

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT
MAY 5, 2022

The Apostle Paul records in 1 Corinthians 15:6 that after that (after He had appeared to his disciples) Jesus appeared to 500 brethren (presumably not counting the women and children) at one time. Paul further states that most of them are still alive some 25 years later so he would have been able to gain direct information from them.

It is thought that this appearance must have taken place in Galilee, for only there would such a number of former followers of Jesus be ready to receive such an experience. Questions arise about why there is not more information about this event. There may have been written history at one time but it was lost or destroyed by time. Verbal history was common because of the lack of reading and writing skills or of the expense of writing materials.

Paul depends upon his personal contacts and conversations with the people who are still alive to include information about the event in his writings. Paul would have been careful to be accurate because he is writing to people who are Greek and attempting to convince them of the resurrection of Jesus. They could have easily talked with the same people and verified his account.

Appearing to the people in Galilee would not have been thought to be unusual. Galilee was his home territory. The people there knew Him. Some of them knew Him as the son of Joseph; some knew Him as the great healer; some had even thought that He might be the Messiah who would overthrow the Roman government and restore Israel's independence. All knew that He had been crucified until dead. The appearance of Jesus to so great a crowd of people would be the visual teaching that they could not deny. One can imagine that they recognized his appearance and the sound of his voice. Perhaps He also healed some that were brought to Him. I can imagine that Jesus held out his hands for them to look upon and examine if they wished to verify his identity. These people would also become his witnesses to help fulfill his mission on earth.

What an awesome experience those people had! Lord, help us to experience You in your presence today. Amen. Pastor Louise