

“Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by **those who from the first were eyewitnesses** and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus.” (Luke 1:1-3 NIV)

New Testament writers, especially in the Gospels and Acts, were careful to record that they were relaying the testimony of eyewitnesses, many of whom were still alive after the most of the Testament was written. Their accounts were not fabrications or hallucinations or legends. They were real!

“After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, **most of whom are still living**, though some have fallen asleep.” (1 Corinthians 15:6 NIV)

“For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but **we were eyewitnesses** of his majesty.” (2 Peter 1:16 NIV)

“God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. **We are witnesses of these things**, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.” (Acts 5:31,32 NIV)

The importance of being actual eyewitnesses of Christ cannot be overstated. Notice the following proof texts:

“Many women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and ministered to Him were there, **looking on** from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.” (Matthew 27:55,56 HCSB)

“Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were **seated there, facing the tomb.**” (Matthew

27:61 HCSB)

“He is not here! For He has been resurrected, just as He said. Come and **see the place** where He lay.” (Matthew 28:6 HCSB)

“Then go quickly and tell His disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead. In fact, He is going ahead of you to Galilee; **you will see Him** there.’ Listen, I have told you.” (Matthew 28:7 HCSB)

“**When they saw him** they fell down before him, though some hesitated.” (Matthew 28:17 NJB)

“There were also women **looking on** from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.” (Mark 15:40 HCSB)

“Now Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses were **watching** where He was placed.” (Mark 15:47 HCSB)

“When they entered the tomb, **they saw** a young man dressed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; they were amazed and alarmed.” (Mark 16:5 HCSB)

“All the crowds that had gathered for this spectacle, when **they saw** what had taken place, went home, striking their chests. But all who knew Him, including the women who had followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, **watching these things.**” (Luke 23:48,49 HCSB)