



OCTOBER 2011

THE 2012 CALENDARS ARE IN:

A few weeks ago, we started getting orders for the little card calendar that we print each year. It always surprises me how early people want to get these, but I realize that there are people who plan ahead—well ahead. Still, I am barely accustomed to 2011, but as always, when I can consistently write the correct year on my check register, it is time to change to the “new year.” Well, our calendar is ready, but others are also. So, when my staff started quizzing me about the 2012 calendar, there was kind of a sensation that went through me—like suddenly remembering that I was supposed to be somewhere, about ten minutes ago!

You see, in worldly predictions, 2012 is the BIG ONE. I think it was in 2008 that I started hearing

about and reading of the Mayan calendar, one very complex instrument of time-keeping that is based on mathematics, physics, and astronomy. Oddly, the greatest drawback to this calendar is that because of its nature, it ceases to exist past the date of December 21, 2012, which means—the calendar doesn’t calculate past that date. Many of those who are aware of this ending assume that the world must end at that time. So, cataclysmic, destructive events are expected to end the whole thing on that date. The culture of doom gave rise to a deep study by the *Wall Street Journal* a few years ago and their published finding was that the Mayans did not predict an end of the world at the end of their calendar, however, they did see that it was an “omen” or



sign of something very large, foreboding, and “earth changing” that will occur.

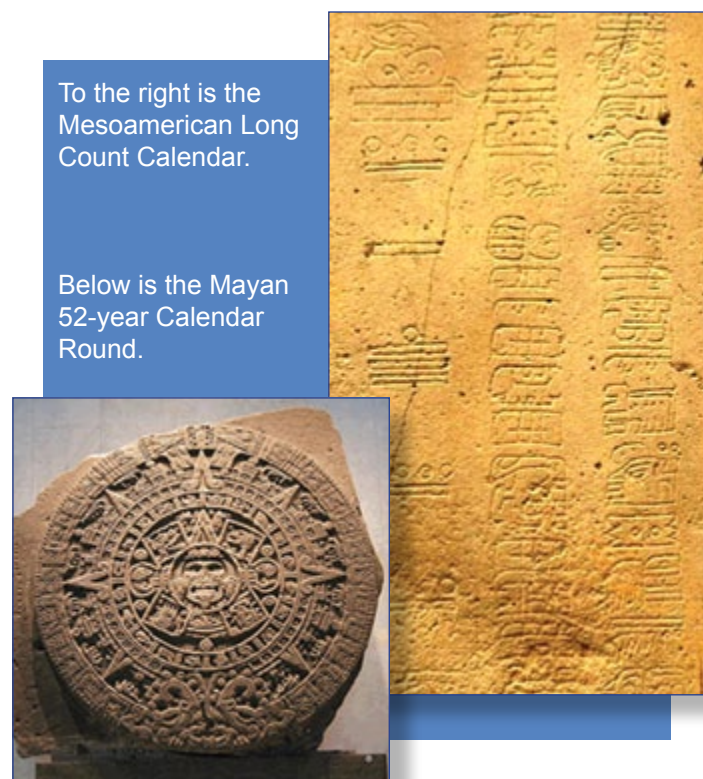
Likewise, December 2012 marks the conclusion of “*b’ak’tun*”: A time period in the Mesoamerican Long Count calendar which was used in Central America prior to the arrival of Europeans. Though the Long Count was most likely invented by the Olmec, it has become closely associated with the Maya civilization, whose classic period lasted from 250 to 900 AD. Unlike the 52-year Calendar Round still used today among the Maya, the Long Count was linear rather than cyclical, and kept time roughly in units of 20: 20 days made a uinal, 18 uinals (360 days) made a tun, 20 tuns made a *k’atun*, and 20 *k’atuns* (144,000 days or roughly 394 years) made up a *b’ak’tun*. It is interesting that the Lunar calendar referred to in prophetic writings counts 360 days per year or “tun,” as we see when Daniel speaks of the length of time for the Great Tribulation as 1260 days, or 3 ½ years. According to something called the *Popol Vuh*, a compilation of creation accounts of the K’iche’ Maya, we are living in the fourth world. There is much more explanation about that history, but the conclusion to it all, is that the fourth world will end on December 21, 2012. Whether or not the notion of a “Great Cycle” coming to an end is a modern or ancient invention, it is certainly food for novel writers, movie makers, and fear mongers.

One last calendar to look at is the “I Ching,” which is more of a life pattern sequence map—if you can wrap your mind around that. Developed by King Wen of China, it has been recalculated to express the ebb and flow of the universe’s “interconnectedness,” or “organized complexity.” This new understanding is called Timewave Zero, and it, too, expresses finality near the winter solstice of 2012.

There are other psuedo-predictors such as “Galactic Alignment,” “Procession,” “Geomagnetic Reversal,” and “Planet X,” that have spawned hundreds of books and hundreds of thousands of web sites, each bringing end to what we have known as “the good life.” Whew! That’s a lot to think about!



