



Romans 8:20-22



18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

ROMANS: up until Chapter 8— ROLES of the Godhead in salvation (justification to sanctification to glorification) –



- I. **God the Father:** *Rom chapters 1:18 – Chap. 3:21: **His role in judging mankind**; condemnation of all men: ‘for the wrath of God is revealed..’ ‘therefore, God gave them over...’; ‘they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image...’*

- II. **Jesus Christ:** *Rom 3:22 to Chap. 7: **His role in justification**, saving mankind from the condemnation; and identification of those who believe into His death, burial & resurrection. FROM CHRIST’S WORK FOR US, to:*

- III. **God the Holy Spirit:** *Chapter 8: THE SPIRIT’S WORK WITHIN US: **His role in sanctification and glorification**; freeing from the bondage of sin and slavery in the present; then freeing us from the presence of the Sin Nature, yet future;*
 - (a). *And the Spirit’s role in freeing creation from the bondage of corruption*

REVIEW: OF Verse 19
from 2 weeks ago

19 For the anxious longing of the creation
waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.



- I. Anxious longing: **apokaradokia** – away, the head, to watch; or craning the head to see something ... (on 'tiptoe' John Phillips)
- II. To see what? **Our glorification together with Him**: the revealing of the saints: the sons of God in glory with Christ at His coming.... This is the Risen Lord Jesus Christ gathering us up together in mid-air
- III. At that event in time: the curse that all of creation is subject to is lifted; made null and void
 - (a.) Why? because it's our glorification. Suffering under a curse is not a condition of glorification [Merryman]
 - (b.) More than that: Christ, in His glory is there, He is present; there is no suffering or curses around or near Him
- IV. The creation is tied to mankind— they are linked; we will be glorified, then creation must follow

F.W. Grant: **Connected (Creation)- with man as its head, the fall of man has brought about this groaning condition.' He has the soul of the beast. He has the very dust of the earth in him. He is linked in the fullest possible way with creation throughout, and how blessed to realize that in this way Christ, in taking humanity, has lined Himself even, one may say, with the very material universe.** [NUMERICAL BIBLE: ACTS TO II CORINTHIANS; LOIZEAUX BROTHERS, NEPTUNE, NJ 1901, 1978]

20 **For the creation was subjected to futility**, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope



First: define **Creation**: not all of the universe, but **limited to the earth** and the realm of mankind. All nature- minus humanity on earth. [NEWELL, VINCENT]

(a.) *(After all says Newell, creation like the Cherubim and Seraphim are not subject to futility)*

II. Why the subjection?

The curse: Genesis 3: 17-19: ‘... BECAUSE YOU HAVE LISTENED TO YOUR WIFE AND HAVE EATEN FROM THE TREE ABOUT WHICH I COMMANDED YOU, SAYING, ‘YOU SHALL NOT EAT FROM IT’; CURSED IS THE GROUND BECAUSE OF YOU; IN TOIL YOU WILL EAT OF IT ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE... BOTH THORNS AND THISTLES SHALL GROW FOR YOU.... TILL YOU RETURN TO THE GROUND . . .’

(note the link: the ground is cursed, man comes from the ground...)

III. **What is the futility? or ‘vanity’— it is emptiness, idleness, uselessness;** a reference to a dying, decaying condition...

(a.) Specifically & scientifically: it is likely the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics that God instituted: saying entropy will always increase / energy will naturally move to: disorder, chaos / energy loses its ability to do productive work

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IV. BETTER STATED: *By reason of Him who subjected it*

- a) God is the One Who subjected, not Adam or Satan . . .
- b) The Greek construction says: God is not the direct agent doing the subjecting; but His Will is the occasion of the subjecting (Rather than God as the worker)
- c) The direct and special case for the subjecting = Adam's sin
- d) God was working indirectly according to His holy nature and will, in response to the sin . . . [W.E. VINE; COMPLETE EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY]

V. What is the REASON: God subjected the creation to futility?

- a) The creation, and the Garden of Eden was a vibrant, productive and powerful place
- b) The Millennial Kingdom will be much the same

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V. The REASON God subjected creation to futility, contin....

