1. Justin Ordonez and Elizabeth Petty, North Seattle Community College

APOCALYPTIC THEMES IN THE CREATION MYTH OF THE MAYÁN “POPOL VUH”

The *Popol Vuh* was the Mayan people’s creation story. They believed that the world was destroyed and reborn many times before the emergence of modern man. The Mayan creation Gods, referred to as the Maker and the Creator, created many forms of man. The first being made of mud, the second being made of wood and the third being made of corn. The mud and wood men were creations that the Gods felt did not meet the criteria for a man. They were destroyed by floods, attacked by animals and by the Gods themselves. The corn people never faced destruction by the Gods but suffered having their wisdom and sight clouded. Because the Gods behaved in such a manner, the Mayan creation story is full of apocalyptic themes.

2. Adrienne Baker, North Seattle Community College

ASTRONOMY AND COSMOLOGY OF THE ANCIENT MAYA

The advanced ancient civilization of the Maya, deeply spiritual and zealous in their exploration of cosmology, was incredibly adept in the fields of mathematics and astronomy. The Mayan belief in the transition from one World Age to another and the *Popol Vuh*, a Mayan esoteric doctrine of creation, arose out of the Mayan’s discovery of the precession of the equinoxes. The precession, caused by the wobbling of the Earth’s axis, changes the Earth’s relationship to the Milky Way Galaxy. The Mayan Calendar ends on December 21st, 2012, and marks a rare astronomical alignment that occurs only once every 25,800 years. The December solstice sun, the traditional beginning of the Earth’s yearly cycle, will conjunct the Milky Way, the Mayan’s “Great Mother of the Sky”, at the Galactic Center—her “pregnant belly”. The Galactic center is the “cosmic womb” or stellar nursery from which everything in our Galaxy, including humans, arose. This significant alignment heralds the re-creation [rebirth] of the cosmos. However, the solstice meridian will also cross over the Galactic Equator causing a reversal of the field-effect dividing line. What does that mean here on Earth? On a material level, a shift in the Earth’s polar alignment is a potential threat and it would cause disastrous cataclysmic events. But, a pole shift in the collective psyche of humanity would inspire the re-creation of accepted doctrines and values, and an emergence from unconscious patterns that enshrouded spiritual consciousness in darkness.

3. Patrick Pirtle, North Seattle Community College

AZTEC MYTHOLOGY

The Aztecs Mythology is polytheistic. The Aztecs story of creation is called “The Legend of the Four Suns”. In which the world has been destroyed and reborn
again 4 times. The Aztecs call a world, a “sun”. We now are in the era of the fifth sun. This sun is called the Earthquake Sun, which means that we will be destroyed by earthquakes at the end of this sun. From what has been deciphered from the Aztec Calendar, this is supposed to occur in 2012.

4. Chris Croft and Jocelyn Gonzalez, North Seattle C.C.
THE APOCALYPTIC ENCOUNTERS OF THE OLD WORLD AND NEW WORLD

The apocalyptic story of the Eastern and Western hemispheres of the earth meeting for the first time is one of the closest examples of real-life science fiction. Beginning with the arrival of Christopher Columbus, a global diffusion of plants, food crops, animals, human populations, and disease pathogens called the “Colombian exchange” took place. Similar to science fiction, it was as if the plants and bacteria from two different planets had been exchanged by two groups of beings. The exchange changed the development of the world, and spawned a new level of evangelistic Christianity. The encounters of Europeans from the Old World with the natives of North and South America would prove to be a one-sided merger. These apocalyptic encounters brought more power to one “kingdom”, the Europeans and settlers in North America, and demographically destroyed another, the natives of the Americas.

5. Miriam Aarons and Ada Harrison, North Seattle Community College
ALASKA NATIVE APOCALYPTIC MYTHOLOGY

Alaska Natives have a strong oral story-telling tradition. Many of these stories include apocalyptic elements, such as the use of nature, which plays the role of many Gods in Inuit religion, and who directs and controls all things including the path of humanity. Through examining particular stories with apocalyptic relevance, certain thematic literary parallels can be drawn to other ancient works in the Bible, such as God inflicting the plagues of Egypt on the Pharaoh in Exodus. By comparing apocalyptic themes even among two drastically different cultures, common threads of humanity emerge.

