

Christ Appearing to His Own

The opening verses of **the Life of Christ** are in the nature of a prologue, so the closing verses are more or less an epilogue. In the former, **the Ruach HaKodesh** has revealed **Messiah before He** came from **the Father**; in the latter **the Holy Spirit** has shown how **Christ** now rules the universe **after His** return to **the Father**. Everything here has a profound significance. We see **Yeshua Messiah** appearing at **the Sea of Tiberius** and reinstating **Peter (John 21:1-25)**. We learn about **Christ** giving the great commission on a **Galilean mountainside (Matthew 28:16-20)**. And we read about **the risen Lord** teaching so **His disciples could understand the Scriptures** and being **taken up to heaven from the vicinity of Bethany**, which is on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives (**Luke 24:44-53**).

Note that after rising from the dead, **Meshiach** appeared only to believers . . . **His own**. If **His** followers doubted **His** resurrection, it was not because they doubted the truthfulness of **His** claims; they merely thought the resurrection was too good to be true. Consequently, **Jesus** welcomed their belief, while tenderly offering evidence to build their confidence in the truth of **His** resurrection. Even so, **He** praised those who believed in **His** resurrection without much need for proof. **Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed (John 20:29)**.

Trust and evidence are not unrelated in the spiritual life of a believer, but our starting point is vital. Faith in **ADONAI** must come first; *then* evidence is helpful. Apart from belief, evidence is virtually meaningless because there is never enough evidence for unbelief.

Doubt + Evidence = Confusion

Trust + Evidence = Confidence

Whenever I encounter a skeptic - someone who demands evidence before belief - I avoid offering proof of anything. I have wasted enough time on pointless debates. Instead, I focus on the real issue at hand: their sinfulness and their need for **the Savior**. When a lost person comes to terms with his or her sinfulness - genuinely so - then belief is the next logical step. Then, ironically, they find great comfort and confidence in **Christ's** resurrection.¹⁶⁸²