

Tribhuvan University

Apocalyptic Vision in James Cameron's *The Terminator 2: The Judgement Day*

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**Letter of Approval**

This thesis entitled “Apocalyptic Vision in James Cameron’s *The Terminator 2: The Judgement Day*” submitted to the Department of English, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, Exhinition Road, Kathmandu by Utar Kumar Chabegu has been approved by the undersigned members of Research Committee:

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## Abstract

This research has been conducted on James Cameron's movie *The Terminator 2: The Judgement Day* which has been explored from the perspective of apocalyptic vision. The Apocalyptic writings in literature especially prevailed from post-Exilic Jewish culture and remained popular among early Christians, puritans and created sensation even in the modern era in 2012.

Apocalypse occurs due to different factors. Such as natural disaster, pestilence, extra terrestrial attack, environmental degradation, nuclear war and technological singularity. Here the writer and director Cameron means to say that it is because of humans' obsessive nature to invent new and advanced scientific technology, we will equip the world only with machines. And these machines will one day in the future be self intelligent, especially skynets. Then they learn that humanity is threat for their existence. Consequently, they form military defense and wage war against humans. That day will be called The Judgement Day where most of the humanity will be destroyed. After that apocalypse new civilization will have to be started just like John Connor starts in *Terminator2: Judgement Day*.

In the movie we see Cyber Dine Company inventing advanced technologies, nuclear holocaust, advanced Cyborg Assassins sent by self-intelligent machine, Skynet, to fight against humans. Even in the beginning of the movie we see the nuclear holocaust in the war between humans and machines where John Connor is seen as a future commando leading his military troop. So, Cameron here wants to make sure about the impending apocalypse which occurs in the future and glorious new world with new civilization after destruction. This is what we call Apocalypse.

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## **1.Introduction to James Cameron's Terminator2 And Apocalyptic Vision.**

James Francis Cameron also known as Iron Jim was born on August 16, 1954 in Kapuskasing, Ontario, Canada. He was the son of Philip Cameron, an electronics engineer, and Shirley Cameron, an artist and nurse. But he grew up in Chippawa, Ontario, with his only brother Mike. He attended Stamford Collegiate School in Niagara Falls, Ontario. He was not so much interested in study eventhough, he furthered his study and got graduation. After graduation, he worked several jobs and wrote when he had time and taught himself on film technology.

Cameron was very much attracted in film industry when he watched *Star Wars* film in 1977 and then entered in film industry. After reading Syd Field's book *Screenplay*, he got inspiration to write on science fiction. Consequently, he wrote, directed and produced his first film called *Xenogenesis* (1978). So, right from the beginning he started producing sci-fi movies. Commenting on the onset of Cameron's sci-fi movies Corman writes:

It was 1982. A then-twenty-seven-year-old James Cameron, recently fired by producer Roger from the Rome-based set of schlocky B movie *Piranha II: The Spawning*, had been staying in as Italian pensione Ahotel, . . . Wracked by fever, one night he dreamed of a 'chrome Skeleton, emerging out of a fire,' cut in half, dragging itself after a woman. As he later told *The New Yorker*, he thought, 'That was cool. I'd never seen that in a movie before.' (1)

Above comment shows that after Cameron was fired from job he had a very abnormal dream about skeleton made of iron and was chasing a woman to kill her. This very dream later on, happened to be a guide to produce sci-fi movies like: *Terminator* and

*Terminator2: Judgement Day*. The skeleton seen in the dream has been shown as terminators in the Terminator series where a woman, Sarah Connor, is followed and tried to kill. Since the Terminators are sent to exterminate human resistance from future by skynet there is a proof that the movie is replete with apocalyptic vision. Moreover, dream vision is one of the features of apocalyptic genre and this very vision has been portrayed by Cameron in his movie so, apocalypse is there in *Terminator2: Judgement Day*.

On the other hand, childhood experience and other experiences that he had gone through played prominent role to write and produce sci-fi action movies having apocalyptic vision. Highlighting favour on this comment Keegan writes, “. . . from that time on, he was fascinated by the idea of nuclear war, his fears fueled by apocalyptic scenario depicted in the science fiction books he devoured at night, reading under blanket with a flashlight” (1).

Keegan means to say that during his childhood Cameron experienced the cause and effect of nuclear holocaust during Cold War and the devastation brought by it. From then on, he started thinking on apocalypse caused by atomic and nuclear blasts. At the same time, he also was influenced by the books (scientific) that he used to read at night from the city library when he was free. The aforementioned apocalyptic concern has been exposed there in his movies Terminators. We call it so as both Terminators’ theme is world’s destruction or extermination of human existence due to nuclear holocaust.

Cameron seems as an atheist and was, too. He most of the time wrote about science and technology but not about theology. Keegan also agrees about the atheism followed by Cameron and writes, “Cameron calls himself ‘Converted Agnostic’, and says ‘I’ve sworn off agnosticism, which I now call cowardly atheism’. As a child he

described the Lord's Prayer as being a 'tribal chant' (8).

But I do not totally agree with what Keegan commented as we see some theological glimpse to prove *T2* as an apocalyptic movie. In religious apocalypse one elect is chosen and sent as a messiah to protect good ones during tribulation. This very way of presenting messiah is clearly found in *T2*. So, Cameron has mingled both religious and scientific methods to expose the apocalyptic theme in the movie *T2*.

Most of the films of James Francis Cameron seem to be replete with past or future visions, prophecies, extermination and apocalyptic scenario. It means he seems as a prophet, fortune teller not only of an individual but of a whole humanity or of a dooms day. Kapell and Stephen Mc Veigh commenting on Cameron's view in writing films write, "The films of James Cameron are dominated by his concern with vision, whether they are visions of the past or future, of strong women and driven man of heroism and villainy, of apocalyptic scenarios and human endurance"(1).

Cameron has been criticized and praised as well by his own contemporaries time again and he was hit with copyright lawsuit, too. Eventhough, due to his devotion and hard work he is now a sought after director of Hollywood film industry. And behind this success, especially apocalyptic sci-fi movies played important role. For example: *Terminator* (1984), *Terminator2: Judgement Day* (1991), *Aliens* (1986) and *Avatar* (2009). We come to know it from the criticism done by Kapell and Stephen Mc Veigh who write about the popularity of Cameron due to apocalyptic theme in his movie:

The creation of blockbuster is something that Cameron has been part of since his earliest filmmaking, and looking to exactly what such narrative really endeavor to provide filmgoers is, Isaacs suggests, a significant cultural undertaking. That process is one of increased



technological sophistication and Cameron has long been a leader in such advances in filmmaking. (219)

Here, Kapell means to say that the world has been sophisticated by excessive invention of new and advanced technology. This is the present issue and the issue of concern to everybody. Cameron has produced several films including this issue therefore, he has been able to make super hit and blockbusters. To take new technology and its devastation as the theme of the movie does not mean to include apocalyptic vision? Yes, it is. So, Cameron has included apocalyptic vision in his movie *T2*.

Except, Terminator series Cameron's another blockbuster *Avatar* (2009), too, shares the theme of apocalypse theologically and scientifically. The term Avatar refers to an incarnation of one of the Hindu gods. This incarnation is similar to the second coming of Jesus Christ, too. We know that in Hindu mythology there are ten Avatars such as Baman Avatar, Matsya Avatar, Kalki Avatar and so on. In each Avatar the messiah appeared during tribulation and protected the good ones and exterminated the evils. This is what theologically called apocalypse. So, the title itself provides the glimpse of apocalypse in *Avatar*. On the other hand, Pandora ecologically rich planet and Nevis are seen to be destroyed by nuclear holocaust. This is what we call apocalypse due to scientific inventions.

Cameron seems very much interested in making apocalyptic movies in the days to come, too. This very thirst of producing sci-fi apocalyptic movie of Cameron has been commented by Keegan as under:

James Cameron has begun to think about life after his two 'Avatar' sequels—and it includes making a female-driven novel called 'The Informationist.' Cameron's production company, Lightstorm

Entertainment, has optioned the rights to the debut book by Taylor Stevens, with plans for Cameron to direct it for 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox, Lightstorm announced Tuesday. (9)

It means Cameron has future plan to make the sequels to *Avatar* from his own production company namely Lightstorm Entertainment (1990), simultaneously to be released in December 2016, 2017 and 2018. Another project Cameron has announced is personal commitment to shoot a film on the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as told through the story of Tsutomu Yamaguchi, a man who survived both attacks. He met with Yamaguchi just before he died in 2010.

