2012 and the End of Days Prophecies!

How close are we to the END of this age of man's misrule of planet earth? How much longer must mankind suffer until a new age of righteousness dawns? Here is new evidence from the Bible, the Septuagint, and the books of Jubilees and Enoch, as well as prophecies of ancient tribes and nations of mankind from around the world, dealing with this pivotal, tremulous, spine-tingling enigma!

William F. Dankenbring

There is a lot in the news today about the year 2012 and a lot of predictions that it is going to be the end of the world and this age. Something else has come to light from an article entitled "2012 and the Economy: the Money Matrix" by Phillip Tilley in Unexplained Mysteries magazine. The shocking thing he has discovered is that the original calculation which established the Federal Reserve Bank in America in 1913 foresaw that the United States would run out of gold on December 21, 2012. Gold has to go somewhere, it doesn't just disappear.

Columnist Phillip Tilley writes that to solve a problem, first you have to know that you have a problem. Most of us fail to recognize in fact that we have a problem and therein lies the problem. The problem is that we believe that we are a free people living in a free country with a robust free market economy. We think we elect the government officials that run the country. This is what the New World Order wants you to think, he says. It is closer to the truth to say that at the turn of the 20th Century a group of moneyed elite overthrew the government of the U.S. and it has been said that we have the best Congress that money can buy, and certainly bribery, blackmail, and betrayal are not new to American government.

On December 23, 1912 during the Christmas break when most of the congressmen went home to be with their families, the moneyed elite of Congress that stayed in Washington, D.C. passed the Federal Reserve Act. It was quickly signed into law before the other members could get back to Washington, D.C. to do anything about it. This is significant because the U.S. Constitution says only the Treasury could issue legal money. Now the responsibility to issue legal money or currency would be shared with twelve principal privately owned banks known as the Federal Reserve even though

they are not federal in any sense of the way and they had no reserve. These were just privately owned banks. So the fate and control of our economy is in the hands of private bankers since 1913.

This Federal Reserve would be allowed to print and issue Federal Reserve Notes, a currency known as a fiat (or fake) currency backed not by gold or silver, but by *promises*.

Furthermore, if other banks needed funds they would have to request them from the Federal Reserve. Now the Federal Reserve controlled the other banks and could withhold funds if they chose to do so. The whole conspiracy was sinister and slow. One percent of our country's money would be taken in payment every year for these services and no one notices. One percent is a small amount for a year, however, that only lasts for a hundred years before it is all gone. Remember the Federal Reserve Act was passed on December 23, 1913. That means that at or around December 21, 2012 the date that the Mayan calendar predicts the end of the current age of mankind the nation will run out of gold to pay the Federal Reserve. We are fast approaching that 2012 marker.

Signs of the Times

According to a book out, called Avian Flu the Killer of Millions the powers that be are planning behind the scenes to taint vaccines in the future as to help depopulate the world which they say already has far too many people (about 7 billion).

The plan is to reduce the world population down to 700,000,000. Bible prophecy indicates before the times of destruction are over only about 10% of the world population will remain alive (about 600-700,000,000). Vaccines could be a serious problem. None of the vaccines can confer genuine immunity, but can increase the chance of contracting the disease. All vaccines can produce side effects. The long term effect of all vaccines is unknown. Several of these vaccines can be extremely dangerous. Nevertheless, the world keeps pushing its programs of vaccination.

Medical historians have finally reluctantly come to the conclusion that the great flu epidemic of 1918 was solely attributable to the widespread use of vaccines. It was the first time that vaccination was compulsory for all service men. The Boston Herald Newspaper reported that 47 soldiers were killed by vaccination in one month. The hospitals were filled with casualties of the vaccine, not combat. The epidemic was called the Spanish influenza in a deliberate misleading appellation intended to conceal its true origin. That flu epidemic claimed twenty million victims.

Those who survived that flu were the ones who did not take the vaccine.

Does that tell you something? In Buenos Aires, Argentina, today the flu is so rampant that only ¼ of the usual audience of the popular live theater in July is in attendance.

Obama Mania

What is happening in America today? A man on one of the programs that I heard today said: "we are really blessed today; we have a Chicago street hustler in the White House."

An investor extraordinaire, Jim Rogers, has some harsh words for the government economic policy today. The policy dates back to the Bush, Sr., and verges on communism. "America now owns the car industry, the mortgage industry, a lot of the insurance industry. America has become socialist (and communist in many ways).

President Obama has approved two stimulus packages to help our economy, neither of which worked. Banks are hoarding their money and paying off their debts instead of using it to give more loans. Rogers thinks that the new stimulus is going to make things worse.

Japan implemented a huge stimulus in the 1990's and it did not work in Japan. It is not going to work for the U.S. either. We are doing the exact thing that we told them not to do. Printing more money is going to lead to serious problems down the road.

Jewish leaders are very upset with President Obama's reversal on undivided Jerusalem. American Jewish leaders are up in arms over recent U.S. demands against Jewish construction in Jerusalem, pointing out that during the presidential campaign President Obama repeatedly told Jewish audiences that Jerusalem must remain undivided. Now he has flip-flopped saying divide it up and give part to the Palestinians.

