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It's Time to Put the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse Out to Pasture

As long as there's been time, people have been obsessed with the end of time. APOCALYPSE NOT: Everything You Know about 2012, Nostradamus and the Rapture Is Wrong, publishing by Viva Editions in October, is a survey of three millennia of apocalyptic prophecies and the failed dreams and nightmares that have clustered around them. It challenges the entire body of contemporary apocalyptic belief, religious and secular, and traces today's apocalyptic belief systems back across history.

People nowadays who believe in the Rapture or 2012 talk as though nobody has ever predicted the end of the world before. Award-winning futurist John Michael Greer pinpoints the "apocalypse meme" to its origins between 1500 and 1200 BCE and follows it up to the present. He shows just what's happened to all of those who've bought into the notion that the world as we know it is going to disappear sometime soon and give way to a new world.

Among the contemporary beliefs highlighted in APOCALYPSE NOT:

- Many Americans were convinced that on May 21, 2011, the Rapture would come and every truly devout Protestant Christian would suddenly disappear from the face of the earth, going to meet Jesus in the clouds. Convinced there was a miscalculation of God's secret message, believers now expect to be delivered on October 21, 2011.
- Greer reveals the shared historical roots that connect today's Rapture theology with the prophecies of Karl Marx.
- Orthodox Jews have waited for the appearance of the Messiah since the time of King Solomon.
- Many Hindus eagerly anticipate the birth of Kalki, the next avatar of the great Vishnu.
- Buddhists across central Asia long for the appearance of the great Rigden Jyepo, who will vanquish the foes of the Buddhist Dharma.
- A significant number of Americans believe that aliens from a distant planet are visiting Earth secretly in flying saucers, and someday soon will make their presence known. A 2008 Scripps poll found that 56% of Americans believe it likely that intelligent non-human life exists
- Tech-savvy Extropians dream of the Singularity, when computers of superhuman intelligence will abolish all limits to progress. The most prominent proponent of the Singularity is Ray Kurzweil, who has had significant influence on Steve Jobs and Bill Gates.

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By turns tragic and uproariously funny, APOCALYPSE NOT will help readers make sense of the Rapture that didn't happen on May 21, the Mayan calendar that isn't really Mayan and entire spectrum of the last three thousand years of people who thought, like the current crop of apocalypse fans, that they knew when the world was going to end.

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About the Author

JOHN MICHAEL GREER is the author of twenty-four books in the fields of alternative spirituality and future studies, including the award-winning *The New Encyclopedia of the Occult*, *The Long Descent: A User's Guide to the End of the Industrial Age*, and *Secrets of the Lost Symbol*, which has been translated into eight languages. He is also the author of a popular weekly blog on the future, The Archdruid Report, <http://thearchdruidreport.blogspot.com/>. Born and raised in Washington State, he now lives in Cumberland, Maryland, an old red brick mill town in the Appalachians, with his wife.

APOCALYPSE NOT:

Why Everything You Know About 2012, Nostradamus and the Rapture is Wrong

by John Michael Greer

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