

1 Corinthians 15:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

After that, he was seen of James (ἔπειτα 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

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

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

ἔπειτα	ὥφθη	Ἰακώβω	εἶτα	τοῖς	ἀποστόλοις	πᾶσιν·
After that	he was seen	of James	then	G3588	the apostles	of all
G1899	G3700	G2385	G1534		G652	G3956

Additional Cross-References

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.