

Acts 13:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.

Analysis

And he was seen many days (ὥφθη ἐπὶ ἡμέρας πλείους, *ōphthē epi hēmeras pleious*)—Paul emphasizes the plurality and duration of Christ's post-resurrection appearances, not a fleeting vision but sustained eyewitness encounters over forty days (Acts 1:3). The passive "was seen" implies divine initiative—Christ revealed himself deliberately to chosen witnesses.

Who are his witnesses unto the people (οἵτινες νῦν εἰσιν μάρτυρες αὐτοῦ, *hoitines nyn eisin martyres autou*)—These Galilean disciples became martyres (witnesses/martyrs), the foundation of apostolic testimony. Paul, though not among the original twelve, claims apostolic authority through his Damascus Road encounter (1 Corinthians 15:8). The resurrection is not theological abstraction but historical fact attested by multiple credible witnesses—the bedrock of Christian proclamation.

Historical Context

Paul delivered this sermon in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (c. AD 47-48) during his first missionary journey. His audience included Jews and God-fearing Gentiles familiar with messianic prophecy. By grounding the resurrection in Galilean eyewitness testimony, Paul connected the risen Christ to his earthly ministry and fulfilled the prophetic requirement of multiple witnesses (Deuteronomy 19:15).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Why does the historical reliability of the resurrection matter for your faith?
How would Christianity be different if it were based on subjective experience rather than witnessed events?
2. What does it mean that you are called to be Christ's 'witness' (μάρτυς) in your generation? How does eyewitness testimony from the first century empower your witness today?

Interlinear Text

ὃς	ὥφθη	ἐπὶ	ἡμέρας	πλείους	τοῖς	
And he	was seen	many	days	G4119	G3588	
G3739	G3700	G1909	G2250			
συναναβᾶσιν	αὐτοῦ	ἀπὸ	τῆς	Γαλιλαίας	εἰς	
of them which came up with	him	from	G3588	Galilee	to	
G4872	G846	G575		G1056	G1519	
Ἰερουσαλήμ	οἵτινες	εἰσιν	μάρτυρες	αὐτοῦ	πρὸς	τὸν
Jerusalem	who	are	witnesses	him	unto	G3588
G2419	G3748	G1526	G3144	G846	G4314	
λαόν						
the people						
G2992						

Additional Cross-References

Acts 1:3 (Parallel theme): To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Luke 24:48 (Witness): And ye are witnesses of these things.

Acts 1:11 (Parallel theme): Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Acts 1:8 (Witness): But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Matthew 28:16 (Parallel theme): Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.