

Romans 8:19-23 (NKJV)

19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits 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 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

1

22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

2

- The heart of man longs for a golden age, a utopia of peace, harmony and love on earth
- 8:19** For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.
- The deep longing in man's soul is for God's glorified sons to be revealed – though man doesn't realize that this is the only true way to have world peace
 - Instead, man blindly pursues Satanic counterfeits that destroy peace (e.g., communism)

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Why is the revealing of God's glorified sons critical to the birth of the new age?

1. Because it results in regime change

Arlen Chitwood, *The Time of the End:*

According to Rom. 8:19-23, the entire creation (as it pertains to the earth, both the material creation and redeemed man) presently groans and travails, awaiting "the manifestation of the sons of God" (a new order of sons — taken from among *redeemed man*, not angels).

4

What does Chitwood mean by "a new order of sons?"

- God presently has two firstborn sons – those who are given a double inheritance

1. Jesus is firstborn

Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Col 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

5

Heb 1:6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "*Let all the angels of God worship Him.*"

Rev 1:5 Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.

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2. Israel is firstborn

Exod 4:22 Then you shall say to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD: 'Israel is My son, My firstborn.

- Despite Israel's sinning and God's consequent divorcing of Israel as His "wife," God has never withdrawn the status of firstborn
- God has a future plan for Israel, based on His covenants
- Israel will repent when Jesus returns and will become restored as Jehovah's "wife" (see Jer. 3 and Hosea)

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3. The faithful subset of the Church is firstborn

- Those who hear "good and faithful" at the Judgment Seat of Christ
- They live according to the Spirit rather than the flesh, and they willingly suffer for Jesus
- They will become adopted as the firstborn "sons to glory" to co-rule with Jesus in the heavenlies

8

The writer to the Hebrews refers to them:

Heb 12:22-23 You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect."

- In the context of Heb. 11, the great faith chapter, and God's preparation of His sons to glory in the early verses of ch. 12, these are the qualified ones who will co-rule with Jesus in New Jerusalem

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- Rom 8:29 refers to Jesus as "the firstborn among many brethren."

- Jesus, the firstborn over all, will launch His kingdom, having two realms:

1. The *earthly* realm, with firstborn son Israel as premier ruler over the nations
2. The *heavenly* realm, with the adopted firstborn sons of the church age as rulers with Christ in the heavenlies (New Jerusalem)

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- The present age poses a major obstacle to the coming of the new age, namely, the **RULERS** of this age

Eph 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

- Satan is the prince of the power of the air; he controls the kingdoms of this world and has delegated his authority to the demonic realm to rule with him in the heavenlies

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- When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness and offered Him all the kingdoms of this world, Jesus never challenged Satan's authority over Earth

- But Satan's rule over the heavenlies, along with his echelons, will one day be removed and replaced with the sons to glory

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1 Cor 2:6 We speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

7-8 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

13

- Had Satan and his echelon known of God's plan to replace them with Jesus and His army of glorified sons that Jesus redeemed and is now preparing as His future co-rulers, they (Satan and his echelon) would NEVER have crucified the Lord of glory

- The reason why the revealing of the sons of glory is what all creation *earnestly expects* and *eagerly awaits* is that it will signal the removal of sin and wickedness, to be replaced by obedience and righteousness, and that will result in peace

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Isa 32:17 The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. (see also Jas. 3:18)

- As long as Satan is ruler over Earth, there can NEVER be peace or harmony or love
- Only when Satan is ultimately defeated and cast into the lake of fire with his echelon and Jesus ascends to the throne with His echelon will there be peace on earth, goodwill to men

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- Christ's echelon will be a new order of rulers comprised of adopted, firstborn, glorified, redeemed humans who will replace the former order of supernatural beings

Arlen Chitwood, *The Time of the End*:

Revelation chapters one through three present *the complete Church* in heaven following the present dispensation. Events of the judgment seat are depicted; and when that depicted is one day realized, *the overcomers*, those found worthy to rule the nations with Christ, will be made known.

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Arlen Chitwood, *The Time of the End (cont'd)*:

The scene which follows in [Rev.] chapter four is ... *a relinquishment of crowns by angelic rulers* (vv. 10, 11), with a view to *a new order of rulers* — Christians having previously been shown qualified through decisions and determinations rendered at the judgment seat (chs. 1-3) — taking these crowns and ruling the earth in the stead of the present order of rulers, in the stead of angels (Rom. 8:18, 19).

