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World Civilization

### Film Summary~ Maya: Blood of Kings

From 250 AD to 900 AD the Classic Maya Civilization flourished, the cities such as Southern Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras that were built thrived and became the Empire of the Maya. The civilization that became the Empire of the Maya eventually disintegrated due to desertion.

A remarkable achievement of Classic Maya is the invention of the writing system, which is one of five produced in the world. Engravings were discovered with unique written language on the monument walls. The discovery was considered to be as significant as the hieroglyphs of ancient Egypt. Ascribes translated the Spanish alphabet into Maya in order to bring Christianity to the Maya promoted by Diego de Landa, a Catholic priest.

The Maya's mathematical system, a complex system of astronomy, their detailed observations of the night sky were accurately recorded in the 1950s. Eric Thompson was a Mayan archaeologist who believed the people in the Maya society were dedicated to studying the heavens and the meaning of time. Thompson felt the Maya society was a place with peaceful people who worshiped time that was run by priests and timekeepers. Maya people had a culture that was devoted to the tracking of the Stars and society of sacred beliefs.

The Maya built pyramids that were giant stone calendars and sundials. El Castillo the Great Pyramid of Chichen Itza has 365 steps and platforms to mark the days of the year. Similar to the star charts of an astrologer, their codices mapped the positions of the stars and planets.

Maya time machine identifies the astrological significance of every single day using this calendar, Maya priests predicted the precise time and place of solar eclipses. The film pointed out that the average Maya must have felt as if their leaders had the power of the heavens. The accuracy of Maya astronomy was amazing, the cycles of the moon were mapped so precisely. According to the film, the Mayan calendar's cycle of creation will cease to exist on precisely Sunday December 23, 2012. (I guess they were not as precise as the film thought).