

day of resurrection. The third took place a week later.

In the twenty-first chapter we have the record of a manifestation of the risen Christ to seven disciples at the sea of Tiberias. The sea of Tiberias is another name for the sea of Galilee according to the Fourth Evangelist. In John 6:1 we read, "After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias." This appearance to the seven took place in Galilee. At this point the Fourth Gospel confirms the statement of Matthew that there were appearances in Galilee as well as in Judaea.

After the narration of this appearance to the seven disciples, a number of whom are named in verse 2, the evangelist says, "This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after that He was risen from the dead." (verse 14) One will say, "Has not the Evangelist recorded three manifestations already in the previous chapter, and now he says, 'This is now the third time'?" In answer it may be said that the third time refers naturally to the third appearance which was made to any considerable number of disciples collectively. Such appearances as the ones to Mary Magdalene, the women, the two disciples on the way to Emmaus, and to Peter, are not reckoned because these appearances were private.

Beginning with verse 15 we have the story of Peter's restoration. The disciple who had made a threefold denial of Jesus before the crucifixion was required now to make a threefold confession of love to the risen Christ. It is a very touching scene in which Jesus appeals to Peter to feed the lambs and tend the sheep in the flock of God. Compare I Peter 5:2,3. There follows a prophecy by Jesus of how the apostle Peter should die. (verse 18 and following)

Verses 24 and 25 form the conclusion of John's Gospel. The apostle John has given a faithful witness in this trustworthy record to Jesus Christ "the Word of life."