

# Romans 8:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

## Analysis

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**Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God** (hoti kai autē hē ktísis eleutherōthēsetai apó tēs douleías tēs phthorâs eis tēn eleuthería tēs dóxēs tōn téknon tou theou)—The future passive eleutherōthēsetai ("shall be delivered") is divine promise: God will liberate creation. Douleías tēs phthorâs ("bondage of corruption") describes creation's present state—enslaved to decay, death, disintegration.

**Into the glorious liberty of the children of God**—Creation's liberation is tied to believers' glorification. When the sons of God are revealed (v. 19), creation participates in their freedom and glory. This is new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17 cosmically expanded), new heavens and new earth where righteousness dwells (2 Peter 3:13). The physical universe will be transformed, not annihilated—continuity with transformation, like resurrection bodies (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).

## Historical Context

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Greek philosophy (especially Stoicism) taught cosmic conflagration (ekpyrosis) would destroy the world, followed by cyclical recreation. Christianity teaches transformation, not annihilation—the earth will be purged by fire (2 Peter 3:10-13) but renewed, not replaced. This grounds Christian care for creation: we steward what God will redeem.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does the promise of creation's liberation from corruption shape Christian environmentalism differently from secular ecology?
2. What does "glorious liberty" mean for redeemed creation—what will the new earth be like?
3. How does this verse counter the escapist view that the material world is disposable and only souls matter?

## Interlinear Text

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ὅτι	καὶ	αὐτὴ	ἡ	κτίσις	ἐλευθερωθήσεται	ἀπὸ	τῆς
<b>Because</b>	<b>also</b>	<b>itself</b>	G3588	<b>the creature</b>	<b>shall be delivered</b>	<b>from</b>	G3588
G3754	G2532	G846		G2937	G1659	G575	
δουλείας	τῆς	φθορᾶς	εἰς	τὴν	ἐλευθερίαν	τῆς	δόξης
<b>the bondage</b>	G3588	<b>of corruption</b>	<b>into</b>	G3588	<b>liberty</b>	G3588	<b>the glorious</b>
G1397		G5356	G1519		G1657		G1391
τῶν	τέκνων	τοῦ	θεοῦ				
G3588	<b>of the children</b>	G3588	<b>of God</b>				
	G5043		G2316				

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

**2 Peter 3:13** (Parallel theme): Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

