EVIDENCE FOR THE RESURRECTION

THE EMPTY TOMB	**What the Skeptics Say:** • Disciples took the body, Jesus's enemies hid the body, or Jesus was in a coma or had fainted and later left the tomb under His own power. **Answering the Skeptics:** • The tomb was guarded and sealed. The disciples would have risked their lives to carry out the deceit (Matthew 27:66). • The soldiers also risked death in admitting they had failed to guard the tomb (Matthew 28:11-15). • If Jesus's enemies had stolen His body, they could have produced it to debunk the resurrection story and squelch the disciples' testimonies (Acts 4:1-20; 5:30-40; 17:1-9; 23:6-10). • If Jesus's scourging and crucifixion were not enough to kill Him, Pilate asked the centurion who witnessed Jesus's death for confirmation that He was dead before giving the body to Joseph of Arimathea (Mark 15:44-45).
RESURRECTION APPEARANCES	**What the Skeptics Say:** • The disciples were hallucinating or lying. **Answering the Skeptics:** • Hallucinations are internal, created by the mind, and would not explain why multiple people saw Jesus in distinct places, touched Him, and saw Him eat (Matthew 28:8-10,16-20; Luke 24:13-51; John 20:11-29; 21:1-14; Acts 1:1-9). • Paul's list of eyewitnesses to Jesus's resurrection, most of whom were still alive, could debunk or verify his claims, which gives strength to the accounts (1 Corinthians 15:5-8).
THE SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY	**What the Skeptics Say:** • Uneducated men began a revolution that swept through the Roman Empire for their own purposes or financial gain. **Answering the Skeptics:** • All who heard the disciples were amazed at their boldness, preaching, knowledge, and miracles performed in Jesus's name (Acts 2:1-41; 4:13-22). Even Paul—once an enemy—came to confess Jesus as the risen Messiah (Acts 9:20-22). • The apostles and the early church faced persecution and death for their claims that Jesus is the resurrected Christ (Acts 6–7; 11:19-26; 12:1-19; 14:1-5).

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