

whatever may happen will be in harmony with the final consummation of the divine thought.

That the world will "come to an end," some time, we have no doubt whatever. The fashion of this world passeth away. Matter is transient. Only spirit endures. That which has had a beginning must have an end. There will come a time "when time shall be no more." Moons wear out. Suns burn out. Stars flash out. Constellations disappear. All material forms must, in the end, be spiritualized and disappear.

Our theme presents two questions of practical value and of intense interest. First, How will the world come to an end? Second, When will the world come to an end? Science has an answer for the first and Scripture has an answer for the second. Science and Scripture—two splendid volumes! And as between the settled and assured results of science on the one hand, and a sane and reasonable interpretation of the great underlying and fundamental truths of Scripture on the other hand, there can be no conflict, confusion or lack of agreement. Science writes the story from the mountain base to the mountain peak. Scripture begins with the spiritual and ends with the natural.

There are seven ways in which the world may come to an end—and when we speak of the "world" we have two things in mind, namely, the planet itself and (apart from the planet) the race of human beings which exists upon it. The destruction of the planet would involve the destruction of the people who reside upon it. But the passing away of the race, for any cause, normal or abnormal, would practically be "the end of the world," even though the planet still continued to swing and whirl through space. In seeking an answer we contemplate both possibilities. The world will "come to an end" in one of seven different ways.

First. The world may come to an end through a planetary accident. An astronomical "railroad accident," and smash up would end two worlds at once. That such disasters have occurred in the past we have no doubt whatever. The universe as we find it and have it is evidently the result of an evolutionary process which included, in the early stages, every form of planetary disaster, catastrophe, accident and upheaval. What has happened in the past may happen again in the future. Save only that the law of probability would seem to indicate that "the accident period" for planet, sun and constellation, so far as one striking the other is concerned, has passed.