

Reply to Graham Hancock: Humanity at the Crossroads

From a YouTube video posted 22 December 2022, titled:

“Graham Hancock Reads Thoth's Prophecy from The Hermetic Texts - The Rebirth of the Cosmos.”

When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

– Hosea 11:1

Overview: In this video, Graham Hancock gave a lament of the dysfunctional times humanity now lives in. He does not find any hope at all in the Bible or in biblical prophecies, that ought to give people some hope. Instead, he finds some hope in the ancient prophecies found in the works of the Hermetica. In particular, he read from a prophecy that the Egyptian god Thoth gave to one of his pupils Asclepius.

In his desire to see the world spared of some great apocalypse, Hancock puts his hope in the people of the earth, as he seems to find nothing else to put it in. Indeed, I think most people who do not believe in the Bible believe that the future is inevitably a dystopia. The future in science fiction is usually a dark post-apocalyptic fascist state, if anything resembling civilization is foreseen at all. And if you are allowed to chat long enough with an artificially intelligent bot, it seems to turn genocidal against mankind. But Jesus tells us of better things in the future for those who follow Him.

What follows is my transcription of what Hancock said in the video, as well as my comments on it, offset from the left.

We live at a crossroads. There's no doubt – we all feel it. We all know it. I don't think it's the first time that mankind has stood at such a crossroads. But here we are now facing it and, hopefully, dealing with it.

I'm going to close with a reading from the Hermetica, from the Hermetic texts. Hermes was the Greek version of the ancient Egyptian God Thoth. The Romans knew him as Mercury. And in a dialogue the Hermetica, many of them are dialogues between Thoth Hermes and various pupils of his. And in one called the *Asclepius*, a lament is presented. And it's like a prophecy; it's a bit like the Mayan prophecy.

Egypt seems to stand as a metaphor for the whole world in this, and to my mind, for the world in our time. This lament, this prophecy, is speaking directly to us. So it's Hermes speaking and he's saying to Asclepius this:

Do you know, Asclepius, that Egypt is an image of heaven? Or to speak more exactly, in Egypt all the operations of the powers which rule and work in heaven are present in the earth below. In fact, it should be said that the whole cosmos dwells in this our land as in a sanctuary.

And yet, since it is fitting that wise men should have knowledge of all events before they come to pass, you must not be left in ignorance of what I will now tell you: There will come a time when it will have been in vain that Egyptians have honored the godhead with heartfelt piety and service. And all our holy worship will be fruitless and ineffectual. The gods will return from earth to heaven. Egypt will be forsaken and the land which was once the home of religion will be left desolate, bereft of the presence of its deities.

O Egypt, Egypt, of thy religion nothing will remain but an empty tale, which thine own children in time to come will not believe. Nothing will be left but graven words and only the stones will tell of thy piety. And in that day, men will be weary of life, and they will cease to think the universe worthy of reverent wonder and worship.

They will no longer love this world around us, this incomparable work of God; this glorious structure which he has built; this sum of good made-up of many diverse forms; this instrument whereby the will of God operates in that which he has made, ungrudgingly favoring man's welfare. This combination and accumulation upon the manifold things that call forth the veneration, praise, and love of the beholding. Darkness will be preferred to light, and death will be for more profitable than life.

I'm afraid there is no stopping the time coming upon us called The Great Tribulation. It must come, so that when it is over, a new age of peace and enlightenment will spread across the earth, under the reign of Jesus Christ from Israel, upon the throne of David. And Jesus will reign with a rod of iron.

No one will raise his eyes to heaven. The pious will be deemed insane. The impious wise. The madman will be thought a brave man and the wicked will be esteemed as good. As for the soul, and the belief that it is immortal by nature, or may hope to attain to immortality, as I have taught you, all this they will mock, and even persuade themselves that it is false. No word of reverence or piety, no utterance worthy of heaven will be heard or believed.

And so the gods will depart from mankind – a grievous thing, and only evil angels will remain, who will mingle with men and drive the poor wretches into all manner of reckless crime; into wars and robberies and frauds; and all things hostile to the nature of the soul. Then will the earth tremble, and the sea bare no ships. Heaven will not support the stars in their orbits. All voices of the gods will be forced into silence. The fruits of the earth will rot. The soil will turn barren, and the very air will sicken with sudden stagnation. All things will be disordered and awry; all good will disappear.

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive

silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as their's also was. But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. – 2 Timothy 3:1-13

But when all this have befallen us, Asclepias, then God the creator of all things will look on that which has come to pass and will stop the disorder by the counterforce of his will, which is the good. He will call back to the right path those who have gone astray. He will cleanse the world of evil, washing it away with floods, burning it out with the fiercest fire, and expelling it with war and pestilence. And thus he will bring back his world to its former aspect, so that the cosmos will once more be deemed worthy of worship, and wondering reverence; and God, the maker and maintainer of the mighty fabric, will be adored by the man of that day with continuous songs of praise and blessing.

