

GRAVES INTO GARDENS

1. THE GARDEN OF EDEN BECAME A GRAVE OF REGRET

So God expelled them from the Garden of Eden and sent them to work the ground, the same dirt out of which they'd been made. **Genesis 3:23 (MSG)**

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned. **Romans 5:12 (NIV)**

2. THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE BECAME A GRAVE OF BETRAYAL

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." **Matthew 26:36-38 (NIV)**

Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!" **Matthew 26:45-46 (NIV)**

3. THE GARDEN OF GOLGOTHA BECAME A GRAVE OF FINALITY

There was a garden near the place he was crucified, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been placed. So, because it was Sabbath preparation for the Jews and the tomb was convenient, they placed Jesus in it. **John 19:41-42 (MSG)**

Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. "Dear woman, why are you crying?" the angels asked her. "Because they have taken away my Lord," she replied, "and I don't know where they have put him." She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him. "Dear woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?"

She thought he was the gardener. "Sir," she said, "if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him."
"Mary!" Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, "Rabboni!" (which is Hebrew for "Teacher"). "Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord!" Then she gave them his message **John 20:11-18 (NLT)**

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Jesus from the dead, He will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit that is living in you. **Romans 8:11 (NLT)**

CS Lewis - Easter is death working backwards

BECAUSE OF THE RESURRECTION...

1. THE GRAVE OF REGRET CAN BECOME A GARDEN OF HOPE

The suffering won't last forever. It won't be long before this generous God who has great plans for us in Christ - eternal and glorious plans they are! - will have you put together and on your feet for good. He gets the last word; yes, he does. **1 Peter 5:10-11 (MSG)**

2. THE GRAVE OF BETRAYAL CAN BECOME A GARDEN OF FORGIVENESS

3. THE GRAVE OF FINALITY CAN BECOME A GARDEN OF NEW LIFE

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. **John 10:10 (NIV)**

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. **John 20:31 (NIV)**