

Question

As I recall, there are only four or five postresurrection appearances of Jesus that are recounted in the Bible; so, Why does The Urantia Book say that there were nineteen?

Answer by Chris Halvorson

Your recollection of only four or five postresurrection appearances of Jesus is a reflection of how very little of those events is recounted by the New Testament authors. However, if you closely examine the relevant passages in the New Testament, the authors actually refer to eleven of the nineteen postresurrection appearances. In the following chronological list, the dashes indicate that the Bible does not have even a passing allusion to those appearances:

1. Mar:16.9-11, Joh:20.11-18
2. Mat:28.9-10
3. 1Co:15.7
4. --
5. --
6. --
7. Mar:16.12-13, Luk:24.13-32
8. Luk:24.34, 1Co:15.5a
9. Luk:24.36-43, Joh:20.19-23
10. --
11. Mar:16.14, Joh:20.24-29, 1Co:15.5b
12. --
13. Joh:21.1-23
14. Mat:28.16-20, Mar:16.15-18
15. 1Co:15.6
16. --
17. --
18. --
19. Mar:16.19, Luk:24.44-51, Act:1.4-9

You probably noticed that I use a slightly different notation to reference Bible passages. The usual scholarly system stresses the separateness of the books in the Bible: each book is broken into "titles" and "subtitles", separated by a colon. I think that we should recall that the Church Fathers canonized the books of the Bible because together they contain a continuity of truth, despite their diversity of factual perspectives.