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Is it the End? Is the Mayan Calendar Right?

<u>Ecclesiastes 3:1</u>: (NASB) There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven.



Ours is a time of technology and knowledge. With the breathtaking advances of our time also come breathtaking predictions of earth shattering events of epic proportions. Such is the case for this coming week, for it has been widely publicized that the ancient Mayan calendar ends on December 21st and therefore the world ends with it. Such an end, whether by coronal mass ejection, planets colliding or magnetic pole reversals of the earth, would be a horror as only seen in sci-fi movies. Some believe, some doubt, some fear and some laugh. Should we be taking this seriously? Doesn't the Bible prophesy the end of the world? Were the Mayans right?

What the Mayan calendar timed, Mayan Calendar Explained, ChrisValentine.com

• The Mayan Calendar is in nine different levels. That's why all those (Mayan) pyramids are all nine levels. Each one of these levels is subdivided into 13 individual sections. There are seven periods of light (days) and six periods of dark (night) to each level of creation. Each day is a period of increase in consciousness and each night is a period of applying that consciousness.

In a way, this reminds us of the creative days. They were not 24-hour days, but were periods marked by the accomplishment of a specific task: Genesis 1:3-5: How is our calendar different? Ours is built solely on the measuring of physical events.

(1))Gregorian calendar, Mayan Calendar Explained, ChrisValentine.com

• The absolute dead center of our civilization is called the Gregorian calendar. Nobody even questions it. The Gregorian calendar was the physical measurement of the earth moving around the sun; the measurement of physical objects moving through space. The absolute dead center of our civilization is focused only on physical evidence.

So what does this mean for us? First, we need to be continually seeking the scriptural enlightenment necessary to open our understanding as wide as possible: <u>2 Timothy 2:15-16</u>: By the way, we would include all of the hype about the world ending on December 21st in the category of "empty chatter" described here.

Second, the scriptures are very "calendar" oriented both the counting type...<u>Exodus 13:6</u>
As well as the event type...1 Thessalonians 5:1:

(Epoch = a period of time in which something happens)

The plan of God works in stages, and it seems that these early Christians were given a good sense of these stages that had already unfolded, as well as those stages yet in the future. For example, we could say that the period of 1656 years between Adam and the Flood was one stage, or period of time. We are currently in a stage during which the Gospel message has gone forth throughout the whole world, and we believe there is yet another stage after this. So whereas blocks of time, or stages, are completed, it is not the end of the world.

Are the Mayan calendar and Bible prophecy on the same page?

Doomsday Preppers commercial, Doomsday Preppers, National Geographic

• (Excerpts) I'm preparing my family for the total destruction of the power grid...the devastating earthquake...catastrophic terrorist attacks...a supervolcano...700 cans...41 pounds of cucumbers...this is the lifestyle that we live...

This becomes an obsession for a lot of people.

Solar storm interview with former Governor, Jessie Ventura, Doomsday Prophecy 2012, doomsday.com

• A couple of days ago was the 150th anniversary of the greatest solar storm ever to belch out and hit the earth. Back then, it didn't do much. It made the Northern Lights sparkle plenty and made telegraph wires burn a little bit. But today, if we were hit by that same size solar storm, the entire electrical power grid would be knocked out in the United States at least. According to the National Academy of Sciences, which is the closest thing we have to the Supreme Court of scientific opinion in the world, up to 130 million people would be without electricity for months



or years! We would lose basic security, emergency telecommunications, water! The pumps? Electric. We are vulnerable!

And you are predicting that is going to happen? At what point in time? 2012!

(1) Matthew 24 discussed, Doomsday Prophecy 2012, doomsday.com

• As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, "Tell us," they said. "When will this happen and what will be the sign of your coming at the end of the age?" "You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. But see to it you are not deceived, for such things must happen but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pangs. For then there will be great distress unequal to the beginning of the world until now and never to be again. If those days were not cut short, no one would survive."

Now let's go over those verses and fill in the parts they left out to get the real picture: Matthew 24:1-3: (KJV) ¹And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to show him the buildings of the temple. ²And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. ³And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, (Question 1) when shall these things be? (Question 2) And what shall be the sign of thy coming, (Question 3) and of the end of the world? (world = Greek word "aion" meaning "age.")