When the entire Senate finishes confirmation of the nominee for Supreme Court Judge, Sotomayor, she will be the first Spanish person appointed to sit on that bench. Comments she has made about race and white male judges have raised some valid questions. She is a Catholic which will make a total of six Catholics judges plus three other judges (two Protestants and a Jew). When this confirmation occurs she will solidify the liberal Democrats stranglehold on the American government. President Obama will be able to sweep aside obstacles easily. Henry Kissinger said Obama is poised to bring in the New World Order. Ex-president George Bush laid the groundwork, and the presidents over the past 20 to 30 years have been building up to this point, and apparently Obama is the one that is going to bring it to fruition.

Associated Press declared on July 14, 2009 that Obama took possession of the economy with four simple words: "Give it to me!" In choosing Michigan to attach his name to the economy, Obama picked a state whose 14.1 percent unemployment rate could linger as evidence of policy failure. As home to the U.S. auto industry it could also stand as a symbol as one of his first economic successes. General Motors and Chrysler have emerged in surprisingly swift fashion from bankruptcy protection procedures proposed by the Obama administration. Obama told his audience in Michigan, they are getting it done already in record time, far faster than anybody thought possible.

The issue of whether Obama is a U.S. citizen is not going away. If he was born in Kenya as evidence indicates, he is not constitutionally able to be President. The protesters, known as the "birthers" are growing in number. President Obama further fuels the fire by refusing to produce his birth certificate and he certainly added to the damage by signing an Executive Order as soon as he became President which barred the release of the certificate.

"I Saw Satan As Lightning Fall from Heaven"!

There is a new video out by a diligent researcher who has found an interesting Bible scripture, **Luke 10:18** where Jesus Christ may have identified the Antichrist. (beast of Revelation). "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." In the original Hebrew language the word for lightening is *barack*. We read in Isaiah 14:12 -14—"how are you *fallen from heaven*, O Lucifer, son of the morning! You are cut down to the ground, you who did weaken the nations. You said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God. I will sit also on the Mount of the Congregation on the fartherest sides of the north. I will ascend above the *heights* of the clouds and be like the Most High."

The Hebrew word for heights/heavens is bama. The conjunction letter that joins the thoughts of lightning and heights is pronounced "u " or "o" thus read as "barrack obama". Does that prove U.S. President Obama is the Antichrist? Not necessarily. But the Bible is full of mysteries and this may be one of the keys that helps unlock the identity of the coming Antichrist. We are soon going to find out shortly who is the Antichrist. We are living in the soon-coming time of the Antichrist!

1 John 2:18 focuses on the "last hour". We read: "You have heard that the Antichrist is coming. Even now many Antichrists have come, by which we know it is <u>the last hour</u>." Note the words <u>living "in the last hour</u>." A day might be compared to a year. The point is that an hour is not much time left. We are living in a time when things are progressing rapidly.

John goes on, "they went out from us, for they were not of us. So that it may be made manifest that none of them were with us. If they were of us, they would have continued with us" (1 John 2:19).

The Book of Jubilees and the End of Days

The book of *Jubilees* is not scripture per se, but is what is called extra canonical writings in the days before Christ and was written and edited by the Levites (our copies translated from the Ethiopic language). We read in Jubilees 10:1-5, a prayer of Noah to God. The book declares, "Evil demons began to lead astray the sons of Noah and deceived them and destroyed them. The sons came to Noah their father and told him concerning the demons (spirits) which were leading astray, darkening and slaying the sons of their sons. Noah prayed before the Lord his God, and he said: 'Lord of the spirits of all flesh, you who have shown mercy to me and have delivered me and my children

from the waters of the deluge, and have not suffered me to be destroyed as you did the children of destruction, for your grace was great over men, and great was your mercy over my soul; may your grace be exalted over the sons of my sons, and may the evil spirit not rule over them to destroy them off the earth. You have blessed me and my sons that we increase and multiply and fill the earth. You know how the Watchmen, the fathers of these spirits, acted in my day; and these spirits also which are alive. Cast them into prison and hold them in the places of judgment, and let them not destroy the sons of thy servant, my God, for they are terrible and created for destroying; and may they not rule over the spirits of the living; for you alone know their judgment. Let them have no say over the children of the righteous from now on and to eternity."

In verse 7 we read: "Then the angel of the spirits, Mastema (another name of Satan) came and said: 'O Lord, Creator, leave some of them before me, and they shall hear my voice and they shall do all things that I tell them; for if you do not leave any of them to me I shall not be able to accomplish the power of my will among the children of men, for they are here for corrupting and destroying and leading astray before the judgment, for great is the wickedness of the children of men.'

In reply, "the Lord, Creator said: "the tenth part of them (demon spirits) shall be left before him (Mastema/Satan) and nine parts shall descend into the place of judgment." (verse 8) -- compare 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6—these fallen angels are now bound in darkness and chains until Judgment Day) . . . "all the wicked ones that were terrible we bound in the place of judgment, but the tenth part of them (demonic spirits) we left, that they should be judged before Satan on the earth."

When does this "Day of Judgment begin"?

In verses 9-11, **the** angel continues to speak to Noah: "We will teach Noah all their medicines." "For the children of men did not walk in righteousness nor contend in uprightness. The medicines of all their sicknesses we explained to Noah together with all their deceptions how to heal them with the plants of the earth. Noah wrote all these down in a book as we instructed him, concerning every kind of medicines, and the evil spirits were held away from the sons of Noah. He gave all the writings which he had written to Shem, his oldest son, for him he loved exceedingly above all his children."