Cameron explicitly seems to have mingled past, present and future issues very well in his movies. Sometime his own past memories come to be the subject matter for the future and sometime the main theme of his movie. Summarizing it Keegan further writes:

The pensive eight- year boy would grow up to tell vivid stories about worlds ending, from a machine-led war in 2029 to an unsinkable ship's descent into the deep in 1912. Each James Cameron movie is a warning against his darkest childhood fears and a kind of how-to guide for living through catastrophe with humanity and spirit intact. His own story with a long line of troublemakers. (1)

Among the issues, future issue i.e. machine-led war in 2029 refers to the apocalyptic theme. As per Cameron, in 2029 skynet forms a military defense and wage war against humans to protect itself which leads total destruction of the world and humanity. As Cameron himself went through many tribulation of warfare in his life he writes and makes films on apocalypse to guide people how to live life in catastrophes.

Likewise, Cameron's devotion in writing script shows that he, one day in the

future, will be a well-known writer and director in Hollywood film industry because once at one desk, he was writing the script to *The Terminator* (1984), on another, he was finishing the script to *Rambo: First Blood Part II* (1985) and on the third, he was writing *Aliens* (1986).

Regarding the fame and name of his films, most of his films are blockbusters and famous throughout the world. Four of his films have made it to the IMDb top 250 list: *The Terminator* (1984), *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* (1991), *Aliens* (1986) and *Avatar* (2009). Similarly, in 2010, his movie *Avatar* (2009) became the highest grossing movie of all time. It is also the first movie to gross the 2 billion dollar mark at the box office. Until *Avatar* (2009), Cameron's previous movie *Titanic* (1997) was the highest grossing movie of all time for 12 years. Moreover, Apart from *The Terminator* (1984), all of his films have been nominated for or won the Academy Award for Best Visual Effects. He has reached the bottom of the Mariana Trench known as the deepest point on Earth, at 11 km. below the ocean surface on 25 March 2012, becoming the first person to do so in a one-man craft viz. Deepsea Challenger. James Cameron has been nominated for six Academy Awards overall and won three for *Titanic*.

Cameron's directorial style has provided great influence throughout the film industry of Hollywood. Joss Whedon has been influenced by Cameron's influential approach to action scenes of *The Avengers*. Cameron's approach to 3D also inspired Baz Luhrmann to utilize it in *The Great Gatsby*. Other directors that have drawn inspiration from Cameron include Peter Jackson and Michael Bay.

From the above information, we come to know that even if in the beginning he faced a lot of problems regarding his job in film industry in the long run when he started to make apocalyptic movies he was able to get name fame and pelf.

James Cameron's movies mostly possess the theme of innovative technology, Armageddon, nuclear holocaust, alien invasion, natural disaster, apocalypse and the like. Similarly, his films have recurring themes and subtexts. These include the conflicts between humanity and technology, the dangers of corporate greed, strong female characters, and a strong romance subplot. In almost all films, the main characters usually get into dramatic crisis situations with significant threats to their own life or even the threat of an impending apocalypse.

Before moving onto the main motif of Cameron's movie *The Terminator2: Judgment Day* it is essential to go through the central theme of the franchise i. e. the battle for survival between the human race and the self-aware artificial intelligence that is Skynet. Skynet is positioned in the first film as a U.S. strategic defense computer system by Cyberdyne Systems which becomes self-aware and, on perceiving all humans as a threat, seeks to wipe out humanity itself. It initiates a nuclear first strike against Russia, ensuring a devastating counter strike and a nuclear holocaust, wiping out much of humanity instantly. In the post-apocalyptic aftermath, Skynet builds up its own autonomous machine-based military capability, which includes the Terminators used against individual human targets, and proceeds to fight a war against the surviving elements of humanity. But as said by Larson, John Connor the pre-destined future leader gets victory over machine. He further writes:

In 1997, advances in computer technology lead to the creation of an unmanned military defense system which begins to learn at a 'geometrical' rate. The system triggers a nuclear holocaust in order to save itself from human intervention, but after years of struggle, led by one John Connor, humans defeat the machines. (59)

Possibility of being intelligent and wage nuclear war against humans by machines

does not seem so realistic. In this sense, apocalypse in future by machines is not sure to happen. But there are lots of proofs that we can put forward to show the possibility of apocalypse due to self intelligent machines. Many years ago people did not know that they would in the future use advanced means of transportation such as rocket, means of communication such as internet and would not have thought that one day they would reach on the moon. But now a days these all things are possible and in the future some other thing which are not seen so far will be possible because scientists always work to find something new and are inventing more advanced technologies. In this sense, just as the way we switch on the TV with remotely located remote so the machines may start working with remote connection. If it happens so then there is possible of apocalypse due to nuclear holocaust.

Likewise, at some point in the future, Skynets develop the ability of time travel, and they seek to use it to win the war by preventing or forestalling their present timeline. In the franchise, Judgment Day (a reference to the biblical Day of Judgment) is referred to as the date on which Skynet becomes self-aware, decides to exterminate mankind, and launches the attack in Russia. Due to the element of time travel and the consequent ability to change the future, several dates are given for Judgment Day during the franchise. Similarly, in the first franchise, machines take over the world in the near future, directed by the artificial intelligence Skynet. With its sole mission to completely annihilate humanity, it develops cyborg assassins called Terminators that outwardly appear human. A man named John Connor starts the Tech-Com resistance to defeat them and free humanity. With a human victory imminent, the machines' only choice is to send a Terminator back in time to kill John's mother, Sarah Connor, before he is born, preventing the resistance from ever being founded. With the fate of humanity at stake, John sends soldier Kyle Reese back to protect his mother and

ensure his own existence.

Being particular *Terminator2: Judgment Day* (1991) is a science fiction action film the second installment of the Terminator franchise and sequel to *Terminator* (1984) co-written by James Cameron and William Wisher Jr. This mostly imparts the theme of 'Apocalypse'. Future to be leader and savior of human remnant during nuclear holocaust, John Connor, seems to have been nurtured by his mother with the military training but his mother is kept in asylum thinking she was an insane woman as she always talked about the havoc occurring in the future. He is found to have been looked after by foster parents afterwards. Where he appears as mischievous boy and roams everywhere. On the other hand, future sends two Terminators: T-1000 and T-800 former as a destroyer and later as a savior of John Connor respectively. But before reaching to John Connor, T-1000 has to tackle with T-800 and murders lots of people along with his foster parents and brings destruction. Likewise, Sarah Connor tries her best to destroy the cyberdyne System Company and tries to kill cyberdyne System engineer Miles Dyson to nip the possibility of nuclear holocaust in the bud. In this sense, all the characters have played important role to portray the theme of apocalypse in the movie.

Critically speaking, many dates of apocalypse came and went but as said apocalypse did not take place in the history. And again we are not sure whether the apocalypse as said by Cameron will happen or not in the future but he has included some of the basis of apocalypse in *Terminator2: Judgement Day*.

Lexical meaning of the word Terminator is to make an end. So, from the title we come to know that something is going to end and something new is going to be started. In the beginning of the movie we see the world (2029) annihilated by nuclear war waged by machines and Connor is shown as the leader of human resistance

starting new civilization. This scene is the first basis to prove *Terminator2: Judgement Day* as apocalyptic movie. Sarah Connor a protagonist in the film has dream vision of apocalypse. To include dream vision in any genre happens to be apocalypse so, this is the second basis to make *T2* apocalyptic. Another basis is the nuclear holocaust happening in the year 1997 where 3 crore people were killed as per Sarah. Similarly, two Terminators: T-800 and T-1000 are the products of the future intelligent skynet that nearly annihilated human existence in the year 2029. This concept of new and advanced technology and cyborg assassin of upcoming scenario are all appropriate ingredients to make the movie *T2* apocalyptic. Similarly, Miles Dyson's formulation of new formula from the chip of previous Terminator i.e. T-101 also appears as the glimpse in the movie that sooner or later in the future apocalypse takes place.

Above all, along with some other movies of James Cameron, *Terminator2: Judgement Day* is apocalyptic movie which is replete with apocalyptic vision and therefore can be claimed that apocalypse in the future is sure to happen as in the movie due to advanced and new technology.

## II. Apocalypse Defined

### 2.1 History of Apocalypse

Apocalyptic theory germinated and sprouted in the field of theology since the beginning of human civilization and went together with the evolution of human development for century. It means, this theory has already gone through long history and remained as a particular genre for many scholars, geologists, Mathematicians, Astrologers, Prophets, even scientists and specially Millennialists and theologians.

It is said that approximately in 2800BC the world was speedily coming to an end. Bribery and corruption were common. Which was the earliest example of the perception of moral decay in society being interpreted as a sign of the imminent end. But exact date and proof has not been found so far. But, William Martin defines that Apocalyptic genre was propounded first in Jewish Literature in 200 B. C. and that flourished for years and was not the prominent theme of Christians literature in the beginning. He writes:

. . . the end-time literature is not of paramount concern to mainstream biblical scholars, and interpretations such as those of Darby and Scofield have no standing whatever. Instead, the Scriptures on which the pre-millennial view is based are regarded as part of a distinctive genre of Jewish literature called "apocalyptic" (not "prophetic"), which flourished between 200 B.C. and A.D. 100. (31)

The above extract clarifies that apocalyptic literature was propounded in Jewish culture in the beginning as a distinguish genre before Jesus was born. And at that time it was not the genre of concern for Christianity. But, later on it prevailed in Christianity, too. We even know the apocalypse germinated its seeds from 200 B.C.

