

FOUR BLOOD MOONS*

I thought I might be sharing this little study with a few of you so I'm going to write as if I'm speaking with you face to face.

My attention of late has been drawn to this very interesting phenomenon of the total lunar eclipse of April 15 2014, and the four others that will follow within the year. The next one will take place on October 8, and will be followed next year by one on April 4, and then one on Sept.28. Now before I tell you why these are of specific interest to me let me explain simply what a lunar eclipse is, and why it gives rise to a "Blood Moon".

A lunar eclipse takes place when the earth passes between the moon and the sun, with the earth casting a shadow through which the moon passes, the moon turning red because the light now hitting it is passing through the earth's atmosphere. Eclipses themselves are not unusual phenomena since they happen regularly, sometimes twice a year I believe. Most of these are partial eclipses. A total eclipse occurs when the moon in its orbit actually passes through the darkest part of the earth's shadow causing its colour to change dramatically from its normal bright self to a coppery red, a "blood moon". This can be seen from only certain parts of the earth because, for one thing, at least half of the earth is in broad daylight when this event takes place; also, the moon can only be seen by about one quarter or so of the earth at any one time.

For us in North America this event began on Tuesday, April 15, at around 2:00 am Eastern standard Time. The total eclipse happened about an hour later, the whole thing lasting about 78 minutes, a little longer than the 59 minutes forecasted for the October eclipse which won't be seen by most of us in North America as it will occur somewhere over the Pacific Ocean.

As interesting as that event was to me...and I've added a little addendum to this article describing how it went down here in Western Newfoundland just for your reading pleasure..if you want to know why this is of particular interest to me, please read on.

First let me give you the astronomical point of view. I'm no astronomer, just interested, because I believe I'm going to know a whole lot more very soon.

It is not the fact of a Total Lunar Eclipse that is of interest to me, but the fact that it is part of an even greater phenomenon known as a Tetrad; that's a situation where you have a series of four total lunar eclipses occurring in close proximity of time to one another. How rare is that you ask? Well, you probably don't play cards much, and you probably don't gamble, but a Tetrad is like having four-of-a-kind in a poker hand. You're sitting pretty good, and it's not likely to happen to you again any time soon. Apparently, over the last 5000 years or so there have only been 142 Tetrads, and these have not been consistently or regularly spaced out. They seem to have intervals of 300 years or so in which there are relatively many followed by the next 300 with none. And they have 'seasons', if I understand correctly, in which the number of Tetrads are gradually decreasing until eventually there will be none, zilch, nada; something to do with the eccentricity of the earth in its orbit relative to the moon and sun. For example, according to NATO sources, in the season between 1582 and 1908, there were eclipses but no Tetrads. But from 1909 to 2156 there has been or will be 17 such events. The last one for us was in 2003/4, the current one is 2014/15, and the next, Lord willing, would occur in 2032/33.

Now if that alone is not enough to get one up in the early morning, read on.

Many have looked at such phenomena as the eclipses from an astrological perspective, with as many applications as lookers, I might add, but be that as it may. Each is entitled to his or her opinion and to his or her belief; I make no judgment in the matter. But I would like to look at it again from a Biblical point of view which may or may not align with the former. Now I know in writing this I stand the chance of losing some of you, but give it a chance, read on ahead and you will find something quite interesting; yes, even for you, you skeptic, you. I'm not going to preach; I'm going to tell.

The week, April 15-22, was Passover week for the people of Israel, which they refer to as Pesach. It is the "beginning of months" for them as they celebrate that historic moment when they were delivered from the slavery of Egypt, that nation having had to suffer the ten plagues of Jehovah before releasing its captives. I think we all know that story well. It is the first month in their Jewish calendar, the Tuesday, April 15 on our calendar being for them Nissan 15.

Similarly, on October 8-15, these same people will celebrate another much-loved festival, Sukkoth; the Harvest Festival, known scripturally as The Feast of Tabernacles. It takes place in the seventh month, on Tishrei 14. Typically, the celebration of these Jewish holidays or, as originally known, holy-days, begins at 6:00 PM in the evening of the day before (if the 15 is the day marked as the celebration on our calendar, it officially begins for them at 6pm on the 14, following the Genesis record, "**And the evening and the morning were the first day**" Gen.1:5).

Next year, 2015, these celebrations will also coincide with the advent of the second two total lunar eclipses which will occur on April 4, and September 28. Some skeptics, as to the Devine influence in any of this, are quick to point out that there is nothing strange or extraordinary in the coincidence of the festivals and the eclipses coming together in that fashion because the Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar and thus special holy days got affixed to special lunar events such as the eclipses. Nothing odd or strange about that, and they are quite right, if it were so; but it is not.

I invite you to read again a little of the account of Israel's deliverance from Egypt as found in Exodus 12, when the Passover was first inaugurated; and Leviticus 23, where all the "feasts of Jehovah" were instituted. The record is clear; it was not the people who decided to remember special events by affixing them to specific lunar phenomena, but Jehovah Himself who "**spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the Lord, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts**", Lev.23:1-2. Not only were they His feasts; it was He who determined when those very first ones were to take place, and when those thereafter would be remembered.

