

up of the old dispensation and the destruction of Jerusalem. And undoubtedly that was an end ; an end to old-world ideas and opinions ; an end so wide-sweeping and thorough in its effects upon the world that then was, that it might not be inaptly called the end of all things. And possibly Peter does refer to that event here. I would not like to say he does not. We know that the Lord continually associated together the two events, the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the world. When He spoke of the one event He usually spoke of the other, and sometimes it is not easy to say what belongs to the one event and what belongs to the other. And Peter heard those thrilling discourses of the Lord, as they came warm from his heart, emphasized with tears, and punctuated with sighs, and they must have made a deep impression on his mind. Hence, it is not impossible to suppose that he does refer to the destruction of Jerusalem here, which was only a few years off at the time the words were written.

And then there are some others who get round the difficulty here in this way. They suggest that as far as the Apostle was concerned, and as far as you and I are concerned, the end of all things is at hand. But to my mind that is only a smart and easy way of avoiding a confessedly perplexing question. Such a suggestion is no satisfactory solution of the difficulty.

For my part, I feel that there is nothing for us but to accept the idea of the end here. I cannot think that the Apostle refers to the destruction of Jerusalem in what he says. At all events, that idea does not explain all. It may be an element in it ; it may even bulk largely before the mind of one who was the apostle of the Jews, and whose sympathies and prejudices were intensely Jewish. But the end here is not the end of Judaism only. It is the end of all things ;—the end of all the isms as well as Judaism ;—the end of the politics, philosophies, religions, businesses, and follies, that have figured so largely in the history of the world ;—in a word, the final winding up of all mundane affairs. There was a time far back