As per Quinby Lee the history of Apocalypse goes back hundreds of



thousands of years and has covered the wide range literary field which has been exposed as under:

This proliferation and persistence is why it is accurate to use the term "apocalypse" beyond its scope of strict definition to designate a regime of truth that has appeared over a long period of time and through a wide variety of statements, rather than insisting on it as a limited set of writings that appeared only once in pure form with spin-offs for the last two thousand years . . . what stands out is apocalypticism's perdurable appeal as a way of grappling with death, destruction, and eternity. (5)

Lee means to say that apocalypse did not appear at once within a short period of time. Instead it went on over a long period of time to keep its place in literature. For a long time it stood as a genre to describe the deaths, destruction and eternity after destruction. The eternity after destruction stands as similar concept of apocalypse found in Cameron's *Terminator2: Judgement Day*. It is so because in T2 after nuclear holocaust John Connor forms new and eternal utopia.

Apocalyptic thinking gripped many ancient cultures, including the Romans. Early in Rome's history, many Romans feared that the city would be destroyed in the 120<sup>th</sup> year of its founding. Charlse describes the theological history on apocalypse. As per him during tribulation a righteous one is sent as a Messiah by God to protect the Good ones. He says, "The end is coming, that all the earth will be completely destroyed; and tell him that a flood is about to come upon all earth and destroy everything on the earth. How he may preserve his soul and escape forever" (31).

This concept of apocalypse caused by flood and saved by Messiah is similar to the apocalypse caused by nuclear holocaust in Cameron's *Terminator2: Judgement*

*Day* in the sense that John Connor is produced as Messiah to protect human remnant after nuclear war was between humans and machines in the future.

Lee believes about the long term flow of apocalypse in different eras of history which had been descended from one generation to another. He writes, “Because the Puritans so thoroughly adhered to the Bible, I want to turn briefly to the central elements of Old and New Testament Apocalypse that became dogma in Puritan apocalypse and have continued to hold sway over the last two centuries in the United States” (7).

It means apocalyptic concern which was propounded in the Jewish culture in 200 B.C. was transformed in Old and New Testament Apocalypse of Christian culture in the first century. And when puritans formed their cult in 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century they even advocated the Old and New Testament Apocalypse as their religious dogma. In this way, we come to know that it even flourished in sixteenth and seventeenth century as well.

There are many stories of apocalyptic paranoia around year 1000 because it was once believed that Jesus would come again in 1000 AD. But after Jesus failed to return in 1000, some mystics pushed the date of the End to the thousand anniversary of the Crucifixion. This very concept of Christ’s incarnation also helped to bring freshness and further the concept of apocalypse in the history.

Italian artist Botticelli wrote a caption in Greek on his painting *The Mystical Nativity*, “I Sandro painted this picture at the end of the year 1500 in the troubles of Italy . . . according to the eleventh chapter of St. John in second woe of the Apocalypse in the loosing of the devil for three and a half years. Then he will be chained in the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter” (np).

The follow painting shows the continuation of apocalypse in 15<sup>th</sup> century.



Fig.1

Above painting shows the fifteenth century apocalypse that happened when Italy was in trouble in 1500. We see angles hanging around catching the branch of trees and just above them we see heaven. Likewise, we see dark den under the hut which is the sign of hell and a baby on the piece of cloth which is sign of shroud where one is kept after he/she dies. And some devils are hidden around which are chained in the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of St. John's book and good ones are freed.

After the World War I and II the apocalyptic thought held sway upon the mind of even general public and therefore influenced the scenario. Feenberg has come to know this fact and writes:

The myth takes two forms, corresponding to the material and spiritual destruction of humanity by its own technology. Nuclear and environmental disaster promises the death of the human species, while future technologies of mind control are extrapolated from contemporary propaganda, advertising, and computers. I describe three significant moments in the process by which these apocalyptic and dystopian themes entered popular consciousness in the 1950s and 1960s. (41)

Most of the histories mentioned above seem to be religious or theological but with the advent of science and technology there appeared technological or scientific destruction, too. From the above extract Feenberg manifests the apocalypse happened mostly after WWI and WWII where lots of lives were claimed by nuclear blast like in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He further believes that these advanced scientific technology will one day be the cause of destruction. And we can further claim that in 1950s and 60s apocalypse remained the burning issues due to nuclear holocaust.

And at last, the latest issue which has created sensation throughout the world is. e. Apocalypse 2012 seems to be the current apocalypse in the history. Many scholars have defined it having their own perspective, among them Kelly is one, who writes:

Recently the magnetic North pole has begun drifting across Canada and is headed for Siberia. Also, the strength of the Earth's magnetic field has weakened noticeably, being about 10% weaker now than when scientists began measuring it in 1845. Based on these findings,

some scientists are now convinced that a reversal of the Earth's magnetic poles is underway. They're predicting that in 2012-2013 this reversal will be completed with the North pole having the polarity of the South Pole and vice versa. (36)

Aforementioned extract shows the belief on apocalypse by scientists in the present context. To some extent it seems controversy as 2012 came and went but nothing happened. But from the general and natural point of view we can say that apocalypse of any kind is sure to happen in the future because the earth just like other phenomena was born once and again just like other entity is going to die.

Above all we come to know the chronological history of apocalyptic theory which went on for years with human evolution and has especially carried the theological belief of apocalypse caused by Second coming of Jesus Christ along with fire, flood, astrological upheaval and advanced technology just like Cameron's apocalypse.

## **2.2 Apocalyptic Literature and its creation**

Apocalyptic literature was a new genre of prophetic writing that developed in post-Exilic Jewish culture and popular among millennialist, early Christians. The flaming poetry of the *Book of Revelation* that is traditionally ascribed to John is well known to many Christians who are otherwise unaware of the literary genre it represents. An apocalypse is a literary report of a fearful, often violent, vision that reveals truths about past, present and future times in highly symbolic and poetical terms. The poet may represent himself as transported into heavenly realm, or the vision may be unveiled-and even interpreted-by an angelic messenger. Apocalyptic exhortations are aimed at chastening and reforming their hearers with threats of punishment and rewards in the coming end times. A brief apocalyptic vision is found

in *Gospel of Mark*, too.

*The Book of Enoch* in the history of Apocalyptic literature remained as a forefront apocalyptic text for the readers to read. Charles, regarding the genre of the book views it as totally apocalyptic:

As the Book of Enoch is the most notable extant of apocalyptic work outside the canonical Scriptures, it will not be inappropriate to offer a few remarks here on the Apocalyptic Literature generally. Prof. Burkitt says very pointedly that "they are the most characteristic survival of what I will venture to call, with all its narrowness and its incoherence, the heroic age of Jewish history, the age when the nation attempted to realize in action the part of the peculiar people of God. It ended in catastrophe . . . . (vii)

*The Book of Enoch* is, from religious point of view, apocalyptic. Here when the earth is in tribulation due to destructive flood a Messiah, Noah, is sent to protect the elect ones so that all the devils would die in the flood. Similarly it also imparts the apocalyptic concept of Jewish culture which was the first apocalyptic literature.

Dr. L. Michael White drew attention to the new direction prophecy took after the Hebrews' return from the trauma of the Babylonian captivity. Earlier prophets of Israel and Judah had spoken of the word of God. The newer apocalyptic writings, in the aftermath of the destruction of Solomon's temple looked forward to coming divine retribution and made forecasts of the future that contrasted hope and despair. Early examples of the apocalyptic world-view can be found in the late additions made to *Isaiah* by the pseudepigraphical writer called the "Third Isaiah" and in the collection of prophetic forecasts of this new kind that are collected as *Ezekiel*.

Lee says that the bombing attempt of WWI and WWII along with famine

caused by natural disaster prominently occupied the main theme in apocalyptic literature in The United States of America. He writes:

For many, it is the only way to describe the horrors of the Holocaust, the destructive capacity of the U.S. bombings at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, or the devastation of bodies shrunken by famine.

Apocalyptic prophecy is also the most resonant discourse in the United States today for expressions of hope and a sense of urgency about necessary changes in attitudes and behavior, for apocalypse is about celebration as well as destruction. (3)

Sometimes we find the contradictory definition regarding apocalyptic literature because Lee has defined it as a means to describe only the horrors of bomb blasts and nuclear holocaust where as in the past it was mostly defined as a means to give to the people during tribulation. Anyway, it denotes the destruction and regeneration of reformed world.

The new cultural element included extreme and vivid polarized contrasts in apocalyptic literature, a city of Evil (Babylon) contrasted to the city of Good (Jerusalem). A new focus on eschatology, the End of All Things, was also foreign to the earlier Hebrew tradition. Some, though not all apocalyptic literature was messianic, predicting the imminent arrival of a savior.