Iran’s president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has vowed to destroy Israel and to bring the world under Islamic rule.



To the right is the Mesoamerican Long Count Calendar.

Below is the Mayan 52-year Calendar Round.

If you are like me, you probably had to put on your high-heeled sneakers to wade through all of that (and I just hit the high points), but I can tell you that this is the material that the world is studying hard, in order to “know” and prepare for The End. Is there any validity to any of the things I have listed for you in the above paragraphs? The New Age believers (non-Christian), by astronomy, astrology, mathematics, and folklore, have come up with a date that aligns with the winter solstice of 2012, whereby something very bad or very enlightened will occur. You can ask most of the young people of today about any of these items and they will surprise you with their knowledge of it. The cable channels, “History” and “A&E,” are full of special segments focusing on any one or combination of items that build fear of the Apocalypse to come. The problem with New Age problems is that there are no New Age solutions, except for some “Enlightenment Aura” or other mumbo-jumbo.

I told you that our 2012 calendars were in, and now you know why a shot of anxiety ran through my thorax, as I remembered that I was supposed to be somewhere else ten minutes ago. Do I have any concern about the approaching date of December 21, 2012? I know that I will, the closer it gets, because the realization that I haven’t done all I wanted for my family at Christmas will have set in, but aside from that—will I be vexed? I am reminded again of Harold Camping’s prediction of Christ’s Return on May 21, 2011, and how well I slept the night before, knowing that his words were not biblical, because first must be the revelation of the Antichrist and the Great Tribulation. I know also that the end of the world cannot occur on December 21, 2012, according to the Bible, because some things simply must take place before that, such things as: The people claiming “Peace and Safety” after a seven-year covenant of peace has been signed with Israel! That something cataclysmic might occur before next Christmas—I don’t know, neither do I pretend to.

I know that the New Age Headquarters in London, “Share International,” claims that the “world leader” is in the wings, waiting to make his entrance as “peace maker.” (See www.share-international.org, or call to hear a recording about the “leader,” 800-870-6108). I know also that the largest spokesman for Islam, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (Iran’s President), believes that he is the one to usher in the Imam Mahdi (world leader and redeemer of Islam), and going back to the Mayan calendar, the *b’ak’tun* will be completed with the appearance of *Bolo Yote’K’un*—the god of the underworld. So, at this point we have to decide how loosely we hold the “mystical” or “worldly” prediction of things to come. Before we dismiss completely those led by stars and mathematics, we do well to remember that “We three kings, from Orient are...” that we sing about at Christmas weren’t kings at all, but “wise men,” which means they were Magi, or magicians and astrologers—and they traveled in numbers of twelve, not three, (the reason I mention those things, is to show how “tradition” can be mistaken for Biblical truth). They knew of the Advent of Christ by watching the stars; they saw His Star and came to worship Him (Matt. 2:1,2). Godly men? Most likely not. Led men? Yes. So, in conclusion, and before dismissing all the buzz, forget not, and remember the jackass that the Lord spoke through when His prophet Balaam would not speak (Numbers 22). Maybe because the Church is silent today on the truth of His Coming, the Lord has found another jackass to speak through.

We Are A People Who Have Lost Our Way

Some who have studied New Age and SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) communities, describe 2012 narratives as the product of a “disconnected” society: Unable to find spiritual answers to life’s big questions within ourselves, we turn outward to imagined entities that lie far out in space or time—entities that just might be in possession of superior knowledge (Aveni). What we have today, and certainly in 2012, is the New Age community teaching that the world will end in some apocalyptic event, or it will miraculously be saved by a leader who has been destined for days “such as these.” On the other hand, we are surrounded by the Christian community, who largely isn’t talking about it, or when they do, they speak of a loosely framed “left behind” event that leaves everyone who isn’t chosen to grin and bear—whatever is to come. What is needed is truth, not deception; fact, not fiction; and a Savior, not the Serpent.

Why This Is Important

After reading this letter, you may possibly celebrate this coming New Year differently—because by then you will be more immersed in all this New Age prediction stuff. If you attend closely to the “Left Behind” preachers on T.V., you will no doubt hear more of “Jesus can come at any moment,” but if you want to benefit the witness of Christ to your

family, neighbors, and the world, you can prepare them with the truth of what God’s Word gives to prepare us for the ministry of Christ—to the end (as He words it, Matt. 28:18-20). Even if there are signs in the heavens, greater natural disasters than we see weekly now, foreboding forecasts, even a broken economy, Christ will not come until:

- » The Antichrist be revealed,
- » A seven-year Covenant of Peace signed with Israel,
- » The Antichrist moves to Israel to proclaim himself as God and at the same time,
- » He wars against every Jew, then every Christian, to exterminate them.
- » He will also impose his image and number on the right hand of every world inhabitant in order that they be able to buy and sell.

