

## ~APPARITION (208)

[Greek, *phan'ta-sma* , Apparition]

- The Greek word *phan'ta-sma* occurs only in the two accounts of Jesus walking over the waters of the Sea of Galilee to his disciples who were in a boat.
- When they caught sight of him walking on the sea, the disciples were troubled, saying; It is an **apparition!** And they cried out in their fear. (**Matthew 14:26**)
- At catching sight of him walking on the sea they thought; It is an **apparition!** And they cried aloud. (**Mark 6:49**)
- The frightened disciples are quoted as saying; It is an **apparition!** The word *phan'ta-sma* is variously translated as **spirit** KJ, **ghost** AS, AT, RS, Mo, **phantom**, Fn, **false vision**, La, and **apparition**, Da, ED, Dy, Kx, MR, NW
- An **apparition** is an illusion. Something actually not present, but temporarily believed in because of excited imagination or other cause. Assuring the disciples that such was not the case and that he was real, Jesus said; **It is I, have no fear.**
- But at once Jesus spoke to them with the words; Take courage, it is **I, have no fear.** (**Matthew 14:27**)
- For they all saw him and were troubled. But immediately he spoke with them, and he said to them, **Take courage, it is I, have no fear.** (**Mark 6:50**)
- This was, therefore, a different situation from the occasion when the resurrected Jesus suddenly appeared in the midst of his disciples, causing them to imagine they beheld **a spirit**, Greek, *pneu'ma*.
- While they were speaking of these things he himself stood in their midst and said to them; May you have peace. (**Luke 24:36**)
- But because they were terrified, and had become frightened, they were imagining they beheld **a spirit.** (**Luke 24:37**)
- Jesus words in this situation evidently were not designed to convince them merely of his **reality**, but to assure them that he was

**appearing before them in a fleshly human form and not in spirit form, hence, he told them to feel me and see, because a spirit does not have flesh and bones just as you behold that I have.**

- So he said to them; Why are you troubled, and why is it doubts come up in your hearts? (**Luke 24:38**)
- See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself, feel me and see, because a spirit does not have flesh and bones just as you behold that I have. (**Luke 24:39**)
- And as he said this he showed them his hands and his feet. (**Luke 24:40**)
- But while they were still not believing for sheer joy and were wondering, he said to them; **Do you have something there to eat?** (**Luke 24:41**)
- And they handed him a piece of broiled fish. (**Luke 24:42**)
- And he took it and ate it before their eyes. (**Luke 24:43**)
- Afterward Yehowah appeared to him among the big trees of Mamre, while he was sitting at the entrance of the tent about the heat of the day. (**Genesis 18:1**)
- When he raised his eyes, then he looked and there three men were standing some distance from him. When he caught sight of them he began running to meet them from the entrance of the tent and proceeded to bow down to the earth. (**Genesis 18:2**)
- Then he said, Yehowah, if, now, I have found favor in your eyes, please do not pass by your servant. (**Genesis 18:3**)
- Let a little water be taken, please, and you must have your feet washed. Then recline under the tree. (**Genesis 18:4**)
- And let me get a piece of bread, and refresh your hearts. Following that, you can pass on, because that is why you have passed this way to your servant. At this they said; All right. You may do just as you have spoken. (**Genesis 18:5**)
- So Abraham went hurrying to the tent to Sarah and said; Hurry! Get three seah measures of fine flour, knead the dough and make

round cakes. (**Genesis 18:6**)

- Next Abraham ran to the herd and proceeded to get a tender and good young bull and to give it to the attendant, and he went hurrying to get it ready. (**Genesis 18:7**)
- He then took butter and milk and the young bull that he had got ready and set it before them. Then he himself kept standing by them under the tree as they were eating. (**Genesis 18:8**)
- Now the two angels arrived at Sodom by evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot caught sight of them, then he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the earth. (**Genesis 19:1**)
- And he proceeded to say; Please, now, my lords, turn aside, please, into the house of your servant and stay overnight and have your feet washed. Then you must get up early and travel on your way. To this they said; No, but in the public square is where we shall stay overnight. (**Genesis 19:2**)
- But he was very insistent with them, so that they turned aside to him and came into his house. Then he made a feast for them, and he baked unfermented cakes, and they went to eating. (**Genesis 19:3**)
- There was, therefore, no need for them to be fearful, which was the effect produced on Daniel by **an awesome angelic appearance** of a completely different nature.
- And on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I myself happened to be on the bank of the great river, that is, Hiddekel. (**Daniel 10:4**)
- I also proceeded to raise my eyes and see, and here was a certain man clothed in linen, with his hips girded with gold of Uphaz. (**Daniel 10:5**)
- And his body was like chrysolite, and his face like the appearance of lightning, and his eyes like fiery torches, and his arms and the place of his feet were like the sight of burnished copper, and the sound of his words was like the sound of a crowd. (**Daniel 10:6**)
- And I saw, I Daniel by myself, the appearance, but as for the men

that happened to be with me, they did not see the appearance. However, there was a great trembling that fell upon them, so that they went running away in hiding themselves. ([Daniel 10:7](#))

- And I, I was left remaining by myself, so that I saw this great appearance. And there was left remaining in me no power, and my own dignity became changed upon me to ruination, and I retained no power. ([Daniel 10:8](#))
- And I began hearing the sound of his words, and while I was hearing the sound of his words, I myself also happened to be fast asleep upon my face, with my face to the earth. ([Daniel 10:9](#))
- The situation was likewise very different from that of Saul of Tarsus, who was later blinded by Jesus appearance to him on the road to Damascus.
- But Saul, still breathing threat and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the High Priest ([Acts of Apostles 9:1](#))
- And asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, in order, that he might bring bound to Jerusalem any whom he found who belonged to The Way, both men and women. ([Acts of Apostles 9:2](#))
- Now as he was traveling he approached Damascus, when suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ([Acts of Apostles 9:3](#))
- And he fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him; Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? ([Acts of Apostles 9:4](#))
- He said; Who are you, Lord? He said; I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ([Acts of Apostles 9:5](#))
- Nevertheless, rise and enter into the city, and what you must do will be told you. ([Acts of Apostles 9:6](#))
- Now the men that were journeying with him were standing speechless, hearing, indeed, the sound of a voice, but not beholding any man. ([Acts of Apostles 9:7](#))
- But Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were opened he was seeing nothing. So they led him by the hand and

- conducted him into Damascus. (**Acts of Apostles 9:8**)
- And for three days he did not see anything, and he neither ate nor drank. (**Acts of Apostles 9:9**)
  - Amid these efforts as I was journeying to Damascus with authority and a commission from the chief priests. (**Acts of Apostles 26:12**)
  - I saw at midday on the road, O king, a light beyond the brilliance of the sun flash from heaven about me and about those journeying with me. (**Acts of Apostles 26:13**)
  - And when we had all fallen to the ground I heard a voice say to me in the Hebrew language; Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? To keep kicking against the goads, makes it hard for you. (**Acts of Apostles 26:14**)

**See Also TRANSFIGURATION**

**See Also VISION**