

## Romans 8:18-21

**Rom 8:19** -19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. NAS

Rom 8:18-20 – Living Bible-

18 Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later. 19 For all creation is waiting patiently and hopefully for that future day when God will resurrect his children. 20 For on that day thorns and thistles, sin, death, and decay --the things that overcame the world against its will at God's command--will all disappear, and the world around us will share in the glorious freedom from sin which God's children enjoy. TLB

1. the anxious longing - Here Paul points out that the creation is longing anxiously, or in the NIV “waits in eager expectation.” The word here is used only here and in Phil 1:20 where it is translated “earnest expectation.” So the creation is eagerly awaiting this event He calls “the revealing of the sons of God.”

2. creation – The word creation here is ktisis (ktis'-is); where it used in v-19, 20, 21 and v-22. This word is properly rendered creation and refers to all of creation, including not just people, but also plants and animals and rocks and planets.

**Mark 16:15**

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. KJV

**Romans 1:25**

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. KJV

**Colossians 1:23**

23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; KJV

**2 Peter 3:4**

4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. KJV

**Revelation 3:14**

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; KJV

The whole creation as it is stated in v-22, is waiting eagerly for revealing of the sons of God. It is subject to the bondage of decay and longs for its day of release. The day when sin and destruction, pain and burden have been removed and there is only peace and joy and rest in this place.

3. revealing of the sons of God – Why the revealing of the sons of God? Because when the sons of God are completely revealed, the consummation of the ages will come to pass, and the creation will be delivered from the vanity and futility it has been subjected to. The kingdom of God will find its home even on the earth, and there will be no more pain or dying or crying, and as God says in Isaiah 11:9 - 9 They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD

As the waters cover the sea. NAS When the sons of God are revealed. The purposes of God will be completed, which are salvation, and the creation will be brought into that perfect state for which it eagerly awaits.

**Rom 8:20** - 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope NAS

1. For the creation was subjected to futility – What futility is the creation subject to? In verse 21 it is called “slavery to corruption.” It is the pain and the agony brought on by sin and its consequences. The NIV puts it, “bondage to decay,” and that is what it is. The whole world is falling apart, going from order to disorder, as the second law of thermodynamics declares. The scripture here declares that it is futility, that

it has no useful result of itself, and that all is vain left to its own, the creation is futile.

- Question: What are some of the evidences of futility that the creation is subject to?

Death, disease, starvation, violence

2. subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it – The creation was subjected. That is a power greater than itself made it subject to futility, and this not of its own will. The only one being in all of creation with which it would appear did it willingly was Adam, having sinned of his own will. But may I hasten to add, Adam would not have sinned had there not been a commandment to transgress. It was therefore in the mind of God, and was even His eternal decree, that the creation might be given over to slavery to corruption by His will and design, in order to accomplish His purposes. God has created the world for His purpose and plan and glory, and it will accomplish exactly what He set out to accomplish for who can thwart the plans of the Lord. Who can change His plan or alter the course of history, which He desires to bring to pass. No one.

- **Acts 2:22-23** 22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know-- 23 this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

- **7.Q. What are the decrees of God?**

A. The decrees of God are his eternal purpose according to the counsel of his own will, whereby for his own glory he has foreordained whatever comes to pass. (Eph 1:11,12)

**Eph 1:11-12** - also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

**Psalms 33:11, Ecc 7:13, Isaiah 23:9, 25:1, 46:11, Job 12:7-25, Lam 3:37, Pr 19:21, Acts 4:27-28, Romans 8:29-30, 9:22**

3. In Hope – God has done these things in order that the creation would look to Him for the hope of its deliverance. He has done these things for us to see the manifold virtues of His character, which we could not otherwise see. Without sin, how would we know what mercy is? Without sin, how would we know what grace is? Without enemies, how could display His unlimited patience and kindness in such a way to make clear to us that His virtues are divine and ours are not?  
The creation has hope, for which it eagerly awaits, but that hope, if it is to be realized, can only be in God.

- Question: Since the creation is unable to deliver itself from the slavery to corruption what must it do?

**Rom 8:21** - 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. NAS

1. that the creation itself also will be set free – Here the reason the creation was subjected to futility. So that God can deliver it, thus showing His wonderful virtues of mercy and grace and unconditional love, and so revealing His glory to all of creation.

**Acts 17:24-27**

24 "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things; 26 and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each

one of us; NAS

God has allowed the creation to be subject to corruption, in order that He might pardon its malady and deliver it to a glorious freedom. Furthermore, how glorious that freedom will be to us, having experienced the trial of this corruption. We will have an even greater appreciation of our freedom, having been in slavery for so long. And not only us but also the entire creation will be transformed, and made to experience the freedom of the kingdom of God.

2. The word translated “that” in this verse is better rendered “because.” It shows that God has a definite purpose in mind that He will bring to pass, not that that God is hoping, as if it were subject to mans will.

Questions:

Who subjected the creation to futility?

Why?

What is the creation eagerly awaiting?

Why?