel;

10. Thomas the Doubter

- John 20:24–28 Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came [the 1st time]. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.” Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but **Jesus came and stood among them**, and said, “Peace be with you.” Then **he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here**, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

11. Cephas, then to the Twelve—Matthias added by now (1 Cor 15:5)

- These apostles would not die horrific deaths for a lie. They knew the truth and gave their lives as their final witness to truth.

12. 500 brethren

- 1 Corinthians 15:6 Then he appeared to more than **five hundred brethren** at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

13. James (brother of the Lord) **and all the apostles** (1 Cor 15:7)

14. Two Men on Road to Emmaus

- One named Cleopas

15. Matthias (took Judas' place)

- Acts 1:21–26 So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—**one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.**” ... And they cast lots for them, and **the lot fell on Matthias**; and he was enrolled with the eleven apostles.

16. Resurrected bodies out of their tombs

- Matthew 27:52–53 The **tombs also were opened**, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and **coming out of the tombs after his resurrection** they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

17. St. Paul on Road to Damascus

1 Corinthians 15:8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

WE ARE A RESURRECTION PEOPLE AND HALLELUJAH IS OUR SONG