6. Travis Bays, North Seattle Community College
No title given

One of the greatest questions that has plagued mankind over the course of our existence is how will everything end. Each civilization over the course of history has developed there own theory about how the end will come and each different theory being strongly based upon what was known at that time. During the age of the Vikings they couldn’t explain modern phenomenon so they created their own pantheon and their own end of the world myth. This end of all things was known as Ragnarok. My poster will explore how ragnarok comes about, those involed, and how the conflict is resolved.
Group 2 — Apolcalypse in literature and music

7. Ginger Emshwiller, North Seattle Community College
Eternal Travel

According to Einstein’s theory of Relativity, nothing can travel faster than the speed of light, but if this became possible could we travel in time to the future or past? Isaac Asimov’s, End of Eternity suggests this idea of traveling through time. In the 27th century humans have developed a "Temporal Field," which is an area outside of time that can be connected to any point in time the person chooses to venture into. To move from century to century people use time machines called "kettles." The question: what would Mr. Einstein have to say about this "eternal travel?"

8. Eric Severtson, North Seattle Community College
A Little Revelation: A Comparison of a Linear and a Cyclic Apocalyptic Writings

God has planned everything, including the end of humankind. In His Dark Materials by Philip Pullman, an end has come in which humans decide the outcome, and the “end” is actually a new beginning. The Universe is either cyclic as Pullman suggests, or linear as the Biblical writers maintained. Eschatology may be metaphor for micro-endings we witness. We see things end everyday—eschatology may simply be a macro-vision of this fact; maybe there is no big “end” due. A micro-ending, or micro-eschaton is the fruit of any given endeavor, it is that which the sower reaps.

9. Jonathan Kitsu and SoYeon Akerlund, North Seattle Community College
“THE FORGE OF GOD” AND SCIENCE

Greg Bear’s The Forge of God, chronicles the events of people after a warning from extra-terrestrials that a machine from another planet will destroy the Earth. Although this book is considered science fiction, Bear uses many scientific ideas from geology and astrophysics to lend some credence to his book. The use of science in the book is for the most part accurate but falters in some areas such as the idea that a black hole could be placed in the Earth’s core. Some of the problematic science ideas could be attributed to the fact that science makes discoveries and forms theories as new information becomes available. Overall this books shows that even in novels science can be used effectively to bring out the story but can also be unrealistic.

10. Hannah Watson and Michelle Sizemore, North Seattle Community College
THE END OF THE WORLD AS THE BRITISH KNOW IT

British fantasy writings present some unique perspectives regarding the end of the world, both serious and humorous. Even from within the twentieth century, the variations on the circumstances and methods of storytelling have vastly differed. British apocalyptic fiction runs the gamut from the religious works of C.S. Lewis to the irreverent Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams. These stories can include both Biblical and modernistic elements,
though the more irreverent brand of fantasy literature bends toward cosmic and spiritual endings rather than human-driven ones.

11. Mike deVoss and Ryan Patterson, North Seattle Community College
No title given

While the central roots of apocalyptic belief lie in our religious readings, we can find extensions of this thought in something as ubiquitous as everyday music. The question is, what does contemporary music say about the end of the world?

Group 3 — Influences on Judeo-Christian Apocalypse?

12. Beth Scholler and Jessica Day, North Seattle Community College
APOCALYPTIC IN ZOROASTRIAN TEXTS AND THE HEBREW BIBLE

Zoroastrianism was a dominant world religion during the Persian empires (559 BCE- 651 CE). The Hebrew Bible was composed between the twelfth and second centuries BCE; the Book of Daniel was written in the mid-second century BCE, during the persecutions of Antiochus IV. Examining the sacred texts of Zoroastrianism and the Book of Daniel from the Hebrew Bible reveals many similarities and a few differences in the apocalyptic of each. Among the shared apocalyptic elements are revealed truths, divisions of history into symbolic ages, suffering brought on by sin, a clear division of good and evil, and a happy ending for the faithful. There are also some differences: in Zoroastrianism, unlike the Hebrew teachings, punishment for evil is not eternal and their god, Ahura Mazda, plays no part in the sufferings of humankind. The numerous similarities point to a Zoroastrian influence on the writing of the Book of Daniel.