In the book of <u>Enoch</u>, we read that the days before the flood the whole world was filled with bloodshed. Azazyel (another name for Satan) taught men to make swords, knives, shields, breastplates, made them see that which was behind them, the workmanship of bracelets and ornaments, the use of paint, the beautifying of the eyebrows, the use of stones of every valuable and select kind, and all sorts of dyes, so that the world became altered.

"Azazyel taught every species of iniquity upon the earth, and has disclosed to the world all the secret things which are done in the heavens. Samyaza also has taught sorcery, to whom you have given authority over those who are associated with him. They have gone together to the daughters of men; have lain with them; have become polluted;

the women likewise have brought forth giants. Thus has the whole earth been filled with blood and with iniquity and now behold the souls of those who are dead, cry out, and complain even to the gate of heaven" (Enoch 9:5-9).

And then in the next chapter, we read: "Then the Most High, the Great and Holy One spoke to Raphael: Bind Azazyel hand and foot; cast him into darkness; and the opening of the desert which is in Dudael, cast him in there. Throw upon him hurled and pointed stones; covering him with darkness. There shall he remain for ever; cover his face, that he may not see the light. And in that great Day of Judgment let him be cast into the fire (1 Cor. 6:3; Rev. 20:10)" (Enoch 10:6-9).

When is the Day of Judgment going to begin?

Notice, now, verses 15-18—"The Lord said to Michael: go and announce Azazyel's crime to Samyaza, and to the others who are with him, who have been associated with women, that they might be polluted with all their impurity. And when their sons shall be slain, when they shall see the perdition of their beloved (lost in the flood in Noah's day), bind them for *seventy generations* underneath the earth, even to the Day of Judgment and of consummation, until the judgment, the effect of which will last forever, be completed. Immediately after this shall he, together with them, burn and perish; they shall be bound until the consummation of many generations. Destroy all the souls addicted to dalliance, and the offspring of the Watchers, for they have tyrannized over mankind."

What is this 70 generations here?

It sounds like it is talking about 70 generations from the flood, that the Day of Judgment would be begin. If we go by a generation according to Psalms 90:10-13, written by Moses, the days of our lives (a generation) are 70 years, and if by reason of strength they are 80 years yet their boast is only labor and sorrow.

Moses goes on to say, "Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Return O Lord, how long. Have compassion on your servants."

Seventy generations then would be 70 x 70 or 4900 – a total of 4,900 years.

If we add up the descendents from Terah back to Noah and Shem after the flood, the Hebrew reckoning gives the total of 292 years but the Septuagint gives a total of 1,172 years, although Adam Clark points out that different manuscripts give different readings. Looking at *A Dictionary of the Bible* by James Hastings, he shows that the Hebrew reckoning from the flood to the birth of Abraham was 290 years, but the Septuagint gives 1270 years. This is quite a difference. The *Dictionary of the Bible* states the 290 years are regarded as the original, but the *Septuagint* however, was accepted by the Hellenistic Jews and the early Christian Church.

As for the meaning of this discrepancy in the genealogy, that is a mystery. However, if we multiply 70 generations times 70 (70 x 70) it totals 4,900 years. According to the *Septuagint* the great flood occurred 2,892 BC.

If we add the year 2008 AD to 2,892 BC, it totals 4,900 years – the precise number of years till the BEGINNING of the Day of Judgment!

From the *Septuagint* date of the flood to the year 2008 would fulfill this 4,900 years of punishment of the angels being bound in *tartaroo* and their being *released for a time* and then being judged in the Day of Judgment! From 2,892 BC to 2008 AD totals 4,900 years exactly!

So would this prophecy have begun to be fulfilled in 2008, last year, with the economic meltdown in the earth, the financial panic of 2008, and the election of Barack Hussein Obama to the office of president of the United States of America?

Think about it! Are these released evil angels now going through the earth, once again fomenting rebellion against the Kingdom of God, and Almighty God, as they did during the days of Noah, before the Flood?

Revelation 9:1 speaks about the days of the end, and the seven trumpet plagues of God. "The fifth angel sounded and I saw a star, an angel fallen from heaven to the earth."

Could that be Satan the devil? To him was given the key to this bottomless pit where these wicked angels were being held in prison for later judgment. This angel opened this bottomless pit and smoke arose from the pit like the smoke of a great furnace and the sun and air were darkened from the smoke. Out of the pit came strange and alien locusts (armies) given power as the scorpions stings to hurt nothing but to torture for five months only those men that don't have the sign or seal of God on their foreheads. Verse 7 describes them accompanied by the sound of many chariots and horses running to battle.

Over them was the king of the bottomless pit whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon (means destruction) and Apollyon (means destroyer) in Greek. This is the great destroyer, Satan the devil—arch conspirator against God and mankind. So he is going to be loosed with his angelic hordes to lead men astray from the Lord and to destroy. Notice again, this is just the first woe of three final woes to strike the earth!

The one woe passes and two more are coming. "Then the sixth angel sounded and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar saying *release* the four angels bound beneath the River Euphrates." In verse 13, these four angels are released from bondage to go forth, having been prepared for that very hour, day, month and year to bring war and destruction upon mankind! They will cause the destruction and death of a third of mankind – over 2,000,000,000 souls! These angelic warriors lead an army of 200,000,000 (Rev.9:15-16). Deadly fire, smoke and brimstone pour out of their mouths.

This will be a HORRENDOUS time and imagination-defying TERROR!