Jesus began his great prophecy. He answered *three distinct questions*, all of which are NOT going to be happening simultaneously. We know that the literal Temple's destruction occurred in AD 70 and the "end times" would not start for over 1700 years.

<u>Matthew 24:4-8</u>: Birth pangs are certainly a symbol of a beginning, not an end! The language in this prophecy is highly symbolic! Why would Jesus use the analogy of birth pangs if there was not going to be a birth? Jesus is talking about the context of the end of an epoch, or period of time, and the birth of a new world order. That new world order is the kingdom of God. Further on inonce the *abomination of desolation* (all things attached to creating a perceived need for a repetitive sacrifice of Jesus when clearly his one sacrifice paid the price in full) is recognized, then there will be a great splintering of Christianity. Then <u>Verses 21-22</u> come into play: <u>Matthew 24:21-22</u>: (NASB) ²¹For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. ²²Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. While the Bible speaks of a very difficult end of the age based on the civil and religious actions of men, the interpretations of the Mayan calendar seem to be cosmically driven.

So, what happens on December 21st?

According to the Bible, are people justified in preparing for the end of the world? <u>Daniel 12:1</u> Could the Bible have predicted a solar storm? <u>Malachi 4:1-2</u>: That sounds horrible! But is this literal or symbolic language? So often we take the first part of this verse and see it as literal - and yet: ²But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall...Since when does our sun have wings that heal? And are we to become like calves? It is pretty obvious that this is symbolic. When we understand that so much of the Scriptures are written in symbols, we can better see God's plan for mankind.

The Mayan calendar does not end in 2012. The Mayan "long count" of 5125 years is what is coming to an end on December 21, 2012. A new "long count" begins on December 22nd, much like our own calendar ends on December 31st and begins again on January 1. The hype over this date has created much unnecessary anxiety.

So, is the world ending?

Yes, the world is ending, but it is not ending in the way that you might think!

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2: (NASB) ¹Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. (It seems that these early Christians were given a good sense of the stages that God's plan had gone through and would continue to go through.) ²For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. (To



paraphrase - it is already obvious to you that the day of the Lord comes unexpectedly.) Thus, signs were required to be able to recognize that which was to be hidden. <u>Matthew 24:3</u>: (NASB) ³As he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of your coming (presence), and of the end of the age? If the Lord was to come as a thief in the night, what would be the sign of when he arrived, his presence?

Mayan calendar's first cycle, Mayan Calendar Explained, ChrisValentine.com

• This very first cycle started 16.4 billion years ago...It is divided into 13 different sections, each one of them is 1.26 billion years long. A "day" was one and a quarter billion years. Each "night" lasted for one and a quarter billion years. Each one of these has a particular intention in creation. Action/Reaction was this whole cycle.

1 Thessalonians 5:3: (NASB) ³While they are saying, Peace and safety! then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

Jesus explains the process and the Apostle Paul repeats it - life was going on somewhat obliviously in the face of escalating circumstances until...

<u>Luke 17:25-28</u>: Suddenly, it says. So how fast is "suddenly?" To us it would be an instant, but to the God of the Universe, "suddenly" could be several years. Consider that there are 86,400 seconds in a day. If the "day" of man on this earth as a creation is 6,000+ years, then 15 seconds would about equal one year. "Suddenly" could be a long period of time from God's perspective, because He is dealing with eternity.

(1))Troubling letters to NASA's website, David Morrison, ABC News

- I started volunteering about ten years ago to answer the questions the public sends in some of the most pivotal scientific questions of our time. We get questions about astronomy and planets and life in the universe. And that went along fine until about four years ago. Suddenly I started getting these questions about the end of the world.
- (Announcer) Doomsday! Some say the ancient Mayan calendar predicts the end of days on December 21, 2012, and Morrison's inbox is overflowing.
- One touching letter was simply, "My best friend is my little dog. Please tell me when I should put her to sleep so she won't suffer in the Apocalypse."
 1 Thessalonians 5:3: The Scriptures give us enough information to be prepared for coming events. Luke 17:20-21

What about Armageddon?

