

For years Hollywood has cranked out film after film about the end of the world, or at least the end of the world as we now know it.

Armageddon (1998), *The Day After Tomorrow* (2004), *Zombieland* (2009), *2012* (2009), *Mad Max: Fury Road* (2015), *This Is the End* (2013), and *Greenland* (2020), just to name a few, depict a pretty sorry future for us all.

And suddenly, with COVID-19 (including its variants), Hollywood's science fiction end-of-the-world stuff seems a little too close to home for comfort.

Science fiction aside, real science presents a future that is, to put it mildly, rather bleak as well. Sooner or later the universe, scientists say – not just the earth, but the universe! – is going to end.

How? That is the question.

Depending upon the numbers that these scientists stick in their physics equations, some theorise that the universe might tear itself apart (*the Big Rip*). Others, using different numbers, predict that it might collapse in on itself (*the Big Crunch*). The most popular scenario is that it might burn out (*the Big Freeze*):

'The universe, currently aglow with the prolific energy of nuclear power, will eventually exhaust this valuable resource. The era of light will be forever over.' (Paul Davies, *The Last Three Minutes*)

Big Crunch, Big Rip, Big Freeze – long-term, things don't look very hopeful for this world, do they?

Interestingly enough, the Bible depicts the end of this world as well, just quite *differently* to how either Hollywood or science do. A few biblical excerpts about our long-term prospects:

- 'For behold, I create *new* heavens and a *new* earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind' (Isaiah 65:17).

- 'Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for *new* heavens and a *new* earth in which righteousness dwells' (2 Peter 3:13).

- 'Now I saw a *new* heaven and a *new* earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband' (Revelation 21:1, 2). Or this, one of the most hopeful (from the same chapter):

- 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away' (verse 4).

Not quite the Big Freeze or the Big Crunch. That's not the Big Rip, is it? Nor the future depicted in *Zombieland*, either. Indeed, both science and biblical revelation agree: **our world as it is will not remain this way forever.** Everything will change.

But what about us and our loved ones? Is the end of the world the ultimate end of us all as well? The Big Rip, the Big Crunch, the Big Freeze – none of these options offer us any long-term hope, do they?

They offer us nothing but the prospect that we and our loved ones – and, in fact, every person who has ever lived or will live – will vanish into eternal oblivion. The obvious conclusion of all this is that we, ultimately, mean nothing, and that our lives mean nothing, and that we are of no more significance than a cloud of cosmic dust.

'Must I again declare to you the supreme vacuity of culture, of science, of art, of good, of truth, of beauty, of justice, of all these beautiful conceptions, if at the last, in four days or in four million centuries – it matters not which – no human consciousness shall exist to appropriate this civilisation, this science, art, good, truth, beauty, justice, and all the rest?'
(Miguel de Unamuno, Tragic Sense of Life)

The Bible, in contrast, presents the promise of a radically different future for the world, and, most important, for us: **a new heaven and a new earth.**

However, this promise of a new heaven and a new earth leads to the logical question: What will happen to the old heavens and the old earth? What happens to them, and to us – we who live under and on them? The answer is full of hope and promise.

They, the old heavens, the old earth, are going to be swept away, replaced by a *new* heaven and a *new* earth, which will be inhabited by people for eternity in an existence without sin, suffering, sickness, and death. A concept hard to imagine for beings like us, who have known *only* sin, suffering, sickness, and death.

However, Scripture says that before all this happens, a terrible crisis will be unleashed upon the world – a crisis that will make some of these Hollywood end-of-the-world flicks look tame. The Old Testament prophet Daniel warned: 'And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time' (Daniel 12:1).

And who, since the COVID-19 outbreak, doubts that the whole world can, overnight, face a crisis that might be only the beginning of woes?

Are you interested to know how this world will end and turn into a new one?

The Great Controversy unveils the cosmic struggle between good and evil affecting our planet.

God will soon put an end to suffering and sin. Read this book to know & get ready for the **end-time events.** (EN / FR / ES / PT)



For further study of prophecies we recommend our course **Focus on Prophecy.**

It will help you to understand the current **signs of the times:** why Europe can't be united, why there are pandemics, wars, unending crises.



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