Jesus Christ foretold, "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken" (Luke 21:25-26).

Interestingly, even pagan and ancient Indian prophecies, legends, and writings from around the world also foretell these traumatic, climactic end-time events – this bizarre and wild hall of heavenly horrors!

2012 and the End of Days

Lloyd B. Hildebrand, author of 2012—Is This the End asks the question, "Will the world come to an end on December 21, 2012, as many are saying?" Is Doomsday right around the corner?

Speculation about the end of the world is building and causing many people to be deeply concerned. This book takes a penetrating look at predictions about the end times, including prophecies and predictions from a whole variety of different sources which is what caught my interest. Some of these sources include the Mayan Long-Count calendar, Shamans, Toltec, Itza-Maya, Aztec, the Book of Changes (I Ching--CHINA), Hopi Indian, Cherokees, Last-pope Prophecy (Roman Catholic Church), Asian (Hindus, Buddhists, Zoroastrians), Judaism, Islam (Mahdi), and prognostications of Merlin the Magician, Mother Shipton, and Nostradamus, and the Bible itself.

The Mayas

The year 2012 has been foretold to be a very pivotal year, but not just in the Bible. According to Don Alehendro, an elder of the Mayas, December 20, 2012, mother earth will pass inside the center of a magnetic axis and a great cloud will darken it for 60-70 hours but it will pass. But when it does, he said that there will be great and serious events, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, volcanic eruptions, and great illness on planet earth with few survivors left. The final day of the Mayan calendar ends on December 21, 2012.and Mayans consider this date as the end of time and possibly the end of the world at which point human history could come to a close. The period just prior to this is called the time of trial—Judgment Day and the time of great purification. It is also a day where tumultuous changes are expected to take place. In their concept of cycles, one is called the precession that we call the precession of the Equinox. It is a 26,000 year period through which the earth transits through each one of the twelve signs of the Zodiac.

The Mayan Calendar

Does the Mayan calendar also predict the "end of the age" in the year 2012?

According to the Mayan calendar, we are living in the Mayan "end times." The Great Cycle of the Mayan Long Count calendar ends at the winter solstice in 2012 A.D., just *THREE* short years from now!!!

In Mayan mythology, the winter solstice sun corresponds to the deity known as One Hunahpu, or "First Father." The dark rift of the Milky Way, in Mayan cosmology, is known as the "Black Road," the mouth of the Cosmic Monster, and the birth canal of the Cosmic Mother.

The Mayan calendar has a Great Cycle, ending 13 "bactuns" or a period of 5,125 years. To the ancient Mayans, this conjunction of the sun and Milky Way center or midpoint occurring on the winter solstice, December 21, in 2012 A.D. is a major transition point, the creation of a new World Age.

The Mayan Long Count calendar is strikingly different from the Roman calendar, or any other for that matter. A "month" is 20 days, and 18 months is a year of 360 days. Twenty 360 day years comprise a "katun," and a "baktun" is 20 katun, equaling 144,000 days.

These numbers are surely interesting. In the days of Noah the year was one of 360 days (5 months were 150 days, so 12 months were 360 days – see Genesis 7:11, 8:3-4). The number 144,000 is also interesting, as it is the number of the "firstfruits" redeemed to God at the coming of the Messiah (Rev.14:1-4).

Authorities agree that the Mayan Long Count calendar began August 11, 3114 B.C. (Gregorian calendar). Why it begins at this date is anybody's guess. This would have been during the life of the prophet Enoch, who was born in 3545 B.C. He lived for 365 years before he "was taken," in 3180 B.C. Methuselah was born in 3480 B.C. and lived for 969 years. So the Mayan calendar begins 76 years after Enoch disappeared (was taken to a place of safety from his many enemies), and 376 years after Methuselah was born.

The present Great Age of the Mayas, the fifth, is believed to have been initiated by the famous Quetzalcoatl in 3,113 B.C. Who was this figure? Could it have been no less than Enoch the prophet, himself?

Quetzalcoatl was the "plumed serpent" of the Aztec mythology, the "god" of learning and of the priesthood. He was an ancient ruler who was subsequently deified and identified with the planet Venus – the morning and evening star – and as a "god" of vegetation. He was a benign figure, a teacher, and his name became the title for Mexican high priests. The name became frequent in early Mexican history, like Roosevelt or Adams. There are many traditions about his arrival, and departure. He taught the way of peace. He was noted as "the bringer of civilization and good ways of life, who was frequently locked in conflict with gods of evil" (*The Indian Heritage of America*, Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., p.201). Aztec legends say he sailed across the sea, but would one day return.

The patriarch Enoch was also a priestly figure before the Flood, and a man of vast learning and understanding.

Immanuel Velikovsky points out that during the time of Quetzalcoatl, according to ancient Mexican records, many people died, that "the sun refused to show itself and during four days the world was deprived of light" (quoting Brasseur; see *Worlds in Collision*, page 157). At that time, according to legends from Polynesian peoples, "the earth was battered by countless fragments," says Velikovsky (p.160).

During that time the sequence of seasons and the duration of days and nights became disarranged.

Says Velikovsky, "When Quetzal-cohuatl, the *lawgiver* of the Toltecs, *disappeared on the approach of a great catastrophe* and the Morning Star that bore the same name rose for the first time in the sky, the Toltecs 'regulated the reckoning of the days, the nights, and the hours according to the difference in time" (p.177). Thus when the original Quetzal-cohuatl lived there was a great catastrophe on the earth.

