



**2012**

**THE END OF THE WORLD?**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

It may be remembered that just prior to the year 2000 that many people were predicting grave consequences, and some were even suggesting the collapse of modern civilization from a condition that could be caused by computers crashing all over the world. This was due to their inability to function after the introduction of the year 2000 as was known as Y2K. As we are now aware, the year 2000 came and went with hardly a whimper, and life as we know it continued in a normal fashion.

However, a new catastrophe is being predicted by numerous sources, including the media, Hollywood (with the introduction of a major movie), and several countries preparing for a future collapse of the world as we now know it. The alleged impending catastrophe is known by the designation of 2012 which stands for the potential collapse of the universe, the earth, and civilization on December 21, 2012. Why the sudden interest in the year 2012 and is there any truth in the ominous predictions regarding a horrific calamity that may destroy the universe and the earth?

Let's take a quick look at the foundation and source of these predictions and what the Bible has to say about the future of the universe and planet earth.

## 2012

*"The Mayan calendar is at the center of a cultural phenomenon. To some, 2012 will bring the end of time; to others, it carries the promise of a new beginning; to still others, 2012 provides an explanation for troubling new realities – environmental change, for example – that seem to be beyond the control of our technology and impervious to reason. Just in time for the final five-year countdown, the Mayan apocalypse has come of age"*

*The New York Times, July 1, 2007*

*"Never before has a date in history been so significant to so many cultures, so many religions, scientists, and governments"*

*Promotional Tagline for the movie 2012*

To understand how the predictions of the end of the world on December 21, 2012 have begun to gain momentum - and with a noteworthy measure of credibility - let's look at the elemental source of these forecasts that center on the accuracy of the Mayan calendar.

### MAYANS

The Mayans once occupied the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico back to about 2,600 B.C. It is a fact that they were master astronomers that developed an unnatural astronomical accuracy during their civilization that rivals our knowledge of the Milky Way (our galaxy) and planet earth within the Milky Way Galaxy. The term unnatural was used as their astronomical knowledge was obtained without the use of our modern scientific advancements (i.e., telescopes, satellites, etc) and was not duplicated until modern times with advanced technology. As an example, the Mayans were intimately familiar with the following:

- Knew the length of a lunar month within 34 seconds
- The 2,000 year old Mayan calendar is more accurate than our current calendar
- Knew a solar year was 365.2450 days (error of .0002)
- Knew a *precessional cycle* was the length of time required for the earth to complete one complete wobble. Although the earth turns on its axis, it also wobbles very slightly which creates a small circle in the sky (called a precession) as the earth rotates around the sun. The earth wobbles one-degree every 72 years and it takes about 28,000 years to complete one complete precession (referred to as the *precession of the equinox*). For simplicity, this figure is often stated as 26,000 years

- The Mayan chronological clock is so accurate that it has not varied by one day in over 2,500 years

The Mayans used numerous calendars, however, three primary calendars were used as follows:

- Ceremonial calendar
- Solar calendar
- Long Count calendar. This calendar was used to document “cycles” that would repeat over and over again. These cycles were divided into five cycles (of 5,125 years each) that basically started with creation and end on 122112. All cycles are supposed to end in destruction

According to the Mayans, each cycle is about 5,125 years in length, and the 122112 date is the end of the fifth cycle and also the end of a precessional cycle (26,000 years). The end of these two cycles corresponds with the alignment of the earth, sun, and the black hole in the center of the Milky Way. Additionally, this alignment will also occur on the winter solstice. This “Galactic Astronomical Alignment” is supposedly the final time in more than 5,000 years that it has occurred and could be responsible for the following catastrophes:

- Tremendous earthquakes
- Split of the earth’s magnetic field
- Nuclear winter
- Super-volcanic eruptions
- Solar storms
- According to some “New Age” proponents, a “New Beginning” (known as “The Shift”) which is a form of New Age Mysticism

Although this “Galactic Astronomical Alignment” is two years away, it is gaining a significant amount of momentum from two basic sources:

#### **Mayans**

- Their intelligence and expertise in astronomy cannot be denied

#### **Media**

- Major global conferences
- Numerous websites
- Network programs on this subject (History and Discovery channels, etc)
- iPhone applications are available that count down to 122112
- The movie 2012 (with others on the way)
- Netherlands preparing for 2012

- Major magazines (i.e., Newsweek – the year 2012 will mark a global transformation)

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY

As the year 2012 approaches, the media (and hype from numerous other sources) will certainly increase to a frantic level (remember Y2K)? Therefore, in spite of the approaching hysteria that will be generated, it is mandatory that we look at the inerrant word of God to see what it has to say about the future. With these thoughts in mind, let's look at two specific areas of consideration from a biblical viewpoint:

### THE END OF THE EARTH

When considering the end of the universe, earth, and/or mankind, the Bible specifically delineates how this will happen in 2 Peter 3:5-7 as follows:

*"For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same Word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."* This verse tells us that although the earth was previously destroyed by a global flood, the present earth is now preserved by the word of God to be destroyed by fire. Therefore, it is God that will initiate the destruction of this world (by fire) and not a Galactic Alignment of solar bodies.

### LOOKING AHEAD

As the Bible specifically states that this world will perish by the hand and timing of God (see Revelation 21:1, 2 Peter 3:10-12, Mathew 24:35, etc), then we should look ahead to the future of this world and where we will spend eternity by considering the following perspectives:

- First and foremost, do not look to secular answers for salvation. The Bible clearly states – *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me"* John 14:6 (see Matthew 7:13 and Matthew 7:24-25). Also, the Bible clearly states that Christ offers anyone the free gift of salvation – *"As many as received him, to them He gave the right to become children of God"* John 1:12 (also see John 3:16).
- Knowing that your salvation and future is secure, how should a Christian face the future (excerpted from the book 2012 by Mark Hitchcock):
  - God is in total control
  - The world will not end on 12/21/12. The 2012 viewpoint that is being proposed is fundamentally based on pure speculation and New Age-ism

- Read and accept what the Bible says and obey it. Remember, it was written so it could be understood without secret meanings and codes
- Jesus will not return to earth for his second-coming on 2012. God's final seven-year countdown for the end of the age has not started
- Although some unusual events may happen on or near 122112, God set's the timetable, not Mayan predictions
- Do not get caught-up in the speculation about some great cosmic purification or universal expansion of consciousness that may come on 122112. New Age eschatology is man-centered and rejects God's infallible revelation in the Bible
- Make sure you have trusted in Jesus Christ and do all you can to spread the good news about Christ to others
- Commit yourself to living a responsible, sober life for Jesus Christ. Live as an ordinary person doing ordinary things, but do them with the extraordinary character of godliness with sincere love for others

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

The following sources offer an expanded view of this subject and books can be purchased at the Evangel book store in the Medford Mall or accessed on the internet by going to Google.

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