

Dear Hobby-English learner,
Dear former students/internet homepage readers,

With the last big project work we took a look at the comparatively recent past – the Hadrian Wall built by the Romans. This was about solid tangible facts cut and carved in stone.

With the next subject we are taking a look at the very near future – or should we say *the end of the future* ?

Doomsday 2012

Doomsday has many times been announced to us and each time it was postponed. This time, they (the doomsday experts) are assuring us that the grand final show will take place in 2012, specifically in December and there is no calculation mistake !



Humpfff.....!!!

The beginning of the 3rd millennium coincides with quite a number of more or less scientific facts :

- The transition of the solar system out of the constellation of Pisces, in which it has been for the past 2000 years, into the constellation of Aquarius (before Pisces our planet system was in the constellation of Aries) in the astrological calendar i.e. the Zodiac for more information → http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_Aquarius
- A total solar eclipse is scheduled for the date of November 13, 2012 (this is really scientific, and hopefully it won't be a Friday !) but... there have already been many total eclipses . . .
- The calculations of the Maya's (who were very clever time-keepers) Tzolkin calendar according to which 2012 is the time which coincides with *the end of a cycle*
- The convergence to the date of more or less 2012 of a great many legends, of which the Bible is not the least.

This "doomsday atmosphere" is fuelled by some scientific discoveries. Only a few years ago, at the beginning of the 90's, satellite pictures allowed the specialists to realize that the underground volcano of the National Park of Yellowstone in the USA, is an absolutely terrifying time-bomb : should it blow up, it would develop explosions several times the magnitude of the largest atom bomb.

Specialists of the NASA discovered in the last decades that the magnetic shield of the earth (which protects the planet against dangerous radiations and the effects of solar storms) sometimes develops huge "cracks" which stay open very long.

The fear of "doomsday" is as old as mankind – but what seems to be new these days, is that not only members of obscure religious sects or notorious prophets of misfortune brandish the threat of the end of the world but also journalists of well-known medias, rational citizens and even scientists are getting interested in the numerous threads which all lead to**the year 2012 !**

If *doomsday* is really scheduled for 2012, we had better find out something about it . However, I'll tell you this !!!! If all this business ends up again with a "damp squib" (un pétard mouillé) like it was the case each time before they said we had to get ready for the grand final show, I'll be very cross because there are thousands and thousands of pages and articles in the internet about everything and anything connected with the subject and it was a lot of work and very difficult to choose what looks kind of rational comments and to make a synthesis. In fact, I'll tell you what ! If we get to the month of January 2013 without anything having happened, I am determined to write an e-mail of complaint to all those humbug prophets

More seriously this is →

A project work for advanced students (FCE candidates) or very advanced (Post-FCE) students designed to develop :

- Reading skills (+ vocabulary)
- Speaking skills in the context of a complex subject
- Writing skills (there is a choice of related composition and essay topics)

Your hobby-english teacher



Bang !!!!!



No panic keep moving on ! It was only the cork of a giant bottle of champagne to celebrate New Year's Eve 2012.. .Doomsday has been postponed *sine die*. In fact the calculations of the Maya calendar WERE right but it has just been discovered that unfortunately a tiny mistake has been made in the interpretation of the Maya system ... we'll do our best to get back to you very soon with the RIGHT date for doomsday !

<http://www.greatdreams.com/2012.htm>

The whole of the information you will find below comes out of the internet

Here goes . . .

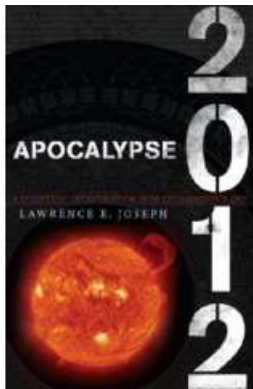
The Wikipedia free encyclopedia

2012 Armageddon

(Greek *αрмаγεδδων*; [*armageddōn*] also spelled **Har-Magedon** in some modern English translations) is the final climactic battle between **God**, also known as *YHWH Elohim*, and **Satan** the **Devil**, written in the **Book of Revelation** in the **Christian New Testament**, or more generally, an **apocalyptic** catastrophe.

The word *Armageddon* in Scripture is known only from a single verse in the Greek **New Testament**^[1], where it is said to be Hebrew, but it is thought to represent the Hebrew words *Har Megido* (הַר מְגִדּוֹ), meaning "Hill of **Megiddo**". Megiddo was the location of many decisive battles in ancient times (see **Battle of Megiddo**).