Could this be why God "took" Enoch, and he "was not found," because God was protecting him from the cataclysm, brought about during his time by the wickedness of mankind?

In Mayan chronology, 3,113 B.C. is written as 13.0.0.0.0. When the cycle or age is complete, in December 2012 A.D., the date will once again be written 13.0.0.0.0 – a complete cycle of 13 baktuns. That date will also complete the end of a katun cycle (of 20 years). The last katun of this Age began in 1992 and will finish in 2012. The Mayan "glyph" of this katun is "storm" followed by "sun" – a period of darkness, followed by one of light.

Note that in esoteric tradition, the number "13" represents Christ, the Messiah! There were twelve disciples; Jesus as the Christ was "13." The number "13" also denotes superabundance – the "baker's dozen."

Is there any significance to this? The Mayan calendar is obviously pre-Flood because it is based on a 360 day year which was pre-Flood. Enoch was a scribe of the Lord, who wrote the book of Enoch, which has much celestial and calendrical material, as well as prophetic teaching. It may well be that the Mayan calendar was inspired and contains material going back to the pre-Flood patriarchs.

The Long Count calendar began in 3114 B.C. – during the time of Enoch – and its termination date is 2012 A.D., when the cycle will be completed, and a new cycle begins. This fact certainly seems to be significant when weighed with all the Biblical evidence regarding the prophecies of the "End of Days."

The origins of the Mayan calendar are obscured by the mists of time. The Mayas themselves were adept skywatchers. Their classical period is thought to be from 200-900 A.D. However, large ruins with Mayan features have been found dating back to before the time of Christ, before the common era began. They attributed the origin of their incredibly complex calendar system to another people whose origin was lost in the dim past.

Researchers believe that the Mayan calendar actually hinges upon its calculated end point. What is so important about the winter solstice of 2012? The Milky Way seems to have played an important part in Mayan mythology. The Mayan Sacred Tree appears to be the crossing point of the sun's path, the ecliptic, with the Milky Way. The conjunction of the sun with the Milky Way at the winter solstice in 2012 A.D. appears to have had apocalyptic significance. The crossing of the Milky Way with the ecliptic represents a doorway – pointing both to the sacred source and origin – the finishing of the old and the beginning of a new birth. Thus the world, in 2012, is pictured as being at a celestial "crossroads."

To the Mesoamerican Mayas, the approach of the end of a World Age – the time when the winter solstice "Doorway" opened up the Sacred Tree to the Center of the Milky Way and the Heart of the Sky – was a very significant and epochal time. The Mayan Long Count was also known to the Yucatan Maya as a "prophecy cycle."

Students of the Mayan calendar see this as confirmation that we are indeed living in the twilight of this present age and approaching the beginning of a New Age – the end of one prophetic cycle and the beginning of a new cycle. The Mayans stated that "time would collapse" at the end of their calendar cycle.

The "collapsing of time" is a mysterious phrase. How would time itself "collapse"? Could this be a reference to the "time of refreshing" and "restitution of all things" foretold in the Scriptures – when the Calendar itself and the orbit of the earth itself will be changed? Peter refers to it as "the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets" (Acts 3:21, NRSV).

Hindu Mythology

Hindu mythology concurs with the Mayan thoughts about the emergence of a new age

order in the year 2012 or thereabouts. The ancient Hindus used lunar and solar calendars to make their predictions. The Hindu Kali Yuga calendar began on February 18, 3102 BC. There is only a difference of twelve years between the beginning of Kali Yuga and beginning of the Mayans' Fifth Great Cycle (five cycles of about 5,125 years per cycle called a world age or creation cycle).

Both calendars predict a totally new world or a golden age emerging in approximately five thousand years, which could be in the year 2012.

The Toltecs

The Toltec prophecies in the *Book of the Jaguar Priest* are filled with extraordinary prophecies of Chilam-Balam of Tizimin a Toltec prophet. One such prophecy is that the Itza-Maya people would suffer greatly under the rule of the white man which came to pass in the days of Hernando Cortez and the Mexicans and Spaniards. The Era was established on August 18, 1168. They are now in their 13th Toltec which is a prophesied time of great change and upheaval. Toltecs believed that eventually Quetzalcoatl, a remarkable ancient founder and prophet-ruler would return as he prophesied as a restorer.

Aztecs

The Aztecs believe that the earth has been created and destroyed several times always ending in great death and destruction at the end of each world and that our present age will end with massive earthquakes. Their mythology holds that the sun has been created and destroyed on four different occasions and they are now in the time of the 5th sun.

I Ching

The book of <u>I Ching</u> is a Chinese book about five thousand years old and is known as the Book of Changes. It is a book of prophecies, predictions, and speculations of the future that a team of two brothers, Terence and Dennis McKenna, have closely studied. These men are known as ethnobotanists and fractal time experts. Resultant to their studies they believe that December 21, 2012 is the exact point when humanity will meet infinity (what they call the zero state). Their research tends to agree with the Toltecs, Mayas, and the Inca.

The Hopi Indians

The name of the Hopi is translated as "the people who live in the correct way." Hopi means good, peaceful, and wise. Some of their prophecies indicate that time will end in 2012, in full agreement with the Mayan calendar's end date which will end when humanity emerges into the fifth world. Many believe this transition between the fourth and fifth worlds has already begun. They believe that they will be preserved when the time for destruction comes. After that the time of a "golden age" filled with peace will come after 2012. However, mankind must go through years of great trial, suffering, and persecution before the time of peace and "one-heartedness" will take place. The Hopi Blue Star prophecy where a blue star will fall with a great crash from heaven to earth is their Ninth and Last Sign bringing great destruction with many columns of smoke and fire.

