These writings have shown that although different cultures have different belief systems, when these belief systems are threatened, humans respond to these threats in very similar ways with similar writing devices. We don’t often see apocalyptic thought and writing when everything is fine, but when trouble threatens, there is a fundamental need to reiterate their belief systems, and incorporate the pending threat into a story about the end times.

The material in the handout greatly added to our understanding of apocalyptic writing. By looking at the Aztec and Mayan cultures and seeing that they wrote in a more apocalyptic nature when whites invaded, the nature of apocalyptic writing was illuminated. Apocalyptic writing is a reaction to invading dominant cultures, and cultures will tend to revert back to traditional and fundamental religious ways when they feel threatened. I would write more but I have no more time.

The phenomenological aspect of apocalyptic is that it arises throughout history and different cultures around the world when they are confronted with extreme hardship such as conquest, plague etc.; and it seems to be human nature to assume that it will get worse before it gets better and that if you hold true to your beliefs that you will come out on top on the other side.

Throughout history, cultures around the world have developed apocalypticism as a way of dealing with external events, such as suppression, oppression, and crisis.