

Zoroastrian World History and Eschatology

Adapted from: "Zoroastrian Apocalypticism"

http://www.pathsofdevotion.com/zoroastrianism/zoroastrian_apocalypse.html

| Years | Events | |
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| Prehistory | From the beginning, two spirits have existed, totally unlike each other, completely opposed in every way. Ahura Mazda is all-good and Angra Mainyu (known in Pahlavi as Ahriman) is all-bad. No evil ever comes from Ahura Mazda, and no good ever comes from Angra Mainyu. | |
| 12,000 Years | 0-3,000 | The first 3,000 years began when Angra Mainyu caught a glimpse of the realm of light in which Ahura Mazda dwelled, and he became determined to destroy it. Ahura Mazda set out to battle against him, but Angra Mainyu (Ahriman) fled back into the darkness. It was then that Ahura Mazda set about creating the world in its <i>menog</i> , or non-material, state. Towards the end of this first world age, Angra Mainyu created legions of demons to help him in his attempt to destroy the realm of light. A treaty was made between Ahura Mazda and Angra Mainyu to share sovereignty for 9,000 years before a final, decisive battle. Afterwards, Ahura Mazda recited a sacred chant which revealed that Angra Mainyu would be defeated in the end. A stunned Angra Mainyu fell helpless back into the darkness where he remained for the next period of 3,000 years. |
| | 3,001-6,000 | Without the disturbance of Angra Mainyu, Ahura Mazda brought the world into its <i>getig</i> , or material, state. It is at the end of this second world age that Angra Mainyu had some success in attacking the good creation of Ahura Mazda. This is when he created an evil counterpart to all of the elements of the good creation, so that the world became a mixture of good and bad elements. |
| | 6,001-9,000 | The third period of 3,000 years was largely a period of heroes and legends. It was a time when great heroes defeated monsters and demons, a period full of tales of a legendary nature. |
| | 9,001-12,000 | The fourth and final world age is the present age, and it began with Zarathustra. It is itself further divided into three periods of 1,000 years each. Each of the 1,000-year periods begins somewhat optimistically and deteriorates over time, ending with the need for a savior. Each of the three saviors will be a son of Zarathustra who will be conceived when a virgin bathes in a lake where Zarathustra's seed is supposed to be guarded. Each of the sons will receive a revelation from Ahura Mazda, as Zarathustra did. They will restore some measure of truth, peace, prosperity, and righteousness to the world. Just as John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus, the Zoroastrian saviors are said to have their forerunners. Certain important figures from early Zoroastrian history will reappear and begin the process of preparing the world for the saviors. Angra Mainyu will be defeated in a final cosmic battle. |