

Romans 8: 19 - 22



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.

“the creation” in Romans 8:19 -22



- Spoken of as having human emotion
 - anxious longing
 - waits eagerly
 - groans and suffers
- Subject to God’s will
 - subject to futility
 - will be set free

creation – ktisis - usage notes: primarily "the act of creating," or "the creative act in process," has this meaning in Rom. 1:20; Gal. 6:15. Like the English word "creation," it also signifies the product of the "creative" act, the "creature," Vine

Other expressions of human emotion by God's creation



Habakkuk 2:11

¹¹ "Surely **the stone will** cry out from the wall,
And the rafter will answer it from the framework.

Joshua 24:27

²⁷ Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, this stone shall be for a witness against us,
for **it has heard all the words of the LORD which He spoke to us**;
thus it shall be for a witness against you, so that you do not deny your God."

Luke 19:40

⁴⁰ But Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these become silent, **the stones will cry out!**"

Psalms 98:8

⁸ Let **the rivers clap their hands**, Let the **mountains sing together** for joy

Psalms 65:12-13

¹² The pastures of the wilderness drip, And the **hills gird themselves with rejoicing**.

¹³ The meadows are clothed with flocks And the valleys are covered with grain;

They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

Joel 1:20

²⁰ Even **the beasts of the field pant (long) for You**; For the water brooks are dried up
And fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

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



the anxious longing of the creation

waits eagerly

the revealing of the sons of God

[anxious longing](#) (noun) – apokaradokia usage notes: primarily "a watching with outstretched head" (*apo*, "from," *kara*, "the head," and *dokeō*, "to look, to watch"), signifies "strained expectancy, eager longing," the stretching forth of the head indicating an "expectation" of something from a certain place, Rom. 8:19; Phil. 1:20. Vine

“waits eagerly” in the New testament



waits eagerly – apekdechomai usage notes: "to await or expect eagerly," is rendered "to wait for" in Rom. 8:19, 23, 25; 1 Cor. 1:7; Gal. 5:5; Phil 3:20, RV (AV, "look for"); Heb. 9:28, RV (AV, "look for"), here "them that wait" represents believers in general, not a section of them; Vine

1 Cor 1:7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, **awaiting eagerly** the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Gal 5:5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are **waiting** for the hope of righteousness.

Php 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we **eagerly wait** for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

Heb 9:28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who **eagerly await Him**.



the revealing of the sons of God

revealing – apokalypsis usage notes: "an uncovering" (akin to *apokalyptō*; see below) - - -, reveal – apokalyptō usage notes: signifies "to uncover, unveil" (*apo*, "from," *kalyptō*, "to cover"); both verbs are used in Matt. 10:26; in Luke 12:2, *apokalyptō* is set in contrast to *synkalyptō*, "to cover up, cover completely." Vine

1Co 1:7	7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Eph 1:17	17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.
1Pe 1:13	13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
1Pe 4:13	13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.



The three aspects of Salvation

Justification

Sanctification

Glorification

Past Tense

Present Tense

Future Tense



Time

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



the creation **was subjected**

to futility

subjected - hypotassō - usage notes: primarily a military term,
"to rank under" (*hypo*, "under," *tassō*, "to arrange"),
denotes (a) "to put in subjection, to subject," Rom. 8:20 (twice) Vine

“subject” in Romans



Ro 8:7	7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,
Ro 8:20	20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope
Ro 10:3	3 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.
Ro 13:1	1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.
Ro 13:5	5 Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection , not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.



“futility” in the New Testament

futility - mataiotēs - usage notes: "emptiness as to results," akin to mataios (see EMPTY, VAIN), is used (a) of the creation, Rom. 8:20, as failing of the results designed, owing to sin; Vine

Ro 8:20	20 For the creation was subjected to futility , not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope
Eph 4:17	17 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,
2Pe 2:18	18 For speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error,



Questions about creation

What did God say about the creation in Gen 1 ?

