

Groaning and Waiting (Romans 8:18-25)

Common elements of birth stories

From suffering to glory: keep the long view (18)

Groaning is the inescapable result of the fall.

Believers

Creation

Past: subject to futility, frustration, corruption

Future: liberation, bondage to freedom, decay to glory

Present: groaning, but like the groans of labor
⇒ looking forward to the birth, the new future

Good News – redemption and re-creation

Rev 1:1; Isa 65:17; 2 Pe 3:10-13

Implications for “planet care”

Groaning lifts our eyes to the goal

Inescapability realities

Eager waiting

= “to wait with the head raised, and the eye fixed on that point of the horizon from which the expected object is to come.” (John Stott)

Goal

Waiting is the inherent partner of groaning

As hard as it can be, we need waiting.

It stirs eager anticipation (19, 23)

It presses us to the HOPE of our salvation (24)

It leads us to develop patience (v 25)

We need to embrace groaning.

Groaning is good!

We need to embrace groaning.

Take it Home