

JOY TO THE WORLD:
FAR AS THE CURSE IS FOUND

Friday, December 29

Reading: Romans 8:18-39

Romans 8:20 *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 freedom and glory of the children of God.*

No more let sins and sorrows grow / Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow / Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found / Far as, far as the curse is found

The third verse of ‘Joy to the World’ is the only one that does not have a tie to Psalm 98. It instead tells us the implications of Christ coming to reign. After Adam and Eve sinned, God placed a curse on the ground.

“Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return”
(Genesis 3:17-19)

Sin brought death and sorrow and hardship into the world. Romans 8 tells us that “the whole creation has been groaning” waiting with “eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed” (8:19-22). When will this occur? We are God’s children the moment we accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. But the complete revelation of this fact will occur when we return with Christ in glory – at His Second Coming.

Scattered through the Old Testament prophets are vivid descriptions of an earth where this curse has been lifted and the Lord reigns. An earth where people will “beat their swords into plowshares...neither shall they learn war anymore” (Micah 4:3) and “the wolf will dwell with the lamb” (Isaiah 11:6). An earth where “the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose” and “waters shall burst forth in the wilderness” (Isaiah 35:1-6). It will be a time of perfect peace and justice and joy as the Savior reigns (Micah 4:1-4; Isaiah 11:1-5; Zephaniah 3:14-17).

We live in a world turned upside-down from what God created. But when Jesus returns, He will set turn it right-side-up again. All of creation is waiting for the day when “He comes to make His blessings flow.”

POINTS TO PONDER:

With creation, we too long for the day when Christ will return and set everything right. This is our blessed hope! Romans 8 gives us encouragement for living in this sin-cursed world. Look at the follow verses and write down the hope God has given us.

Romans 8:18

Romans 8:26-27

Romans 8:28-30

Romans 8:31-34

Romans 8:35-39