

WHOLE CREATION GROANING

We are currently studying a new series of lessons entitled, Romans Creation, taken from (Rom.8:18-27).

Our lesson text reminds us that the whole creation groans suffering from birth pains.

(Rom.8:22) “For we know (oida/ perf.a.ind 1pl) that (hoti) [declarative after verb of knowing] **the whole** (pas) **creation** (he ktisis) **groans** (sustenazo/ p.a.ind.3ps) [feeling of sorrow] **and** (adjunctive of verbs) **suffers the pains of childbirth together** (sunodino/ p.a.ind.3ps) until now (achri tou nun).”

Note that both groaning and suffering of the whole creation have the prefix preposition **sun** (together). In theology, we call this language of accommodation (visualization or common sense).

<p>This lesson will study four aspects of Whole Creation Groaning.</p>

1. Rom.8:18-25 outlines a six-fold description of the Whole Creation Groaning and Suffering.

- **1st** (Rom.8:18) **Suffering of this present time**
 - “Not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

- **2nd** (Rom.8:19) **Anxious longing and waiting eagerly**
 - “For the revealing of the Sons of God.”

- **3rd** (Rom.8:20-21a) **Subjected to futility** (te mataiotes) [emptiness]
 - “Not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it in hope that the creation itself also will be set free.”

- **4th** (Rom.8:21b) **Slavery to corruption**
 - “Into the freedom of the glory of the Children of God.”

- **5th** (Rom.8:22) **Whole creation groaning and suffering together**
 - “Until now.”

- **6th** (Rom.8:23-25) **Creation is waiting for the First Resurrection of Believers**
 - “Waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons the redemption of our body.”

2. Whole creation groans and suffers because of the curse associated with Adam’s Original Sin (AOS) until the Second Advent of Jesus Christ (Rom.8:18-25).

Adam’s Original Sin (AOS) (Gen.2:17) “^{but} of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

The curse associated with AOS (Gen.3:17-19) “By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Freedom from the curse (Rom.8:20-23) “for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. (Eph.1:13-14; 4:30; Luke 21:25-28; 2 Cor.4:17)

3. Because many do not understand that the whole creation groans and suffers like pains of child birth, it is misdiagnosed and mislabeled.

Whole creation involves the six days of creation (Gen.1:3-31) [The Heavens and the Earth].

Day One (Gen.1:3-3-5) _____

Day Two (Gen.1:6-8) _____

Day Three (Gen.1:9-13) _____

Day Four (Gen.1:14-19) _____

Day Five (Gen.1:21-23) _____

Day Six (Gen.1:24-31) _____

4. The whole Creation will groan and suffer until the Second Advent of Jesus Christ.

The “whole” is connected to the **First Adam** by the curse of **Adam’s Original Sin** (1 Cor.15:22, 45; Rom.5:12-21).

It is connected to the **Second Adam** (Jesus Christ) by redemption from both **Adam’s Original Sin** and the curse associated with it.

(Rom.8:18-25) “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

(Heb.9:27-28) “And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, 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.**”

This includes the Whole Creation as well as Believers.