

## Signs In The Heavens

'God will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, fire and pillars of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood red before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved' (Joel 2:30 to 32).

'There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars, and on the earth there will be anxiety of nations, in perplexity for the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting for fear and for expectation of the things that are coming on the whole world. The powers of the heavens will be shaken then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads because your redemption is near" (Luke 21:25 to 28).

'God will show wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth beneath; blood, fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood red before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes. Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved' (Acts 2:19 to 21).

These three verses tells us, before Jesus comes again, the Lord God will organise certain signs in the skies for us to see, so we will recognise the imminent arrival of our Saviour. There are other signs we need to look out for other than the signs in the skies. Jesus said, "This Gospel of the Kingdom (of God) will be preached throughout the whole world for a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). One sign to look for before Jesus comes is the Gospel being preached all over the world so all people have an equal chance of salvation. At this present time, there are Christians preaching the Gospel in every nation, although many have to be very careful and secretive to avoid persecution and arrest. There is a special reward in heaven awaiting people who risk their lives for the sake of the Gospel and the Kingdom of God. Jesus assured us, "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for righteousness' sake, for their's is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are you when people reproach you, persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:10 to 12).

Another sign to look for is increasing violence, crime, lawlessness, Godlessness and family breakdown in our society. 'Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his child. Children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death' (Matthew 10:21). 'As in those days before the flood, they were eating, drinking and marrying until the day Noah entered into the Ark, and they did not know until the flood (of divine judgement) came and destroyed them all, so will be the coming of the Son of Man' (Matthew 24:38:39). 'In the days of Noah, so it will also be in the days of the Son of Man. They ate, they drank and they married until the day Noah entered the Ark and the flood came and destroyed them all' (Luke 17:26 & 27). People will continue to ignore Jesus and the Gospel, they ignore warnings of Judgement Day, just as they ignored Noah's preaching and warnings. 'God did not spare fallen angels when they sinned but cast them down to hell and committed them to pits of darkness to be reserved for judgment, and He did not spare the ancient world but preserved Noah with seven others, a preacher of righteousness, when He brought a flood on the world of the ungodly' (2 Peter 2:4 & 5). Ungodly people embrace the lie of evolution, which infers God is lying and the Bible is an outdated history book. It is because of their wickedness, God has allowed them to believe a lie. 'With all deception of wickedness for those who are being lost, because they did not receive the love of the truth so they might be saved. Because of this, God sends them a working of error so they should believe a lie, and that so they all might be judged who did not believe the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness' (2 Thessalonians 2:10 to 12).

Another sign to look for is rampant homosexuality and society's acceptance of it. When people reach this level of unrighteousness and are far removed from God, He gives them up to their lust, vile passions and reprobate mind. Even giving approval of homosexuality brings God's judgement. 'God gave them up to the lusts of their hearts to uncleanness so their bodies should be dishonoured among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator, Who is blessed forever, Amen. For this reason, God gave them up to vile passions. Women changed the natural function into that which is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural function of the woman, burned in their lust toward one another, men doing what is inappropriate with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty of their error. They refuse to have God in their knowledge so God gave them up to a reprobate mind to do those things that are not fitting. They are being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil habits, secret slanderers, backbiters, hateful to God, insolent, proud, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, unforgiving, unmerciful, who knowing the ordinance of God; those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them' (Romans 1:24 to 32). If anybody thinks attending

a 'Gay Pride' march or a 'Gay Mardi Gras' is harmless fun, they need to think again. According to the above verses, anyone who approves of that behaviour will be judged by God in all severity.

We need to be aware of the signs of the times. 'Jesus said, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather tomorrow for the sky is red.' In the morning, 'It will be foul weather today for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the appearance of the sky but you cannot discern the signs of the times!' (Matthew 16:2 & 3). Jesus said the people in His day would not be given any sign from heaven except the signs of Jonah, which were, Jesus was to spend three days in the darkness of hell after His death to preach the Gospel to everyone there before He was resurrected. Jonah spent three days in darkness in the stomach of a huge fish before he was 'resurrected' by being spat out onto dry land. 'God prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah who was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights' (Jonah 1:17). Jesus said, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, but no sign will be given it but the sign of Jonah the prophet, for as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matthew 12:39 & 40). 'Because Jesus suffered for sins once, the Righteous for the unrighteous, so He might bring you to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the Spirit in which He went and preached to the spirits in prison (hell), who were disobedient, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ship was being built ... The Gospel was preached to the dead so they might be judged as men in the flesh, but live as to God in the spirit' (1 Peter 3:18 to 20; 4:6).

