

# Emblem of the Resurrection

by Clement of Rome

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*The sermon 'Emblem of the Resurrection' uses the symbol of the phoenix bird to illustrate the power of God to transform and renew through the resurrection of Christ.*

**Scripture:** John 11:25, Romans 6:4, 1 Corinthians 15:42, Revelation 21:5

**Topics:** "Resurrection Symbolism", "New Life"

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## Description

Clement of Rome shares a fascinating story of the phoenix bird as a symbol of resurrection, highlighting its unique life cycle and journey from Arabia to Egypt. The bird's death and rebirth process, involving a nest of spices and the emergence of feathers from a worm, mirrors the concept of new life emerging from death. The precise return of the phoenix to Heliopolis after 500 years astonishes the priests and serves as a powerful illustration of resurrection and renewal.

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## Transcript

Let us consider that wonderful sign [of the resurrection] which takes place in Eastern lands, that is, in Arabia and the countries round about. There is a certain bird which is called a phoenix. This is the only one of its kind, and lives five hundred years. And when the time of its dissolution draws near that it must die, it builds itself a nest of frankincense, and myrrh, and other spices, into which, when the time is fulfilled, it enters and dies.

But as the flesh decays a certain kind of worm is produced, which, being nourished by the juices of the dead bird, brings forth feathers. Then, when it has acquired strength, it takes up that nest in which are the bones of its parent, and bearing these it passes from the land of Arabia into Egypt, to the city called Heliopolis.

And, in open day, flying in the sight of all men, it places them on the altar of the sun, and having done this, hastens back to its former abode. The priests then inspect the registers of the dates, and find that it has returned exactly as the five hundredth year was completed.

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Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/clement-of-rome/emblem-of-the-resurrection/>

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