The Cherokees

According to Cherokee prophecies there will three great shakings, WWI, WWII, and a third shaking (war/nuclear, or earthquake) which occurs after human beings lean to

"live in the sky." Could this be the space station? Soon after this the Great Spirit will grab the earth with both hands and shake it greatly, and mankind will become empty within lacking will, purpose and life. Others will be vaporized like steam. After this will come peace on earth. The *Rattlesnake* prophecies (also known as the Cherokee Star Constellation prophecies) came about in the year 1811 and 1812 when a blazing comet followed by earthquakes lent an apocalyptic emphasis.

These prophecies came about as result of supernatural visions received by Cherokee individuals. Mentioned in their belief are the thirteen constellations of the Zodiac and other things that they place in the heavens like a transit of Venus which occurred in 2004 and will again occur in 2012. The calendar followed by the Cherokees is based upon the Mayan calendar and the ending date of 2012.

Prophecies from the Jewish Talmud

In a section of the Talmud, devoted to eschatology and the last days, and the advent of the Messiah, we read some rather astonishing things. The rabbis' comments and analysis almost seem to parallel the words of Jesus Christ and the apostle Paul.

The Talmud refers to Ezekiel 36:8 – "But you, O mountain of Israel, you shall give your branches, and yield your fruit to My people of Israel; for they will soon be coming." Says the Talmud, "When this verse is fulfilled, and the mountains of Israel are once again green and yield fruit, you will *know that the Messiah is on his way and soon to arrive*" (Sanhedrin 97a, *The Talmud, The Steinsaltz Edition*, vol.xxi, p.15).

Says a note on this passage: "Thus, there is no clearer sign of the imminence of the final redemption and the people of Israel's return to its land than the land once again growing its branches and yielding its fruit (*Maharsha*).

Another passage in Sanhedrin 97a states: "It was taught in a Baraita: 'Rabbi Yehudah says: In the generation when the Son of David will come, the Academy where the Sages once gathered for the study of Torah will be used for prostitution." In a note on this passage, we read: "The Academy will be used for prostitution. Alternatively, the Messiah will not come until *promiscuity increases so much* that a public gathering-place will be set aside and designated for prostitution (*Ramah*)" (*ibid.*, p.4).

At that time of woe, "the wisdom of the scholars will become dull, those who fear sin will be despised by the rest of the nation, the face of the generation will be like the face of a dog, and the truth will be absent, as the verse states [Isa.59:15]: 'And the truth is absent, and he who departs from evil is despoiled.'"

"The Gemara asks: What is the meaning of the words, 'And the truth is absent'? The Sages of the school of Rav said: This teaches that the truth will be like flock after flock that go to the wilderness to pasture. So, too, the people of truth will hide in the desert from the rest of the wicked generation" (p.5). A note on this passage states, "Some understand that this alludes to the proliferation of ideas and factions in the pre-

Messianic period, with each group claiming exclusive possession of the truth."

How like our generation, today! Hundreds, even thousands of groups, cults, remant factions of the churches, each vying for members and money, each claiming to be the "only true church," the "Philadelphia church," the "Living" church, the "United" church, the "original," the best, etc., etc., etc.

What is another sign of the end-time generation?

Says the Talmud, Sanhdrin 97a: "Rabbi Nehorai said: In the generation when the son of David comes, youths will put the elders to shame, elders will stand up before youths to honor them, daughters will rise up against their mothers to insult and humiliate them, and likewise daughters-in-law will rise up against their mothers-in-law, the face of the generation will be like the face of a dog, the people being filled with arrogance and lacking all shame, and sons will have no shame even before their fathers" (p.6).

Says the footnote to this passage: "The face of the generation will be like the face of a dog. Some understand that the expression 'the face of the generation' refers to the leaders of the generation. In the generation when the Messiah comes, even the leaders of the generation will have the audacity and lack of shame associated with dogs." Does that remind you of anybody in particular? Think about it!

Our generation has been compared to an *aravah* or willow – it produces no good fruit, is not fragrant, but merely "takes up space" and has no value. There is great need for repentance and redemption, but the people are far too preoccupied with their human desires. So what is God going to do about it?

Says Rabbi Yehoshua, in Sanhedrin 97b: "Rather, if the people of Israel fail to repent on their own, the Holy One, blessed be He, will set a king over them whose decrees are as harsh as those of Haman, and the people of Israel will repent against their will, and He will restore them to good" (p.13). In other words suffering and anguish will finally bring about the fruits of real repentance.

Rabbi Ze'eiri said in the name of Rabbi Hanina: "The Son of David will not come until the arrogant in spirit are utterly wiped out from Israel," for Zephaniah 3:11 states, "for then I will take away from your midst those who rejoice in your pride, and you shall be no more haughty in my holy mountain." The footnote states, "The Messiah will not come until the last vestiges of sovereignty and self-rule, as meager as they might be, are utterly wiped out from Israel" (p.16).

Other signs of the End of Days:

"Rabbi Yohanan said: When you see a generation declining in learning and knowledge, wait for the Messiah, for he is soon to come." The decline in Biblical and spiritual knowledge today is unbelievable.

