



# NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

## Easter Eggs and Bunnies?

*I remember as a child, painting Easter eggs, looking for Easter eggs, getting Easter candy and waving at the Easter bunny. I remember doing the same thing with my children and grandchildren. Now, as I look back, I wonder how did this first start because there seems to be no connection to the Christ's resurrection. I also just realized that the word Easter is not even in the Bible.*

*"In 725, [Bede](#), a Christian writer, wrote a book discussing historical timelines to explain why the calendars of his day worked the way they did. He explained that the Saxon month of Eosturmonath, which corresponds to our month of April, was named after an ancient Saxon goddess Eostre. (This is where Easter came from.) At the time Bede wrote, no other writer anywhere had recorded anything about this goddess. In fact, for over a thousand years, some writers accused Bede of making it up."<sup>1</sup>*



*"There is strong evidence that German Lutherans invented the notion that hares deliver Easter eggs, probably by the mid-1600s. The earliest written record is apparently from Geor Franck von Franckenau's Disputatione ordinaria disquirens de ovis paschalibus / von Oster-Eyern. Satyrae Medicae. XVIII (1682)."<sup>2</sup>*

*[Jacob Grimm](#) in his 1835 book Deutsche Mythologie, took Bede at his word. He proposed that Eostre was a local version Germanic goddess named Ostara. Then in 1874, [Adolf Holtzman's](#) book, with the same title, speculated that the "Easter hare" was connected to Ostara and Eostre. In 1987, [Sarah Ban Breathnach](#) began the pushed "Christians stole everything about Easter from early pagan cultures" mythology.*

*In the Library of Congress, there is a detailed blog: "[Ostrara and the Hare: Not Ancient, But Not as Modern As Some Skeptics Think](#)" by Stephen Winick from 2016. He states: "It's impossible to tell if Ostara, as a goddess, ever existed. As for Eostre, there's no evidence of her worship except in Bede's book. There are certainly no ancient stories in which she transforms a bird into a hare." This blog is a must-read.*

*As far as I can tell, no one today knows for sure how, why and when the Easter bunny and Easter eggs became a part of a Christian observance. The claims of a pagan origin or that Christian beliefs were [synthesized](#) with pagan customs cannot be proven or disproven. They became a custom just like throwing rice at a wedding. They are a large part of the present-day celebration and economy. But they have not yet overshadowed the reason for the season. As believers, we can still share the message through them.*

*Jesus used parables and things that people could relate to, to teach His principles. Maybe we can and should do the same here. Easter egg kits can explain the resurrection story. Color the eggs to make a Wordless Bible. Fill their baskets with kid's Christian books and CDs. The joy of hunting and finding of eggs can relate to the joy of finding Jesus' tomb empty and realizing that He had risen. The bunny births and the spring flowers can relate to new life in Christ. The bunny's fast reproduction rate can illustrate the spread of new Christian converts after the resurrection. Ask others: "What is the real reason for Easter?" Listen to them and then do not preach but share. "How that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." I Cor 15:3,4*

	<p>Charles L Stambaugh</p> <p>"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead" Matt 28:6,7</p>	 <p><a href="http://Kidsenjoyingjesus.com">Kidsenjoyingjesus.com</a></p>
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<sup>1</sup>[familychristmasonline.com/other\\_holidays/easter/bede.htm](http://familychristmasonline.com/other_holidays/easter/bede.htm)

<sup>2</sup>[familychristmasonline.com/other\\_holidays/easter/easter\\_bunny.htm](http://familychristmasonline.com/other_holidays/easter/easter_bunny.htm)

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