An Optimist Investigates the End of Civilization



Apocalypse 2012 by Lawrence E. Joseph.

About the author → L. E. Joseph is not a member of an obscure sect but Chairman of the board of Aerospace Consulting Corporation, New Mexico. He is the author of several books and has written for a number of major newspapers and magazines including the New York Times.

His book is based on research about facts which are said to be likely to be demonstrated scientifically.

Devastating earthquakes. Record-breaking tsunamis. Category 5 hurricanes. Spiking global temperatures. World war. Predictions of how it will all end have been around for thousands of years. In *Apocalypse 2012*,

Lawrence E. Joseph reveals the curious fact that 2012 has been pinpointed as a pivotal, perhaps cataclysmic, year in human history by ancient sources and contemporary science alike.

Joseph investigates this chilling correlation with an open mind **and skeptical eye**. He delves into historical and spiritual materials as diverse as Revelations, the I Ching, and the Islamic Hadith, drawing on scholarly works and recent controversial bestsellers such as *The Bible Code*. He examines the ancient Mayan Long Calendar, the source of the 2012 prophecies, and then travels to the jungles and highlands of Guatemala to work with Mayan shamans who confirm the 5,000-year-old vision. In a scientific research city in the heart of Siberia, he meets with geophysicists who contend that the solar system is moving into a highly charged interstellar energy cloud. And on the tip of South Africa, he interviews physicists and psychics who are trying to make sense of the fact that the earth's magnetic field is vanishing.

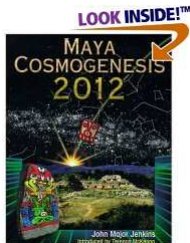
Joseph concludes that we are in a race against time. *Apocalypse 2012* is an authoritative and deeply unsettling appraisal of just how close the earth, or at least our species, might be to extinction.

Pfew ! . . What a program ! This really has the stuff of a best seller

Happy reading anyway !

A few facts :

1. Between 2000 and 2020 (but the dates vary !!!!) our planet system, the Solar system is going to move out of the constellation of the Pisces, and into the Constellation of Aquarius (Sagittaire) in the astrological calendar
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_Aquarius
2. A total solar eclipse is due for the 13th of November 2012. A total eclipse is an extremely rare even, most eclipses are partial
3. Cracks in the magnetic shield around the earth which protects the Earth against solar storms and radiation get bigger and bigger and last longer and longer (you can investigate that further in the internet, especially the NASA sites)
http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2003/03dec_magneticcracks.htm
4. The calculations of the Maya's Tzolkin calendar according to which 2012 would apparently coincide with the end of a "cycle"



2012, Doomsday

Doomsday predictions have been a great favourite of prophets of misfortune for the past centuries (Nostradamus, the church of the Witnesses of Jehova, etc.) .

Nowadays even otherwise "rational" people are beginning to make research

about all the various threads which seem to converge towards an event, whatever it will be, scheduled for 2012

The Maya civilization



The Mayas had developed mathematical calculation systems which, although they had no computers and they did not use the arabic numbers (our system which includes zero) , enabled them to make very complex calculations. Modern scientists and historians also agree that they were very proficient in astronomy. Although their culture, civilization and people were nearly completely destroyed by the conquistadors, a part of their knowledge survived until about the XVith century and ultimately a great many odds and ends could be collected to reconstruct their culture and knowledge.

The mayas reckoned time in various ways. One of their calendar called Tzolkin (see picture) predicts the « End of the cycles » (mind you, not the end of the world ! the end of the cycles, i.e. they stopped their calendar at a time which has been calculated by specialists to coincide

with.... The year 2012 !

The Mayan calendar is recognized as the world's most accurate calendar, more so than the Gregorian system in use today. Its accuracy is said to be such that the Mayan calendar will need to be adjusted by only one day in 380,000 years. From astronomical observations measuring the precession of the equinoxes and solstices, the ancient Mayan or pre-Maya determined the date of December 21st, 2012, as the end of their Long Count Calendar, the end of time. This end-date of the Long Count Calendar in 2012, this precession of the equinoxes indeed pinpoints a rare alignment in a vast cycle of time.

