

Taking the Bible into the Twilight Zone: The Zeitgeist Movement and 2012 Alarm

By Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

A. 2Tim. 1:7, 3:1-9

B. In the 1800s, German philosophers invented a word that was brought over into English and is used to describe the times in which we live. The word is Zeitgeist—which means “spirit of the age.” Pronounced - zartgarst

1. In the early 1970s a French philosopher named Jean-Pierre Lyotard began what was called post-modern thinking. Post-modern thinking in its rudimentary form involved the deconstruction of all the major tenets and narratives of contemporary times, particularly western civilization. This included a deconstruction of the Christian beliefs and accounts in whatever form they appear.
2. There is a class of people in any given period and culture that is drawn to this. I call them the disaffected. They are typically:
 - a. young to middle aged
 - b. middle to upper class socio-economically
 - c. frustrated with and fearful of the world around them
 - d. often do not have or have abandoned a moral compass
 - e. dislike structure and order in their lives
 - f. have impulses and tastes that are considered outside the norm
 - g. take pride in what they consider to be special secret knowledge
 - h. blame others for everything wrong in their lives
 - i. have a limited grasp of the Bible, science, and history
3. Think paranoid, spoiled, whining, 20 to 40 year old brats

C. Peter Joseph made a few movies highlighting the tenets of this new faith.

1. Peter Joseph is that increasingly popular kind of writer and movie producer-- the conspiracy theory specialist (think Oliver Stone or Michael Moore on steroids). His essential argument is that the truth about the origins of all religions has been suppressed. His argument is that all savior figures are anthropological projections, creating a religious myth. He equates Jesus Christ with Mithra or Horus treating all as fictional creations. In his view Jesus did not exist and we have all been lied to about this matter. He also views the fact that his movies about The Zeitgeist Movement have been monumental flops as a suppression 'conspiracy'. It is a poorly done movie based on bad and biased 'research.' One reviewer wrote that Mr. Joseph can't tell the difference between arguments about the myth of the Easter bunny and arguments about Jesus Christ. He's angry, not because the truth is suppressed but because his 'truth' is being ignored.
2. There are many deconstructionist beliefs held by Zeitgeist devotees. The big three that stand out are:
 - a. Jesus Christ was a fictional character patterned after earlier gods of Egypt and Persia, and Christianity was borrowed from Zoroastrianism

- b. That the US Government is conspiring against its citizens, and their largest conspiracy to date is the 9/11 attacks, funded and orchestrated by the Bush Administration
 - c. That the world is going to be destroyed in December 21, 2012 (1111122112) either by galactic tidal forces in astral alignment or by rogue asteroid Apophis striking the planet, as predicted by the Mayan Meso-American Long Count Calendar (13 Baktun)
- D. Yet another pseudo-religion in a long line of human nonsense
 - 1. Based on twisted history - they change recorded history when it conflicts with their theories. They “know” the truth, and if recorded history disagrees, it’s part of the conspiracy against them
 - 2. Based on bad science - same thing, they pick what they like and disregard what challenges their beliefs
 - a. The Mayan Long Count Calendar never advocates the end of the world, rather the end of the cycle; start the calendar over again; 5126 year cycle
 - b. The galactic alignment causing tidal forces will have no human senses discernable impact on the planet apart from detection by the finest instruments. Fussing over it makes as much sense as getting worked up over your horoscope in the National Enquirer. 26,000 year galactic alignment event not possible because galaxy does not have a defined center
 - c. And Apophis is going to miss. NO reputable astronomer believes it will make planet-fall, and it’s not big enough to create an extinction event if it did
 - 3. Based on poor mental health - pre-disposition to conspiracy theories is believe to be related to one of the obsessional disorders and is a symptom of few of the personality disorders. At best, people who subscribe to the Zeitgeist theories need pity; in worse cases, they need treatment
 - 4. Most importantly, it is based on horrible theology - they dismiss the Bible as a book of recycled myths, and purposefully reject it when their doctrines run counter to it

I. JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF THE ONLY LIVING GOD

A. Matt. 16:13-17; 1John 4:1-3, 5:10-13; Rom. 14:11-12

II. GOD ORDAINED THAT GOVERNMENTS EXIST TO PROTECT CITIZENS

A. Rom. 13:1-4; 1Peter 2:13-15; 1Tim. 2:1-3

III. GOD ALONE KNOWS OF THE END OF THE WORLD

A. 1Thes. 5:1-3; Mark 13:32-37; Acts 1:7

B. Be assured that it will not be at a time easily predicted

C. People love secrets, mystery, special knowledge; they want to see long term secret plans hidden in the familiar; they are not content that God has revealed it to them already - John 3:16; 2Tim. 3:16-17; 1John 5:19-20