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Section: Doctrine of Sin

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**Q38. What happened to the rest of creation because of sin?**

Creation is cursed and broken because of sin. It does not function in the “good” way in which God created it.

* **Genesis 3:17-19/The Curse on Creation**

**Genesis 3:17-19** And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

**Curse**: To injure; to subject to evil; to vex, harass or torment with great calamities.

God cursed the creation for a reason: His glory.

**Isaiah 48:9-11** “For my name's sake I defer my anger, for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off. Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.”

* **What Does It Mean for the Creation to Be Broken?**

**Genesis 3:17b-19** "cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

God places a curse upon the ground. Thorns and thistles are commonplace; there is now a significant difficulty in what Adam and Eve had become accustomed to.

* **What Is the Scope of the Curse?**

God’s curse upon the ground is a curse upon the earth.

**Romans 8:18-22** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 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. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

“Sin will always take you further than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.”

**Genesis 3:16** To the woman he said, ​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; ​​​​​​​in pain you shall bring forth children. ​​​​​​​Your desire shall be for your husband, ​​​​​​​and he shall rule over you.” ​​​

Creation is working, but it is not working as it is intended to work.

* **God’s Common Grace and God’s Grace in the Midst of Thorns and Thistles**

**Genesis 5:28-29** When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son and called his name Noah, saying, “Out of the ground that the Lord has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands.”

By God’s grace, Noah brought comfort to humanity through technological advance.

Without Noah, there would be no promised seed. Noah is a type of Christ: he points us to the Great Redeemer who would give us safe harbor from the tidal waves of God’s wrath.

**Hebrews 2:14-18** Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Jesus experienced the effects of the broken creation firsthand. This is good news!

Let our pain minister to us and testify of Him who merited our salvation through His propitiatory suffering.

**2 Corinthians 4:8-12** We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

* **Exhortation to Non-Believers**

**Romans 1:28** And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased [reprobate] mind to do what ought not to be done.

Turn from your sin, see it for what it is, and put your full trust in Christ.

* **Conclusion**

We, the Church, are to live out our days in this cursed land as elect exiles.

**Matthew 10:34-38** “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.”

Christians expect division, difficulty, and strife. This land is broken; it doesn’t work as it should.

**Revelation 6:9-11** When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

**Galatians 3:13a** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us