



“The Believer’s Hope of Glory!” **ROMANS Chapter 8:18-25**

~ **Let’s observe 3 “HOPES OF GLORY!”**

> **HOPE #1 – FROM SUFFERINGS TO GLORY! (v18)**

> **HOPE #2 – CREATION GROANS FOR GLORY! (v19-22)**

> **HOPE #3 – CHRISTIANS GROAN FOR GLORY! (v23-25)**

> **HOPE #1 – FROM SUFFERINGS TO GLORY! (v18)**

- The word *sufferings* is *pathema* (Gk.), it is used in the New Testament for the *sufferings of Christ* and the *sufferings of the believer* for His sake.

- Jesus told us in John 15:18-22- *"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.*

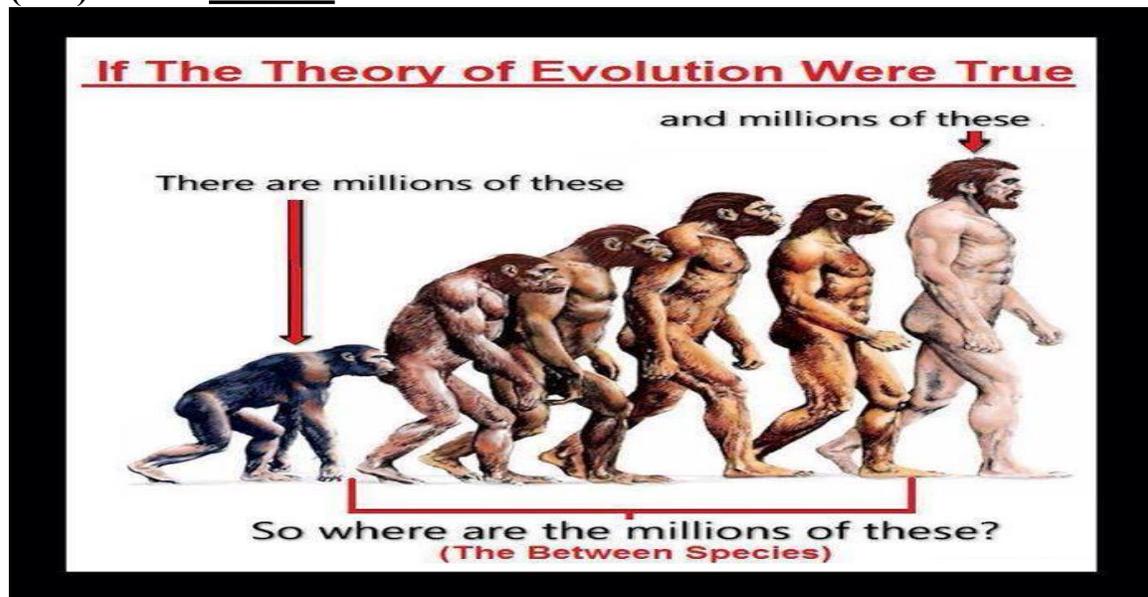
- Also, in Matthew 5:10-12- *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

- 2 Timothy 3:12-13- *Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. Paul speaks from experience, look to **2 Corinthians 11:23-33**.*

- **How about the glory?** First, the “Parade of Homes” - John 14:1-3- *"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. Secondly, New York, Rome, Paris, Monte Carlo, and Waimanalo pale in comparison to our new city! Tour the new city in **Revelation 21:9-27**.*

> **HOPE #2 – CREATION GROANS FOR GLORY! (v19-22)**

(v19) Notice creation not evolution!



> **What does the theory of evolution need to explain?** - If biologists propose the evolution of life (by natural processes and mutations) then the scientific community (scientists who study cosmology and abiogenesis) need to be able to explain how the raw materials (the earth, the sun and the first cell) essential for the evolution of life came into being. If you have no sun, earth or first cell we can have no evolution of life. In the evolutionist framework, the sun, the earth and the first cell came about by random, mindless, blind and unguided processes. Random, mindless, blind and unguided processes never achieve anything. In natural selection, the environment affects the gene frequency in a population. Even so, natural selection is a mindless and blind process acting on mutations which are random, mindless and blind. Evolution (which is mindless and blind) will never achieve anything.

(v20-21) **How was creation subjected to futility?** Genesis 3:17-19- *Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return."*

- **What is the glorious liberty that creation awaits? Could it be the millennial reign of Christ?** Revelation 20:1-6 - *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast*

him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

- C.I. Scofield writes, “The expression “thousand years,” which occurs six times in vv.1-7, gave rise to the term “millennium” (from the Latin *mille* meaning *thousand*, and *annus* meaning *year*). The millennium is that period during which Christ will reign upon the earth, a time of universal peace, prosperity, long life, and prevailing righteousness.

- The early church fathers, e.g. Justin Martyr and Irenaeus, interpreted this passage as referring to a future literal period of time. See Ps. 72:1-20; **Isa. 9:6-7; 11:1-9**; 24:22-23; 30:15-33; 35:1-10; 44:1-28; 49:1-26; 65:17-25; Jer. 23:5-6; 33:15; Mic. 4:1-4; **Zechariah 14:1-9**; Mt. 25:31-32; 1 Cor. 15:24-28.)

- Psalm 72:19 - *And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.*

(v22) The “groan”- A groan speaks of an audible expression of anguish due to physical, emotional, or spiritual pain. These *groanings* bewail a condition that is painful, unsatisfying, and sorrowful—a cry for deliverance from a torturing experience.

- The “*birth pangs together*” in Greek is *sunodino* (*soon-o-dee'-no*); *pangs in company* (*concert, simultaneously*) which is to have parturition (the action or process of giving birth to offspring) *with expectation of relief.*

- Let’s read **Matthew 24:4-14** regarding the last days!

In verse 8 we have the sorrows but in Greek the word is *odin* (*o-deen'*); a *pang or throe, especially of childbirth*. Paul gives reference to this in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-5- *But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.*

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day.

> **HOPE #3 – CHRISTIANS GROAN FOR GLORY! (v23-25)**

(v23) We possess the *firstfruits* - That is the “first installment” or “down payment.” The indwelling Holy Spirit is a foretaste of our heavenly glory, the anticipation of our future *redemption of our body*.

- Paul also conveys the idea of the Holy Spirit as a “pledge” (2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5; Eph. 1:14), which implies the idea of an engagement ring for the coming wedding (Rev. 19:9- *Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."*).

- The *redemption of our body* is glorification- Philippians 3:20-21- *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.* Mark your Bibles in 1 Corinthians 15:35-44; 2 Corinthians 5:1-8.

(v24-25) Hope, hope, hope, hope & more hope! - Titus 2:11-14- *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*

“GO4GOD!”