The literary genre 'Apocalyptic literature' which flourished from about 200 BC to about 200 AD, mainly in Jewish and Christian literature, but the use of word 'Apocalypse' as genre label became common from about the 2<sup>nd</sup> century on, were written in times of crises, to give hope to the distressed and motivate them to hold on. A time would come when their enemies would be destroyed by godly intervention and they would be rewarded for their faithfulness. This very idea about the subject matter

of apocalyptic literature has also been exposed by Charles when he translated the original *Book of Enoch* where he writes:

Hope is the main underlying motive-power which prompted the writers of the Apocalypses. And this hope is the more intensive and ardent in that it shines forth from a background which is dark with despair . . . a world in which the godly were of no account, while the wicked seemed too often triumphant and prosperous . . . Despairing of the world around them, the Apocalyptists centered their hope upon a world to come, where the righteous would come to their own and evil would find no place. It is this thought which underlies the opening words of the Book of Enoch. (viii)

Here Charles means to say that whenever wicked seemed triumphant and godly were disappointed the literary figures wrote to give hope to the oppressed so that they could struggle and hold on for the future remedy. This is how apocalyptic literature propounded in the beginning.

The genre seems to have grown out of a culture of religious desperation, seeking to bring assurance and comfort to those who were experiencing doubts or persecution. We find especially three cultural factors that promoted the form. First, the text would come from a “religious remnant” that considered themselves to be a righteous minority immersed in an unrighteous world. Second, the genre usually addresses issues of good and evil, assuring the remnant of their righteous status as the text describes the doom of the evil. Third, the remnant experienced a cessation of prophesy.

Similarly, apocalyptic writings arose at a time when Israel had been subject for generations to the sway of one or other of the great world-powers. Hence to



harmonize such difficulties with belief in God's righteousness, it had to take account of the role of such empires in the counsels of God, the rise, duration and downfall of each in turn, till finally the lordship of the world passed into the hands of Israel, or the final judgement arrived.

Overwhelmed by the destruction of their kingdom and their domination by foreign nations (Babylon, Greece, and then Rome), the Jews were searching for an end to the conflict. "Apocalyptic thought flourished during a time of intense suffering, the historical climax of which came during the reign of the half-mad Seleucid ruler, Antiochus Epiphanes. With his insane zeal for furthering Hellenism, he dedicated himself to the total extinction of Judaism. He butchered pigs on Solomon's altar. He proscribed the reading of the Law. If a Jewish male infant was circumcised, the entire family and the officiating priest were slaughtered. It was in this atmosphere of persecution that apocalyptic was born. Whereas, the genre seems to have arisen in Palestine in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC., perhaps as a protest against an oppressive and dominant establishment of apostate Jewish.

In *Great Soviet Encyclopedia* (1979) it is found that The Apocalypse was written in the middle of A.D.68 and 69 (soon after the death of the Roman emperor Nero) by a Jew who became a Christian. According to the tradition of the church, the apostle John the Evangelist is author of the Apocalypse.

As per Lee pre-twentieth and twentieth century apocalyptic literature encompasses the dual theme i.e. extermination and revelation caused by God on the one hand and by nuclear holocaust on the other hand. He on this issue writes:

Although pre-twentieth-century forms of apocalypse have had any number of internal differences, they have all held the belief that God was the source of both revelation and destruction. Twentieth-century

apocalyptic expression includes this concept of divine design but also includes the possibility of an accidental end brought on by technological prowess, which might occur in a flicker of time by a nuclear blast or by the gradual deadening of global warming. (10)

The genres gained in popularity after World War II, when the possibility of global annihilation by nuclear weapons entered the public consciousness. However, recognizable apocalyptic novels have existed at least since the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when Mary Shelley's *The Last Man* was published.

Among books of prophecy of this new kind, the *Book of Daniel* and *The Book of Enoch* are accepted as the primitive books of apocalypse. The sense of a canonic literature developed in the Rabbinic tradition during the first centuries of the Common era. The so-called Sibylline Oracles, which were assembled partly in Alexandria, are filled with pseudo-prophecy and threatening generalities; they bridge any apparent gap between late Jewish apocalyptic literature and early Christian writing in the genre. In the transition from Jewish literature to that of early Christianity, there is a continuation of the tradition of apocalyptic prophecy. Christianity preserved the Jewish apocalyptic tradition, as Judaism developed into Rabbinism and gave it a Christian character either by a forcible exegesis or by a systematic process of interpolation. Christianity cultivated this form of literature and made it the vehicle of its own ideas. Christianity saw itself as the spiritual representative of what was true in prophecy and apocalypse.

The effect of past history in present and prophecy of future; worsening condition of present world and remedy in the future; God's intervention during tribulation generally remain as the main ingredients of this genre. Martin portrays the characteristic features and content of apocalyptic literature as a whole as under:

Despite its imaginative nature and variety of detail, apocalyptic literature consistently displays several identifying characteristics. In symbolic language filled with mysterious numbers, fantastic beasts, and unusual meteorological and astral occurrences, the writer first sketches a selective dive survey of past history, which has the effect of certifying the vision as trustworthy, then moves to predictions about the future. In almost all such literature, the world is depicted as bad and getting worse, with little hope for improvement by human agency. Just when total destruction seems inevitable, the present age is brought to an end by God's intervention and a glorious new age dawns, complete with a flawless paradisiacal realm. This dualistic contrast of the two ages often, but not always, includes a Messiah (or Christ) and an Antimesiah (or Antichrist) as lords of the two eras. (31)

From the above extract we can sort out some common features of apocalyptic literature. To be apocalyptic the genre must possess symbolic language, mysterious numbers, fantastic beats, survey of past history, prediction about the future, world getting worse, god's intervention, glorious new age, presentation of Messiah and Antimesiah.

Longman III & Raymond B. Dillard highlighting some other characteristic features of apocalyptic literature write, "These traits include the following: narrow eschatology . . . mediated revelation . . . unusual imagery . . . setting of oppression . . . deterministic view of history and attendant optimism . . . and pseudonymity and prophecy after the fact" (387).

Apocalypse are revelatory texts, usually embedded in a dream or vision, in which a divine being (usually an angel) mediates or explains a chronological scenario

that focuses on the Judgement of the dead and the kingdom of God that is to come or the revelations from heavenly messengers about the end times may come from angels, or from people who have been up to heaven and are returning to earth with messages. The descriptions not only tell of the end times, but also describe both past and present events and their significance, often in heavily coded language. When speaking of the end times, apocalyptic literature generally includes chronologies of events that will occur and frequently places them in the near future, which gives a sense of urgency to the prophet's larger message. Though the understanding of the present is bleak, the visions of the future are far more positive, and include divine victory and a complete reformation of absolutely everything. Many visions of these end times mirror creation mythologies, invoking triumph of God over the primordial forces of chaos, and clear distinctions between light and dark, good and evil.

The language applied is generally cryptic. Animal imagery, number symbolism and otherworldly journeys are common instruments and are pseudonymous, too. But the imagery in apocalyptic literature is not realistic or reflective of the physical world as it was, but is rather surreal and fantastic, invoking a sense of wonder at the complete newness of the new order to come. In this literature the secrets of the heavenly world or of the world to come are revealed by angelic mediation within a narrative framework. Apocalyptic eschatology is marked by the conviction that God will intervene decisively in the present evil age and vindicate his suffering elect over their oppressors, raising the dead, consigning the wicked to eternal destruction, and establishing a new creation.

But new apocalyptic literature encompasses theme of extermination of may be old generation, civilization, culture or world due to natural disaster, pestilence, global warming, extra terrestrial attack, nuclear holocaust or advanced machines. Dellamora

supporting the end theme of apocalypse writes, “Arithmetical predictions of the End are bound to be disconfirmed. The genre of apocalypse includes a concept of repetition that permits the writing of new stories about the end” (xii).

It means whatever the way one tries his/her best to interpret the apocalyptic literature, the end of the old civilization or generation or legend or legacy or world and the onset of new reign or world is its prominent feature.

The main objective of this literature in general was to solve the difficulties connected with the righteousness of God and the suffering condition of His righteous servants on earth where as some may distinguish between the messages of the prophets and the messages of proto-apocalyptic and apocalyptic literature by saying that the message of the prophets was primarily a preaching of repentance and righteousness if the nation would escape judgement; the message of the apocalyptic writers was of patience and trust for that deliverance and reward were sure to come. Neither the prophets nor the apocalyptic authors are without conflict between their messages, however, and there are significant similarities between prophecy and apocalyptic writings. Prophecy believes that this world is God’s world and that in this world His goodness and truth will yet be vindicated. Hence the prophet prophesies of a definite future arising out of and organically connected with the present.

