



## The Great Ages

Plato's statement that the destruction of Atlantis took place 9,000 years before the time of Solon, who visited Egypt c.600 BC, points to the time period c.11,600 years ago for the Flood or sinking of Atlantis. This time period is not only identified in many other traditional stories from around the world but it has also been proved by the geological record to be precisely the date of the cataclysmic ending of the Pleistocene Ice Age, when sea levels rose about 100 to 150 metres worldwide as a result of a rapid melting of the glaciers.

Solon was told by the Egyptian priests that: 'There have been, and will be again, many destructions of mankind arising out of many causes; the greatest have been brought about by the agencies of fire and water, and other lesser ones by innumerable other causes.' (Plato's *Timaeus*.)

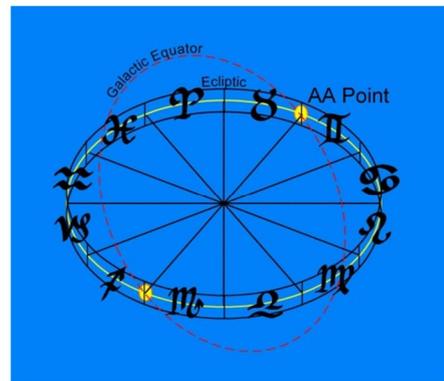
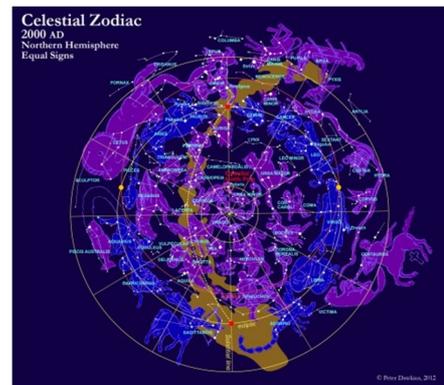
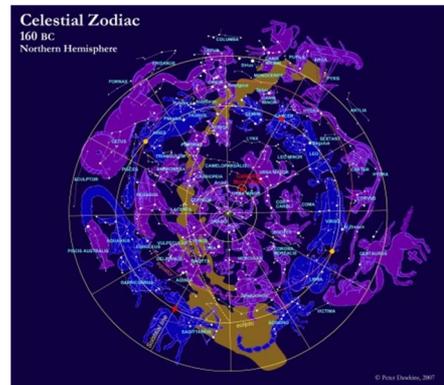
These destructions are cyclical, the primary ones being associated with what is called the Great Age, or Platonic Year, or Phoenix Cycle. This cycle is one of approximately 25,920 years, marked by the time it takes the sun to precess through all twelve signs of the zodiac, being in each sign 2,160 years (i.e. an Age).

The start of the Great Age is indicated by when the sun's position at the two solstices of the year coincides with the two points on the ecliptic (i.e. the sun's path through the heavens) where the equator of the Milky Way galaxy crosses the ecliptic. These two places, opposite each other on the ecliptic circle, are the cusp of Gemini-Taurus and the cusp of Sagittarius-Scorpio. They are the only fixed points on the ecliptic that can be used to calculate long periods of time accurately and are the points from which the twelve equal divisions of the zodiac are calculated.

The actual starting point of a Great Age is when the midsummer sun is on the cusp of Gemini-Taurus (the 'AA' or Alpha-Omega Point) and the midwinter sun is on the cusp of Sagittarius-Scorpio—a situation that is occurring right now in human history. The half-way point of a Great Year is when the solstice sun is in the opposite position—i.e. the midsummer sun is on the cusp of Sagittarius-Scorpio and the midwinter sun is on the cusp of Gemini-Taurus.

These two times, the beginning and the midpoint of each Great Age, are the times of the destructions. At these times, which occur at approximate 12,000-year intervals, the earth appears to be bombarded with cosmic super-rays emanating from the heart of the galaxy. This galactic heart lies close to the ecliptic cusp of Sagittarius-Scorpio; and so when the solstice sun is on that cusp it is said that a channel is opened up from the heart of the galaxy to the earth, down which pours a baptism of water and fire.

From the spiritual point of view these times are associated with the two baptisms: the first by water and the second by air and fire (i.e. the Holy Breath or Spirit). From the physical point of view it causes great changes, difficulties and challenges, with destructions and mutations of species, including the human race. They are major initiatory moments. We are experiencing one right now.



At the start of a Great Age this is when the galactic heart is aligned with the midwinter solstice sun—the Christmas or Birthday of a Great Age. The old Phoenix dies and is reborn, renewed, resurrecting from the ashes of its old form.

Other cycles are also involved, such as those calculated by the Mayan calendar or indicated by planetary cycles and events. From all points of view we are moving right now out of an old Great Age and into a new one, and at the same time moving from what the Mayans refer to as the Fourth World of humanity and into the Fifth World. According to many calendrists, the entry into this Fifth World occurred in 2012 AD.

The name of an Age should be derived from the position of the solstice sun on the ecliptic for accuracy, either at midwinter or midsummer, but in common terminology based on mainstream Western astrology the name is derived from the position of the spring equinox sun, but with an allowance made for the tilt of the Earth's axis which distorts the true reading. From this spring equinoctial point of view, then, we are entering the Age of Aquarius.

If we were to use the more accurate solstitial sun markers, then from the point of view of the midsummer sun we are entering the Age of Taurus, whilst from the point of view of the midwinter sun we are entering the Age of Scorpio. Taurus and Scorpio are respectively the creative and procreative signs. This creative partnership is what begins a new Great Age or Phoenix Cycle of 12 Ages.

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