- c) To sum up the conditions of the Kingdom: no sickness, disease, miscarriages, longevity, no death of newborns or toddlers... peace in the land, supreme productivity of crops and vegetation—(No Law of Entropy in the coming Kingdom);
References: see: [Isa 11:6-9; Eze 34:25-27(b); Isa 65:19,20,22,23; Joel 3:18]
- d) People alive who go into the Kingdom: will likely again, live between the timespan of Enoch: 365 years old and Methuselah: 969 years (*JOHN CALAHAN, NEVERTHIRSTY.ORG*)
- e) Adam received the Sin Nature: with sin now in him, ***'dying, you shall surely die'*** . . . [Gen. 2:17] Y.L.T.
- f) My theory: *God was under obligation (not only due to His Holy character)- but to maintain the headship of man over the creation (Gen 1:28 'subdue it, and rule over the fish, birds and everything that moves...') Adam- dying, with sin/weakness in him, would have been subordinate to all the elements of the creation. God needed Gen. 1:28's order of Man over creation to remain in place.*

20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, **in hope**



VI. BETTER STATED: literally: **on hope that** (the creation will be freed from its bondage...)

- The thing hoping: is the creation- the thing subjected (*God isn't the One hoping*) [VINE, OPT. CIT]
- If we can ***anthropo-morphize*** creation: '*she possesses the feeling of her unmerited suffering, and she has a vague impression, but accurate impression, of her future deliverance*' (GODET, CIT. W.E.VINE)
- Creation: '*is not inert, its not lifeless, it is vitally connected with man, it is a natural ally to our souls*' [DOYLE, #67 ROM 8:18-19; HHBC.ORG; 3.24.24]
- Verse 22 to come: creation has ***birth-pangs*** awaiting her 'freedom of the glory' of the removed curse over her . . .
- Hope – **absolute certainty** of the future revealing of the sons of God. "If we hope for what we (do not) behold, then do we with patience wait for it. How beautiful a thought it is that this hope is so perfect, there is such complete assurance with regard to it, that the not having it **only produces patience in us.** [F.W. GRANT; OPT. CIT.]

21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.



Verse 21: Creation in the Future-

Remember: the link we established between Adam, as creation's husbandman/ head (Gen. 1:28- 'subdue it'..) to the creation itself: ". . . . , BECAUSE FROM IT YOU WERE TAKEN; FOR YOU ARE DUST, AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN." Gen. 3:19 b,c

And, further: keeping in mind Rom. 8:2: "*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.*" [Our Life in Christ Jesus is the freeing principle]

Creation, will also- follow suit in the future

The creation, subordinate to man, follows him in being set free

INTO: towards the GOAL OF: *the freedom of the glory—*

21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.



Verse 21: Creation in the Future-

Best translation- Into: ***the liberty of the glory***

liberty: is a very critical element of the future glorious state of the Millennial Kingdom

What is the liberty of the glory?

Christ is there, He liberated us from the Sin Nature, we have glorious, transformed bodies like His; in Him there is no bondage, no corruption, no vanity, no death/decay; this is true of us and will be true for the earth at the Kingdom

Compare to: the 'Liberty of grace': in Romans 7,8 we are set free from bondage of sin and the law of death by grace.

Note from H.A. Ironside (2nd: F.W. Grant): *“Creation does not share in the liberty of grace. It shall have its part in the liberty of glory, the kingdom age of millennial blessing.”*

22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.



Verse 22: Creation in the Present-

We have *eidō* knowledge – we know intuitively, with Divinely inspired knowledge that the whole creation groans and suffers . . .

This is hidden from observable, experiential view, therefore it's Spirit given

'pangs of childbirth' is a good anthropomorphism for the travailing under the natural law of death/decay/disorder (II Law of Thermodynamics)

Another one: "Nature, with its melancholy charm, resembles a bride who, at the very moment when sure was fully attired for marriage, saw the bridegroom die. She stands with her fresh crown and in her bridal dress, but her eyes are full of tears..." (SCHELLING, CITED BY GODET IN VINE'S)

22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth **together until now.**



Verse 22: Creation in the Present, contin....

All the **elements** of creation groan and suffer **together**—

syn-ōdinō: co-travailing, co-agony as in childbirth

sys-tenazō: co-groaning

Compare to Vs. 17:

co-heirs with Christ is:

suffering together with Christ is:

being glorified together with Christ is:

syg-klēronomos;

sym-paschō;

syn-doxazō

And Now: a McCalley Minute:



The Chiasm of 8: 18-23

v. 18: the **FUTURE** of the believer

Glory that will be revealed in us; redemption of our bodies... our adoption as sons

v. 19-21: the **FUTURE** of Creation

Freedom from servitude; the liberty of the glory of the sons of God

**Fold
here:**

v. 22: *Groaning, suffering, travailing*
the **PRESENT** of Creation

we groan within ourselves

v. 23: the **PRESENT** of the believer