The apocalyptic writer despairs of the present and directs his hopes to the future, to a new world standing in essential opposition to the present. The prophet stood in direct relations with his people; his prophecy was first spoken and afterwards written. The apocalyptic writer could obtain no hearing from his contemporaries, who held that, though God spoke in the past, there was no more any prophet. The apocalyptic writer, therefore, professedly addressed his book to future generations. There was a sense in which such books were not wholly pseudonymous. Their writers

were students of ancient prophecy and apocalyptic tradition, and they might recast and reinterpret them, they could not regard them as their own inventions.

The word 'Apocalypse' has been derived from Greek word 'apokalupsis', meaning to "revel" or "uncover" something that has been hidden, apocalypse has come to refer to prophecies of the end times, whether biblical, apocryphal, or secular.

As per the Jewish and Christian writings in between (200B.C. to A.D.350) apocalypse means to make revelations of the ultimate divine purpose or prophetic revelation, concerning cataclysm in which the forces of good permanently triumph over the forces of evil. Likewise, it also means any universal or widespread destruction or disaster: the apocalypse of nuclear war. The apocalypse is final catastrophe which is supposed to come at the end of the world or time. In this sense, apocalypse means both the end and a new beginning. In general, apocalypse means the end of the civilization due to a potentially existential catastrophe such as nuclear holocaust, pandemic, cybernetic revolt, extraterrestrial attack, technological singularity, natural disaster, supernatural phenomena, climatic change, divine judgment and regeneration of the new world.

Keller even includes the perspective of Liberationists on Apocalypse or Revelation, "According to liberationist reading, Revelation belongs to an entire genre of resistance to colonization. It echoes earlier prophetic traditions in the light of a rising level of crisis: the threat of genocide, that is, of religious and cultural extinction as well as economic repression, was real when the text was set down" (39).

From the diverse definition mentioned above we come to the conclusion that in different eras different scholars interpreted the word 'Apocalypse' differently i.e. Prophecy, Revelation, Complete destruction, end of something old and beginning of something new but here James Francis Cameron connotes the word Apocalypse as

the extermination of human existence due to excessive invention and use of new and advanced technology or nuclear weapons and the beginning of new world led by John Connor.

### **2.3 Causes of Apocalypse**

There are numbers of factors which cause the end of something old and make a beginning of something new. It may be the end of civilization, or era or dynasty or politics or even of the world. As per the aforementioned idea numbers of factors seem to have been the cause of apocalypse but Kelly takes tsunami as a factor to cause it and explains the havoc caused by tsunami as under:

Slightly after daybreak, and heralded a thick succession of fiercely shaken thunderbolts, the solidity if the whole earth was made to shake and shudder, and the sea was driven away, its waves were rolled back, and it disappeared, so that the abyss of the depths was uncovered and many-shaped varies of sea-creatures were seen stuck slime; the great waste of those valleys and mountains, which the very creation had dismissed the vast whirlpools . . . . (141)

Here Kelly has exposed the destruction of earth and creatures due to natural disaster namely tsunami. Due to tsunami most of the mountains and valleys have been washed away and the living creatures have been pushed there in whirlpools and thunderbolts causing their death. In general, there are lots of natural factors causing destruction but sometimes tsunami appears as the main cause of destruction. In this sense, Kelly takes it as a mean to cause apocalypse in any time.

Heavenly bodies sometimes can bring great destruction on the earth when disorder happens to be seen in the networks of these bodies. Among the heavenly bodies asteroid or meteor have been the cause of destruction in the history. Everyone

knows that on June 9, 2006 when a meteor slammed into Northern Norway with an impact force equal to the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan it caused great devastation, turning 1/3 of the world's oceans a poisonous red color, killing 1/3 of marine life and destroying thousands of ships.

In the history right from the Trojan War, human civilization has gone through many warfare. Consequently, some of the existing civilizations were totally annihilated and some new civilizations were onset. Russell also expresses his idea on it and takes war as a cause of apocalypse. He, providing the data of casualties in the World War I writes:

The world's actual loss of men in the war is estimated at not less than 10,000,000 counting those killed in action, died of wounds, or dead from other causes in prison camps or in the field. These estimates do not include 800,000 American Christians massacred by the Turks at the order of the German general staff, nor the Belgian and French civilians starved to death, infected with typhus and tuberculosis by hypodermic injection, or murdered outright by German soldiery under orders, nor the German wholesale slaughter of Serbians, of Greeks in Asia Minor, nor similar victims in Poland, Lithuania and southwest Russia, outnumbering no doubt the total loss of fighting men in all the armies. (422)

Here the data provided by Russell does not include all the casualties found during WWI. Eventhough, the death tole crosses more than one crore. The lose of more than one crore lives seems to be the lose of one generation from the earth. During this war we not only lost the human casualties but also physical phenomena throughout the world. In this sense, Russell is right to claim that nuclear wars are the enough factors



to cause apocalypse.

Even in the Greek history we come to know the end of the first stage of ancient Greek history known as Bronze Age or Mycenaean period, due to Trojan War between Troy and Sparta that went on for ten years. While translating the book of Homer i.e. *The Essential Iliad* Lombardo writes, “The Trojan legend is a story of large-scale destruction. It includes not only the annihilation of Troy, but the many disruptions, almost as devastating as what they have inflicted on the Trojans, experienced by the Greeks as they return” (xxxiii).

Sometimes even endemic, epidemic, pestilence or plague seems to have been one of the factors to cause apocalypse. Keller seems to have manifested this ideas while criticizing some apocalyptic movies, “Movies like *The Andromeda Strain* and *Breakout* privileged deadly plagues as the means of apocalypse, as did a widely watched TV mini-series called *The Stand* an evangelical allegory about a Christ-figure holding out against a New Age-style”(4).

As per Lee new and advanced technology has facilitated us and our life and the whole world has been made the place of pleasure, but at the same time it has also brought total destruction. Highlighting this perspective he writes:

The first holds technology responsible for human and world devastation, through such threats as nuclear crisis, environmental degradation, and mechanized dehumanization. The second position presents technology as the means whereby humanity and the earth will be perfected as a heaven on earth . . . yet holding out hope that from it will spring a new order.(6)

From the above extract we know that due to advanced technology first we made our earth just like heaven but when we waged nuclear war we made it worse than hell and

annihilated humanity and our own existence from the earth. This concept of apocalypse due to advanced technology is similar with the apocalyptic concept of Cameron in his movie *T2*.

Even earthquake in the history seems to have brought destruction and havoc which has cleared the physical phenomena established by both humans and nature and consequently new generation begins. Yanling foregrounds the damage caused by earthquake in Manila:

By tonight, the official count was 429 dead and 1,225 injured. And Defense Secretary fidel V Ramos said the death toll could rise to 1,000 including scores of people believed to be entombed in landslides along Kennon Road . . . in Baguio 28 buildings collapsed, including three large hotels, several factories and a university building. The power and water supply systems were badly damaged. Officials said it could take as long as 20 years for the city to recover from the devastation. (np)

We have gone through many troubles caused by earthquakes time and again. We know the devastating earthquake of 1990 B.S., 2046 B.S. and 2069 B.S. respectively. Due to those quakes just like in nuclear war we found human and physical destruction. That is the reason why earthquake seems to the cause of apocalypse as said by Yanling. He has written that it takes 20 years for the city to recover from the devastation. It means quake has totally destroyed the city and regeneration is needed which is called apocalypse.

It is said that Electromagnetic energy is released during Polar reversal which cause the annihilation of the earth. Kelly keeping this energy as the cause of apocalypse writes:

The effects of a magnetic field collapse would be even more severe.

According to some projections, the electromagnetic energy released from the sun during a polar reversal could cause Earth's upper atmosphere to "erupt in flames" if our magnetic field isn't there to deflect it . . . The convergence of other prophetic timelines leads me to believe that the 6<sup>th</sup> Seal Judgment might very well be John's description of this coming dual Magnetic Polar Reversal. (37)

This scientific reason of destruction provided by Kelly seems to be stronger cause of apocalypse than mentioned above in the sense that due to electromagnetic energy released from sun during polar reversal the whole upper part of earth is engulfed by the fire. Consequently, the earth is annihilated and remnant of the humanity has to re start the new civilization.

These are only certain and particular examples of some particular countries. Here the destruction caused by Tsunami and war throughout the world has not been included; and the havoc caused by Katrina and Tornado has been excluded; destruction caused by other natural disasters has not been included. Therefore, what we can claim is that if we include all the damage brought about by aforementioned forces of destruction that will be enough proof for anyone to believe that World War, Tsunami, Katrina, Tornado, pestilence or any natural and human-made catastrophe happens to be the cause of apocalypse.

Due to disorder in solar system there occurs natural disaster in the interval of every 5000 years or so which seems to be one factor for apocalypse. Cotterell one of the believers on it writes, ". . . because solar- inspired catastrophes periodically (every 5,000 years or so) lead to total global destruction within these periods. Mountains become seas, and seas become mountains. There is nothing left to examine after such great periods, nothing left to convey" (28).

