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Longfellow dolefully calls history "a mere puppet show." He says, "A little man comes out and blows a little trumpet and goes in again. You look for something new, and lo! another little man comes out and blows another little trumpet, and goes in again. And it is all over."

One of the greatest historians of our time, Arnold <u>Toynbee</u>, claims that our culture will disappear and another will rise on its ruins, and the eternal cycle will continue forever.

Another has pointed out that history is like a long line of elephants, each grasping the tail of the one before him, going on in an endless circle.

But to the Christian, history is, as the poet puts it, focused instead on that "one far-off divine event, to which the whole creation moves," to the day when "the kingdoms of this world . . . become the kingdoms of our Lord."

History, then, is not a series of waves beating endlessly on the shores of time, but a river flowing majestically to a destination—the second coming of Christ, the end of our age, and the setting up of God's eternal kingdom.

It has been beautifully said that "Christians do not conceive of history as a series of endless cycles with no meaning or purpose, but rather a straight line from God's creation to God's kingdom." (4) There for the work, our Try

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