EASTER 2010

1 The word “Easter” is found one time in the Bible, ***Acts 12:1-4***, KJV.

1. Some are confused about what Easter eggs have to do with the resurrection of our Lord, and

some are confused about Christ’s resurrection; example: title of an article from the *Brenham Banner Press: “Worship His Rebirth”.* Jesus Christ wasn’t reborn or born again, spiritually.

Jesus was not regenerated, He was resurrected. There is a difference!

 Some confuse resuscitation with regeneration.

**Regeneration**: Being born again, spiritually. ***John 3:3, 7***, ***1 Pet. 1:3, 23***, ***Titus 3:5***

**Resurrection**: Receiving a new body that will never die.

***John 5:28-29****,* ***John 11:25-26****,* ***1 Cor. 15:12-19***

**Resusitation:** Coming back from death but eventually dying again.

***1 Kings 17:21-22****,* ***Acts 20:9-10***, ***John 11:31***

1. The disciples were also confused about the resurrection even though Jesus told them many times that he was to be crucified, buried, and rise again on the third day.

***Matt. 16:21, 17:22-23. 20:17-19, 26:2, Mark 8:31, 9:30-31, 10:32-34, Luke 9:22, 18:31-34, 24:6-8, 46, John 2:19-21***

Where were they on resurrection morning? They weren’t at the tomb. When the women came from the tomb and told the disciples Jesus was gone, what did they do?

***Luke 24:9 . . . and*** [the women] ***returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven*** [disciples] ***and to all the rest.***

***Luke 24:11 . . . And these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them.***

1. The Pharisees remembered what Jesus said about how He would rise from the grave after 3 days and 3 nights.
2. Jonah ***Matt. 12:40***

***Matthew 27:62-66 . . . Now on the next day, which is the one after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, 63 and said, "Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I am to rise again.' 64 "Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, lest the disciples come and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first." 65 Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go, make it as secure as you know how." 66 And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.***

1. Where were the disciples when Christ was arrested and being tried? Where were they after Jesus had been in the grave for three days and three nights? They should have been waiting for him outside.

***Matthew 26:31-35 . . .31 Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered.' 32 "But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee." 33 But Peter answered and said to Him, "Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away." 34 Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you that this very night, before a cock crows, you shall deny Me three times." 35 Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You." All the disciples said the same thing too.***

8. **THOUGHTS**: Jesus was the only member of the human race who, without guilt of suicide, chose to die. ***Luke 23:46 John 10:18 . . . No one takes my life from me . . .***

He was the one offering himself the sacrifice for all, and He was the perfect sacrifice!

9. When Jesus got up out of that grave in His resurrection body, his body was the first piece of the new universe walking around. Whereas in the first universe, the heavens and the earth were created, what was the last thing created? Man. In the new universe, it’s the people that are created first, then the new heavens and new earth will be created to contain them; it’s in the exact opposite order.

10. We will have a resurrection body like Christ’s.

**RESURRECTION OF BELIEVERS**

***John 5:29 . . . those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of [eternal] life, This is called the ‘First Resurrection.”***

***Philippians 3:20-21 . . . For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21) who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.***

***2 Corinthians 4:14 . . . Knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you***.

11. If Jesus Christ did not rise again, what would that mean? *1* ***Cor. 15***

Would people be wearing crosses around their necks and hanging them on their walls If Christ was still in the tomb?

12. OT believers get their resurrrection bodies at the end of the Millennium, ***Dan. 12:13***, ***Isa. 26:19-20***, ***Matt. 24:31***, ***Rev. 20:4.***

14. **RESURRECTION OF UNBELIEVERS**

***John 5:29 . . . those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.***

This is also called the “Second Death” or the “Last Judgment”.