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A Symbol of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

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A SYMBOL OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

The answer is a lowly seed!

- **As illustrated by Jesus**

“And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit” (John 12:23, 24).

- **As illustrated by Paul**

*But someone may ask: How will the dead be raised? What kind of bodies will they have? What a foolish question! When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn't grow into a plant unless it dies first. And what you put in the ground is not the plant that will grow, but only a dry little seed of wheat or whatever it is you are planting. Then God gives it a new body—just the kind he wants it to have. A different kind of plant grows from each kind of seed. (1 Cor. 15:35-38, *The New Living Bible*)*

There are at least three immediate and obvious lessons we may learn regarding the subject of resurrection from these passages:

- A. The seed cannot generate new life unless it is placed in the ground.
- B. The ground does not suppress the seed, but eventually releases it.
- C. The seed does not lose its identity as it proceeds from the ground in newness of life.

Max Anders writes:

Two hundred miles northeast of Los Angeles is a baked-out gorge called Death Valley—the lowest place in the United States, 276 feet below sea level. It is also the hottest place in the country, with an official recording of 134 degrees. Streams flow into Death Valley only to evaporate in the scorching heat, and a scant two and one half inches of rain falls on the barren wasteland each year.

But some years ago, an amazing thing happened. Due to a freak weather pattern, rain fell into the bone-dry earth for nineteen days straight. Suddenly, millions of seeds, which had lain dormant for untold years burst into bloom. The Valley of Death exploded into beauty, color, and life.

This is the message of the resurrection. Life springs forth from death. A desert becomes a garden. Beauty transcends the ugly. Love overcomes hatred. A tomb is emptied. The grim and haunting outline of a cross is swallowed in the glow of an Easter morning sunrise. (*Jesus, Knowing Our Savior*, Thomas Nelson Publishers, p. 155)