

The Whole Creation Waits In Hope

Introduction and Review

- We have divided our study of eschatology into two categories: Personal & General.
- **Personal eschatology** is the study of last things that affects true believers, false believers & unbelievers [*past 6 weeks*].
- **General eschatology** is the study of last things that will affect the entire universe & all of creation.
- Most religions have some form of eschatology: Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam & Judaism.
- Only Christianity offers eschatology with genuine hope.

I. Christian Eschatology Gives Hope for the Present

A. Sin caused futility for the whole creation (v. 20)

Futility (ματαιότης) means emptiness or without purpose. “the whole creation” means nonhuman creation. God caused nonhuman creation to experience futility because of Adam’s sin (Rom. 8:20; 5:12-13).

B. God gives daily hope to the whole creation

After the great flood, God promised to care for all living creation until the end of the age (Gen. 8:20-22). The bible repeats this promise & reminds us of it in several places (Ps. 104:10-28; Mt. 6:25-30).

In spite of the daily futility experienced by nonhuman creation, God is faithful as He provides & gives hope daily.

II. Christian Eschatology Gives Hope for the Future

A. Sin caused corruption to the whole creation (v. 21)

Corruption (φθορά) means the breakdown of organic matter - deterioration.

In this life, nonhuman creation is in “bondage to corruption” – decay, disease, sickness & death.

B. God gives eternal hope for the whole creation

All believers know that present sufferings are temporary & comparatively insignificant (Rom. 8:18). All believers know that the resurrection is a reality for the future (Rom. 8:19, 23d). The whole creation anticipates deliverance at the resurrection (Rom. 8:19-22). All believers are longing for the resurrection (Rom. 8:23-25). The Holy Spirit also groans with us as we wait (Rom. 8:26-27).

In spite of corruption in this present life, the whole creation will be delivered from the effects of sin with believers at the resurrection – ETERNAL HOPE!