

Blood Moons and the Bible

By Pastor Kelly Sensenig



We had a double celestial event on the last weekend in September 2015. There was a Super Moon which occurs when the moon is closest to the earth in its orbit, so it looks really big in the sky. This happens a couple times a year. Along with this we also had a full lunar eclipse of the moon.

On September 28, 2015, the Moon turned a shade of red in many parts of the World. During a total lunar eclipse, the Earth moves between the Sun and the Moon and cuts off the Moon's light supply. When this happens, the surface of the Moon takes on a reddish glow instead of going completely dark. It is a remarkable celestial phenomenon that always catches the attention of the world.

In our study we are going to learn one main truth. God creates blood moons to reveal His glory, judgment, and Second Coming.

This truth is revealed in four ways.

1. The facts about blood moons.

The reason why the Moon takes on a reddish color during an eclipse is the same mechanism responsible for causing colorful sunrises and sunsets and the sky to look blue. The Moon takes on different shades of red, orange or gold during a total lunar eclipse, depending on the conditions of the Earth's atmosphere at the time of the Eclipse. The amount of dust particles, water droplets, clouds and mist can all have an effect on the shade of red. In fact, we know that volcanic ash and dust in the atmosphere can also lead to the Moon turning darker and taking on a blood red color. This is interesting because as we look at the subject of blood moons in the Bible, this may be the cause of the appearance of blood moons during the future Tribulation Period.

Total eclipses of Super Full Moons are rare. According to NASA, they have only occurred 5 times in the 1900s – in 1910, 1928, 1946, 1964 and 1982. After the September 27/28, 2015 Total Lunar Eclipse, a Super moon eclipse will not happen again for another 18 years, until October 8, 2033.

The September 28, 2015 Total Lunar Eclipse is the fourth and final eclipse in a series of four total lunar eclipses called the lunar tetrad. The first three eclipses of the tetrad took place on April 15, 2014, October 8, 2014 and on April 4, 2015. There is something interesting about the dates? Each of the eclipses in the tetrad occurs about 6 months apart and have 5 Full Moons between them!

Lunar tetrads or these series of four lunar eclipses can be rare in some centuries and can occur frequently in others. The 21st century will have 8 lunar tetrads, the maximum number of lunar tetrads that can occur in a century. The last time this happened was in the 9th century! The next lunar tetrad of the 21st century will start with the April 25, 2032 Total Lunar Eclipse.

2. The fraudulent teachings about blood moons.

Note: The red color of a totally eclipsed Moon has prompted many people in recent years to refer to total lunar eclipses as Blood Moons thinking that the moon color is an actual fulfillment of ancient Bible prophecies recorded in Joel 2 and Acts 2 which speak about the moon turning into blood. In fact, entire books have been written on the subject of blood moons as a warning to earth's inhabitants that something dramatic is going to happen on earth. Some have even stated that the Rapture will happen in connection with the appearance of the blood moon.

Christian pastors Mark Blitz and John Hagee have written articles and books that claim the eclipses of the 2014-2015 lunar tetrad fulfill a Biblical prophecy of forthcoming difficult and trying times in the world.

The views of pastors Blitz and Hagee gathered attention in early 2014, because the eclipses in the tetrad coincide with some of the more important Jewish festivals. The eclipses in April 2014 and April 2015 occurred at the same time as Passover, while the October 2014 and September 2015 eclipses occur during the Feast of Tabernacles. Some people took this coincidence as a sign of the End Times.

These statistics are somewhat interesting, but there is zero evidence that any of these tetrads are actual signs from God. After all of Hagee's attempts to prove that the tetrads are supernatural signs from God, he is left with nothing but speculation. We must remember that speculation has no authority. The Bible is our final authority! "What saith the Scripture? (Romans 4:3).

I'm not doing an analysis of Pastor Hagee's Book entitled "Four Blood Moons." However, it is important to observe that the "tetrads" of blood moons that he claims fell on important events related to Israel and serve as a sign to Israel today didn't fall on the exact historical events emphasized in his recent book. As usual, the prophecy speculators of today stretch the connections and associations between alleged signs and the events. For instance, the expulsion of Jews from Spain (the Spanish Inquisition) was in 1492 rather than 1493-94 when the blood moons appeared; the War of Israel's Independence was won in 1948, but the tetrad wasn't completed until 1950; and the Six Day Jerusalem War was over in 1967, but the tetrad wasn't complete until 1968.



Is the end really near because of the sign of blood moons? Is there any apocalyptic significance of this lunar tetrad? Are the blood moons a fulfillment of what Joel and Peter spoke about when stating that the moon will turn into blood? Will the Rapture happen in conjunction with these blood moons as some have suggested? One person said that we probably won't be here after September 28th 2014 since the blood moon is a harbinger of the Rapture of the

Church. This is similar to the fellow who wrote the book "88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will Happen in 1988." In 1989 he wrote a book entitled, "1988 Canceled."

Let's stop all of this false prophetic hysteria. Our study on this subject will reveal that all the prophetic hype and quack prophecies around the blood moon lunar eclipses have nothing to do with the blood moons mentioned in the Bible.

First, NASA data of past eclipses show that at least eight lunar tetrads have coincided with Jewish holidays since the First Century. They are nothing that are necessarily new and extraordinary as some suggest. The Jewish Calendar is a lunar calendar and Passover always occurs around a full Moon. Since a total lunar eclipse can only occur on a full Moon night, it is very likely that an eclipse will take place on or near Passover. As we will see in this study, there is nothing prophetic about these lunar eclipses just because they occur during Israel's holy days.

