

A lush, misty forest scene with a stone archway and vibrant flowers in the foreground. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a magical atmosphere. The foreground is filled with various colorful flowers, including purple chrysanthemums, yellow daisies, and white lilies. A stone path leads towards a moss-covered archway in the background.

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Creation

LEARNING TO SEE EVERYTHING THROUGH A NEW LENS

How is the resurrection like
the **spring of New Creation** breaking
into the **dead of winter**, and what
difference does that make in our lives?

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The background is a dark, atmospheric illustration of a garden. A stone path leads from the foreground into the distance. On the right side of the path, there is a tombstone with a large, rounded stone rolled away from its base. The garden is filled with various flowers, including purple and yellow ones, and there are trees and foliage in the background. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

The prophets of Israel did not promise,
Someday you'll go to heaven....

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The prophets of Israel did not promise,
Someday you'll go to heaven...
they promised, *the Day is coming*
when God will destroy death and make
the world new again.

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Isaiah 11:6–7

ESV

⁶ The **wolf** shall dwell with the **lamb**, and the **leopard** shall lie down with the **young goat**, and the **calf** and the **lion** and the fattened calf together; and a little **child** shall lead them. ⁷ The **cow** and the **bear** shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the **lion shall eat straw** like the **ox**.

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Isaiah 11:8–9

ESV

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

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Isaiah 25:6–8

ESV

⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. ⁷ And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. ⁸ He will **swallow up death forever**; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

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Isaiah 61:1–2

ESV

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has **anointed me** to bring **good news** to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

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Isaiah 61:3

ESV

³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be **called oaks of righteousness**, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

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Isaiah 61:4–6

ESV

⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁵ Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks; foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; ⁶ but you shall be called the priests of the LORD; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast.

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Isaiah 61:7

ESV

⁷ Instead of your shame there shall be **a double portion**; instead of dishonor they shall **rejoice in their lot**; therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion; they shall have **everlasting joy**.

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Isaiah 61:8–9

ESV

⁸ For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹ Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

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Isaiah 61:10

ESV

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

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Isaiah 61:11

NLT

¹¹ The Sovereign LORD will show his justice to the nations of the world. Everyone will praise him! His righteousness will be like a garden in early spring, with plants springing up everywhere.

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Isaiah is clear,
God's Anointed One (the Messiah)
will bring this spring of New Creation.

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John 12:23–24

ESV

²³ And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; **but if it dies, it bears much fruit.**

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1 Corinthians 15:20–23

ESV

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, **the firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep.

²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

²³ But each in his own order: **Christ the firstfruits**, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

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1 Corinthians 15:24–26

ESV

²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ **The last enemy to be destroyed is death.**

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It's still **winter in the world,**
but those who've been buried with
Jesus in baptism have **stepped into**
the spring of New Creation.

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