

Romans 8:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

Analysis

For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God (hē apokaradokia tēs ktiseōs tēn apokalupsin tōn huiōn tou theou apekdechetai)—Apokaradokia is vivid: apo (from) + kara (head) + dokia (watching), picturing someone craning their neck, straining to see. Ktisis ("creature/creation") likely refers to sub-human creation, not unregenerate humanity. All creation eagerly awaits apokalupsin ("unveiling/revelation") when the sons of God are publicly manifested in glory (Colossians 3:4; 1 John 3:2).

The personification is striking: creation itself anticipates the day when God's children are revealed. This isn't mere poetic device but theological reality—creation's destiny is bound to humanity's. When humanity fell, creation fell under curse (Genesis 3:17-19); when humanity is glorified, creation will be liberated (v. 21). The whole cosmos groans for redemption's consummation.

Historical Context

Ancient cosmology saw little connection between human morality and cosmic order (except astrology's determinism). Biblical theology presents radical integration: humanity's rebellion cursed creation; humanity's redemption will liberate it. This ecological theology anticipates new heavens and new earth (Isaiah 65:17; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does creation's "earnest expectation" for redeemed humanity challenge Christian escapism or anti-materialism?
2. What does the connection between human sin/redemption and cosmic curse/liberation teach about God's holistic purposes?
3. How should this verse shape Christian environmental stewardship without baptizing secular environmentalism?

Interlinear Text

ἡ	γὰρ	ἀποκαραδοκία	τῆς	κτίσεως	τὴν
G3588	For	the earnest expectation	G3588	of the creature	G3588
G1063		G603		G2937	
ἀποκάλυψιν	τῶν	νἱῶν	τοῦ	θεοῦ	ἀπεκδέχεται
for the manifestation	G3588	of the sons	G3588	of God	waiteth
G602		G5207		G2316	G553

Additional Cross-References

Romans 8:23 (Parallel theme): And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

1 John 3:2 (References God): Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Philippians 1:20 (Parallel theme): According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

Isaiah 65:17 (Parallel theme): For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Acts 3:21 (References God): Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

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