Second, there is no place in the Bible that says blood moons occurring TODAY are a forerunner of some imminent tragedy coming upon the earth or some kind of dramatic event like the Rapture or Tribulation Period. And finally, where does the Bible actually teach that we must wait for a blood moon sign to appear before the Rapture can take place?

These conclusions are fanciful interpretations of the Bible. Men today are huckstering the Bible, making a lot of money off of books that are bought by thrill seekers, and in the end, their interpretations are found to be fraudulent.

2 Timothy 2:15 declares:

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

We are given the mandate to “rightly divide the word of truth” which means to literally “cut it straight” as plowers, road builders, and tentmakers were required to cut their paths and material straight, or in an accurate and correct fashion. The prophetic Scriptures must be cut straight or handled accurately, through sound methods of Bible interpretation and exegesis, if one is going to arrive at the correct meaning of a text. The Bible is God's impeccable standard of truth (“word of truth”); therefore, it demands skillful and responsible interpretation. Preachers must cut is straight – not crooked!

2 Corinthians 4:2 should always be our goal in studying the Bible:

“But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.”

God has called us to handle the Bible skillfully and not deceitfully. When we claim that the prophecies related to the Tribulation Period are already being

fulfilled today in our world, then we are handling the Bible in a deceitful manner through our false assessment of Bible prophecy.

2 Corinthians 2:17 sounds the alarm:

“For we are not as many, which corrupt (huckster or peddle) the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.”

God holds His word above His name (Ps. 138:2) and this means we should honor the truth by declaring it accurately and precisely. This means we should question what is being taught and make sure it is an accurate reflection of what the Bible says. It also means that the Bible is our final authority – not extra-biblical revelations that are being promoted today throughout the church.

I’m calling the bluff on these would-be-prophets of today. Every year Pat Robertson goes up into the mountains alone, supposedly to communicate with God. And every year, after he comes down from the mountain, Robertson goes on live television to tell his viewers what God supposedly told him is going to happen in the year to come. Friend, don’t believe this type of nonsense. The Bible tells us what is going to happen in the future – not some would-be prophet. Follow what we know the Bible says and not the many fake prophetic statements being given today by people who demonstrate time and time again that their prophetic revelations are fraudulent.

Friends, don’t get caught up in the buzz and frenzy of prophetic speculation. We have plenty of clearly stated events about prophecy in the Scriptures. There is no need for speculation and theories based on unsound exegesis and the misapplication of Bible passages. For instance, we should study what we know the Bible says about blood moons but not falsely misrepresent the teachings of the Bible.

Do you believe everything that you read in books and hear on TV today? I hope not. The Bible warns us about not following “every wind of doctrine” (Eph. 4:14). There is a lot that passes as prophetic teaching which falls into the category of “every wind of doctrine.” Beloved, we should not put our finger to the air today and believe every teaching is blowing through the Church today. Every prophetic teaching must align with what the Bible actually says and not the fanciful interpretations of men.

The Bible is our final authority – not the whimsical teachings of men. When it comes to prophecy it seems that many saints throw out all discernment and become caught up in things like this Blood Moon mania. I can say with assurance that Hagee’s theory of the “Four Blood Moons” is not Scriptural and it has zero authority because it is not based upon what the Bible actually teaches about blood moons. There is not one shred of Biblical evidence that what is happening today with the moon is a harbinger or omen of dramatic things to come. Nothing prophetic is being fulfilled by the blood moons being seen today.

Observe some of the following dramatic statements from Hagee’s book.

“The history of THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO CHANGE FOREVER, and God is sending us messages on His high-definition billboard by speaking to us in the heavens—using the Four Blood Moons; the question is ... are we listening?” (*Four Blood Moons*, Kindle Locations 326-328).

Hagee asserts that God is speaking to us through the appearance of blood moons. Of course, this pure conjecture. Where does God’s Word teach that He wants to send a message to the Church and world TODAY through blood moon appearances?

“Keep reading, because THIS MESSAGE FROM GOD IS SO URGENT to Him that He sovereignly arranged the sun and the moon to perfectly align themselves to create a Tetrad— four consecutive blood moons. He didn’t do this just one time— but Tetrads linked to Jewish history have happened only three times in more than five hundred years. And it’s about to happen again” (*Four Blood Moons*, Kindle Locations 498-501).

Again, Hagee makes the blood moon appearances an alleged urgent message but Hagee’s message is not God’s message! Where in the Bible does it state that the blood moons appearing TODAY are a direct message from God? Where does the Bible teach that God is sending messages to the world TODAY via the stars?

Hagee concludes with these words:

“The coming Four Blood Moons are almost here . . . ARE YOU READY?” (*Four Blood Moons*, p. 244).

I ask the question, “Ready for what?” What should we get ready for? The Rapture? The Tribulation Period? Are the blood moons of TODAY really a harbinger of some kind of dramatic event to take place? Beloved, don’t follow men who have demonstrated their lack of Scriptural wisdom. The result will be confusion.

