

being present on this occasion. This appearance which the Gospel of John relates took place a week after the resurrection day. (John 20:26-28) Seventh, in Galilee Jesus appeared to seven disciples when they were fishing at the sea of Tiberias (John 21:1-23). Eighth, the appearance to the eleven disciples upon an appointed mountain in Galilee. This appearance is recorded by Matthew. (28:16-20) Some scholars suggest a possible parallelism between this appearance and the one to above five hundred brethren mentioned by Paul in I Corinthians 15:6. Ninth, Jesus appeared to James under circumstances of which we have no information. The fact is mentioned by Paul alone in I Corinthians 15:7. Tenth, to the apostles in Jerusalem Jesus appeared on the occasion of a meal. This incident recorded in Acts 1:4,5 seems to have been a meeting not mentioned in the Gospels. Eleventh, there is the last appearance to the apostles immediately before the ascension, when they accompanied Jesus from Jerusalem to the Mount of Olives, and there beheld Him ascend to heaven, till a cloud received Him out of their sight. (Luke 24:50-52; Acts 1:6-8) Twelfth, Jesus appeared to Paul on his way to Damascus. This was a special manifestation of the risen Lord to Paul according to his own testimony in I Corinthians 15:8.

Let us now turn our attention to the naturalistic explanations of the resurrection of Jesus and see how such explanations square with the New Testament accounts. We have already noticed the theory of fraud which was advocated by Reimarus to explain the belief of the disciples in the resurrection of Jesus. The disciples stole the body from the sepulchre, and then told the message that Jesus had risen. The view was anticipated by the Jews when "they gave large money unto the soldiers, saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole Him away while we slept." (Matthew 28:13) Thus we see the