13. Christopher Dement and Tim O’Brien, North Seattle Community College
ZOROASTRIANISM AND ITS APOCALYPTIC BELIEFS

Zoroastrianism, the ancient religion of Persia and perhaps the worlds oldest monotheistic religion, was founded around 6000 BCE (according to conservative Zoroastrians) by the prophet Zarathushtra. The religion rose out of the polytheistic traditions of ancient Iran and India. Zoroastrians worship one god, Ahura Mazda, meaning “wise God”. This religion contains many apocalyptic elements. These apocalyptic elements that are found in Zoroastrianism have been seen in and influenced other religions, most notably Christianity. The elements include: divine planning, dualism, history, punishment, evaluation of the righteous, and most notably a world change on a grand scale stemming from a struggle of good vs. evil.

14. Mickey Cassar and Sophia Trumbauer, North Seattle Community College
EGYPTIAN APOCALYPTIC ELEMENTS IN RELATION TO JUDEO-CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

In examination of Ancient Egyptian mythologies and scriptures prominent apocalyptic elements are revealed in sacred texts and decoded hieroglyphics. One of such scriptures is the Book of the Dead, which shows similar
characteristics to the Christian bible in its themes of a living afterlife and division of the dead into good and wicked. This concept of judgment occurs after death where the soul is tested and accordingly placed into either a “heaven” or “hell” like realm, as in Christian theology. The Book of the Dead itself, along with the coded hieroglyphics were something only the educated or priestly elite could understand and the theme of secrecy and hidden truths is also present in Egyptian mythology. The succession of dynasties and the concept of a divinely chosen king is present throughout Egyptian history in the institution of the Pharaoh, a living god-king, much like the anointed kings or Davidic line, as well as the concept of a divine plan playing out through human socio-political history.

15. Chad Driesbach, North Seattle Community College
APOCALYPTIC ELEMENTS IN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN TEXTS

The religious writings of Ancient Egypt are tenuously linked to religious writings of many later civilizations. Some of these links are common apocalyptic themes between literature from Egypt’s Middle Kingdom through the Late Period and biblical literature, such as revealings of things to come and symbolic imagery. Excerpts from Ancient Egyptian writings such as Neferti’s prophecy can be thought of as apocalyptic. These comparisons do not necessarily reflect direct influences on biblical writing, but are interesting points of contact between the texts.

Group 4 — Further and Alternative Exploration of Judeo-Christian Apocalypses

16. Olivia Godoy and Jana Johnson, North Seattle Community College
THE MYSTERIOUS RAPTURE OF ENOCH

1Enoch is one of the hidden apocalyptic texts, a pseudepigraphical work, that is not included in The Bible, but is considered sacred by many. The rapture of Enoch in Genesis is comparable to the predictions of Revelation. Composed of five parts, Enoch begins with a description of his journey through the underworld, followed by his teachings through parables. He gives a detailed description of how God controls astronomy and foretells the end to come. To conclude he writes of his dreams and visions from God about the end times and finishes with an apocalypse that includes the fate of the good versus the fate of the evil.

17. Dustin Wysong, North Seattle Community College
Ezra’s Apocalypse and The Restoration of the Holy Scriptures

The book 4 Ezra, located in 2 Esdras, concerns Ezra’s ongoing communication with an angel, Uriel, and God. At first, Ezra questions God’s plan for the world and Israel, but through a series of elaborate apocalyptic visions Ezra learns that God’s plan is as he intended it to be: basically the trials of life are to temper God’s people into being greater human beings. Once Ezra understands this plan, God tells him to keep the knowledge secret. And apparently right away, Ezra
earns the right to enter heaven. Ezra then asks God if he can rewrite the Holy Scriptures, since they were destroyed when the temple fell before he left. God accepts Ezra’s proposal and with the help of fives scribes, the seventy books are penned.

18. Amy Horn, North Seattle Community College
THROUGH THE EYES OF SYBIL

The Sibylline Oracles are filled with Jewish-Christian apocalyptic scrolls, many of which can be found throughout the Hebrew Bible. Sybil’s oracles are composed of fourteen books, which contain horrific darkness. Sybil begins telling her prophecies after the flood of Noah, by giving in depth descriptions of the apocalypse. Her oldest prophecies date back to the 6th century BCE and teachings were filled with the wisdom of the Lord, like the Hebrew Bible. Her best know prophecies were titled the Eritrean Sybil. “Now while I much entreated God restrained. My wise song, also in my breast again he put the charming voice of words divine. In my whole body terror-stricken these five I follow; for I know not that I speak, but God impels me to proclaim each thing. But when on earth come shocks, fierce thunderbolts, thunders and lightnings, storms, and evil blight, and rage of jackals and of wolves, manslaughter, ten destruction of men and of lowing kine, four-footed cattle and laborious mules, and goats and sheep, then shall the ample field be barren from neglect, and fruits shall fail, and there shall be a selling of their freedom fifteen Among most men, and robbery of temples. And then shall, after these, appear of men. The tenth race, when the earth-shaking lightener shall break the zeal for idols and shall shake the people of seven-hilled Rome, and riches great.” (Book Two, Page 37)