There are many of these types of books being written today. Jonathan Cahn has also written a recent book entitled “The Harbinger.” Let me quote what the book says about itself: “The book traces a series of detailed parallels between what has happened in the United States since the 2001 terrorist attacks—including the economic collapse—and Israel’s history after it turned away from God. Told in fictional narrative, the book unfolds how nine signs concealed in recent events reveal God’s progressive judgment.

“Hidden in an ancient biblical prophecy from Isaiah (Isaiah 9:10), the mysteries revealed in The Harbinger are so precise that they foretold recent American events down to the exact days. The revelations are so specific that even the most hardened skeptics will find it hard to dismiss or put down. It sounds like the plot of a Hollywood thriller with one exception... ITS REAL.”

If one is going to state Isaiah 9:10-13 contains an ancient mystery that holds the secret to America’s future, then it cannot be a fiction. The Bible says that the Syrians and the Philistines came to devour the children of Israel. We read in Cahn’s book that the nine “harbingers” in the Isaiah 9 passage would take place if Israel did not heed the warnings and the same will be true for America today. The question is: Does God always give the same pattern signs before judgment and is He doing this to the United States of America today? Cahn says this is a call to national repentance as it was for Israel. However, here is the real problem. This is not a “warning” for repentance but a prophecy of judgment. Here is the obvious point; how can you take an ancient warning given to Israel and turn it into a prophetic warning against America? Folks, how can a warning made against Israel become a prophetic warning about America? We should not take these types of books seriously. Let’s be discerning today.

3. The fabulous display of God’s glory through blood moons.

Someone asked me, “What do the blood moons convey to the world today? What sign are they really giving to humanity and all those living on earth?” The answer is simple.

Psalm 19:1

“The heavens declare (“to score with a mark or inscribe”) the glory of God (the magnificence and splendor of the Creator God); and the firmament (expanse above) sheweth his handywork (design or product).”

The celestial and spectacular heavens, with their planets, stars and luminaries, our solar system and the galaxies which mesmerize man declare the glory of God. In one sense, they celebrate, make known, or reveal the story that God is an all-wise, powerful, and magnificence God. In the stars His handiwork I see! Yes, the stars, sun, and moon in the firmament above “uttereth speech” (Ps. 19:2) to all men everywhere without saying one single word in human language! The heavens inaudibly speak of the great Designer God. The heavens are a silent symphony of praise to Creator God.

“Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.”

The real story behind blood moons is that they ascribe praise to the true Creator. What is taking place in the heavens today with the present-day lunar blood moons is the revelation of the glory of God – not the revelation of End Time events.

4. The future prophecies about blood moons.

This is where the bulk of our study will be today. We want to learn what the Bible actually teaches about the appearance of blood moons in the future seven-year Tribulation Period. This is the only time when blood moons take on prophetic significance.

a. A blood moon will occur during the first 3.5 years of the Tribulation Period.

Jesus aligned His prophetic message on the Mount of Olives with Daniel’s prophecy of a final week of seven years that is yet to come upon planet earth (Matt. 24:15 with Dan. 9:27).

In Revelation 3:10 God promises the Church that she will be kept from this coming terrible time of judgment that Jesus prophesied about (“the hour of temptation”) of adversity that will try earth dwellers. In Revelation chapter 4-5 we are projected into Heaven, where the Church will be during the coming seven years and the Lamb (Jesus Christ) is given the title deed to planet earth which contains the judgments that will be unleashed on the earth and which result in His Second Coming to reclaim the earth for God. In chapter six the first climactic judgments begin to be unleashed on earth. I’m glad I will not be here to face these judgments.

Revelation 6:12 speaks of the sixth round of judgment in the sixth seal: “And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood.”

The timing of the seals are the future Tribulation Period and not the present-day in which we are living today. This is important to understand. Any so-called prophecy expert that interprets this blood moon appearance as fulfillment of what is taking place in the world today needs a timing change!

Hagee claims that that tetrads which coincide with Israel’s feast days (Passover and Feast of Tabernacles) actually fulfill Bible prophecy. Of course, this is the fundamental error of the entire theory. Since the premise is wrong, the entire thing falls apart and collapses.

God reveals that certain events will transpire in the future Tribulation Period and to make them equivalent to what is happening today in the world is what some have called newspaper exegesis. In other words, the events they see taking place in the world today are often said to be a fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Beloved, how can this be? How can something that is prophesied to happen during a future time period be a fulfillment of what is happening today? Let’s study our Bibles.

If someone says that they are coming next week to visit with you and take you out to eat, you would understand this to be a visit that would happen in the future. But what if they showed up the next day when you had a doctor appointment and said, “I told you that we were coming.” What would be your response to them? You would probably say, “You told me that you were coming next week and not today.”

Here is the point of the illustration. Why should we expect anything different in regard to the fulfillment of Bible prophecy? God said that this blood moon will occur in the future Tribulation Period and not today. How could any honest student of the Bible say that it is a fulfillment of a blood moon that occurs in 2015? If something is prophesied to happen in the future Tribulation Period then this is when it's going to happen. Let's stop playing games with God's Word!

One person asked me: "Is there anything else that must be fulfilled before Jesus returns?" Actually, NOTHING ever had to be fulfilled for Jesus to return in the Rapture. This is because the fulfillment of Bible prophecy only begins to be fulfilled with the Rapture and what follows during the Tribulation Period. The return of Jesus Christ in the Rapture is not conditioned upon certain signs taking place in the sky or any Bible prophecy that needs to be fulfilled. The only thing that needs to happen before Jesus comes is for Jesus to come!

