

1 Corinthians 15:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

Analysis

And last of all he was seen of me also (ἔσχατον δὲ πάντων ὡς περὶ τῷ ἐκτρώματι ὥφθη καί μοί)—Paul includes himself in the resurrection witness list, though last and least. The word *ektróma* (ἐκτρωμα) means "untimely birth, miscarriage, abortion"—shockingly harsh self-description. Paul sees his Damascus Road encounter (Acts 9) as abnormal, violent spiritual birth, unlike the other apostles' discipleship process.

As of one born out of due time emphasizes Paul's apostleship came through extraordinary divine intervention, not normal chronological sequence. Yet he insists his vision of the risen Christ was as objective and physical as the others'—not mere mystical experience but resurrection appearance qualifying him as apostle (1 Corinthians 9:1, Acts 1:22).

Historical Context

Paul wrote 1 Corinthians circa AD 55, about 25 years after Christ's resurrection and 20 years after his Damascus Road conversion (AD 33-35). His inclusion of himself among resurrection witnesses, despite being Christianity's chief persecutor, adds credibility—a hostile witness converted by what he saw.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Why does Paul use such violent imagery ('miscarriage') to describe his conversion—what does this reveal about grace?
2. How does Paul's hostile stance before Damascus make his testimony more, not less, credible?
3. What qualifies Paul's Damascus vision as a resurrection appearance rather than subjective mystical experience?

Interlinear Text

ἔσχατον	δὲ	πάντων	ὡςπερὲν	τῷ	ἐκτρώματι
last	And	of all	as	G3588	of one born out of due time
G2078	G1161	G3956	G5619		G1626
ὤφθη	κάμοί				
he was seen	of me also				
G3700	G2504				

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 9:1 (Parallel theme): Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord?

Acts 18:9 (Parallel theme): Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:

Acts 22:18 (Parallel theme): And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me.

Acts 26:16 (Parallel theme): But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

Acts 9:17 (Parallel theme): And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

Acts 22:14 (Parallel theme): And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org