Politics also seems another causative factor which makes an end of an old dynasty and onsets the new one. Even in the political history of our country Nepal we come to know numerous examples. In ancient political scenario of Nepal mostly known dynasties were: Gopal Dynasty, Mahishpal Dynasty, Kirant Dynasty and Lichhavi Dynasty respectively. Similarly Shah Dynasty onsets in Nepal with the coronation of Kulmandal Shah and goes on until massacre of 2058 B.S. Jestha 19 where King Birendra and his whole Royal family members were slaughtered or the proclamation .i.e. Nepal as Democratic Republic of Nepal. In between, we even find Rana Dynasty which went on for 104 years from 1903 to 2007. Batajoo and Sanjeev Rai write, “After the Kot Parva in 1903 BS, Junga Bahadur Rana seized all the state power in his hand and founded the Rana rule in Nepal. The King of Nepal became only the nominal head of the state” (151).

Dellamora as Batajoo and Rai also comes to see the political issue as cause of apocalypse as he has written the past political issues prevailed in the ancient time:

Fascism seems to have become the privileged modality of the apocalypse, functioning both spatially as a totalitarian model of society’s destructive self-completion, and temporally through rhetoric of final solutions, of ends and of thousand-year regimes without end. An unfolding of history into the presence of totalitarian social space, fascism seems to body forth the apocalypse in the form of the dialectic- as the self-sublimation of a philosophical and political tradition, an end thought both as completion or telos and as self-destruction. (18)

Above all, we know that there are numerous phenomena which caused apocalypse and can cause. It may be the extermination of physical phenomena or of

whole humanity or of an era or of a dynasty or of one civilization or of a political scenario either by Earth quake or by Tsunami or by War or by political change or by pestilence or by excessive desire of humans to get something more. Human civilization shows that it started from Stone Age, evolved it in course of time and has been more advanced. It is possible just because of unsolved human desire. I mean to say, humans gave birth to science and technology and then science and technology constructed or reformed new civilization and destroyed it, too. This is what James Francis Cameron takes in his film and makes a main theme of it i.e. he thinks that the ongoing obsession of humans to invent new technology will be one day the main cause of human destruction.

### **III. *Terminator 2* as an Apocalyptic Sci-fi Movie**

#### **3.1 Back ground of the Movie**

Cameron's movie *The Terminator 2: Judgment Day* was influenced by The Cuban missile crisis-known as the October crisis in Cuba and the Caribbean crisis in the former USSR. The crisis was a 13-day confrontation in October 1962 between the Soviet Union and Cuba on one side and the United States on the other side. It was one of the major confrontations of the Cold War, and is generally regarded as the moment in which the Cold War came closest to turning into a nuclear conflict. It is also the first documented instance of the threat of mutual assured destruction (MAD) being discussed as a determining factor in a major international arms agreement.

After the USA had placed nuclear missiles in Turkey, aimed at Moscow, and the failed US attempt to overthrow the Cuban regime (Bay of Pigs, Operation Mongoose), in May 1962 Nikita Khrushchev proposed the idea of placing Soviet nuclear missiles on Cuba to deter any future invasion attempt. During a meeting between Khrushchev and Fidel Castro that July, a secret agreement was reached and construction of several missile sites began in the late summer.

It is said that Cuban missile crisis became only one source of inspiration for Cameron to write the screenplay of *Terminator 2: Judgement Day*. On Cameron's inspiration regarding his film production Keegan writes:

The end of the world was coming. And he was eight. That's when James Cameron found a pamphlet with instructions for building a civilian fallout shelter on the coffee table in his family's living room in Chippawa, Ontario, a quaint village on the Canadian shore of Niagara Falls. It was 1962, the year of the Cuban missile crisis, and Philip and Shirley Cameron felt they had reason to be concerned about the bomb .

. . . But for their oldest son, discovering the brochure was a life-changing epiphany. (1)

In this sense the movie seems to be influenced by war which, Cameron says, is the main causative factor to bring apocalypse. Similarly, the title of the movie has been kept after its theme, 'Terminate' means bring or come to an end and 'Terminator' means one who brings or causes an end. Thus, right from the title of the movie it seems to have been replete with Armageddon, nuclear war, holocaust, end of the world and therefore, apocalypse.

As far as the matter of techniques James Francis Cameron in his film *The Terminator2: Judgment Day* has exploited flash-forward/prolepsis technique which has already been exploited in the novels namely *A Christmas Carol* of Charles Dickens and *The Prime of Jean Brodie* of Muriel Spark. Likewise, even in the American drama film namely *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* (1969) directed by Sydney Pollack we find the use of flash-forward technique. In short flash-forward technique is an interjected scene that takes the narrative forward in time from the current point of the story in literature, film, television and other media. Flash-forwards are often used to represent events expected, projected, or imagined to occur in the future. They may also reveal significant parts of the story that have not yet occurred, but soon will in greater detail. It is primarily a postmodern narrative device, too. From the technique, i.e. Flash-forward, that James Francis Cameron exploited in his film we can come to the conclusion that the theme of his film consists of apocalyptic dimension.

Not only James Cameron but also other writers and directors have inherited their articles and films with apocalyptic facet in the field of literature and film industry. In *Terminator Salvation* (2009), the fourth installment of the *Terminator*

*series*, the writer John Brancato and Michael Ferris have foregrounded the war between Skynet and humanity, with the human Resistance fighting against Skynet's killing machines in the year 2018. *Terminator 3: The Rise of the Machines* (2003), third installment of the *Terminator series*, directed by Jonathan Mostow also shares the nuclear war between humans and Self intelligent machines.

Likewise, *World War Z* (2013), apocalyptic movie directed by Marc Forster manifests the apocalypse due to zombie-like pandemic. In the movie of Zack Snyder viz. *Man of Steel* (2013), we see all the civilizations and races of Krypton perished in the explosion as a result of a nuclear chain reaction caused by the planet's unstable radioactive core. H. G. Wells in his novel *The war of the world* (1898) implies that the Earth is invaded by Martians and details a conflict between mankind and an extraterrestrial race. Dean Owen in his fiction *End of The World* writes about the end of the world due to nuclear holocaust. Similarly, *Empty world* by John Christopher gives the theme of apocalypse due to pandemic and then *Moonfall* by McDevitt and *299 Days: The preparation* by Glen Tate together expose the end of the world because of asteroids and economic collapse respectively.

Here the writer com director James Cameron in his apocalyptic sci-fi action movie *Terminator2: Judgment day* portrays the extermination of human existence or civilization due to technological singularity or cybernetic attack caused by human nature on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1997 and 2029AD. This very concept germinated in his mind right From his childhood, and then it sprouted and ripen as a film. Generally, Cameron has portrayed the destructive scene right from the beginning to the end of the movie. Nevertheless, we find some other hidden meanings/messages, too, i.e. anti-war message which is precisely understood when Sarah Connor, at the end of the movie says, "The luxury of hope was given to me by the Terminator. Because if a



machine can learn the value of human life maybe we can too” (2:41:00 to 2:41:20 hrs).

Similarly, we find anti-fatalistic message from the movie i.e. there is no such thing like fate but we determine ourselves by trying our best as far as possible. This message has been highlighted even in 1<sup>st</sup> *Terminator* through Kyle Reese by Cameron. In the theme of making unborn John a sturdy future commander Kyle Reese says:

John gave me a message for you. Made me memorize it. ‘Sarah’ . . . this is the message . . . ‘Sarah, thank you. For your courage through the dark years. I can’t help you with what you must soon face, except to tell you that the future is not set . . . there is no such thing as Fate, but what we make ourselves by our own will. You must be stronger than you imagine you can be. You must survive, or I will never exist.’

That’s all. (1:5:6 to 1:5:25 hrs)

And destructive human nature seems to have been another facet which happens to be the main causative factor to destroy ourselves (humans). This very message has clearly been spoken by the savior of John Connor i.e. T800, he says, “It is in your nature to destroy yourselves” (1:34:5 to 1:34:5 hrs).

But, Apocalyptic facet happens to be prominent in the movie as most of the other dimensions, too, somehow advocate to prove apocalypse. The onset of the film itself manifests the havoc caused by nuclear war between humans and self intelligent machine i.e. Skynet in the year 1997 which is said by a voice, the VOIVE says, “3 billion human lives ended on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 1997. The survivors of the nuclear fire called the war Judgment Day. They lived only to face a new nightmare, the war against the Machines . . .” (1:10 to 1:25 min).

### 3.2 Conflict between Savior and Destroyer

Both T-800 and T-1000 appear as modern and advance machines which are the product of Skynet the self intelligent machine and are strong enough to exterminate human race causing nuclear holocaust. It becomes clear when we come to know that there is conflict between T-800 and T-1000 for the protection and destruction of John Connor which exposes the theme apocalypse in the film *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*.