More about the Maya science, civilization and knowledge in **Maya World Studies Center Mérida, Yucatan, México** <http://www.mayacalendar.com/mayacalendar.html>

The 13 crystal skulls (very summarized)

According to South American legends, there would be 13 crystal skulls somewhere around the world. These skulls would have some very astonishing powers and properties : they would reproduce very accurately a human skull but it is unknown with which "technology" they would have been made (impossible by hand, which machine ? which system ?).

Here goes : in the beginning there were 13 worlds where there was human life. The planet Earth was called the Planet of the Children.

The 12 other worlds collected all types of knowledge in a kind of holographic (= three-dimensional picture) computer, i.e. the crystal skulls.

One day the knowledge contained in these "holographic computers / skulls" was granted to mankind. With the knowledge thus acquired, men were able to build up great civilizations : Lemuria, Mu, Atlantis, ancient Egypt.

The 13 skulls were kept in a pyramid called the "Arch" which would have been located somewhere in South American, and of which the Mayas, Aztecs, Toltecs, Incas, etc. would have been the guardians. Unfortunately, men became very bad and made a bad use of the knowledge contained in the skulls and the gods removed them from the Arch and scattered them throughout the world.

According to the legend there are 12 female skulls and one male skull ; throughout the ages the 12 female skulls were able to get back together but the 13th male skull is still missing. When the 13th skull is re-united with the other 12 it will "activate" them. It is not very clear what is meant by "activate"

For internet information : type key words « 13 crystal skulls » into Google or consult WIKIPEDIA

The Book of Daniel in the Bible



The Bible announces the Apocalypse for a time of about 2000 years after Jesus Christ, this is well-known, we are not going to develop on that in detail

2012 et le cosmos → sorry takes me some time to put in English, I'll do it as soon as possible



On December 21st, 2012, the galactic equator, the mid point of our galaxy, will cross the ecliptic path of the sun, creating a rare conjunction of the winter solstice. This hasn't happened for 26'000 years On December 21st, 2012, the galactic equator, the mid point of our galaxy,

Translation:

Le 21 déc. 2012 et pour la première fois depuis 26 000 ans, le Soleil se lèvera pour se joindre à l'intersection de la Voie lactée et du plan écliptique. Cette croix cosmique est considérée comme une incarnation de l'Arbre Sacré, l'Arbre de la Vie, un arbre reconnu dans toutes les traditions spirituelles du monde. De plus, la 10e planète (re-) découverte en 2003, Sedna, sera au plus proche de la Terre autour de cette date...

The Hopis, North American Indians from Arizona



Their legends are in keeping with the above mentioned astronomical even. According to the Hopis « One day some stars will come together in one row, in the same way as it happened many many thousands of years before. It will be the time when the Earth will be purified. There will be great changes for us at that time" »

Et caetera et caetera

We will stop the list here because it is very very long of the predictions, observations, comments or simply hints at a lot of strange things that will happen and the year 2012 persistently comes up again :

- The comments of people who had NDE = near death experiences
- Good old Nostradamus
- the Book of Toth (the book in which all the science of the Ancient Egyptians was collected. This book was destroyed in the great fire of the Library of Alexandria, and what is left of it is "second hand knowledge" reported by Greek philosophers like Plato, the philosophers of the Cabbalah, etc.
- The BIBLE is a favourite source of Doomsday predictions
- The Sumerians made some calculations which seem to lead to the same conclusion
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A serious and rational article written by Will Hart about the connection of the Maya "Long calendar" (Tzolkin) with the deadline of 2012

Will Hart is a freelance journalist, book author, nature photographer and documentary filmmaker. He has been investigating ancient mysteries and evidence of extraterrestrial intervention on Earth since 1969. He lives in Arizona (more in the internet and Wikipedia about this gentleman)

2012: End of the 5th Sun

by Will Hart

Certain aspects of the interlocking Maya calendar system have filtered into public consciousness in the last decade and a half. One of them is the prediction that we will come to the end of a solar-planetary cycle in 2012. But what is this cycle exactly and why is it going to end on the winter solstice of that auspicious year? Is the world going to end as some people are forecasting?

The Maya conceived of time and human history as moving in cycles, small and large. While we use a single calendar to keep track of our annual solar circuit and to mark all of the important days within a year, the Maya used a variety of calendars. The array included a 365-day solar calendar; a 260-day sacred calendar and a Long Count calendar that operated something like an odometer with a zero start date. Unlike the other calendars the Long Count clocked linear time and was programmed to stop after 5,125 years elapsed.

