

stand what did happen. In regard to some things they are irreconcilably contradictory. Some of the incidents given seem to indicate that Jesus appeared to his disciples in a real flesh and blood body—a body that could be touched and handled. On the other hand, there are other incidents reported which seem to show that what appeared to them was not a material body at all, but only something having its semblance.

For example, we are told that on one occasion when one wished to touch him (the risen Jesus), he shrank away, and said, "Touch me not." We are told that at one time he appeared suddenly in a room when the doors were shut. At another time he is represented as walking and talking with two of his intimate disciples a long time, and they do not recognize him. By and by they do recognize him and he "vanishes out of their sight." He appears to Mary Magdalene and she takes him for the gardener, even after he speaks. He appears to the eleven upon a mountain, "but some doubted." He *suddenly* appears to the eleven and others. He appears to them, and they think he is "a spirit," and are "terrified." He is manifested "in another form" to two of them. "Their eyes were holden that they should not know him." And, "as they were looking, he was taken up, and a cloud received him out of their sight."

Now, these statements are not such as can be applied to a real flesh-and-blood body. The real human Jesus whom the disciples had known so intimately, they would not again and again have failed to recognize, when they were with him and talking to him. A real body of flesh and bones does not appear in rooms "when the doors are shut," and suddenly vanish out of men's sight when they are looking at it, and finally rise from the earth into the sky.

These accounts seem very clearly to show that the writers were by no means certain that the being they were telling about was a real flesh-and-blood man; — they were quite as much of the opinion that he was a spiritual being, who could change his appearance at will,