Preparation for the End Times



Revelation 1:19
 "The things which are"
WHERE WE ARE TODAY

Prophetic Fulfillment of the End Times



Revelation 1:19
 "the things which shall be hereafter"
Revelation 4:1
 "things which must be hereafter"
WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE

Bible prophecy is NOT being fulfilled today in any way. We are living in the "here and now" and not the time of the "hereafter" (Rev. 1:19) when the exact fulfillment of Bible prophecy will occur. This will be during the Tribulation Period or the Day of the Lord.

I was reading a statement in a magazine the other day that was introducing a book that someone had written. The summary of the book's content said something like this: "This book reveals how Bible prophecy is being fulfilled today in the events that we see taking place before our very eyes. Read this book and discover dozens of fulfilled Bible prophecies." My advice to you is this; don't buy the book! How can Bible prophecies which are to be fulfilled during the Tribulation Period be fulfilled today! How can this be? It's impossible.

We do not live in the era when Bible prophecy is being fulfilled. Yes, the stage is being set for prophecy to be fulfilled, the props are being put in place, but to make the bold claim that Bible prophecy is being fulfilled before our very eyes is huckstering the Bible and peddling the Word of God in order to make money. And a lot of money is being made by these so-called End Time

prophecy books which confuse people and which often become a laughing stock to the world because of the false assessments made in these books. I love studying Bible prophecy but not the speculative manmade attempts to misinterpret Bible prophecies and relate their actual fulfillment to what is happening today in our world.

This prophetic portion of God's Word reveals that there will be a blood moon appearance during the first 3.5 years of the Tribulation Period. It will happen during the sixth Seal Judgment which occurs about the middle of the Tribulation Period. The Seal Judgments are the first series of judgments that take place during the first 3.5 years of the seven-year Tribulation Period and they are followed chronologically with the Trumpet and Bowl Judgments which occur during the second half of the Tribulation Period.

The later judgments of the Tribulation Period are not a restatement of recapitulation of the earlier seal judgments which are directly unleashed upon earth by the Lamb. The trumpet judgments proceed out of the seventh seal judgment (Rev. 8:1, 6) and are unleashed by angels becoming a series of different judgments and the bowl judgments proceed out of the seventh trumpet judgment (Rev. 11:15; 15:1; 16:1) and become a distinct series of judgments which are also unleashed by angels. The bowl judgments are the most severe judgments that are specially designed to target the Antichrist and his followers. The progression and severity of the judgments indicate that the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments are different and follow a logical course that take us up to the end of the Tribulation Period,

In any event, the sixth Seal Judgment takes us to the middle of the Tribulation Period. During this future time period God will give a very clear indication and sign that He is moving in judgment when the moon reveals a blood red color.

By the time of the sixth seal no one on earth will doubt that the blood moon is a sign of God's judgment upon planet earth. Today's blood moons are not seen by people living on earth to be a sign of God's wrath and judgment because God is not judging the earth in cataclysmic ways as He will in the future. However, during the future Tribulation Period everyone will know that the color of the moon will be a result of God's judgment upon mankind.

I was watching Sunday night football and they showed the blood moon picture on the TV screen. Everyone sitting in that stadium and the world at

large knew this was not a sign of God's judgment. It was simply an astronomical phenomenon. But during the seven-year Tribulation Period everyone will know that this will be another added sign of God's judgment upon planet earth. Let's investigate what happens.

1. There will be a catastrophic worldwide earthquake.

The Bible says "when he had opened the sixth seal." Christ is opening the sixth seal and sending this earthquake that will shake the entire planet. We are reminded once again that God is in sovereign control of weather-related events. It's not Mother Nature (a replacement term for God) but God Himself who shakes the world with earthquakes and Tsunamis.

Revelation 6:12 says "there was a great earthquake." Revelation 6:14 adds: "and every mountain and island were moved out of their places." So great will be this earthquake that the "mountains" that are visibly seen above the earth's surface, which are mountains such as the Alps, Rockies, Himalayas, will be moved from their place. This earthquake will leave men with the full impression that the ultimate end has arrived. And yet there is still more to come!

Not only will the mountains above sea level be moved out of their place during this worldwide earthquake resulting in volcanic eruptions but the mountains under the seas or oceans ("every island") will also be shaken which will result in tsunamis occurring throughout the earth. The islands are no doubt pointing to all the submerged mountains (undersea mountains) which are spread throughout the vast oceans. The mountains underneath the sea will crumble causing great tidal waves and tsunamis.

The Mid-Atlantic Ridge isn't just the world's longest chain of undersea mountains, it's longer than any of those found on land. And it isn't alone. The ridge that lies roughly in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean is just one of a chain of undersea ridges or mountains that encircle the globe. The ridge, which runs from inside the Arctic Circle south past the Horn of Africa, extends for 15,000 kilometres (about 9 miles), and some of the peaks rise four kilometres (about 2 miles) above the ocean floor.

Haggai 2:6 prophetically states:

For thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land

In Luke 21:25 Jesus forewarned:

“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring.”

The “sea and waves roaring” certain depict End Time tsunamis. This certainly refers to the gigantic and unprecedented waves that will be created during the Tribulation Period due to earthquake activity below the oceans. Great title waves or tsunamis will occur, which will crash into the islands and shorelines, and these deadly waves will kill millions and millions of people.