"Rabbi Yohanan said: "When you see a generation inundated wth many troubles like a river, wait for the Messiah, for the redemption is sure to come" (p.17-18).

God's 6000 Year Plan

God Himself is the author and creator of time. We read in the book of Genesis, "And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and *let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years*" (Gen.1:14).

In Psalm 90:4, we read: "For a *thousand years* in thy sight are but as *yesterday* when it is past, and as a watch in the night." Notice that one thousand years, here, are compared to "yesterday" – a single "day."

The apostle Peter seems to have this Scripture in mind when he writes, in the New Testament, "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that ONE DAY *is with the Lord as a THOUSAND YEARS, and a thousand years as ONE DAY.* The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the *day of the Lord* will come as a thief in the night: in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (II Peter 3:8-10).

When the Messiah returns, He will inaugurate a millennial kingdom lasting one thousand years. As John wrote, when Messiah comes, the Adversary – Satan the devil – will be bound for one thousand years (Rev.20:1-3). During that same period, John says, "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them; and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and REIGNED WITH CHRIST *A THOUSAND YEARS*. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the *thousand years were finished*" (Rev.20:4-5).

This "millennial rest" of 1,000 years is termed a "Sabbath rest" by Paul in the book of Hebrews. Paul speaks of this mystery in the 4th chapter of Hebrews, saying: "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. . . For he spake in a certain place of the *seventh day* on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. . . . There remains therefore a REST to the people of God" (Heb.4:1-9).

The Moffatt translation is even plainer. It says: "There is a *Sabbath-Rest*, then, reserved for the people of God" (Heb.4:9). Clearly, then, the millennial reign of the Messiah is pictured in Scripture as lasting one thousand years, and is called a "Sabbath Rest."

The Sabbath day, according to the Word of God, is the seventh day of the week. Almighty God commanded: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work. But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy

God: in it thou shalt not do any work . . . " (Exo.20:8-10).

The pattern of the seven day week, concluded by a Sabbath day of rest from work, labor, and toil, is a picture of the Plan of God. If the Sabbath of rest from "man's works," lasts 1000 years (Rev.20:4), then the previous *six* "days" would equal SIX THOUSAND years in fulfillment! Literally a "day" in God's plan is a thousand years, and therefore a "week" in God's plan is *seven thousand years!*

This implies that seven days of the week would equal seven thousand years. And when we learn from prophecy that the Millennial day of "rest" or Millennial SABBATH is "one thousand years," literally (Rev.20:4), then this tells us that the preceding six days must equal six thousand years.

Understood by the Ancients

The knowledge of God's 7000-year Plan is not a new revelation from God to His Church during this End-Time age. In fact, this prophetic knowledge was known and understood by the early Church of God, during the first century and thereafter.

Says the New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge:

"The early fathers most commonly looked for the second advent at the end of 6000 years of the world's history" (vol.VII, p.376).

The Epistle of Barnabas, written about 200 A.D., actually expounded on the concept of the 7000-year plan of God, stating that the "end" would occur at the point of 6000 years from the creation of mankind. States this ancient document of the early church period:

"Of the Sabbath He speaketh in the beginning of the creation; 'And God made the works of his hands in six days, and He ended on the seventh day, and rested on it, and He hallowed it.' Give heed, children, what this meaneth, 'He ended in six days.' He meaneth this, that IN SIX THOUSAND YEARS THE LORD SHALL BRING ALL THINGS TO AN END; for the day with Him signifieth a thousand years; and this He himself beareth me witness, saying, 'Behold, the day of the Lord shall be as a THOUSAND YEARS.' Therefore, children, in six days, that is *in six thousand years, everything shall come to an end.* 'And He rested on the seventh day.' This he meaneth; when His Son shall come, and shall abolish the time of the Lawless One, and shall judge the ungodly, and shall change the sun and the moon and the stars, then shall He truly rest on the seventh day" (Epistle of Barnabus, chap. 15, *The Apostolic Fathers*, pp.151-152).

Early Christians expected the age of mankind's self rule to come to an end, to be replaced by the Messianic Kingdom, after a period of 6,000 years. The "Epistle of Barnabus" bears eloquent testimony to this historical fact.

Irenaeus, who lived from A.D. 120 to 202, was a disciple of Polycarp, one of God's true servants in Asia Minor, who himself was a disciple of the apostle John. Polycarp sent Pothus into Celtic Gaul at an early date to establish the region, and he settled in Lyons, when Irenaeus joined him, having been his fellow-pupil under Polycarp. In his battle against raging heresies which were inundating the church at that time, Irenaeus wrote his *Against Heresies*. In book 1, chapter xxviii, 3, we read:

"For in as many days as this world was made, *in so many thousand years shall it be concluded*. And for this reason the Scripture says: 'Thus the heaven and the earth were finished, and all their adornment. And God brought to a conclusion upon the sixth day the works that He had made; and God rested upon the seventh day from all His works.' This is an account of the things formerly created, *as also it is a prophecy of what is to come*. For the day of the Lord is as a thousand years; and in six days created things were completed: it is evident, therefore, that *they will come to and END at the sixth thousand year*" (*Ante-Nicene Fathers*, vol.1, p.557).

Before the time of Christ, the Jews also understood that the Messiah would come after 6000 years of human history.

