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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. ⦁ Pew Bible Page Number is 1041-1042.

In the Study Verse Section, God’s Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe’s commentary in the smaller faced text.

Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets.



1. *Why is there “suffering” in the world?* (a) It came because of sin. (b) It is compounded by our sin, (c) Our rescue is delayed because God wants all men people to have an opportunity to be saved. (d) We can find strength and hope for our suffering only in Jesus.

2. *“We groan today and glory tomorrow!”* There are present battles, future glory, and between now and then, we much maintain a biblical perspective.

3. As a follower of Christ, you can be certain of future glory despite present sufferings.

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“…all creation groans…” - v. 22

**Romans 8:19–22, NLT** *- 19 For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. 20 Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. 22 For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.*

**Romans 8:19–22, TLB** *- 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. 22 For we know that even the things of nature, like animals and plants, suffer in sickness and death as they await this great event.*

**Creation—the First to Groan**

**1. Creations Experience**

**Romans 8:19–22, NASB95** *- 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* [lit., cursing]*, 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* [lit. decay] *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.*

**Suffering** v. 18  **Futility** v. 20  **Slavery** v. 21  **Decay** v. 21  **Pain** v. 22

**Genesis 3:17–19, NIV84** *- 17 To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of 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. 19 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.”*

***Right now, creation cannot fulfill the purpose for which God designed it.***

**2. Creations Expression**

**Romans 8:22, HCSB** *- 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now.*

**3. Creations Expectation**

**Romans 8:19, HCSB** *- 19 For the creation* [Lit., “To strain the neck” in order to see something coming] *waits with anticipation eagerly* [lit., “to stand on their tiptoes in order to see something”] *for God’s sons* [cf., v. 8:15, “adopted” children called “sons” as only sons could inherit the father’s estate per Roman Law; all believers—male and female—are God’s adopted *son’s*] *to be revealed…21 that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage of corruption into the glorious freedom of God’s children.*

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| **The Point*****As a follower of Christ, you can be certain that this ‘groaning creation’ will become a ‘glorious creation!’*****(Insight: We are not home yet! Things are not as God intended them to be.)** |