This earthquake occurs near the middle of the Tribulation Period and will be the most powerful earthquake the world has ever seen up to this point in its history but it will also come at a time of unprecedented troubles. The people who are still alive will have already experienced worldwide war, devastating famine, and widespread epidemics of deadly diseases in the first four seals. Now this worldwide earthquake shakes planet earth.

2. There will be a universal shaking of the heavens.

Revelation 6:13

And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

You might call this a “heavenquake.” God will also cause the stellar heaven to send great meteorite showers to earth, like figs falling from a tree, which will be yet another sign that God is moving in judgment. The word “star” is a reference to meteorites and perhaps asteroids falling to planet earth. An earthquake of worldwide magnitude is horrible enough. But when the sky starts falling everyone on earth will know there is a true God that is moving in judgment.

3. There will be a spectacular scene in the atmosphere.

Revelation 6:14

“And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together...”

This verse describes the effects people will witness (the human perception of this event) when this earthquake rocks planet earth, causing volcanic eruptions, which will send trillions of tons of debris and smoke into the

atmosphere. When people will look up into the sky they will witness heaven (atmospheric heaven) disappearing as black smoke and debris moves through the sky. It will take on the same appearance as a scroll being rolled up which causes the writing to disappear. As great billows of smoke ascend into the heaven the very heaven itself will disappear. To the eyes of the beholder, it will be like a scroll is being rolled together.

Isaiah 34:1-4 speaks of a similar picture:

“Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it. For the indignation of the Lord is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter. Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.”

Note: The actual disappearance of the heavens take place later (Rev. 20:11) but here it will appear like the heavens are disappearing and being rolled up as smoke, ash, and debris move throughout the atmospheric heaven shutting out the light of the sun and moon and resulting in this eerie blood moon.

What a terrible time to be living on earth! What a scary nightmare this will be for those living on earth. However, this will not be a nightmare. It will be literally happening. The sky will disappear and appear to be rolled up as a scroll.

4. There will be eerie signs revealed by the sun and moon.

Revelation 6:12 gives us the end result of this universal earthquake that occurs at the middle of the Tribulation Period when it states “and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood.”

Pillars of smoke erupting from the death’s depths will screen and retract the light from all heavenly bodies causing the eerie blood moon appearance mentioned here. The earth’s atmosphere will be darkened, as a result of worldwide fires and smoke, so much so that the sun will appear black during the day and the moon will become shadowed and darkened taking on a

bloody appearance during the night. This is certainly a scene of apocalyptic judgment. The covering or shading of the sun and moon will add more reason for the world to be in panic. They will know that God is moving in judgment.

This verse is teaching that as a result of this earthquake sent by God, which occurs close to the middle of the Tribulation Period, the sun will become like black hair in its appearance “as” the color of black sackcloth – a black garment worn for mourning and despair. The moon will become “as blood.” It does not say the moon will become literal blood but only be “as blood.”

This is not speaking of literal blood. This is a figure of speech. Sometimes a figure of speech is marked off by a qualifying adjective or a word such as “like” or “as” or “as it were” (Rev. 4:6; 15:2; Isa. 53:6; Dan. 12:3; Rev. 21:21). In other words, the moon will not be turned into literal blood but appear before earth dwellers as blood.

What will be the cause of this blood moon appearance? What will generate this blood moon color? The context of this verse gives us the answer. The moon will appear as a blood red color when smoke and debris move through the air and eclipse the moon. Apparently the tons of ash and debris going into the atmosphere on a worldwide level will give the moon an eerie blood red color. The sun will also become like black hair and the moon will take on a blood red appearance as a result of the aftereffects of this End Time earthquake. Because of trillions and trillions of tons of debris, dust, and smoke ascending into the air, as a result of volcanic eruptions, fires, and smoke caused by this earthquake, the world will experience its first blackout.

On May 18, 1980 Mount St. Helens exploded with what was the most visible indication of the power of nature that the modern world has ever seen. At 8:32 am the explosion ripped 1,300 feet off the mountain, with a force of 10 million tons of TNT, or roughly equal to five hundred Hiroshima bombs. Sixty people were killed, most by a blast of 300 degrees heat traveling at 200 miles an hour. Some were killed as far as 16 miles away. This was an amazing revelation of what God can do in connection with volcanoes. One cannot fully imagine what is going to occur during the Tribulation Period when volcanoes will be erupting from all over the world at the same time. It will result in the eerie astronomical signs recorded in the Bible and blood moons will be one of these signs of judgment that are given by God to unsaved earth dwellers.

I was watching a special on volcanoes. I was amazed how the worst volcanic eruption in history caused an eerie blackness to cover the sky for thousands of miles. Again, I can't fully imagine what's going to happen when fires erupt throughout the earth due to the terrible earthquake that hits this world at the middle of the Tribulation Period. Think of how this End Time earthquake will trigger volcanic eruptions all over the planet. A volcano is actually large hill or mountain that causes lava and smoke to erupt through a vent in the earth's crust. When God moves the mountains there will no doubt be volcanic eruptions taking place throughout the entire earth since every mountain and island will be moved. One can readily see how the earth will be covered with an eerie blackness of smoke and debris that will cause the world to know that God is on the throne and He is full of wrath and anger!

