





















- 1 - Narrative of despair.
- 2 - Narrative of progress.

So what are we putting our hope in?

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing 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 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Romans 8v18-25

Idea 1

Because of Jesus' resurrection, we have hope that the whole cosmos will be redeemed! (Rom 8v19-22)

Creation is subject to decay and brokenness, until the time when God's children are glorified, fully made right - *when what happened with Jesus at Easter is what happens to all who have chosen to follow Jesus!*

God's plan from the beginning has been to restore the **WHOLE COSMOS** back to rights - back to the garden state.

What I am proposing is that the New Testament image of the future hope of the whole cosmos, grounded in the resurrection of Jesus, gives as coherent a picture as we need or could have of the future that is promised to the whole world, a future in which, under the sovereign and wise rule of the creator God, decay and death will be done away with and a new creation born, to which the present one will stand as mother to child... What creation needs is neither abandonment nor evolution, but rather redemption and renewal; and this is both promised and guaranteed by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. This is what the whole world's waiting for.

- NT Wright

Idea 2

Because of Jesus' resurrection, we have hope that those who follow Jesus will one day be redeemed. (Rom 8v23-25)

1

Those who follow Jesus will experience physical, bodily resurrection one day.

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Philippians 3v20-21

Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

1 Corinthians 15v49

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Romans 6v5

2

Those who chose to follow Jesus
experience spiritual resurrection **NOW!**

But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Romans 8v10-11

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5v17-18, 21

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespass, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved - and raised us up with him and seated us in the heavenly places in Jesus Christ...

Ephesians 2v4-6

And you, who were dead in your trespass and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespass, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Colossians 2v13-14

Through the resurrection of Jesus, life in the age to come (eternal life) begins now, when you chose to follow Jesus.

Redemption is our hope!

There is hope of redemption because of resurrection.

When God saves people in this life, by the Holy Spirit, he leads people to FOLLOW Jesus.

“Jesus is the way of salvation. We follow his way. Jesus is the way of eternal life. We follow his way. The way Jesus does it is the way we do it. Jesus is the way we come to God.”

- Eugene Peterson.

The way of Jesus' resurrection is not only *to walk the same roads* that Jesus did in his life, but it is to *walk the way Jesus did* as he walked on those roads, and *we can walk the way Jesus did*.

This is resurrection power in this life, a sure sign of hope. This is not only the way of information or instruction about Jesus, but the way of the person of Jesus himself - God in us. Life alive in Christ!

Redemption happens through:
Radical Love

Redemption happens through:

Radical Love

Perfect Justice

Redemption happens through:

Radical Love

Perfect Justice

New Life

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to the Cephas, then to the twelve.

1 Corinthians 15v3-4

The revolutionary new world, which began in the resurrection of Jesus - the world where Jesus reigns as Lord, having won the victory over sin and death - has its frontline outposts in those who in baptism have shared his death and resurrection. The intermediate stage between the resurrection of Jesus and the renewal of the whole world is the renewal of human beings - you and me! - in our own lives of obedience here and now!

- NT Wright

**Because of Jesus' resurrection,
redemption is our hope.**

Baptism

