

The end is in sight?!...

I've always been intrigued by the 'gloria' we sing and say so much in our services which has the line 'world without end'. Jesus tells us that 'heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will not pass away'. And in the last book of the Bible - Revelation - we have a vision of a new heaven and earth. After more than a year since the first Lockdown began, we long for an end.

Easter is a sign of a new beginning! New life, new hope, peace for ever, eternal life is ours by faith in Jesus Christ.

On the cross on Good Friday as Jesus died, He proclaimed 'it is finished'! Not that it was over because He was dead, but that the old order of suffering and death of this life was over. In His death Jesus had destroyed the old enemy of death, as He was to be raised again by God on that first Easter Day.

We long for an end to the pandemic, its restrictions, the suffering, misery, sadness and death it has brought to so many. We long to move forward to something new.

The new heavens and new earth foretold in Revelation are a sign of God's Kingdom, that by faith and trust in Jesus we can experience God's Kingdom as it breaks through into this present life. As Jesus taught us to pray 'Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven!'

But this world that God created is still His world. He's not done with it. The words in Revelation could be translated 'I saw a RENEWED Heaven and earth'.

World without end? This old fallen world with all its sin, suffering and injustice is not the last word. Yes, God made the world and it is His, so He alone can renew it. God has done this by sending His Son Jesus into the world to die for us, to take all our sins and failings on Himself as He died in the cross and finished that work. And God raised Jesus to show that death has no power over the Son of the God who made the world. And by faith in Jesus, the old order of sin and death need have no power over us either.

We can know the gift of new renewed eternal life. World without end. But not this tired sad old world in this form. The new renewed world that we can know because of Easter.

No wonder we say so often over Easter time 'Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!!'

Timothy Wilson