Right from the first installment of *Terminator series* future seems to have sent the Terminators so that the future leader John Connor would no longer exist and save human remnant in nuclear holocaust between human and Machine. From the conversation between Sarah and Kyle Reese we come to know that both Terminator and Reese have been descended from the future before the future leader, John Connor, was born.

SARAH: So, it's from the future, is that right ?

REESE: One possible future. For your

Point of view. I don't know the tech stuff.

SARAH: And you are from the future too?

REESE: Right. (41:26 to 41:38 min)

In fact from the future Skynet sends T-101 to kill John's mother, Sarah, before he was born and future John sends a soldier, Kyle Reese, to protect John's mother Sarah Connor. And there starts conflict between them right from the beginning of the movie causing destruction and havoc. T-101 comes to know from telephone directory that a woman namely Sarah Connor dwells there somewhere in the city of Los Angeles and murders her thinking that she is Sarah Connor mother of John Connor, on the other hand Kyle Reese also conforming Sarah Connor i.e. mother of John Connor follows

her for protection. And at the end of the movie both T-101 and Kyle Reese die but Sarah Connor exists to give birth John Connor.

Similarly, in *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* future sends two terminators namely T-800 and T-1000 as a savior and a destroyer respectively. In the beginning of the movie Sarah Connor equipped us with beforehand information. Sarah in video says:

Skynet, the computer which controlled the machines,  
Sent two terminators back through time. Their mission: to destroy the  
leader of the human Resistance ... John Connor. My son. The first  
terminator was programmed to strike at me, in the year 1984 ... before  
John was born. It failed. The second was set to strike at John himself  
when he was still a child. As before, the Resistance was able to send a  
lone warrior. A Protector for John. It was Just a question of Which one  
of them would reach him first . . . . (2:55 to 3:36 min)

From the above description we know that the conflict ensues right from the first *Terminator*, i.e. the conflict of good and evil. Where both destroyer and protector are killed each other making sure about John's future leadership during nuclear holocaust. But in the *T2* as the destroyer appears stronger than savior it is very difficult to be sure about John's protection and future leadership. But just as in other apocalyptic literature good one gets victory over evil which clearly shows that the conflict between them makes the movie apocalyptic.

Right from the beginning of the movie we see the conflict between T-800 and T-1000 to protect John on one hand and to destroy on the other. In the plotting of the movie Cameron writes:

T-1000 and Terminator seizes each other up. Terminator moves first.

He grabs T-1000 in his massive hands but the T-1000 snaps back with a counter-grip. After about two seconds of intense slamming, the walls on both sides of the corridor have all the plaster smashed in, and the two battling machines have blasted through the wall . . . (31:11 to 31:32 min)

During conflict even John's foster parents are destroyed along with physical destruction. As the destroyer seems stronger than savior it does not seem easy to fight and save the future leader for T-800. After the war in shopping Mall they again meet there in mental hospital where Sarah is saved and taken far away in safe place.

During conflict John Connor gives the message that humans should not be killed so, T-800 does not kill anyone except minor injuries and hurt but T-1000, as his mission is only to destroy humans and humanity, without any delay, keeps on killing whoever seems to be the obstacle on the way of his mission. As Sarah decides to nip the possibility of nuclear holocaust in the bud they go there in Cyberdine company along with the director Miles Dyson to destroy all the formulae which help the scientists to create Skynet. There they not only destroy the Cyberdine company but also the creator of the formulae i.e. Miles Dyson. They even take the chip and arm of previous Terminator which had attacked Sarah in 1984. Here the war is not only of T-800 and T-1000 but also of other phenomena which are responsible for destruction of humanity.

After T-1000 comes to know that his creator and place of creation have been annihilated and previous chip and arms have been taken for destruction he comes there to protest and war ensues again, the war prologs up to steel mill where T-1000 is smashed in to small pieces but again it takes the original shape and becomes alive and then tries to kill Sarah, John and T-800. But T-800 makes it invain when he shoots

him with grenade to death and throws in to the boiling metal. Along with T-1000, they also throw chip and arm of previous Terminator in to the pool to end the conflict. In this sense victory seems to be in the hand of savior but the savior himself says its not over, one chip is left in his head and that should also be destroyed otherwise that can also be misused and can bring destruction and havoc. From the following conversation, too, we know the end of conflict. Sarah says, "It's finally over." In respond Terminator says, "No. There is another chip. (He touches a metal finger to the side of his head). And it should be destroyed also" (2:19:19 to 2:20:17 hrs).

In *The Book of Enoch* and *The Book of Revelation* one elect or Messiah or righteous is sent to destroy the Satan by God when there is tribulation on the earth. And conflict ensues between them and as always good gets victory over evil. Likewise, James Cameron also has made the provision of Messiah (T-800), Satan (T-1000) and Good one (John). And just like in religious apocalypse God (Future John) sends Messiah and in the conflict Good (T-800) gets victory over Evil (1000). Then new generation is commenced. Above all, the conflict between savior and destroyer enhances the theme apocalypse in the Movie.

### **3.3 Invention of New Technology: The Main Cause of Apocalypse**

We generally know that humans have ruled this earth for hundreds of thousands of years and right from the very beginning of the civilization we have been both creator and destroyer to maintain our existence, and we are found to have gone to any extent for our own will. During Stone Age we destroyed wild animals and their habitats, during agrarian age we deserted the earth for cultivation and made the alluvial land barren in the name of fertilization and in scientific age we destroyed the whole ecosystem along with our own inventions in the name of creation. This happened, is happening and will happen as the more we get the more we want or due

to excessive nature to invent something new. This very nature has vividly been clarified by James Cameron in the movie. It has been highlighted in the movie through the conversation between John and Terminator which goes like: John wanting to know about the destruction asks, “We are not gonna make it, are we? People, I mean.” In response Terminator says, “It is in your nature to destroy yourselves. John nods, depressed” (1:34:7 to 1:35:42 hrs).

Here Cameron has brought both inventory and destructive nature forward and juxtaposed side by side. He means to say that just like birth is inevitable aspect of death so destruction is inevitable part of creation. Men have, in course of time, invented atom bombs, nuclear weapons, other modern and advanced machines for their betterment but those inventions only brought destruction in the long run. We have burning examples to prove it from World I (1914) and World II (1945) where thousands of people lost their lives along with physical and natural destruction. Cameron even takes the scientists’ names to emphasis that it is because of their nature of inventing something more, great devastation came in to being. It becomes clear when Sarah says:

Fucking men . . . all you know how to do is thrust into the world with your . . . fucking ideas and your weapons. Did you know that every gun in the world is named after a man? Colt, Browning, Smith, Thompson, Kalashnikov . . . all men. Men Built the hydrogen bomb, not women . . . men like You thought it up. You’re so creative. You don’t know what it’s like to really create Something . . . to create a life. All you know how to create is death . . . you fucking bastards. (1:67:15 to 1:67:36 hrs)

Cameron even manifests the excessive human nature to create something new as a

means of destruction i.e. Skynet introduced from Cyberdyne Company which on a particular date and time, he says, becomes self intelligent and wage war against humans. This message is notified in the movie by Terminator. He says, “In three years Cyberdyne will become the largest Supplier of military computer systems. All Stealth bombers are Upgraded with Cyberdyne computers, becoming fully Unmanned, Afterward, they fly with a perfect Operational record” (1:34:54 to 1:35:6 hrs).

But he precisely declares that the most responsible factor of the havoc seems to have been men and their inventions as even the computers, chips and microprocessors have been the creations. It has been clear in the movie, too when Sarah wants to know the inventor of Skynet.

SARAH: I need to know how skynet get built.

Who is responsible?

TERMINATOR: The man most directly responsible is Miles Bebbet Dyson, Director of Special Projects at Cyberdyne Systems Corporation — In a few months he creates a revolutionary Type of microprocessor. (1:32:10 to 1:34:53 hrs)

We know that skynet to exterminate human existence first commences its military attack there in Russia thinking that Russian counter-strike will remove its enemies here. We come to know it when Sarah raises question to Terminator. Sarah asks, “Why attack Russia?” In response, Terminator says, Because Skynet knows the Russian counter-strike will remove its enemies here” (1:32:35 to 1:35:40 hrs).

Sarah Connor beforehand sees in her dream the forth coming destruction caused by nuclear holocaust which Cameron presents as the apocalypse brought by the scientific and modern inventions. Sarah in video says “The children look like burnt paper ... black, not moving. Then the blast wave hits them and . . . they fly apart

like leaves On August 29<sup>th</sup> 1997 it's going to feel pretty Fucking real to you, too!  
Anybody not wearing number two million sun block is gonna have a real bad day, get  
it?" (21:52 to 22:39 min).

The most prominent character who time and again awares others about  
impending apocalypse due to excessive use of new technology seems to be Sarah  
Connor, though, others are not ready to believe her story and dream but she seems to  
be determined and insists like this: Sarah in video says, "You think you're alive and  
safe, but you're Already dead. Everybody, you, him . . . (She gestures are the  
attendant) Everybody . . . you're all fucking dead! . . . You're the one living in a dream,  
Silberman, not me! Because I know it happens" (22:39 to 22:56 min).

