

THE FINAL REDEMPTION OF CHRISTIANS AND CREATION

Introduction – The Roman letter tells how the Creator God can both be the righteous judge and justifier of his rebellious image bearers. Because of the sending, service, sacrifice, resurrection, and ascension to rule of Jesus, God is beginning to fulfill his original intent for us and the rest of his creation.

A. We are indebted to God and should be grateful.

Romans 8:12-17

1. The account of God's creation of the people of God in the Old Testament is our spiritual story in Christ. After the exodus and gift of the law they were led by the pillar of fire in the wilderness. *By day God went before them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people (Exodus 13:20-21). In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they set out; but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out until the day it lifted. So the cloud of the Lord was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel during all their travels (Exodus 40:36-38).*
2. Now we have the presence of God and His leadership through our lives by his indwelling Spirit.
3. God has made us part of his family and co-heirs with Christ of the world to come.

B. The physical creation will share in our future redemption of resurrection bodies as a new heaven and new earth (2 Peter 3:13).

Romans 8:18-25

1. As we are sharing in Jesus' suffering in this present time, so we will share in his glory in the future.
2. We must be patient and hopeful in our spiritual wilderness journey to the Promised Land.

C. God has a purpose for his adopted children in Christ.

Romans 8:26-30

1. We, like Jesus, call God “Abba” and know the Spirit will strengthen us in our weakness like Jesus in the garden by communicating our deepest needs to God.
 2. God’s predestined purpose for us as the community of God is that we be conformed to the likeness of his Son.
 3. God promises to work all things together for good for those who love him and have accepted their Jesus’ vocation.
- D. In the cosmic court and military campaign of God, he gives us the victory through Christ.

Romans 8:31-39

Psalm 44 remembers how Israel’s military victories of the past were because of the intervention of God. They question why they are suffering defeat and death in the present even though they continue to trust God. They beg Him to rise up helping them by redeeming them because of His unfailing love.

Conclusion – True justice is accomplished through Jesus in the Christ community. Beyond justice God triumphs through the love that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Discuss with one another informally what challenges you in your wilderness wandering and share how you would like to be remembered in prayer.)