

Redeemed: All Creation!

Scripture Focus: Romans 8:18-23

When we last met, we considered the beautiful words from the prophet Isaiah declaring the words of God which read, ***“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.”*** (Isaiah 43:1b) We are the redeemed of God, and not only us, but all of creation.

Paul writes in Romans that we are not the only ones awaiting God’s redemption to complete its work in us. Creation is too! Paul wrote, ***For the creation waits with eager longing..., that the creation was subjected to futility..., that creation itself will be set free from the bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*** (Romans 8:19-21)

We have been promised that one day, all things will be made new. God has not, nor will God ever, give up on God’s original plan for all creation. There is an entire biblical vocabulary that reminds of this! Words like redeem, restore, recover, return, renew, regenerate, resurrect – all with the “re” prefix, which points to getting something back to its original state.

- Redemption – means to buy back what was formerly owned.
- Reconciliation – means to get back a prior relationship or unity that has been lost.
- Renewal – means restoring to an original state – to make new again.
- Resurrection – means coming alive again after death.

Redemption and Restoration of All

1. People Created by God – God promises to redeem and restore us as people of God’s original plan. Paul writes, ***So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!*** (2 Corinthians 5:17)
2. All of God’s Creation – Consider the following verses, among many others, that declare God’s promise of restoring heaven and earth as originally intended – of making ALL things new. (Isaiah 65:17, 2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 21:1) Jesus himself spoke of “the renewal of all things” (Mt. 19:28a) Not the destruction of all things, or the abandonment of all things, but rather “after the renewal of all things.” This includes all creation!

See also the beautiful words of Peter, not long after Pentecost, as he spoke about “the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through the holy prophets.” (Acts 3:17-21) Meanwhile, the Holy Spirit is giving us the power every single day to become a new creation in Christ!