The 'signs' in the skies written in the three opening verses, were not for the generation of people when Jesus lived, but are for our time. The signs in the skies will specifically be over Israel, because when Jesus returns to earth, He will return to Jerusalem, to His people and will rule the earth from there. When four consecutive total lunar eclipses occur, the group is known as a Tetrad. The blood-red moon and darkness of the sun are caused by a total eclipse. This happens when the earth's shadow blocks the sun's light that would normally reflect off the moon. A layer of dust surrounding the earth refracts the light of the sun, filling the dark area behind the earth with a sunset-red glow. Eclipses have occurred regularly since creation. A blood-moon 'Tetrad' happens when four consecutive total lunar eclipses occur on Jewish Holy Feast Days. Each time a Tetrad has occurred there was a significant event that impacted on the Jewish people within a year. A Saros Cycle is an eclipse cycle with a time frame of 18 years, 11 days and 8 hours that can be used to predict lunar and solar eclipses. One Saros Cycle after an eclipse, the sun, moon and earth return to the same geometry and a nearly identical eclipse will occur west of the original location. Every time a blood-moon pattern appears on Jewish Feast Days, a significant event affects Israel. The events affecting Israel usually begin just before the actual eclipse. To understand the significance of the lunar eclipses due in the next two years, we need to understand the pattern of the blood-moon eclipses that happened in the past.

Some Jewish people believe, when there is a total lunar eclipse causing a blood-coloured moon during a Holy Feast Day, times will be tough for Israel; when there is a solar eclipse, times will be tough for other parts of the world. Four total lunar eclipses on Jewish Feast Days resulting in Blood Moon Tetrads within two years in Israel are extremely rare indeed. NASA discovered Israel has had 'blood-red moons' on the first day of Passover and the first day of Sukkoth in back-to-back years only seven times in the past two thousand years, between the birth of Jesus and 2013. Four partial lunar eclipses occurred on Passover in 32 AD and 33 AD, in the months before and after Jesus was crucified and one occurred on the day He was crucified (Luke 23:44 & 45). Four total lunar eclipses occurred on Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles in 162 AD and 163 AD, coinciding with the terrible persecution of Jews during the Roman Empire, then sadly, the Antonine Plague killed eight million people, approximately a third of the population of Israel.

During the time of the Roman Empire when Jews were slaughtered by the thousands in Israel, many fled to South Gaul, later called Spain about 200 AD. Spain became and remained a second Jewish homeland for over a thousand years and they became deeply woven into Spanish society and history. Suddenly in July 30 1492, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain ordered all Jewish people to leave the country, away from their kingdom and out of the surrounding countries. The entire Jewish community of about half a million people were expelled from Spain. Many thousands died trying to reach safety. Some ship captains charged Jewish passengers exorbitant amounts of money for safe passage then dumped them overboard in the middle of the ocean during the dark night hours. Spanish people spread ridiculous rumours about the Jews swallowing their jewellery, gold and coins and that rumour caused many hundreds to be murdered and cut open by thugs hoping to recover treasure from their stomachs, only to be disappointed. Four total eclipses occurred near the final year of the Spanish Inquisition and terrible persecution of Jews, on the Jewish Passover and the Feast of Trumpets in 1493 and 1494. Ironically, 1492 was the same year Columbus discovered America, which gave the Jewish people another safe country to flee to. Today, there are more than five million Jewish people living in America.

On 14 May 1948, Israel declared themselves an independent nation again for the first time in 2,000 years and formed a transitional government. The following day, the armies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq invaded Israel, forcing Israel to defend its newly acquired sovereignty and its ancestral homeland. The very new, poorly equipped Israeli Defence Force miraculously expelled the invaders in fierce fighting which lasted for about fifteen months and claimed the lives of over 6,000 Israeli's, which was nearly 1% of Israel's Jewish population at that time. Four total eclipses occurred in 1949 and 1950 during the Arab – Israeli War for Independence. Early in 1949, negotiations were conducted between Israel and the invading armies with the exception of Iraq who would not negotiate with Israel. The negotiations resulted in armistice agreements and ended the fighting. The first permanent Israeli government took office on January 25 1949. The Coastal Plain, Galilee and the entire Negev Desert were within Israel's sovereignty. Judea and Samaria, known as the West Bank came under Jordanian rule. The Gaza Strip came under Egyptian administration. The city of Jerusalem was divided with Israel governing the western sector and Jordan controlling the old part of the city and the eastern sector.

