THEN HE APPEARED TO JAMES

I Corinthians 15:7&8 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

Which James?

Mark 5:37 He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James.

Galatians 2:9a James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me.

Acts 12:2 He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword.

Acts 12:17 Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. “Tell James and the other brothers and sisters about this,” he said, and then he left for another place.

James the Lord’s Brother

Galatians 1:19 I saw none of the other apostles – only James, the Lord’s brother.

“The brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James.” Josephus, *The Antiquities of the Jews*, Book 20, Chapter 9, Verse 200.

Acts 1:13b&14 Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus and with his brothers.

Mark 6:3&4 “Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us? And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.”

Initial Unbelief

John 7:2-5 But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, Jesus’ brothers said to him, “Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.” For even his own believers did not believe in him.

Mark 3:20&21 Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.”

Mark 3:30-32 Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.”

Mark 3:33-35 “Who are my mother and my brothers?” he asked. Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”

John 8:41b(NASB) They said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God.”

James Probably Not at Crucifixion

John 19:25-27 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Then He Appeared to James

I Corinthians 15:3-5 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

I Corinthians 15:6-8 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

According to Luke 24:33-36, Jesus appeared first to Peter, then the Twelve (minus Thomas). Then he appeared to more than 500 (probably Matthew 28:16-20). Then he appeared to James before appearing again to the Twelve (including Thomas), the meeting recorded in John 20:24-29.

The Radical Change in James and His Brothers

Acts 1:14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Galatians 1:18&19 Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days. I saw none of the other apostles – only James, the Lord’s brother.

Galatians 2:1&9 Then after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also…James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcision.

Acts 12:17 Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. “Tell James and the other brothers and sisters about this,” he said, and then he left for another place.

Acts 15:13,14,19 When they finished, James spoke up. “Brothers,” he said, “listen to me. Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles… It is my judgment, therefore that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.”

I Corinthians 9:5 Don’t we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord’s brothers and Cephas?

Acts 21:18 The next day Paul and the rest of us went in to see James, and all the elders were present.

James 1:1a James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jude 1a Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James.

Things to Think About

One of the strongest pieces of evidence for the resurrection is the transformed lives of those who encountered Jesus after the resurrection.

Peter went from denying he even knew Jesus to publicly preaching that Christ was the Messiah on the day of Pentecost.

Paul went from persecuting the church to preaching in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

James had known Jesus his entire life and in spite of Jesus’ miracles he did not believe.

He was radically changed by Jesus appearing to him in the first week after the resurrection, eventually becoming both the “Head Elder” of the church in Jerusalem and an apostle who took his wife with him on his missionary journeys and who God also used to write Scripture.

According to I Corinthians 15:1-4 the Gospel is that “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”

Believing the Gospel transformed James, and it can transform anyone who believes.