Dr. Henry M. Morris explains what could cause this worldwide earthquake and phenomenon: "The great earthquake described here ... for the first time in history is worldwide in scope. Seismologists and geophysicists in recent years have learned a great deal about the structure of the earth and about the cause and nature of earthquakes. The earth's solid crust is traversed with a complex network of faults, with all resting upon a plastic mantle whose structure is still largely unknown. Whether the crust consists of great moving plates is a current matter of controversy among geophysicists, so the ultimate cause of earthquakes is still not known. In all likelihood, the entire complex of crustal instabilities is a remnant of the phenomena of the great Flood, especially the breakup of the fountains of the great deep.

In any case, the vast worldwide network of unstable earthquake belts around the world suddenly will begin to slip and fracture on a global basis and a gigantic earthquake will ensue. This is evidently, and naturally, accompanied by tremendous volcanic eruptions, spewing vast quantities of dust and steam and gases into the upper atmosphere. It is probably these that will cause the sun to be darkened and the moon to appear blood-red" (*The Revelation Record* [Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale, 1983], 121).

Jesus said in Luke 21:11:

"And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven."

Jesus taught in the context of the birth pangs of the Tribulation Period that there would be heavenly signs and phenomenon occurring. This coincides with what John teaches in Revelation 6:12-14.

When people watch the sky being rolled up like a scroll, as great billows of smoke and debris move throughout the atmosphere, and when they see the sun turning into a black garment and the moon turning into what appears to be blood, this will be a fearful sight and sure sign that God is judging mankind! If you think for one moment that this old world is not going to be judged for its sinful crimes against God then you are fooled!

During this day no one will need a book on prophecy (“Four Blood Moons”) to know that something earth shaking is happening. These prophetic signs will occur during the Tribulation, during Daniel’s 70th Week as described in Revelation 6-18. But they will not occur in the Church Age prior to the Rapture of New Testament saints.

During an earthquake, a few years ago, the inhabitants of a small village were very much alarmed. One old woman, whom they all knew, was surprisingly calm and joyous. At length, one of them said to her, “Mother, are you not afraid?” “No, I rejoice to know that I have a God who can shake the world.”

Well, someday God is going to literally shake the world and the end result will be a blood moon appearance throughout planet earth.

- a. A blood moon will occur before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to earth.

We observe two primary events in this prophetic section of the Bible.

A. Joel 2:18-29 = The prospect of Kingdom blessings

These verses envision the time when Israel is delivered from all her enemies of the Tribulation Period and is living during the Millennial Kingdom within the boundaries of Palestine which God originally gave to the Jews.

Joel 2:20 deals with Israel’s future apart from the chronological gaps which one sees so readily between events in Joel’s day and the distant future. Therefore, prophecies pertaining to his own generation are merged here with those that await future realization. This is common in Old Testament prophecies (Isa. 9:6–7; 61:1–2; Zech. 9:9–10).

The designation northern army (lit., “northerner”) suggests that a literal army is ultimately in view. The Assyrian army would fit the historical record. This was partially fulfilled when Assyria came down and took the northern kingdom, but God miraculously delivered the southern kingdom from them. It was another hundred years before the southern kingdom went into captivity and it was to the Babylonians, not the Assyrians. However, like many prophecies in the Old Testament, there is a near and far view fulfillment. There will also be a northern army that is yet future (eschatological), the army is likely the army in Joel 3:9, 12 and Zechariah 14:2 which comes against Jerusalem before the Second Coming. The driving of the enemies into the two seas (Dead and Mediterranean seas) speaks of God’s utter judgment of these armies that surround Israel during the End Times.

Joel 2:28-29 points to saved and converted Israel living during the Millennium who will manifest some of the miraculous signs of the Holy Spirit as were evidenced in the dawning and infant days of the Church Age. It seems that the commencement of the Millennium (Kingdom Dispensation) God’s people (Israel) will evidence miraculous sign gifts to indicate that God was now blessing and working with His national Jewish people. It can be proven that every Dispensation had a certain outbreak of miracles to confirm God’s new work and people.

B. Joel 2:30-32 = The preparation for Kingdom blessings

Before the Jews enter the Messianic Kingdom they will be delivered from the surrounding armies in Palestine by the returning Messiah. Joel 2:30-32 envision the ending of the Tribulation Period, the signs that will occur in conjunction with the Second Coming, and Israel’s call for the Messiah to return and her deliverance from the armies flooding into Palestine.

Joel envisions what is going to occur on planet earth just before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (“before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come” (the actual Second Coming of Christ – when He lands on the Mount of Olives – Zech. 14:4). It will be the time when the remnant left in the land of Palestine will actually call upon Christ for deliverance from their enemies (the surrounding armies seated in Armageddon and all of Palestine) and also acknowledge their need for spiritual deliverance in conjunction with the Second Coming (Matt. 23:39; Zech. 12:10-13:1).

It's during this time that another blackout will occur in relation to the sun and moon, similar to what we studied would take place earlier in the Tribulation Period (Rev. 6:12).

Isaiah 13:6-13 envisions this same time:

“Howl ye; for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth (this is a similar description to Jesus' words in Matthew 24 when He described the Tribulation Period): they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the Lord of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.”

The Bible predicts that prior to the Second Coming and before the Tribulation Period officially ends that an even greater and more catastrophic earthquake will take place. It will occur in conjunction with the armies surrounding Israel in the land of Palestine.