The Encyclopedia Britannica, eleventh edition, concerning the Talmud, states:

"The view most frequently expressed there . . . is that the Messianic kingdom will last for one thousand (some said two thousand) years. 'In six days God created the world, on the seventh He rested. But a day of God is equal to a thousand years (Ps.90:4). Hence the WORLD WILL LAST FOR SIX THOUSAND YEARS of toil and labor; then will come one thousand years of Sabbath rest for the people of God in the kingdom of the Messiah.' *This idea must have already been very common in the first century before Christ*" ("Millennium," p.459).

The Jewish Encyclopedia goes into greater detail:

"The Perso-Babylonian world-year of twelve millenniums, however, was transformed in Jewish eschatology into a *world-week of seven millenniums corresponding with the week of Creation*. The verse, 'A thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday' (Ps.90:4) having suggested the idea that the present world of toil is to be *followed by a Sabbatical millennium*, 'the world to come.' Of these the six millenniums were again divided, as in Parsism, into three periods: the first 2000 years devoid of the law; the next 2000 years under the rule of the law; and the last 2000 years preparing amid struggles and through catastrophes for the rule of the Messiah" ("Eschatology," *The Jewish Encyclopedia*, V, p.211).

The "Messianic Era," then, is the last 2,000 years of the cycle.

David Stern, in the Jewish New Testament Commentary, explains the deep roots

of the six thousand year plan of God in ancient Judaism. In his commentary on II Peter, chapter 3:8-10, and the "day is a thousand year" principle, Stern writes:

"This idea, taken from Psalm 90:4... has deep roots in Judaism, specifically in connection with dating the Messianic Era. A famous example is found in the Talmud, in Tractate Sanhedrin:

'Rav Kattina said, "The world will exist for six thousand years, then for one thousand it will be desolate, as it is said, 'The Lord alone will be exalted in that day'" (Isaiah 2:11). . . .

'It has been taught in accordance with Rav Kattina, "Just as every seventh year is a year of *sh'mittah* [letting the land lie fallow], so it is with the world: one thousand years out of seven are to be fallow – as proved by the following three texts taken together [in which the key word is "day"]: 'The Lord alone will be exalted in that day' (Isa.2:11); 'A psalm and song for the day of *Shabbat*' (Psalm 91:1), meaning the day that is entirely *Shabbat*; and, 'For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past'" (Psalm 90:4). 'The school of Eliyahu [Elijah] teaches: "The world exists for six thousand years – two thousand of them *tohu* ["void"]; two thousand, *Torah*; and two thousand, the era of the Messiah. But because of our numerous iniquities many of these years have been lost" (Sanhedrin 97a-97b).

Says Stern, "According to Jewish tradition, there were 2,000 years without *Torah* – spiritual *tohu* – between the creation of Adam and the time when Abraham, aged 52, began convincing people to worship the one true God.

"The second 2,000 years supposedly lasted from then until 172 years after the construction of the second Temple, that is, until 244 C.E. That was the year 4000 by the Jewish calendar, but no significant event in Jewish history took place then. However, biblical chronology has a number of uncertainties, so that not all agree that the Jewish calendar accurately dates the biblical beginning of creation. James Ussher, archbishop of Armagh, Ireland, writing in the 17th century, placed the creation according to Genesis at 4004 B.C.E., exactly 4000 years before Yeshua's supposed birthdate."

Stern goes on:

"Concerning the third 2,000 years, a footnote to this passage in the Soncino English edition of the Talmud says, 'Messiah will come within that period. He should have come at the beginning of [it]; the delay is due to our sins.' It should be obvious that the Messiah who 'should have come at the beginning' of the last 2,000-year period is in fact Yeshua, who did come then. The delay is not of his coming but of our recognizing him, and this delay is indeed 'due to our sins' . . .

"Yet, as Kefa [Peter] points out, there is a delay in his second coming; and this is, in a different sense, 'due to our sins': The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise...; on the contrary, he is patient with you; for it is... his purpose that everyone should turn back from his sins, literally, 'that every-

one should come to repentance'" (*Jewish New Testament Commentary*, page 763-764).

God's Final Warning

What should we do about these events? How should we utilize this knowledge? In Hebrews 10:23-25, the apostle Paul admonishes us, "Stir up love and good works; not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as is the manner of some; exhort one another even more as you see that day approaching."

In verses 30-31, Paul declares, "We know him that has said, vengeance belongs to me, I will recompense, says the Lord. And again the Lord will judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." And in verses 37-38—"for yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any one draws back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."

Never before in the history of mankind was greater faith needed by God's people! Yet Christ declared, "Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8).

The apostle Paul warns us, in strong language, "See that you do not refuse Him who speaks for if they did not escape who refused Him on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven whose voice then shook the heavens. Yet *ONCE MORE I SHAKE NOT THE EARTH ONLY, BUT ALSO HEAVEN*. And this word, **yet once more**, signifies the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptable with reverence and godly fear: for our God is a consuming fire." (Hebrews 12:25-29).

Amen to that! God's end-time judgments are on our end-time doorstep. They are on the threshold. As Enoch wrote in the book of Enoch, quoted by the apostle Jude, in the New Testament, "Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, 'Behold, the LORD comes with ten thousands of His saints, to *execute judgment on all*, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him" (Jude 14-15).

Jude goes on, "These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts, and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage. But you, Beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you there would be mockers in the last time, who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. But you, Beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life" (Jude 16-21, NKJV).