



Romans 8 Pt. 5: The Creation

Romans 8:18-23 *“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.*

Creation waits for the children of God. This is theology 101. Yet, where did Paul get this? Did he make this stuff up? The answer is no. Since the beginning of creation, the nation of Israel has been waiting for this. For God to put humans and creation back to their original state. Yet, we are fallen creatures. Let’s take a look way back to the beginning in Genesis 3. Adam and Eve have disobeyed God. They ate from the forbidden tree. A tree that they were told to stay away from. Why? Some things we just don’t know about God. Why was that tree there in the garden? However, God had given them only one simple rule. Don’t eat of the tree.

Since the fall in Eden, humans have had to contend with an angry creation. From earthquakes to famine, we have suffered. In the ensuing chapter after the fall, we encounter the first murder. A chapter after that Adam dies. None of it was supposed to happen, but it did. Jewish people have waited since the first few chapters of Genesis for redemption. A way back to God. Creation is also waiting for us to return.

For creation knows that when that happens all will be restored. We sin and the land suffers. Both are groaning, creation and humankind.

2 Corinthians 5:2 *“Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling.”*

Romans 8:22 *“We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.”*

There we stand on the backside of Genesis 3:17-19 *“To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it, cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. 18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow, you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”*

Nothing escapes sin. I will contend that creation is still being tended to by the descendance of Adam and Eve. Yet, our sin has made the air sour, the land full of pollution, and our animals falling into extinction. What would happen if we all turned back to the ways of God. If we treated each other and the earth with love rather than human deceit? This is not the end of a very bad story. No, it’s the beginning of a very good story. For the Jewish nation have been waiting for a messiah to set the record straight. To bring them back to God. That messiah is Jesus.

1 John 3:2 *“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”*

When Jesus comes back the second time, things will be set right. He has made atonement for our sins by his death. He paid the penalty. I could go through these set of verses in Romans 8:18-23 one line at a time, but they are a whole. Creation is waiting. Why has Jesus not returned. There are several

passages that talk about the times of the Gentiles being fulfilled or full. (Luke 21:24, Romans 11: 25) I suspect that many gentiles (not Jewish) are being saved as we speak. At some point all who want to be saved will be saved. It seems like a monumental task but the time of the gentiles will be full at some point. Jesus has swung open the gates of heaven to all of human creation. Yet, the Jewish people must wait. Creation must wait.

In Revelation it says we will be taken up. That Jesus will return. That there will be a new heaven and a new earth. The mystery will be revealed. That Christ is Jesus the long-awaited messiah. It's something that Christian gentiles know but the Jewish nation has rejected. All will be revealed. The groaning will cease. As Paul says in verse 23 or Romans 8 "*the redemption of our bodies.*" Creation waits for that redemption too.

1 Cor 15:50-53 "*I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.*"