

# 1 Corinthians 15:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

## Analysis

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**After that, he was seen of James** (επειτα ὤφθη Ἰακώβῳ)—This is James the Just, Jesus's half-brother (Galatians 1:19), who did not believe during Jesus's earthly ministry (John 7:5) but became a pillar of the Jerusalem church (Acts 15, Galatians 2:9). This appearance, unrecorded in canonical Gospels but detailed in the Gospel of the Hebrews, converted James from skeptic to martyr. His transformation demands explanation—family members are hardest to deceive.

**Then of all the apostles** (εἶτα τοῖς ἀποστόλοις πᾶσιν)—Paul distinguishes *hoi apostoloi pantes* ("all the apostles") from "the twelve" (v. 5), indicating a wider circle including James, Barnabas, and others commissioned by the risen Christ (Acts 1:21-22). This may refer to the ascension appearance (Acts 1:4-9) or another commissioning event.

## Historical Context

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James's conversion is one of history's most powerful evidences for resurrection. He went from mocking his brother to leading the Jerusalem church and dying as a martyr (Josephus, *Antiquities* 20.200). Only resurrection explains this radical transformation. Early church father Jerome preserved James's vow: 'I will not eat bread until I see the Lord risen from the dead.'

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does James's conversion from skeptical family member to martyred church leader validate resurrection claims?
2. Why would Paul emphasize an appearance to Jesus's brother who initially disbelieved?
3. What does the distinction between 'the twelve' and 'all the apostles' indicate about early church structure?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἐπειτα ὤφθη Ἰακώβῳ εῖτα τοῖς ἀποστόλοις πᾶσιν·  
After that he was seen of James then the apostles of all  
G1899 G3700 G2385 G1534 G3588 G652 G3956

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 24:50** (Parallel theme): And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

**Luke 24:33** (Parallel theme): And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,

**Luke 24:36** (Parallel theme): And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.