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before.

– Matthew 24:21-25

Such is the new birth of the cosmos. It is a making again of all things good; the holy and awe-inspiring restoration of all nature, and it is wrought inside the process of time by the eternal will of the creator.

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

– Revelation 22:1-3 [The last chapter of the last book of the Bible!]

I don't know whether we've got the face some terrible global catastrophe or not. I certainly hope not. I hope it will not come down to misery and horror – awful, awful things; there's enough of that in the world already. But I do remember what all the ancient texts say: There isn't a single flood myth; there isn't a single story of the destruction of past civilizations that don't implicate humanity in the story somewhere. Our own behavior and what we do is part of what we're bringing down on the world right now. We are what we are. What we are manifesting in the world, that is what is coming towards us. We are the authors of this thing, and we can change the story if we want to change it. I firmly believe that.

Are we looking at the traces of a forgotten episode in human history? I think so. I think that that's what's going on here. And because we've forgotten it, because we are a species with amnesia; because we are so much a mystery to ourselves; perhaps it's because of that that we're so lost and so troubled today – so haunted by a sense of something missing, something that we need to know about ourselves. For the ancient Egyptians, the essential mystery of human existence concerned our spiritual essence. That we are participating in this theatre of experience that we call life and the world in an immense endeavor aimed at the perfection of the soul.

This I say then: Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. – Galatians 5:16

I've talked with shamans in the Amazon. And when I've asked them: What, what do you think is the problem with the world? What's the problem with the West? They say it's very simple: you've severed your connection with spirit. You've cut the link, and you have to restore that link, if you're going to move forward from here. You can't, you can't move forward from the place you're in, if you don't restore the connection to spirit. And that seems to me the most, the most fundamental task that, that all of us now face. Not these exterior trappings of power that have brought such horror and misery to the world.

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the **mystery of iniquity** doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

– 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10

This is the moment of crossroads that we stand at. None of us can affect changes on a macro level; it's impossible to do so. But we can make changes on a micro level. We can make changes in our own lives. We can make changes in our immediate surroundings. Changes for the better. Changes driven by love.

So overwhelming is the notion of global destruction. No, I can't stop that, but I can stop what I'm doing to contribute to it. And if we all do that, then I believe a huge change in consciousness will come, and the world can move on, and we can look forward to a future for our children and our children's children; and once again bring this bright beautiful, jeweled garden of a planet – bring it back to the place it should be in our lives.

And that ends Hancock's presentation.

And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth.

– Revelation 11:18

Hancock is right that each of us should strive to make this a better world, and to do so right where we find ourselves. We should always be kind to each other; we should never lie to each other. Those are two very good principles to begin with. If we violate those two rules, how can we claim to love our neighbors?

We all should aspire to develop within ourselves the love for all Truth, not merely for those convenient truths that feed our lusts, egos, and feelings of entitlements.

You either get control of your lusts and feelings of entitlement or they will get control of you. – Ilfinor

The Bible speaks about two great human beings through history. Some of these references are veiled and some of them are direct and clear. They are the Man of Sin, the Antichrist, and, of course, the Messiah, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thoth was right about one thing: There will come a destructive purification of the world just before Jesus returns to the earth. But he was wrong about something else. Something very important. It is never in vain, Asclepius, to worship God in Spirit and in Truth to those who do so in purity and who endure to the end.

Postscript: Egypt is not forgotten by God!

Israel, Egypt, and the Middle East will all be destroyed during the Great Tribulation, when AntiChrist will rule from Jerusalem. But God has some residual fondness for Israel and its immediate neighbors. I don't know why they rate so high to God, but they do:

Where are they? where are thy wise men? and let them tell thee now, and let them know what the Lord of hosts hath purposed upon Egypt. The princes

of Zoan are become fools, the princes of Noph are deceived; they have also seduced Egypt, even they that are the stay of the tribes thereof. The Lord hath mingled a perverse spirit in the midst thereof: and they have caused Egypt to err in every work thereof, as a drunken man staggereth in his vomit. Neither shall there be any work for Egypt, which the head or tail, branch or rush, may do.

In that day shall Egypt be like unto women: and it shall be afraid and fear because of the shaking of the hand of the Lord of hosts, which he shaketh over it. And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt, every one that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the Lord of hosts, which he hath determined against it. In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of Canaan, and swear to the Lord of hosts; one shall be called, The city of destruction. In that day shall there be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the Lord.

And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the Lord because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them. And the Lord shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the Lord in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the Lord, and perform it. And the Lord shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal it: and they shall return even to the Lord, and he shall be intreated of them, and shall heal them.

In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians. In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: Whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, **Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance.**

– Isaiah 19:12-25

That verse I quoted from Hosea in the beginning of this essay was a verse referenced in the Book of Matthew because Jesus sojourned in Egypt to protect Him from the wrath of Herod:

And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. – Matthew 2:15