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G.H. Lang, *World Chaos*:

There exists a government of the universe conducted by great angels and their subordinates. Many of these have fallen from their original allegiance to God and prostitute their offices and powers to corrupt His realms. It is therefore inevitable that a re-arrangement shall come in that heavenly government. This will be effected by Christ and His glorified followers being invested with the whole of that heavenly authority. For it is written that 'not unto angels hath God subjected the inhabited earth to come' (Hebrews 2:5).

18

Why is the revealing of God's glorified sons critical to the birth of the new age?

2. Because it brings substantial diminishing of the curse

Rom 8:20-21 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

19

- The sin of Adam resulted in the curse of Genesis 3
- Consequently, creation has been corrupted and plunged into a state of deterioration – its potential has been greatly diminished
- That is why Paul refers to creation as “subjected to futility” (i.e., purposelessness or frustration) – the idea of being kept from fulfilling its ultimate purpose
- This was thrust upon the earth, not of its own will – actually, God did this, with a hopeful future in mind

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- This HOPE is likely a veiled reference to the *proto-evangelium*, “the first gospel” in Gen. 3:15, in which God promised to one day crush the serpent's head
- God subjecting the creation “in hope” could also explain why mankind longs for utopia – he holds out hope for something better and grander than what we presently experience
- Nevertheless, man presently toils and labors by the sweat of his brow to make the earth productive, and women bear children in pain and suffering

21

Many creation-science experts believe that during the tribulation Earth will be transformed once again into the pre-flood earth, bringing back such benefits as:

1. Greenhouse effect of water vapor canopy in the upper atmosphere which shield out harmful radiation from the sun
2. Interactive hydrologic system with no storms
3. Healthy atmospheric conditions – no pollution, higher concentration of oxygen (aids in healing and overall vitality)

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Benefits of the pre-flood earth anticipated to return in the millennial earth:

4. Much longer lifespans
5. Earth more habitable – pre-flood topography, shallower oceans, more land mass, no deserts or polar caps
6. A world of peace and prosperity, where war and crime and overt sin will not be tolerated
7. Population explosion
8. Highly advanced civilization

23

- The cataclysms of the tribulation will convert Earth back to these conditions, producing the following glorious results:

Isa 35:1-2 The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing.

Isa 35:6b For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

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Isa 40:4 Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth;

Isa 11:6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

Isa 11:7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

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Isa 11:8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.

Isa 11:9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD.

- What a glorious earth in the new age! Mankind will also be favorably impacted:

Isa 2:4b They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

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Isa 35:5-6a Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing.

Isa 11:10 And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious.

Isa 65:20a No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; for the child shall die one hundred years old.

27

Isa 65:21 They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

Isa 65:22 They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

Isa 65:23 They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth children for trouble; for they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.

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Arlen Chitwood, *The Study of Scripture:*

God, in complete accord with the pattern established in Gen. 1:1-2:3, is presently working six more days to restore man. And once man has been restored (once God's work in man's redemption has been completed), the material creation will be "delivered from the bondage of corruption" (Rom. 8:21). The curse will be lifted, and this will be followed by God resting a seventh day, resting from His redemptive work (as in the established pattern [Gen. 2:1-3]).

29

Why is the revealing of God's glorified sons critical to the birth of the new age?

3. Because it marks the glorious liberty of Christ's reign

Rom 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

21 because the creation itself also will be de-livered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

30

- Notice the language of childbirth – *groans, labors, birth pangs, delivered*
- God uses this specific language to refer to the birth of the new age
- All creation presently groans and labors with birth pangs – in fact, creation has done that since the curse – including plants and animals and mankind
- We are all under the weight of sin and its consequences, not only in our own bodies, but also in the earth itself

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- In Paul's metaphor *birth pangs* likely refer to the tribulation period – the final 7 years on earth, during which God will bring tremendous pain to the earth, as he transforms this globe into its pre-flood state

Chitwood, *The Time of the End*

This is what Revelation chapters five through nineteen are about. They are about *effecting a redemption* of the creation subjected by man's fall to "the bondage of corruption" (Rom. 8:20, 21), bringing to pass "the times of restitution ['restoration'] of all things" (Acts 3:21).

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- Man will experience great pain and suffering during the tribulation, as God seeks to bring His nation and even Gentiles to the point of repentance
- After all the pain and suffering – not only for millennia of time, but also for the final 7 years of intensity – the "child" comes forth
- And when the "child" is finally birthed, the pain ends and the joy begins

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Notice the contrasting terms in v. 21:

- Delivered FROM the bondage of corruption – that is all creation delivered from the pain and suffering of this old, corrupted world
 - Delivered TO the glorious liberty of the children of God (that is, those who are adopted as "sons") – that is the joyous part
- What, then, is the child in this metaphor?

