

RENEWAL OF CREATION

PRAISE

Can you hear Gods voice calling for the renewal of his world, a new earth. Consider Joni Mitchels song 'Big Yellow Taxi' a prophetic voice calling out in 1970. 51 years later - are we listening now?

It is available on youtube at: <https://youtu.be/2595abcvh2M>

JEREMIAH 4: 19-28

Israel didn't know what they had until it had gone. Jeremiah, also called the weeping prophet, is calling out over Israel a warning over the coming fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple, but they did not want to hear his voice. Can you hear the pain in his voice.

How does this reading make you feel? What do you think about how the whole of creation being caught up in the failure of humanity to act according to Gods plan?

PAUSE Is there something that God has put on your heart? A news story that connected with you deeply? Something that happened that caused a reaction in you? Ask God what he might be saying to you about it?

SHARE If you are willing share with one another your thoughts

PRAYER Thank God for those things mentioned. Ask Jesus to bring his light and hope to the situation.

REVELATION 21: 1-5, 22-27

Revelation is an apocalyptic vision of the hope we have when our broken world is reunited with its creator in a new heaven and new earth.

Notice where the new heaven and new earth is going to be. A question many have asked is: should we care for the environment in light of Christ's expected return, does it matter what we do? Note the value God holds in the physical world such as the nature of Jesus' resurrected body including scars, suggesting that the world will be renewed not scrapped.

The world will remain a place full of beauty, power, delight, tenderness, and glory but with God abolishing human sin and its tragic effects. The renewal of creation started with Jesus' resurrection so to care for creation is to cooperate with God's restoring work in Christ (I am making all things new).