**R878\_Rumination for November 21, 2021**

The **T**heme: **Let Heaven and EartH Rejoice** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: ***Let*** *the heavens* ***R****ejoice, and* ***let*** *the earth be glad* Psa. 96:11

The **T**hots:

1. **NOW: The Groanings of Creation. Rom. 8:22**

*For we know that* *the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.*

1. The **C**hristian’s **P**erception – *for we know…*
2. The **C**ontinuous Groaning **P**ains of **C**reation, lit., *keeps on groaning and travailing together*
3. It **C**oncerns *the whole* ***C****reation* after the Fall.
4. The whole earth came under the **C**urse of Sin – *the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain…*
5. Including **C**hristians, the firstfruits of the Spirit. Rom. 8:23

*not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit*

1. As if Going through a **C**ommon **C**alamity –

*Groaneth…together* = to moan jointly, i.e. (figurative) experience a common calamity. Strong

1. As if from **C**hildbirth **P**angs –
2. Which **C**ontinue in **P**ains to **P**resent time
3. **C**ontrast the **C**hristians’ **P**erspective:
4. **W**hile they experience **P**resent Sufferings and also Groan, they have a Hope before them. Rom. 8:24f

*For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.*

1. They are **P**resently **W**aiting for their *Adoption, the Redemption of their Bodies*… Rom. 8:19, 23
2. *The* ***E****arnest* ***E****xpectation of the creature* ***W****aiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.*
3. *…****E****ven we ourselves groan within ourselves,* ***W****aiting for the adoption,…the redemption of our body.*
4. They are *the* ***F****irstfruits of the Spirit* Who **F**ights their case for them.Rom. 8:26-27
5. *Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*
6. *And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*
7. **THEN [The Time is Coming…]: WHEN All Creation will Rejoice.**
8. Let the Earth Rejoice: Psa. 98:4-9
9. *Make a joyful noise unto the LORD,* ***all the earth****: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.*

*Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.*

*With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King.*

1. *Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.*
2. *Let the floods clap their hands:*
3. *Let the hills be joyful together before the LORD; for He cometh to judge the earth:*

*with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.*

1. Let the Heavens Rejoice: Psa. 96:11-13
2. ***Let*** *the heavens rejoice, and* ***let*** *the earth be glad;* ***let*** *the sea roar, and the fulness thereof.*
3. ***Let*** *the field be joyful, and all that is therein:*
4. ***then*** *shall all the trees of the wood rejoice Before the LORD: for He cometh, for He cometh to judge the earth: He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with His truth*
5. Let the Heavens and the Earth Rejoice: Isa. 44:23

***S****ing, O ye heavens; for the LORD hath done it:*

***S****hout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified Himself in Israel.*

1. Let all **M**en and **M**ountains Rejoice: Isa. 55:12-13
2. **M**en Lifted up with Joy*: For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace:*
3. **M**ountains Lifted up with Singing: *the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.*
4. **M**an’s Curse Lifted;**M**yrtle tree instead of Brier*:*

*Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off*.

**Con**. (1) Let All Creation Sound Forth His Praise: Psalm 19:1 –

*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handywork.*

(2) Let the New Creation Sound Forth His Praise: II Cor. 5:17, NKLV *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold,*

*all things have become new.* II Cor. 5:17

*O Lord, to Thee all glory be, Whom Heav’n and earth adore,*

*For our Redeemer we will praise This day and evermore;*

Traditional English, in Carols

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 878**

1. “*The suffering of creation is like birth pangs leading to a glorious new world,*

*rather than the death pangs of a dying creation. The intense pain leads to a joyous*

*outcome.” –* The Whole Creation Has Been Groaning by Harry Alan Hahne.

“…Paul describes this suffering of the natural world in the context of great eschatological hope for both believers and nature: “The whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now” (v. 22). ***The suffering of creation is like birth pangs leading to a glorious new world, rather than the death pangs of a dying creation.*** Throughout Scripture the metaphor of birth pangs points to an intense and prolonged pain that leads to a joyous and positive outcome. This bipolar metaphor combines extended, intense pain with a better state of affairs in the future. Creation eagerly awaits “the revealing of the children of God” (v. 19), because at that time the natural world will be “set free from its slavery to corruption” (v. 21, NASB) and will be transformed to share in “the freedom of the glory of the children of God” (v. 21).

Thus, the redemption that Christ brings will have cosmic consequences. At the Second Coming of Christ when God’s people are resurrected and glorified (vv. 19, 23; cf. 29-30), the natural order will be restored to its proper operation, so that it fulfills the purpose for which it was created. This passage strongly suggests that God will transform the existing creation, rather than create a brand new world from scratch. When Paul says “the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay” (v. 21), the phrase “the creation itself” could be translated more literally as “this creation.” The resurrection of the bodies of believers is part of this perfection of nature, for which both the material creation and believers “wait eagerly” (vv. 19, 23; cf. Philippians 3:21).12 Paul’s vision for redemption has a cosmic scope and is not limited merely to the salvation of individual humans or even to the Church as the new community of redeemed humanity.”

Above is part of an excellent commentary by Harry Alan Hahne in his article The Whole Creation Has Been Groaning on our Rumination passage. You can also read the rest of it in

<https://www.baylor.edu/content/services/document.php/106707.pdf>

What are your personal thoughts on it? How do you relate your responsibility to sustain your environment to the things you can do in order not to aggravate further the pains and pangs of the creation around you? **REFLECT**

1. In a way, climatic changes throughout history are closely related with how humans treat their environment. The poor conditions that we see ourselves in today are the results of our negligent and careless attitude to what we do to our surroundings.

For one, while plastic is a tremendous help in our living conditions to make life easier, safer, cleaner, etc. in so many ways for us, yet its abundance and abandoned use has led to plastic pollution which threatens the environment particularly to water and land life leading to their inhabitants endangered in so many ways.

Plastic pollution is only one contributing factor. There are countless other factors that

lead to other types of pollution making the sustainability of our planet near impossible.

No wonder the whole creation composing the heavens, water and land life have led to

our earth and its inhabitants groaning in pangs and pain!

As a Christian you do not escape their pangs either. What can you contribute to lessen

their impact on the environment so that both creatures and creation can live in enjoyment

of each other’s environment? **REFLECT.**

**Points To Ponder**: *The* ***E****njoyment of Man’s* ***E****nvironment depends on how well*

*each is* ***R****ightly* ***R****elated to each other.*