The invention of T-101 in the first *Terminator*, T-800 and T-1000 in the *T-2*  
seems to be the cause of human destruction in the Movie. Similarly, the invention of  
advanced chip and microprocessor by the director of Cyberdine Company Miles  
Bennet Dyson have played very important role to exterminate the existing world.

#### **3.4. John Connor: The Destined Future Leader**

The main protagonist, in the sense that he will be the savior of human  
remnant in the impending nuclear holocaust, of the movie John Connor appears as  
future military leader from the opening scene of the movie who leads the armies  
against cyborgs in future. Doran Larson writes, "In opening sequence of T2, we see  
briefly the adult John Connor as post-apocalypse commando: a scarred fighting  
machine in defense of humanity against machines" (64).

In fact, here Connor seems such a character who has been pre destined to lead  
the warfare happening in the future otherwise he would have died in 1984 when Sarah  
was attacked by T-101. As it was pre planned, Reese was sent to pregnant and protect  
Sarah so that John Connor would be saved and established as a future leader. Right



from the first Terminator i.e. *Terminator* (1984) John has been presented as the most important character and military commando. It has been made clear through Kyle Reese who was born in ruins, starving and hiding from Hunter Killers but John protected them from H-K's. Reese says, "(continuing) . . . but there was one man who Taught us to fight. To storm the wire of the camps. To smash those metal mother-fuckers into junk. He turned it around . . . he brought us back From the brink. His mane is Connor. John Connor . . . Your son, Sarah. Your unborn son" (46:5 to 46:26 min).

It means John Connor is already there in the future who has killed H-K's and saved the humans and started the new generation and civilization. In this sense, too, he appears as pre destined character in the Movie.

As per Cameron the world is ruled by Machines after nuclear havoc happening in the year 1997 and it will be very difficult for humans to survive but one of the human remnants, Connor, will protect the humanity and lead the ruined world towards new civilization.

Sarah Connor seems to be the most conscious character about the destiny of John Connor in the movie as she has been pre informed by Kyle Reese in 1984 and dreams about apocalypse time and again. So, she seems determined to train her son as soldier remaining with gunmen in Nicaragua. John, here, himself has highlighted about his military training. John convincing to Terminator says, "We spent a lot of time in Nicaragua . . . places like that. For a while she was with this crazy ex-Green Beret guy, running guns. Then there were some there guys. She'd shack up with anybody she could learn from. So then she could teach me how to be this great military leader" (43:41 to 43:59 min).

This military training and his destiny together render him more leader and less

a normal child. After he comes to know that T-800 has been sent by himself to protect his own youngster from the future he always orders T-800 not to even hurt humans, let alone killing. When they meet two Jocks in the street John saves them from the attack of Terminator and teaches him even not to hurt anyone. John ordering Terminator says, “Listen to me, very carefully, okay? You’re not a terminator any more. Alright? You got that? You can’t just go around killing people!”(56:50 to 57:00 min).

Similarly, he does not let T-800 to kill any one there in mental hospital when they go there to rescue Sarah and there in Cyberdine Company when they go for destroying it. He even makes him to keep a promise of not killing anyone and not to break it, too.

JOHN: Just say “I swear I won’t kill anyone.”

John holds his hand up, like he’s being sworn in.

Terminator stares at John a beat. Then mimics the gesture.

TERNINATOR: I swear I will not kill anyone. (58:36 to 58:49 min)

It means the characteristics of being leader and savior seems in John Connor right from the beginning to the end. Likewise, he is not even hurt during the whole warfare, either in the attack of shopping mall or in mental hospital or in Cyberdine Company or in steel mill and even in the nuclear holocaust of 1997. If he had not been pre destined he would have died just like other humans or would have been one in 3 billion who had lost their life in the nuclear holocaust in 1997.

Similarly, it seems that his commanding behaviors also enhance his future leadership and makes him sturdy soldier. These behaviors happen to be seen when he deals even with his own mother, Sarah Connor. He says, “Look, Mom, if I’m

supposed to ever be this great Leader, you should start listening to my Leadership ideas once in a while” (57:59 to 58:31 min).

Cyberdine Company is totally destroyed, the chip and arm of previous T-101 are thrown in the molten steel pond, T-1000 is terminated and the most responsible person for the invention of microprocessor, Miles Dyson, is killed in bomb blast but John Connor is not even harmed. So, it proves that John Connor has been pre destined and is saved for the future purpose. He is not only presented as future leader but also shown as victorious leader in the war between humans and machines.

Just as Noah, in *The Book of Enoch* as a predestined righteous, is sent to protect the good ones on the earth during tribulation brought by destructive flood so, John Connor, in *The Terminator2: Judgement Day*, is made ready as a predestined leader for the protection of human remnants during tribulation brought by war between humans and Machines in the future. In this sense, John Connor appears as the predestined Messiah in the movie who onsets the new civilization after he gets victory over machines in the future.

As a whole, if we try to compare the meaning of the word *Apocalypse* with the theme of the movie, we find a lot of solid proofs to claim that *Terminator2: The Judgement Day* is undoubtedly an apocalyptic Sci-Fi Movie. One simple meaning of the word *Apocalypse* means to reveal or to disclose which has not yet been taken place in real life or disclose about the future or make prophecy. Here James Cameron has chosen and written the screenplay by using flash-forward technique about the story which is going to take place in the days to come or in the future. Isn't it a prophecy? Yes it is, as even flash-forward technique is portrayed by the literary figures to write about the imminent event that is to take place in the near future.

As mentioned above, from religious point of view, too, *The Terminator2:*

*Judgement Day* stands as an apocalyptic Sci-Fi Movie. In religious Prophetic Books such as: Bible, The Book of Enoch, The Book of Revelation etc. one elect is presented during tribulation as a savior who protects the good ones and commences the new era. Here in the Movie John Connor has been presented as a savior of human remnant who protects humanity and onsets the new era.

## **IV. Conclusion**

### **Apocalypse: The Cause of New Civilization**

The history stands as a solid proof to show that apocalyptic literature germinated and sprouted in the literary field right from the Jewish culture when tribulation occurred in the contemporary society. In the beginning, evils or Satan created problems and remained triumphant over godly. When the evils were about to annihilate the whole humanity, an elect as Messiah was sent for reformation and regeneration of the glorious world.

Then war between two states appeared as the cause of destruction. For example: Trojan War between Greeks and Trojans. In this war the city of Troy was totally destroyed by the Greeks which was the destruction of Trojan civilization and then new civilization was formed. And similar circumstances are seen there in nuclear holocaust brought by WWI and WWII.

Likewise, we see the destruction brought by natural disasters such as: earthquake, tsunami, flood, and by pestilence. We have burning example of pandemic which has just spread in Bhaktapur district i.e. Bird flu. Because of this epidemic disease all broilers of Bhaktapur were died. Isn't it the end of civilization of certain place. Yes, it is. If it spreads throughout the world and if we remain unable to control it in time it destroys the whole world. And if it happens to be with humans our civilization is also terminated and some human remnants have to onset new civilization.

On the other hand, scientists have invented, inventing and will invent new and advanced technologies and are excessively used. This excessive invention and use of new technology has been the cause of destruction and will be more threatening in the future. This very concept of advanced technology and end of the world due to nuclear

holocaust caused by machines and onset of new generation is the main motif of *Terminator2: Judgement Day*.

In the year 1997, the previous Terminator is reprogrammed and sent as a savior of John Connor and another stronger Terminator is also sent to kill John Connor which creates sensation for if the destroyer is more powerful than the savior then to protect human existence in the nuclear holocaust becomes questionable. But, as John Connor has already been bestowed with future leadership he is safely protected but Terminator, the destroyer is killed. Moreover, even the chip and arm of previous terminator are thrown in to the molten steel pond so that other Terminator would not come to terminate John Connor and John even gets a wife to regenerate the human existence after the nuclear war between human and self intelligence machine.

Thus, the movie precisely portrays the revelation of the imminent annihilation of human race in the nuclear war between humans and self intelligence machines i.e. Sky net in the year 2029 and protection of human remnant by John Conner. So, even in the movie we find the destruction of the world due to apocalypse and the regeneration of the new civilization.

In the history many dates of apocalypse came and went but it did not happen as said. For example: in 1000 AD. Jesus did not return back as second coming. Similarly, 2012 also came and went but we did not see and sign of apocalypse. So, to talk on it seems controversial. Anyway, we see some destruction caused either by natural disaster or nuclear holocaust. In this sense, there is possibility of apocalypse in the future, too. Moreover, just as other entity the earth was born and again just like other phenomena sooner or later the earth will be ended. On that very day we face the destruction caused by apocalypse and human remnant has to start new civilization.

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