

# 1 Corinthians 15:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

## Analysis

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**After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once** (ἔπειτα ὡφθῇ ἐπάνω πεντακοσίοις ἀδελφοῖς ἐφάπαξ)—The adverb ephapax (ἐφάπαξ, "at one time, simultaneously") demolishes the hallucination hypothesis—mass hallucinations of this scale are psychologically impossible. Paul provides 500+ eyewitnesses, many still living when he wrote (AD 55), inviting verification.

**Of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep** (ἐξ ὧν οἱ πλείονες μένουσιν ἕως ἄρτι, τινὲς δὲ ἐκοιμήθησαν)—Paul's phrase **fallen asleep** (ekoimēthēsan, ἐκοιμήθησαν) is the Christian euphemism for death, implying resurrection awaits (1 Thessalonians 4:13). This appearance, unrecorded in the Gospels, may be Matthew 28:16 or another Galilean event. The appeal to living witnesses is unprecedented in ancient literature—Paul invites fact-checking.

## Historical Context

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When Paul wrote (AD 55), Christ's resurrection was 25 years past, yet 'most' of 500+ witnesses still lived. This is powerful apologetic evidence—Paul couldn't make this claim if easily falsifiable. The Jerusalem church knew these people; skeptics could interview them.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the invitation to verify with living eyewitnesses demonstrate Paul's confidence in resurrection's historicity?
2. Why does the simultaneity of 500+ witnesses present an insurmountable problem for naturalistic explanations?
3. What does the phrase 'fallen asleep' reveal about early Christian confidence in resurrection?

## Interlinear Text

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ἔπειτα	ὥφθη	ἐπάνω	πεντακοσίοις	ἀδελφοῖς	ἐφάπαξ		
After that	he was seen	of above	five hundred	brethren	at once		
G1899	G3700	G1883	G4001	G80	G2178		
ἐξ	ὧν	οἱ	πλείους	μένουσιν	ἕως	ἄρτι	τινὲς
of	whom	G3588	the greater part	remain	unto	this present	some
G1537	G3739		G4119	G3306	G2193	G737	G5100
δὲ	καὶ	ἐκοιμήθησαν·					
but	G2532	are fallen asleep					
G1161		G2837					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 28:10** (Parallel theme): Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

**Mark 16:7** (Parallel theme): But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

**Acts 13:36** (Parallel theme): For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

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