Revelation 16:17-20 reveals the terrifying prophetic scene as described by Isaiah: “And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, *and* so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.”

The God who created the world can shake the world! You will notice that in this final End Time earthquake “every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.” In the previous earthquake of the Tribulation Period the

undersea ridges or mountains were only moved (Rev. 6:14 – “ever mountain and island were moved out of their places”) but now they are completely obliterated. This will rearrange earth’s terrain and topography for the Millennial Kingdom and also (Ps. 48; Isa. 2:1-4) and also allow the blood to flow as deep as the horse bridles throughout the land of Palestine (Rev. 14:20) as a result of newly formed trenches.

Once again, as a result of this unprecedented and enormous universal earthquake millions of tons of debris and ash will ascend into the air and begin to block out the light of the sun and moon.

Joel 2:31 envisions what happens:

“The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.”

This is similar and reminiscent of what has occurred earlier during the Tribulation Period (Rev. 6:12). Eerie astronomical signs will occur in connection with the sun and moon. The sun will be darkened like a black garment and the moon will again appear to be red or take on a blood color as a result of black and ash and smoke rise through the atmosphere in conjunction with the horrific End Time earthquake.

I personally believe that the blood moons mentioned in Joel and the Book of Revelation are not the result of astronomical lunar eclipses, as everyone seems to suggest in the blood moon books being written today, but they are actually the result of smoke rising into the atmosphere due to the devastating earthquakes and volcanic eruptions that occur during the middle and final days of the Tribulation Period.

Joel 2:30 envisions a time when there will be “wonders in the heaven and in the earth” and these wonders are further identified as “blood, fire, and pillars of smoke” which are the effects that likely coincide with the End Time earthquake that will level planet earth before the Second Coming of Christ (Rev. 16:17-20) causing the moon to appear as blood (a blood moon).

Although the heavens are mentioned first (v.30a), the order that follows (vv.30b–31) begins with events on earth (blood, fire, and smoke) and moves to signs in the sky (the sun and the moon). The “blood” is probably referencing the death of millions of people (earthquake victims) which will be accompanied by fires and billows of smoke ascending from earth into the air.

Zephaniah 1:15 similarly records: “That day *is* a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness.”

Staggering amounts of smoke and release of ash into the atmosphere from volcanic eruptions, perhaps trillions of tons of ash, debris, and smoke rising into the air will make the moon appear to take on a gruesome bloody or red appearance. This will be an unprecedented End Time scene of apocalyptic judgment. Everyone will know that God had judged planet earth and that the Second Coming is soon to occur when Jesus Christ returns to reclaim the earth as a theocracy.

Yes, the blood moons of the Tribulation Period will be a sign that God is moving in judgment upon mankind and that the earth is about to be invaded from outer space by the returning Son of God from Heaven.

People ask me if I believe in aliens from outer space. I tell them “no” but then say I do believe that someday the earth will experience an invasion from outer space when the Son of God descends from Heaven to the earth in His Second Coming.

Peter on the Day of Pentecost spoke of the same day Joel envisioned.

Acts 2:16-27 records Peter’s sermon:

“But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw

the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”

Of course, Peter could not be teaching that the Day of Pentecost was a literal fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy since none of the astronomical signs of judgment occurred in connection with the beginning of the Church Age and since Joel’s prophecy refers to the Millennium. Acts 2:19 says, “And I will shew wonders in heaven above (a darkened sun and blood moon), and signs in the earth beneath (a catastrophic earthquake that levels all the mountains); blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke (results of the terrible quake which are further explained in the next words): The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come.”

Did any of these signs occur when the Church began on Pentecost? Absolutely not. Therefore, I have never taught that Pentecost was a fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy. Peter was obviously making a comparison to Joel’s prophecy when he stated in Acts 2:16: “But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel.” In other words, Peter is saying, what happened to the disciples on Pentecost, when the Church Age began, was similar to what will happen to the Jews someday when the Millennial Kingdom begins. The Day of Pentecost was an illustration of what will occur in the future when the Kingdom begins. Supernatural gifts and abilities of the Holy Spirit were given to the disciples in the same way they will be evidenced during the Kingdom Age. The miracle that fascinated the crowd at Pentecost was the miracle of the tongues, not remarkable signs of nature.

Beloved, what I need to remember about Pentecost is that I need the Spirit’s ministry and work in my life today. Although there were unique signs and wonders that happened on the Day of Pentecost that initiated the Spirit’s coming into the hearts of His Church, we need to remember that the Spirit’s life-transforming work in our hearts and lives is needed today.

2 Corinthians 3:18

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord. There is a final note to consider in this study.”

On the Day of Pentecost the Spirit's arrival was marked by wind and fire. Today we need the movement of the Spirit of God upon our lives, like the movement of the wind. Jesus compared the Holy Spirit to wind. We definitely need the wind of God to blow upon our lives and our personal lives. If we are not careful the air will become stale to us and we are no longer breathing in the pure oxygen of Heaven!

There was also fire that accompanied the Spirit's arrival which is a symbol of God's presence. Wind and fire are a combination that can create excitement in our lives.

Someone wrote: "Like a mighty tortoise, Moves the church of God; Brethren we are treading, Where we always trod!" We need to ignite for God today! Our testimony and living need to reflect God and His power.

"Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me."