The Long Count was begun at the onset of this current cycle, known as the 5th Sun, in 3114 BC. It will clock the required number of years to complete a full cycle of five suns on December 21, 2012. John Major Jenkins has made the case that this date corresponds to two major alignments, (one between the winter solstice sun and the galactic equator; the other an approximate one between solstice sun and galactic core) and it also completes the Great Zodiac precession cycle of 26,000 years. I am not questioning this thesis however I do wonder if that is all there is to the end of this solar cycle- the 5th Sun?

The Maya began their Long Count on what they referred to as the 'Birth of Venus.' Scholars have never been able to determine what the Maya were referring to and neither have alternative researchers. Nevertheless their sacred calendar, the Tzolkin, placed the synodic cycles of Venus in a central role. The 104-year 'Venus Round' cycle (2 Calendar Rounds of 52 years each), was a very important ceremonial event as this was the point in time when the solar and sacred calendars realigned with the cycle of Venus.

I need to insert an important numerical progression at this point to provide a basis for the rest of the article. The number thirteen was a root number for the Maya. It is both a prime number and the eighth number in the crucial Fibonacci series that is one source of the Golden Ratio, 1.618.

If we use 13 as the root of the Mayan calendar system we find the following sequence: 13, 26, 39, 52, 65, 78, 91 and 104, which are achieved by simply adding 13 to each succeeding sum. These are the key numbers in the Mayan calendrics and they have a solid scientific footing. Venus was the central component of the Mayan cosmology. It is for good reason that our nearest planetary neighbor is called earth's sister planet. They have a phase-locked orbital cycle that is based on a 13:8 ratio. That is derived from the fact that Venus revolves around the sun 1.6 times faster than Earth so that 13 Venus revolutions is equal to 8 years.

Why is this important? By establishing Venus as the key component of the sacred calendar they automatically built the Golden Ratio (1.6) into the system since that ratio defines the difference between the two planets orbital cycles. By using 13 as the root number they also included the crucial multiples, or powers, of thirteen - 13,000 and 26,000 - or half as well as the full number of years in the precession. We see that the 5 Suns, each lasting 5,125 years, also add up to the Great Zodiacal Year.

We can break these numbers down in different ways and each will show that there was nothing arbitrary about the Mayan system. We somewhat arrogantly disdain other cultures for being superstitious until we come to the number 13 and our own irrationality surfaces. But let's examine how deeply embedded this number - as well as 26, 52 and 91 - are in our own calendar. Our year is divided into four seasons that are demarcated by the equinoxes and solstices.

Each of the four seasons is 91 days or 13 weeks long, which gives us a year of 52 weeks. We see the key Maya 13-base numerical progression reflected in our own calendar. Half of a year is 26 weeks. It is beyond the scope of this article to delve into all of the intricacies of the Mayan calendrical and mathematical systems; they were extremely adept in these fields.

What I have uncovered during my decades of research into this topic are two crucial keys to understanding the system: the 'Transit of Venus' and solar output cycles. It just so happens that the 2012 end date corresponds to a Venus Transit cycle that occurs twice in the next 10 years in 2004 and then in 2012. As mentioned above Venus was central to the Mayan cosmology. The Long Count began on what the Maya call the "Birth of Venus" so it is perhaps not too surprising that it ends on a Transit of Venus.

My research has revealed that a Transit of Venus occurred in 1518 and 1526. This was the period when Cortez landed on the shores of the Yucatan and wound up conquering the Aztec empire. The next transit was in 1631-'39. It was followed by a complete stoppage of the sunspot cycle, which lasted for 70 years (science has no explanation for this event). The 'little ice age' occurred between 1645 and 1720. What do we find associated with the next transit in 1761-'69? We discover the birth of the American Revolution.

There is no doubt that the Transit of Venus was an important divinatory alignment factored into the Maya calendar. We will not have to wait for long to test this theory and also get a glimpse of 2012 during the 'passage' years. But in reality as Jose Arguelles and others have pointed out the precursor years began in 1987 and the final stages of this cycle really kicked into gear in 1991-'1993. How do we know? There has been a tremendous surge in the number and magnitude of natural disasters and this was also forecast as a harbinger of the 5th Sun's demise.



13,000 years is a very important time period since we know that the last ice age ended then. This indicates that there is a periodicity to the solar output cycle. There are short and long term fluctuations in solar output and as a result great ice ages, little ice ages and warm interglacials, which we are nearing the end of now.

