

HIGHLIGHTS

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. NIV

CONTEXT

1. Romans is Paul's longest and most significant letter.
2. Christians are suffering.

Romans 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

3. Creation is experiencing death and decay.

Romans 8:19 The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

4. God is in control of His plan for redemption.

Romans 8:22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the

firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

CONTENT

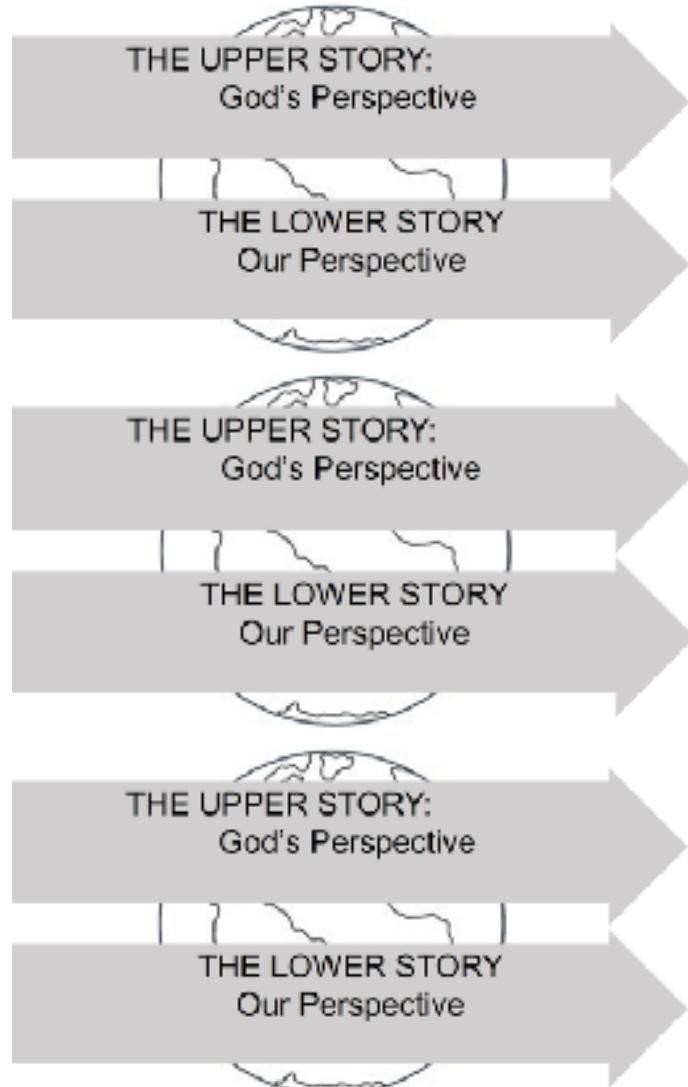
Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

1. God is not saying that all things are good.
2. God can take what is not good and use it for good.
3. God is the one who defines what is good.
4. God is conforming us to the likeness of His Son.
5. There are two qualifying statements.
 - a. *those who love Him*
 - b. *those who have been called according to His purpose*

6. There are always two stories.

The Upper Story

The Lower Story



Genesis 50:20 *You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*

Esther 4:14 *... And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?*

Luke 2:11 *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.*

Acts 2:22 *"Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death . . .*

CARRY OUT

1. God will more than balance the books.

Romans 8:18 *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.*

2. When life is out of our control, it is not out of God's control.

Romans 8:28 *And we know that in all things God works...*

3. We become more Christ like through our suffering than through our successes.

Romans 8:29 *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son...*

4. God has an irrepressible purpose for our lives.

5. Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Romans 8:38 *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*