Now let's finish our main study. Matthew 24:29 picks up the scene after the Tribulation has expired. All of the smoke and ash are still billowing up in the sky and will continue to do so until the Second Coming of Christ takes place.

Matthew 24:29 records:

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken."

Notice that what is taught in Matthew 24 are events and occurrences which transpire "after" the Tribulation is finished. The effects of the final earthquake of the Tribulation Period desecrating the earth and heavens (Rev. 16:17-20) will continue to be experienced when the Tribulation Period officially ends.

There will be a blackout of the sun and moon, perhaps still revealing the previous eerie signs mentioned (the sun will appear as a black garment and the moon as blood). But added to this astronomical phenomenon will also be meteorite showers and perhaps asteroids falling through space, into the

atmosphere, and on to the earth. Everyone on earth will know that Judgment Day has come and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ is not far away.

The smoke, ash, and heavenly signs will continue to manifest themselves as the earth awaits the return of the Son of God. Jesus will NOT return immediately after the seven-year Tribulation expires but will return in a 75 day gap of time outlined by Daniel (Dan. 12:11-13) which is a period of time between the official ending of the Tribulation Period and the beginning of the Millennium. The earth will know the season is ripe for the Second Coming and the Jews who are calling out for the Messiah to return will know that His coming is impending.

Eventually Jesus will return with His Shekinah Glory blazing through the darkened atmosphere (Matt. 24:27) and the soldiers will be slain by the untold millions throughout Palestine (Matt. 24:28) and everyone will know He is returning to earth. The Jewish tribes throughout the earth will mourn in repentance and elect Israel will be regathered and saved (Matt. 24:30-31).

As we begin to wind down our study, we can conclude that all of the prophecies we have looked at in this study have really nothing to do with lunar or solar eclipses. They describe breathtaking signs in the heavens that cannot be missed from any point on earth and cannot be attributed to a natural event but to a direct judgment from the hand of God. Blood moons appearing the sky following universal earthquakes during the Tribulation Period will be a sign from God that He is moving in judgment before the Second Coming.

People living on earth will know that the coming of Jesus Christ is near and more specifically Israel will be able to visibly see all of these cosmic signs of judgment throughout the entire seven-year Tribulation Period, and particularly before the Second Coming, and know that Jesus is about to return to earth.

“This generation” of Matthew 24:34 is not a church generation but a generation of Jews living during the Tribulation Period. Many have taught through the years that the generation referred to in Matthew 24 is the Church and that the Church will be able to witness these signs unfolding and know when the Rapture is going to happen. I’m thankful that this interpretation is in error because I don’t want to be around to witness these signs of judgment!

The generation Jesus is talking about are the generation of Jews living during the Tribulation Period and who are alive to meet Jesus at His Second Coming. Matthew 24 has nothing to do with signs for Church Age saints. How do I know this? First, since this scene occurs “after” the Tribulation period has expired (Matt. 24:29). How can this be referring to a generation of the Church when this occurs after the Tribulation Period? The Church has already been in Heaven for seven years (1 Thess. 1:10; 5:1-10; Rev. 3:10). This cannot be referring to a generation of Church Age saints waiting for the Rapture. Second, Jesus was addressing the Jewish tribes of the earth and not the Church (Matt. 24:30-31) who will be saved in conjunction with His Second Coming to earth.

Are you a sign seeker? Are you caught up in all the hype of trying to find and discover new signs that point to Christ’s return? We must remember that signs are specifically given to Israel living during the Tribulation Period (another generation of Jews) who will visibly see all of these spectacular signs occurring in the heavens before the Second Coming happens.

Dr. John Miles used to say: Signs are for Israel – not the Church.

God has not called us to be sign seekers today. God is not speaking to us through astronomical signs but through His Word.

But Pastor Hagee thinks otherwise:

“The world has taken a wrong turn and we need a sign from God to get back on the right track— the Four Blood Moons just may be that signal! If God gave Joshua and Hezekiah a sign in the heavens and if He posted a sign in the heavens to direct the wise men to the birthplace of our Redeemer, then why wouldn’t He continue to speak to us through signs? God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and He has declared that He will give the terminal generation a signal that something big— something earthshaking— is going to happen” (Hagee, *Four Blood Moons*, Kindle Location 1871).

This is an erroneous statement that has no Biblical evidence. There is no need for God to give a sign in the heavens prior to the Rapture, and there is no Biblical evidence that He will do so.

I don’t know about you, but I don’t get my information from books written by fallible men but from the Book – the Bible! Furthermore, we are to be looking for the Savior - not for blood moons!

Philippians 3:20

“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

We must stop the prophetic speculation and doomsday prophecies that are being propagated by the appearance of blood moons today. The Blood Moon mania and the books written about them will fade away like all the other speculative books that have been written in the past. God’s Word tells us to look to the Heavens today and see the glory of God in the display of blood moons (Ps. 19:1) and look to the sky waiting for the return of our blessed Savior.

Titus 2:13 says:

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”

I saw a book the other day that was being offered. I don’t know anything about it but I did see the cover. It said, “The Rapture will Change Everything.” This is absolutely true. We will receive a new glorified body instantly and enter our glorious destiny to be like Jesus and live with Him forever. Yes, the Rapture will change everything! Let’s keep looking for Jesus to return (Titus 2:13) and keep looking unto Jesus (Heb. 12:2) instead of being caught up in all the hype and hysteria of blood moons.