

Blood Moons: A Biblical Evaluation – Nick Maartens

Because four consecutive Blood Moons occur on Jewish Feasts during 2014-2015, some preachers proclaim that it is a message and warning from God for Israel and the world. The idea that Blood Moons have prophetic significance is based on what is written in Joel 2:31 and Rev.6:12-13. In these scriptures not only moons turning red are mentioned, but also wonders in the sky, blood, fire and columns of smoke (**Joel 2:30**). In **Rev.6:12** we also read about a big earthquake, stars falling on the earth and about global darkness:

“I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord” (Joel 2:30-31).

“I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains” (Rev.6:12-13).

Matt.24:29-31, which refers to the same time as mentioned in Joel 2 and Rev.6, states: ***“Immediately after the distress of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.”***

The things that happen to the sun, the moon, the stars and the earth, as described in these scriptures, are extraordinary, supernatural signs that will be performed by God during the breaking of the sixth seal when He will pour out His wrath and judgement on the earth (**Rev.6:12-17**). It is just logical to understand that before the things associated with the breaking of the sixth seal can happen, the things predicted during the opening of the first five seals must first take place: First seal, White horse (Antichrist), Second seal, Red horse (War), Third seal, Black horse (famine), Fourth seal, Pale horse (Death), Fifth seal, Martyrs receiving white robes (Rev.6:2-11). Have the things associated with the breaking of the first five seals already happened on a Biblical scale on earth? Why are the signs of the first five seals and all the other signs mentioned in the context of Joel 2, ignored by Blood Moon prophets and so much emphasis placed on Blood Moons?

Whilst all the signs in the context of the scriptures in Joel and Revelation are supernatural, the present appearance of Blood Moons is a natural phenomenon which is related to the natural movement and cycles of the sun, the moon and the earth. These cycles of sun and moon eclipses have been observed and recorded for thousands of years and can today be studied by visiting the websites of NASA on the internet.

What also proves that the Biblical phenomenon will be totally supernatural is the fact that the sun and moon will become dark simultaneously (Matt.24:29). According to the laws that regulate the heavenly bodies, this is impossible to happen naturally. Comparing the Blood Moons of 2014-2015 with the moon mentioned in the context of Joel 2 and Rev.6, it is clear that the Blood Moon prophets and Scripture are not talking about the same thing.

Is there prophetic significance in the movement of the sun, moon and stars?

One must be careful not to make predictions by looking at the heavenly bodies, because the Bible warns us not to do so: *"You are wearied by your many counsels, let now the astrologers, those who prophesy by the stars, **those who predict by the new moons**. Stand up and save you from what will come upon you" (Is.47:13, ASV, my emphasis).*

Those who are making predictions by looking at the Blood Moons use **Gen.1:14** to justify what they are doing: *"And God said, 'Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth'."*

Does this verse mean that Christians are to look at the sun, moon and stars to make predictions about the future and to receive messages from God? Most reliable Bible commentators agree that this verse means that God made the sun, moon and stars to indicate hours, day and night, months, years and seasons (summer, winter, autumn and spring), not to predict the future. Common sense and the context of "days" and "years" confirm that "seasons" mean seasons, and not prophetic Jewish feasts and other worldly incidents, like some teachers proclaim. In doing this they are twisting the Scriptures! Nowhere in the Bible do we find any instructions or guidance of how the heavenly bodies should be used to make prophetic predictions. We have already shown that the Word of God rebuked those who did it (**Is.47:13**).

What about the Star of Bethlehem ?

Can the example of the Star of Bethlehem be used to justify the fact that we may use the sun, moon and stars to make predictions about the future? I don't think so, because in the first place, the Star of Bethlehem was not a natural phenomenon. It was a supernatural sign. In the second place, the star did not convey any message to them, an angel did. It was the angel that told them about the birth of the Messiah (**Luk.2:9-12**). Furthermore, knowledge about the Messiah and the place of His birth had been prophetically revealed to the prophets and had been recorded in the Scriptures for anybody to read: *"When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel' "(Matt.2:4-6, my emphasis).*

The sun that stood still for a day in the days of Joshua also had no prophetic significance and was only a supernatural answer to prayer that enabled the Israelites to slay the Amorites (**Josh.10:12**). Likewise, the sun that moved back ten steps in **2 Kings 20:9** also contained no prophetic message. It was also a supernatural sign given to King Hezekiah.

What about Tetrads (a cycle of four Blood Moons in two consecutive years) falling on Jewish Feasts?