The cyclical nature of the long range weather patterns are well established is are the variable nature of solar activity. We know that that is true since we have been in a 'global warming' period for the past 300 years. The "little ice age" started to thaw in the early 1700s when the sunspot cycle returned. The level of solar activity has been increasing steadily from that 'zero sunspot point' right up to our recent sunspot cycles in 1989-'90 and the double peak in 2000- '02.

Is it a coincidence that 2012 also coincides with the next solar sunspot maximum? The actual peak of this 300-year cycle of increasing solar output occurred in 1960 when the number of sunspots exceeded 200, the usual peak is around 100-150. Now, what is interesting is that during the first half of the 20th century the Earth's seismic and volcanic activity were comparatively quiet.

Then after 1960 the level of seismic and volcanic activity increases steadily to the point that the 1990s can accurately be called the 'decade of disasters'. The surge in major earthquakes and volcanic eruptions radically departed from earlier decades. According to the chief scientist for the world's largest reinsurance company Zurich Re, "since 1960 natural disasters are a growth industry."

I hardly need to mention "global warming" since it is constantly in the headlines. However, the truth is obvious for those that care to see it. The Earth has been warming for 13,000 years with periodic short-term cold spells. However, solar output is the forcing mechanism behind global warming and the 5th Sun is intimately tied to that phenomenon. What does the end of the 5th Sun really mean?

I take it very literally to mean that the sun's output is going to change. We are going to enter the flip side of a new 13,000 year cycle. The earth is overheated and so is the sun, the result being planetary instability manifested in rising earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and erratic weather patterns.

These will increase further starting in 2004. The volcanic ash will create more and more cloud cover and that will begin to cool the planet down. If my theory is correct the Maya knew that the Venus Transit acted like a circuit breaker switching off the sunspot cycle and impacting the Sun-Moon-Earth-Venus system. This appears to have happened just prior to the previous two 'little ice ages' that were preceded by what solar physicists call the Spoorer (1400-1510) and Maunder Minimum(s) 1640-1710), periods of radically diminished solar activity.

The Venus Transit will trigger the demise of the 5th Sun and set the stage for the next cycle, the 6th Sun. That is the physical side of the Maya 5th Sun forecast. Unlike many predictions this one is built into the Maya calendar and it can be verified with some historical research. Is the world going to end in a violent crescendo of natural disasters and impacts from cosmic objects? I do not think that is likely nor is it what the Maya predicted.

However, a prolonged period of change is on the horizon that will be ushered in by the 2004 – 2012 'passage'. It will culminate in the galactic alignment and complete the precessional cycle at that point.

References

The Rise and Fall of Maya Civilization, Thompson J. Eric

[The How and Why of Maya End Date in 2012 A.D.](#) Jenkins J.M. 1994 (article)

[2004-2012 Transits of Venus](#), Espenak, F. (NASA article)

[Abrupt Climate Change: Should we be worried?](#) Gagosian, R.

[Little Ice Age a Global Event](#), Dalziel, D.

Si vous recevez ce document par courrier électronique, vous pouvez ouvrir les sites internet des references ci-dessus : poser le curseur de la souris sur la partie bleue, pressez « Ctrl » et faite un click (bien sûr il faut que vous soyez connecté à internet)



The Maya Long calendar (Tzolkin calendar)

It doesn't look "long" to me, it rather looks kinda round but in any case this is the object which announces doomsday to us



MAYA "OBSERVATORY" PYRAMID

The fanatical propaganda of the conquistadores, who are guilty of having destroyed in the name of God a brilliant culture, firmly printed into people's imagination for many centuries that these Mayan and Aztec flat-roofed pyramids were the scene of dreadfully bloody scenes of human sacrifices to horrible pagan gods.

Modern historians agree that there is no real historical evidence and foundation to prove that. It seems rather obvious that the architectural concept of these pyramids was designed to pursue the most important activity in Mayan and Aztec societies –namely that of observing the movement of the stars and making calculations to keep up-to-date their three types of calendars.

ATTACHMENT

A more detailed explanation of

1. the Maya system of reckoning time

2. the astronomical event which happens only every 26'000 years or so, that is the moment when the galactic equator, the mid point of our galaxy, crosses the ecliptic path of the sun. With very beautiful pictures