


The Hope & The Bunny: Easter & the Resurrection

The image features three stuffed Easter bunnies in a landscape. The largest bunny is on the right, wearing a plaid dress with a lace collar. In the center is a smaller brown bunny, also with a lace collar. On the left is another bunny wearing a plaid dress and holding a small basket of colorful eggs. The background shows a sunset over a body of water, framed by a stone archway.

*Psalm 16:8-11
Luke 11:29-32
Matthew 28:1-10
1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 50-58*

Celebration of Easter

- ▶ Easter Bunny references show up in some 16th century German literature.
- ▶ Colored eggs were left only for good boys and girls.
- ▶ Baskets and traditions may have started in the 1700's with some German immigrants.
- ▶ The significance of eggs came from their symbolizing new life as well as fertility and continuing life.
- ▶ "As Christianity spread, the egg was adopted as a symbol of Christ's resurrection from the tomb (a hard casket from which new life will emerge)," wrote [Barbara] Mikkelson of snopes.com.

Easter & The Easter Bunny

- ▶ Promises difficult to understand
- ▶ Predictions of amazing things to come
- ▶ Proof in the results
- ▶ Promised Hope for the Future



The Promise of Old

*I have set the LORD continually before me;
Because He is at my right hand, I will not be
shaken.*

*Therefore my heart is glad and my glory
rejoices;*

My flesh also will dwell securely.

*For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol;
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo
decay.*

You will make known to me the path of life;

In Your presence is fullness of joy;

In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

-King David in Psalm 16:8-11

Observations

- ▶ This was written by David about 1000 years before the birth of Jesus.
- ▶ The LORD is at David's right hand (hand of power) providing for him.
- ▶ God will not abandon David or the coming Messiah in death.
- ▶ Direction, fullness, and joy will be known because of God's promise.



The background is a solid teal color with white dotted lines forming decorative, swirling patterns. A light gray rectangular box is centered on the page, containing the title text.

The Prediction

Luke 11:29-32

As the crowds were increasing, He began to say, "This generation is a wicked generation; it seeks for a sign, and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah. For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. The Queen of the South will rise up with the men of this generation at the judgment and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

Observations

- ▶ "WE WANT A SIGN!!!!"
- ▶ Jonah was "dead" in the fish for 3 days before being resurrected by God.
- ▶ Sign to Ninevah: Repentance leads to salvation. Refusal leads to destruction.
- ▶ Christ is greater than kings and prophets.



The Proof

Matthew 28:1-4

Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men.

Matthew 28:5-10

The angel said to the women, “ Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you.” And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus *said to them, “ Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

Observations

- ▶ The women are going to finish burial tasks which were hurriedly done because of the Sabbath.
- ▶ The guards are paralyzed with fear because of what they just saw.
- ▶ The angel proclaims Jesus' resurrection to the women and gives instructions to tell the others.
- ▶ Jesus meets them on the way.

The image features a teal background with white dotted swirls. A white paper cutout is centered, containing the text 'The Pudding' in a black serif font.

The Pudding

1 Corinthians 15:1-3

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15:4-8

and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

Observations

- ▶ The Death and Burial happened. The Romans and Jews confirmed both things.
- ▶ Jesus appeared to many that were still alive when Paul wrote 1 Corinthians around AD 55.



Appearances

- ▶ Mary
- ▶ Cephas (Peter)
- ▶ The 12
- ▶ More than 500 at one time
- ▶ James
- ▶ All the apostles
- ▶ Paul himself

Check
the
Source!

Other Evidences

- ▶ The report of the guards in Matthew 28:11-15.
- ▶ NO BODY!!!!!!
- ▶ The change in the apostles from cowering in the upper room to being willing to die for the gospel message.
- ▶ The world has not been able to stop the message for nearly 2,000 years.



Promised Seconds

1 Corinthians 15:50-53

Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

Observations for Today

- ▶ Christ is raised, Christians will be too!
- ▶ We will be given bodies like Christ's so we can live with Him!
- ▶ Sin and death have been beaten!
- ▶ Victory in Jesus!