What must be kept in mind is that the Jews base their calendar and feasts on the phases of the moon and that it is therefore just logical that the chances are good that eclipses will coincide with certain feasts. The Tetrads of 1493-1494, 1949-1950 and 1967-1968 are usually connected to certain things that have happened to the Jews in the past. So it is said that the Blood Moons during 1493-1494 were warnings that the Jews would be evicted from

Spain. When one investigates the facts you find that the Jews were evicted in 1492 (Alhambra Decree, 31 March, 1492, www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org), whilst the Tetrad occurred between 1493-1494 (<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/LEcats>). Likewise, we find that the 1949-1950 Tetrad took place more than a year after Israel had been declared an independent state in 1948. The Tetrad associated with the Six Day War also does not correlate well with the dates of the war. The first eclipse took place on 24/4/1967, Jerusalem was freed on 5/6/1967, the war ended on 10/6/1967 and the last three Blood Moons happened between 18/10/1967 and 6/10/1968, months after the war had ended! If the Blood Moons of the past had to be prophetic warnings to Israel about coming catastrophic events, what was the use if they happened after the events they were supposed to predict? And if Blood Moons were supposed to be prophetic warnings to Israel, where were they when more than a million Jews were slaughtered when Titus destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D.? The same question can be asked when about six million Jews were murdered in Nazi extermination camps during the Second World War. At least they would have been given a chance to flee! When records of past Tetrads are checked, it will be found that there are some that occurred without any significant coinciding events. And how do you explain the fact that of the events that were predicted by Blood Moons, some were negative and that others were positive? If blood moons are so significant for the Jews, why is it that of the 2014-15 eclipses of the moon only the last one (Sept. 28, 2015) will be visible from Israel, and then only partially?

Two of the most important men propagating the Blood Moon message are **John Haggee** and **Mark Biltz**. In a promotion video of his book *In Defense of Israel* John Haggee makes the following highly questionable statement: *"This book will expose the sins of the fathers and the vicious abuse of the Jewish people. In Defense of Israel will shake Christian theology. It scripturally proves that the Jewish people as a whole did not reject Jesus as Messiah. It will also prove that **Jesus did not come to earth to be the Messiah**. It will prove that there was a Calvary conspiracy between Rome, the high priest, and Herod to execute Jesus as an insurrectionist too dangerous to live. Since **Jesus refused by word and deed to claim to be the Messiah**, how can the Jews be blamed for rejecting what was never offered? Read this shocking expose, In Defense of Israel"* (My emphasis).

Anybody with discernment and who has read his material and listened to his sermons, will know of some of his unbiblical teachings. So for instance he proclaims that anyone who does not tithe will be cursed (<http://www.tithing-russkelly.com>). On another programme of his he invites people to enter into a salt covenant with him and by doing so they promise to send donations to him. As confirmation he then sends them packets of salt. Compare what he says about salt covenants with what Jesus teaches about letting your yes be yes and your no be no. Anything more than that Jesus says is of the evil one! (**Matt.5:37**).

Mark Biltz of **El Shaddai Ministries** is involved in the misleading Hebrew Roots Movement. Here is one of his quotes that can be read on his website: *"My goal is not to convert Jews to Christianity but to bring non-Jews to a better understanding of YHVH through a better understanding of Torah. I think most Christians do not know YHVH as He really is but know Him as they have tried to create Him in their image rather than understanding they were created in His image. Many Christians believe they have a relationship with YHVH but they don't"* (<http://.web.archive.org>).

What causes blood moons?

The most common cause is when the moon hangs low the reflected light from the sun has to pass through more of the earth's atmosphere and the red light of the spectrum is less affected than the other colours. Dust and smoke particles in the earth's atmosphere have the same effect. A much more dramatic way is during certain eclipses of the moon. When the moon is full and it moves through the thick shadow of the earth, it no longer receives direct light from the sun. Indirect light reflected from the moon passes through earth's atmosphere and again, because red light from the spectrum is not effected so much as the other colours, it appears red.

Have extraordinary events, in Biblical proportions, occurred on earth during the Blood Moon cycles of April 15,2014; Oct.8, 2014; and April 4, 2015? What will happen on Sept.28, 2015?

When speaking about events coinciding with Jewish feasts, the fact that must be kept in mind is that there are so many dramatic things happening in the world today that hardly a day goes by without something hitting the headlines. Any timeline can be filled with dramatic co-incidental events. It is therefore logical that many of these things will coincide with Jewish feasts and holy days! But, as mentioned before, what can be deducted from the fact that so many dramatic events of the past and present, do not coincide or relate to anything important happening on the Jewish calendar?

Conclusion

Seen in context, the events happening in Joel 2 and Rev.6 refer to the end time just before the second coming of Jesus Christ when God is going to pour out His wrath and judgements on the earth. This period of time is known as "The Day of the Lord." It will be a time of extraordinary, supernatural manifestations on earth and in heaven. In a time of great persecution the Jews will turn to God for help. They will recognize their Messiah and be converted and God will destroy their enemies. Why do Blood Moon prophets emphasize the red moons, whilst neglecting to expound the meaning of all the other signs mentioned in the context of the same verses that they use for their teachings? – blood, fire, pillars of smoke, a mighty army attacking Jerusalem, destroying homes and a global earthquake! **(Rev.6:12-17)**. In stead of being specific, like Biblical prophecies, they vaguely predict that "something important" is going to happen in the Middle East and that "God is trying to tell us something!" God is not trying to tell anybody anything about the future – what He wanted to say He clearly stated in His written Word! When people, instead of studying God's written Word, look to moons and to NASA for prophetic interpretation, they open themselves up to deception!

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