

In step with Jesus 175

October 25, 2025

Key Text: ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these *are* the beginning of sorrows. Mathew 24: 7, 8.

Introduction

I think that Chapter 8 of Romans is not only the easiest to understand, but also the most hopeful. It begins with the words “There is therefore no condemnation to those that are in Christ Jesus”, and ends with the promise that “nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (but that is for next week). The verses from Paul that we will be reading today are also filled with hope, encouragement and promise. There are so many statements in the following passage that it is difficult to cover them all in depth, but as we read on we find that our hope has a solid foundation in a God that we can trust.

Romans 8: 18- 28

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; ²¹ because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labours with birth pangs together until now. ²³ Not only *that*, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance. ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession ^[b]for us with groaning’s (sighs) which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*. ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

Reflection:

When the earth and its inhabitants were created, all was perfect. But after the introduction of sin and over the course of however many years, we see it as it is today. Far from perfect, not what it has been or could have been. But one day we will see it recreated, and us with it. The earth suffers because of sin. All nature suffers. We suffer. We see almost daily reports of disasters, earthquakes, destruction caused by wind and water, famines, and wars, but as predicted by Christ, these are just the beginning of sorrows. The earth is waiting. All creation is waiting. God is waiting and has promised that all will be made new. Remember that God has always had a plan.

How far we have fallen from the perfect creation of God. It's not just the earth that is waiting to be recreated in the image of God. We have a Saviour in Jesus Christ and we know that the earth is not our final home. Paul also speaks about the potential of mankind. In Christ, who was the first fruits, we have hope and comfort through the Holy Spirit. We were promised that we would be able to call God "ABBA", Daddy. We are waiting for that time when we will see Him face to face and claim our place in His kingdom. We have Hope. Notice that Paul says that we were saved in this hope. Past tense. We were saved, not will be, not maybe, but "*were saved in this hope*". When we accepted Jesus Christ we were saved and accepted as His children. Do you remember when you were a child and had a Christmas or birthday wish list? We hoped that we would get at least a small part of the things we wanted. While we waited, we had hope, but when the presents were opened that hope was no more. Maybe we got what we had hoped for, or not. With God, we have a hope, and our God is a God who keeps His promises and will deliver.

There are times when we want to ask God for something, to open our hearts in prayer, but can't find the words. The good news is that God already knows what we want to say. He understands our agony, our deepest desires, and the Holy Spirit translates our thoughts and intercedes for us. His plan for us is good. When life doesn't go the way we would like it, when disasters come out of the blue and we feel lost and abandoned, remember that God is always there for you. We may not know why at the time. We ask why me?, why now? But hold on. God is working in your life and one day you will understand. Remember God has a plan and gives us hope in all circumstances if we can just hold on to His hand.