1. The child is the repentant nation of Israel restored to fellowship with Jehovah and ready to take up her place as priest among the nations

34

Isa 66:7 (NASB) Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she gave birth to a boy.

8 Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth all at once? As soon as Zion travailed, she also brought forth her sons.

9 "Shall I bring to the point of birth and not give delivery?" says the LORD. "Or shall I who gives delivery shut the womb?" says your God.

35

Isa 66:10 Be joyful with Jerusalem and rejoice for her, all you who love her; be exceedingly glad with her, all you who mourn over her,

- God is describing something remarkable
- After Israel goes through the intense suffering and labor pains of the tribulation, she will give re-birth to herself as a spiritual nation – and it will happen instantly
- God promises not to delay Israel's restitution as a nation – she will literally come forth in a day!

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- Ironically, this is dramatically different from Israel's man-made formation as a nation in 1948 – which took years and much effort before it ever came to fruition
- When Jesus returns at the close of the tribulation, the nation will instantly repent, and there will no longer be a need for continued labor
- The nation will be re-born, and according to v. 8, so will the earth, i.e., the promised land
- The New Covenant will be implemented, and all the world will rejoice with Israel

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- Immediately after Israel is birthed, she in turn gives birth to her sons – who are these “sons?”

Chitwood, *The Time of the End*

The reference to “sons” [NASB] being brought forth is also seen in the travailing and deliverance in Romans chapter eight. The time when the creation will *be delivered from the present groaning and travailing together in pain* is the time of “the manifestation of the sons of God” [v. 19].

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Chitwood, *The Time of the End (cont'd)*:

This chapter in Romans deals more specifically with the adoption of Christians as firstborn sons and their being manifested as such. Israel though has already been adopted and is presently God's firstborn son [cf. Ex. 4:22, 23], though an unbelieving son. And Israel must be brought forth as well [... first and foremost]. The creation will be delivered from its present groaning and travailing in pain only when the complete contingent of the Sons of God [Christ, Israel, and the Church following the adoption] have been manifested for all to see.

39

What is the SECOND child that is brought forth in the birthing metaphor?

2. The adopted sons of God (Rom. 8:14-19), the sons to glory (Heb. 2:10); the bride of Christ (Rev. 19:7-8), the church of the firstborn (Heb. 12:23), the overcomers (Rev. 2-3)
- The coming forth of the adopted sons of God signals the birth of the new age of Jesus – the establishment of His millennial kingdom – after having deposed Satan and his echelons

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Rev 11:15b (Weymouth's translation, 1903) The sovereignty of the world now belongs to our Lord and His Christ; and He will be King until the Ages of the Ages.

- Jesus will ascend to the throne, along with His bride – the adopted, glorified sons of God
 - One other adjective that could be added to this list of *adopted* and *glorified*: *redeemed*
- Rom 8:23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

41

- Even God's children, who have the “first-fruits” of the Holy Spirit (even in advance of the launching of the New Covenant with Israel), groan with the rest of creation, but in our case we long to be adopted as firstborn sons (i.e., those who understand this concept), thereby receiving the “full harvest”
- Sadly, most Christians assume this is automatic
- In Rom. 8:23, redemption of the body is equated with the adoption

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- Adoption is NOT conferred upon believers at the point of regeneration
- Rather, it is given by Jesus as a reward to those who live righteously and suffer with Him
- He will bestow this glorious reward, along with crowns, at His Judgment Seat – and it is equated with redemption of the body

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Chitwood, *The Time of the End*

The redemption of the body, as seen in Rom. 8:23 [not to be confused with the resurrection of the body], has to do with the future adoption into a firstborn status and is part and parcel with the salvation of the soul.

[It] has to do with *placing man back in the position which he occupied prior to the fall and, in this position, allowing man to realize the reason for his creation, which is regal.*

44

8:24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?

8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

- As children of God, we HOPE – we confidently expect – that we will be adopted and glorified if we have lived righteously and suffered with Jesus

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- Use of the word HOPE implies that we have not already received the adoption, otherwise, there would be no need to hope for it
- But we look for it, we long for it, with PERSEVERANCE (i.e., endurance)
- In other words, never stop hoping for the adoption
- Live as if it could happen any moment

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- When you stand before Jesus to hear His verdict on your life, will you be clothed in garments of light or left naked and ashamed?

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

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