

When Will it End?

Then the Lord replied:

“Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets
so that a herald may run with it.

For the revelation awaits an appointed time;
it speaks of the end and will not prove false.

Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

Habakkuk 2:2-3 (NIV)

Suffering isn't for sissies, that's for certain. It's hard work and can take all of our energy just to endure.

For the child of God, suffering has many *advantages*.

First, the Lord gives *strength* to the weary.

Hear the words of Isaiah 40:31:

“but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

We are given *grace* to draw from the Lord's infinite resources to meet the challenge of the day.

We are given *assurances*

from the Lord that even though we do not understand why our lives are unfolding as they are, that it will all make sense to us at the end.

Then there are the small reminders along the way that *God has not forsaken us*.

Perhaps it is someone phoning just to say hello and tell us they prayed for us today. Or a verse of Scripture leaps off the pages of the Bible to warm our hearts.

As our verses remind us, we have plain statements in the Bible that encourage us to keep on because the “appointed time” will surely come, and *we will see the justice of the Lord revealed* when Jesus returns.

We understand that the

revelation lingers as our verses say, but “it will certainly come” because the sovereign Lord of all creation has made the promise. Nothing nor anyone can defeat the Lord's plans.

“being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philip-
pians 1:6 (NIV)

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