But what about the anger of God and the judgment of Armageddon? Zephaniah 3:8: We will look at that closer in a moment.

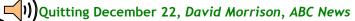
(1))Coronal mass ejections, Doomsday Preppers, National Geographic

• In 2012, earth will be bombarded by a coronal mass ejection. This bombardment will knock our neighborhood and the world's electrical grid down. We'll have a couple of days' worth of water, about a week's worth of food, and in 30 days, our neighborhood is going to be total pandemonium. Coronal mass ejections are powerful eruptions on the sun that break free of the solar atmosphere. If these masses of plasma reach the earth, it could destroy our electrical grid, which touches every facet of modern life.

God is much bigger than just having an incredible fit of anger.

<u>Joel 2:1,2</u>: If the power grid went down, there certainly would be a day of clouds and thick darkness! <u>Jeremiah 10:10</u>: We need to put all of these Scriptures into context. <u>Mark 13:31-32</u>

Zephaniah 3:8: It certainly sounds like the world is doomed! But we need to finish the story that shows the conclusion of the facts. It is a little like saying the Mayan calendar ends, but it is only the beginning of the next phase. There are lots of biblical prophecies that talk about endings, but so many of them also talk about a new beginning. Zephaniah 3:9: How could the people turn to God if the previous sentence was literal and the people were all devoured by fire?? We ARE on a schedule, except no one but the Father knows the details. We are permitted to know some details, though - enough to keep us strong in faith.



What is your emotional reaction to those sorts of letters? (Morrison) I'm disturbed by letters from kids who are afraid. I think that is the worst part of this hoax. And it is a hoax.

- A hoax, he says, with tens of millions of views on youtube.com. One predicts a planet crashing into the earth.
- (Morrison) If there were such an object, it would be the brightest thing in the sky after the sun and moon. Anyone could see it. Planet X does not exist and does not threaten the earth.
- But the letters keep coming.

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- (Morrison) I have received letters from young people who say they are contemplating suicide. I've received a few from mothers who say they are planning on killing their children and themselves.
- He answers all of them, but it takes a toll. When he wakes up on December 22, he will hand over the job of answering questions to someone else.

We do know this much - when we put context to the prophecies, there is a great relief! Don't get stuck looking only at the anger of God without seeing the glorious outcome. His anger is because He loves us and we have traveled so far off the path.

The Judgment of Armageddon is to cleanse and restore!

So, Armageddon brings happiness?

While the Mayan calendar alludes to different things, we have prophecies that spell out what the future holds in great detail. They are written over thousands of years by different authors, giving evidence to the hand of God. They harmonize with each other.

First, a time of trouble that brings Armageddon: Daniel 12:1: So, at the time of great trouble, "your people" will be rescued - the followers of Christ. This is the *beginning* of the prophecy.

²Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

Aside from and in addition to those who were written in the book, these others are resurrected, just as Jesus spoke of: John 5:28-29: (KJV) ²⁸Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, ²⁹And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. (judgment) So, it can't be all bad if there is a resurrection, can it? Daniel 12:3: (NASB) ³Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Those who lead = the followers of Jesus The many = the "everybody else"

Again, two distinct classes here, just as in Romans: Romans 5:18-19: This concept is repeated over and over throughout Romans 5. Adam's transgression put us all in a disadvantaged place. Through the man Jesus, however, the justification of life came to all man. That is an incredible justice. We did not decide to be born in sin. We had no choice. We are the descendants of Adam. The end result is pain, sorrow, misery, grief, woe and eventually death. Our world is sinful. But the righteousness of one made the ability to be made right back to all mankind. Everybody under the condemnation of Adam, therefore, according to justice, is under the justification of Jesus. That gives a whole different kind of ending to the process.

<u>Daniel 12:4</u>: The fact that there is a statement of knowledge increasing indicates it is a great increase. The fact that the scripture speaks of *many* going "to and fro" is a testament to our present day. That's exciting! This is the end of the world as we know it, but the beginning of something better and permanent that will finally bring lasting happiness.

<u>Daniel 2:44-45</u>: There will be a God-oriented kingdom in heaven and on earth that will take over the world! God's philosophy will guide us in pure righteousness.

So is it THE END? Were the Mayans right? For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions, Think about it...!