- See Genesis Chapter 1 verses 4, 12, 18, 25 and 31

Why was creation subjected to futility ?

- See Genesis Chapter 3

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



not willingly *

but

because of the one (Him)
having subjected it in hope

willingly - hekōn usage notes: "of free will, willingly,"
occurs in Rom. 8:20, RV, "of its own will" (AV, "willingly");
1 Cor. 9:17, RV, "of my own will" (AV, "willingly"). Vine

hope – elpis - usage notes: in the NT, "favorable and confident expectation" .
It has to do with the unseen and the future, Rom. 8:24, 25. "Hope" describes - - -
(b) the ground upon which "hope" is based, Acts 16:19; Col. 1:27, "Christ in you
the hope of glory;" (c) the object upon which the "hope" is fixed, e.g., 1 Tim. 1:1. Vine

* modifies the verb "was subjected"

“hope” in the New Testament



Col 1:27	27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
1Th 1:3	3 constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,
1Ti 1:1	1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope ,
Tit 1:2	2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,
1Pe 1:21	21 who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.



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.

modifies the main verb “was subjected” in verse 20

that the creation itself also will be set free

from its slavery of corruption

brought into an inferior or worse condition

into the freedom of the glory of the children of God

“set free” in the New Testament



set free - eleutheroō usage notes: "to set free," is translated "deliver" in Rom. 8:21. In six other places it is translated "make free," John 8:32, 36; Rom. 6:18, 22; Rom. 8:2; Gal. 5:1, RV, "set free." See FREE Vine

Jn 8:32	32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free ."
Jn 8:36	36 "So if the Son makes you free , you will be free indeed.
Ro 6:18	18 and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.
Ro 6:22	22 But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.
Ro 8:2	2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

“slavery” in the New Testament



slavery douleia - usage notes: akin to *deō*, "to bind," primarily "the condition of being a slave," came to denote any kind of bondage, as, e.g., of the condition of creation, Rom. 8:21; of that fallen condition of man himself which makes him dread God, Rom 8:15, and fear death, Heb. 2:15; Vine

Ro 8:15	15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"
Gal 4:24	24 This is allegorically speaking, for these women are two covenants: one proceeding from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves ; she is Hagar.
Gal 5:1	1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery .
Heb 2:15	15 and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

into the freedom of the glory of the children of God



freedom (noun) - eleutheria usage notes: "liberty" (akin eleutheroō - set free), is rendered "freedom" in Gal. 5:1, "with freedom did Christ set us free."

The combination of the noun with the verb stresses the completeness of the act,
Vine

“- - - for the creation was subjected to futility, not voluntarily, but on account of the One who put it under subjection upon the basis of the hope that the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the liberty of the glory of the children of God. Weust --- Rom 8:20-21

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



the whole creation

groans together and travails in pain together

until now

groan together – systemazō usage notes: "to groan together" (*syn*, "with," and *stenazō*) is used of the Creation in Rom. 8:22.
stenazō usage notes: "to groan" (of an inward, unexpressed feeling of sorrow), is translated "with grief" in Heb. 13:17 (marg. "groaning"). Vine



travail in pain together – synōdinō - usage notes: "to be in travail together," is used metaphorically in Rom. 8:22, of the whole creation.

travail – ōdino - usage notes: a birth pang, "travail pain," is used illustratively in 1 Thess. 5:3 of the calamities which are to come upon men at the beginning of the Day of the Lord; the figure used suggests the inevitableness of the catastrophe. See PAIN, No. 2, SORROW Vine

Mt 24:8	8 "But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs ."
Mk 13:8	8 "For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will also be famines. These things are merely the beginning of birth pangs ."
Ac 2:24	24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power."
1Th 5:3	3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.



Rom. 8:19-22 Weust New Testament

For the concentrated and undivided expectation of the creation is assiduously and patiently awaiting the revelation of the sons of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not voluntarily, but on account of the One who put it under subjection upon the basis of the hope that the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the liberty of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and travails together up to this moment,