Four total lunar eclipses occurred on the Jewish Passover and Feast of Tabernacles in 1967 and 1968, coinciding with the Six Day War when Israel recaptured Jerusalem. On June 5 1967, as Israel's Arab/Islamic neighbours prepared to destroy the Jewish sovereign State, Israel invoked its inherent right of self-defence by launching a pre-emptive strike against Egypt in the south, followed by a counter attack against Jordan in the East and the routing of Syrian forces on the Golan Heights in the North. After just six days of intense fighting, previous cease-fire lines were replaced with Judea, Gaza, the Sinai Peninsula and the Golan Heights back under Israeli control. Jerusalem was unified under Israel's authority and was no longer divided. The northern Israeli villages were finally free of recurrent Syrian shelling. The passage through the Straits of Tiran was ensured for Israeli shipping.

These last three 'Blood Moons' were very important because they affected Israel and made it the nation we know today. These are very significant events in Israel's calendar. According to NASA, four blood-red, total eclipses will occur again on Passover and Sukkoth, Feast of Tabernacles and the Feast of Trumpets in 2014 and 2015 in the same back-to-back manner, as they occurred in 1492, 1948 and 1967, then there will not be any for over one hundred years. This does not necessarily mean the Messiah will come during Tabernacles 2015, but the timing of the total lunar eclipses does reveal a pattern. Each of the above mentioned Tetrads are linked to a major event that affects the Jewish people both in Israel and around the world. The Tetrads show a pattern of a time of persecution of Jewish people, followed by new land for Israel after the war is over. By following the timing of the previous Tetrads, the predicted Tetrads of 2014 and 2015 may well be a time of war or persecution for Jewish people and that may result in Israel gaining more land afterwards. It cannot be a coincidence for all four Tetrads with accompanying full moons during 2014/15, to occur on religious festivals of Israel, together with two solar eclipses in 2015 during the first day of Nisan, the Jewish religious New Year, and again during the first day of Tishri, the Israeli civil New Year, meaning some Gentiles will have a tough time too.

These precise dates in Israel's calendar cannot be manipulated. These signs are a 'wake-up' call for all of God's chosen people, Jews and Gentiles, to be ready for what may lie ahead. This is not the time for God's people to fall into spiritual slumber, but rather we must be ready, awake, alert and watching. The Lord uses the sun, moon and stars for signs of warning. Yeshua told His disciples what the signs of the end of the age would be and some of those unusual signs we are to look out for were a blood-coloured moon and darkened sun; eclipses (Luke 21:25 to 28). God ordained all the Jewish Feasts, festivals, celebrations and rest days so they are relevant and important to God and the Jewish people (Leviticus 23:1 to 44).

Darkened sun and stars and a blood-red moon are prophetic and are written in the scriptures. 'The stars of the sky and its constellations will not give their light. The sun will be darkened and the moon will not shine' (Isaiah 13:10). 'The heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened and the stars withdraw their shining ... I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth; blood, fire and pillars of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes ... The sun and the moon are darkened and the stars withdraw their shining' (Joel 2:10, 30 & 31; 3:15). 'I noticed when he opened the sixth seal, there was a great earthquake. The sun became black as sackcloth made of hair and the whole moon became as blood' (Revelation 6:12). 'The fourth angel sounded its shofar and one third of the sun was struck, one third of the moon and one third of the stars so one third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for one third of it, and the night in the same way' (Revelation 8:12).

Just as we are to look for the signs regarding the moon, so too the Lord said as He heals His people (this is happening right now), so the sun will be seven times hotter than normal. Global warming and climate change are caused by the Lord, not by people or pollution! The reason for this phenomenon is to bring people to repentance, but as the Lord foretold, they would not repent nor give Him glory, but would blaspheme His name. The unsaved will continue to ignore God as though is not there. 'The light of the moon will be like the

light of the sun and the light of the sun will be seven times brighter like the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord heals the fracture of his people, and heals the wound they were struck with' (Isaiah 30:26). 'The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun and it was given to the sun to scorch men with fire. People were scorched with great heat and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues. They did not repent and give Him glory' (Revelation 16:8 & 9).

After warning all of humanity of the events that will happen before He returns, Jesus said, "Be watchful all the time, praying you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will happen, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36). The Lord's warning is especially relevant to us today when we consider current world events, now fulfilling Bible prophecies at an amazing rate. The current events are setting the stage for more ominous incidences that are imminent. Some signs are obvious like the problems in the Middle East, international economic turmoil, political unrest, increased earthquakes, storms, climate change, increased violence and crime, as Yeshua said, "As in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man" (Matthew 24:37).

Amen and God bless you.

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