19. Lilla Kovacs and Jamie Epting, North Seattle Community College
THE SECTS OF LATE JUDAISM (100BCE TO 100CE)

During a time of rapid political, social, religious, and cultural change, sectarian groups such as the: Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, and the Qumran community rose in Israel. Each group had its own individual ideology and a particular view on various subject in Jewish life: interpretation of Mosaic Law, the rule of the priests, attitude towards foreign rulers, and views on the coming of the Messiah. However, even though the differences among these groups caused much blood shed, there is one common theme to them: the belief that there is no King but God. They strongly held in the belief that God will come to the help of his chosen people and will free them from their foreign rulers and re-claim his kingdom. Even though, these groups have not survived as a community their ideologies and ideas are still apparent in various modern Jewish sects. Today the remains of these groups’ ideas can be found in Archeological findings such as the Dead Sea scrolls.
20. Frank Andrada and Elaine Cooper, North Seattle Community College
NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT
OF SODOM & GOMORRAH

The possibility of a nuclear disaster is almost imminent in the world today. Since 1951-present, the United States alone has made 67,500 nuclear missiles, enough to destroy the Earth many times over. The Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombs are the most simplistic reminders of the devastating power of a nuclear explosion as well as the aftermath of a radiological attack. The Biblical accounts of Sodom and Gomorrah are also reminiscent of this. The area around the Dead Sea has massive amounts of sulfur and is considered uninhabitable. Areas where these towns were probably located are completely white in color and intense heat from a nuclear event could have caused this. We have the global capability to bring about the “ending of civilization” through nuclear warfare. Disarmament and a global resolution not to use these destructive weapons are two ways of insuring our future survival.

21. Bethany Overland, North Seattle Community College
BIBLICAL PROPHESY OF THE END TIMES: THE CONTROVERSY OF THE TEMPLE MOUNT

According to biblical prophesies by Jesus found in Matthew, the holy Temple which was destroyed after the Jews rejected Him must again be rebuilt on the location of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, which is now the site of the Dome of the Rock. The Dome of the Rock is a Muslim shrine built in 668. This event precedes His return to earth to take up His church in the great rapture, thus fulfilling the ultimate goal and direction of the book of Revelation: the divine plan of God. Zechariah 12.2-3 also predicts apocalyptic elements in an Armageddon, a great war that will be triggered by a dispute between the Arabs and Israelis over the Temple Mount and Jerusalem. When this “abomination that causes desolation” occurs, Jesus may return, but not before.

22. Cynthia Taylor and Tiffani Jones, North Seattle Community College
NUCLEAR WAR AND RAPTURE SPECULATIONS

Suddenly God will take his true believers, and they will disappear in an instant. Everyone else will suffer the 7 year Tribulation period. The seven seal judgments where each tribulation occurs by the removal of a seal (Antichrist, great war, plague, famine, new christians martyred, earthquakes and lightning) are the start of the suffering and people all over the world are looking for signs that this period will begin soon. They are looking for signs of the rapture. The bible says an Antichrist will rise, come to power, deceive people and cause World War III (a great war). People are fearing that with the nuclear weaponry available, we will die in fire like the bible says. Nuclear War and the Prophesied rapture are two terms that often are mentioned together in fearful discussions of what will come.

23. Mark Schubert, North Seattle Community College
MILLERISM
William Miller was one of the most influential Catholic leaders of the mid 1800’s. His Doctrine for what is known as Millerism is based on very specific dates and an idea of the date of the apocalypse is given in the scriptures of the Bible. When he was in the War of 1812 he lead an outnumbered US force against the British and won. Believing in divine intervention he became a holy man. When his followers gave all their worldly goods up and followed him to the mountain to prepare for the end they were sadly heart broken when the end did not appear.