Those things comprise a “short list” of things which must occur before Christ comes. The things our Father would have us know are the very things

Before we dismiss completely, those led by stars and mathematics, we do well to remember that “We three kings, from Orient are...” we sing about at Christmas, weren’t kings at all, but “wise men” which means that they were Magi, or magicians and astrologers—and they traveled in numbers of twelve, not three. They knew of the Advent of Christ, by watching the stars; saw His Star and they came to worship Him.

Jesus told the disciples would happen. If anything else were to happen instead, He would have told us so! And yes, the truth about the Return of the Lord is as vitally important as His Coming as a Babe, of His betrayal, Crucifixion, and His Ascension into Heaven. His Return is the apex, the zenith, the pinnacle of His ministry to mankind, and thus—shouldn’t it be the focus of our heart also?

Today, people need to see Jesus as the only way to live and the only way to die: To follow Jesus so you don’t miss His Coming is a small part of it. You will see people flocking to see a movie about 2012, or reading any of a thousand Apocalypse-Now books,

but you won't find many reading the Bible to know Jesus. That is where you and I come in, that's where your pastor comes in; very possibly in the next several months, people will be looking for answers, answers to real questions. Will you and your church be able to give them the answer that you won't have to revise as things change? That's why I am calling

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pect of where we are today,
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of the Lord.*

on you to be a “change agent.” Help us enlarge our borders, leave more footprints and put answers where people will find them. I overheard a pastor recently joke about his eschatology stance, “*I am not pre, mid or post tribulation, I am pan-trib; whenever Jesus comes—it’ll all pan out! Teehee, teehee.*”

That very attitude is an offense to the Gospel and demonstrates the kind of ignorance that the “intelligentsia” of society accuse Christians of. There is no substitute for the knowledge of truth and our goal should be no less.

The Sky Is Falling, The Sky Is Falling—Someday

When I told this Society that the Lord showed me that we, sinner and saint, will witness the same Great Tribulation and Return of Christ, I told you then that I didn't have all the answers—and I didn't, but I knew that if the Lord was going to lead us into this understanding, He wouldn't leave us to drift as though rudderless. Now, it seems that He is leading with “both hands,” and the answers are coming clear and fast. We have sought how to bring understanding to so many who are confused and afraid of Revelation and other prophetic books, so they can teach their congregations, friends, family, and neighbors what to expect in the days to come—whether they be soon or afar off. We don't want to run around crying, “The sky is falling, the sky is falling,” like Chicken Little, but instead, now that we

are sure that someday the sky **will** fall, we want to understand what will cause it to fall, so we aren't taken by every little shriek and shrill, but by the Word of the One who holds the sky—we will know how to live in confidence and lead others in truth. The result of our desire to bring a more complete understanding to our sons and daughters is a project called, “**The End Time Puzzle.**” “The End Time Puzzle” will—piece by piece—connect the dots of scriptural prophecy. The most exciting aspect of where we are today, is simply—in the Presence of the Lord. I shared with someone not too long ago about His Leading, and it went like this: When you pray and surrender your life to serving God, then walk with Him, testing His lead by obedience, and when each time He gives you His Peace, and then when on the other hand, you fail to follow or answer His call, then your spirit knows right off that you took the wrong way, and having the experience of both obedience and disobedience for a handful of decades—YOU LEARN THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE. So, as many times as someone asked me, “How do you know what you are teaching is right?”, I just have to say, “I know His Voice,” or, “Been there, done that.”

We Are Working On The Answer

“The End Time Puzzle” is a project that will incorporate some Harvester and Newsletter writings and connective material that can be issued in a series of tracts or a booklet, and in video presentation on our website: www.thecomingchrist.com. We prepare to do this, because our “borders need to be enlarged,” in answer to Matthew 28:19,20. You see—the Revelation of Jesus is the Gospel of Jesus. He commissioned us to teach them to observe all things whatsoever He commanded—even unto the end. Like hundreds of thousands before me, I feel the beginning of the end is near, but whether it begins in two months or twenty years, there isn't enough time to get it right so the lost can be won and discipled. We who believe and love the Lord must secure our Salvation daily so temptation doesn't spoil our message, then we must become heavily burdened for the unregenerate

If you are slumbering, I call you to awaken. If you are living in sin, I point out that you are crucifying Him daily with your sin and you jeopardize your soul. If you are living for self, you build up treasure where dust, rust, and mold will destroy. If you are deceived by a false religion, you are prostituting the Gospel of Christ—no matter how many there are among you, who seem to be right.

There is but one true Gospel, and the Ancient of Days calls us to love it and to seek it. When we do, we will stick out in a crowd, the Lord will anoint our daily ministry and souls will seek the Blood of the Passover Lamb Who was slain for our sin, so when the death angel passes by, he will “pass over those sealed to Eternal Life.”

Called to His Calendar,
Tom Buttram