What is the import of all this? Simply this. It was Jehovah God who established it. That first Passover, then, must have occurred during a total lunar eclipse, as did the Feast of Tabernacles. God, it was, who tied these events, and the remembrance of these events, to these two specific astronomical happenings; it was not the people deciding to remember them on those dates. Were they "Blood Moons" when they first took place? My research is yet too shallow to know, but I suspect they were from what follows. And were these two parts of a Tetrad as well? Again, I do not know but suspect they were. Before I tell you why I think so, I would like to show you why I think it is not beyond the Lord to do a thing like that. But we'll have to go into the Word in order to do that. Sorry, for any who might not prefer that, but there's just no other way. [I want to add a thought here: Would it be a surprise to anyone if it were discovered that the Crucifixion is found tied to a total Solar eclipse, and that one centered squarely on Israel? By the way, three of the four Lunar eclipses in the present Tetrad will not be visible from Israel. That has to be significant. The first is over America, the second over the

Pacific Ocean and lands adjoining, the third and fourth I can't find out about because the "bleeding heart bug", I suspect, has caused NASA to take down access to that information].

Here's my preface to the scriptures I am about to quote. It's to prevent you from tossing the baby out with the bathwater as I know most of you are well versed in scripture and know that you and I are not to be looking for 'signs'...**and there shall no sign be given...but the sign of Jonas the prophet... Jonas was a sign to the Ninevites**, Lk 11:29. The Ninevites were Gentiles, like you and I, and they were to come 'by faith' to a belief in God and His Word by the preaching of Jonah or suffer the consequences of an impending judgment. They came, and repented, and were spared. We, too, are to come to the Lord 'by faith', but signs are for sight, not faith. Faith is for us, and that for the day in which we find ourselves because our Lord was rejected, crucified, and cast out, and our age has sent a message after Him, to God, saying, "**We will not have This Man reign over us**" (capitals mine). That's why you find this statement in the parable of the pounds in Luke but not in the similar parable of the talents in Matthew. Thus we can only, and must, approach Him by faith, not by sight. Sight will come, one day. However, that being said, the Lord did tell us that though we would not know the day nor the hour of His coming, yet we could know the 'season'; you know the verse. Signs, I believe, are for God's earthly people...**for the Jews require a sign**...and time does not allow me to go more into that. Some of that nation will know the sign; we can know the season.

I'm going to be brief. I'm going to refer to three scriptures only. Genesis 1:14, **And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and for years...And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.** Here we have it; the two great lights were not for light only, but for signs, and for seasons. This was in the very beginning.

Let's look at a verse that forebodes the ending. Joel 2:30-31. **And it shall come to pass...I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness** (at the cross where God bore the judgment of men?) **and the moon into blood** (where men will bear the judgment of God?) **before the great and terrible day of the Lord come.** Signs and wonders are a definite part of the events leading up to the coming of the Lord to execute judgment upon the earth. And the blood moons appear to be quite-telling features. One more.

Luke 21 to verse 24, presents what many believe to be the historical narrative of what happened in Israel, to Jerusalem particularly, when Titus and the Roman army destroyed the temple, and the city, killing over a million Jews in the process. 100,000 more were taken away captive. Matthew 24, very similar to Luke in many ways, is believed to be more a description of what will take place to those people, in that same city, in a future day that Joel describes. Luke ties this in in the 25 verse, a very instructive portion to verse 33, for it follows immediately after the phrase in the 24 which states, **until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.** I think most of us understand that we are living in **the times of the Gentiles** and those times are about to be fulfilled. Hence the 25 verse is very notable. Luke quotes Joel and enlarges upon him. **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; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: the powers of heaven shall be shaken.** All this just before the coming of the Son of man. Many signs are to accompany His advent into this scene the second time. As we meditate on these brief scriptures and gaze around at what's taking place can there be any doubt that we are approaching those very times?

Yes I know. There's always been 'such times'. True. But we must be careful not to fall into Peter's condemnation for he foretold of those who would come in the last days: **Scoffers**, he said, would come, saying, **Where is the promise of His coming?** But he goes on to say that the one who would come, will come in judgment, but is waiting, **longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance**, 2 Pet.3:4-9. Oops. Close to preaching there but, no, I'm just telling what Peter said.

So, where is all this leading? Well, we who believe, believe the last days are coming because Scripture says so. Are they here? I can't say; nobody can, but we are told we can know the season. So, read on and see if our subject has anything to do with the season. You be the judge.

So far we have concluded, or at least I have, that the Jewish institutions of Passover and Tabernacles were both established and commemorated on days of total lunar eclipses. And that ordained by Jehovah Himself. Were these parts of a Lunar Tetrad? I think they may have been and here's why.

Let's look at it again from a historical point of view. As I said, Tetrads are an anomaly. But there's eight 'scheduled' for the 21st Century, the first three in 2003/4, 2014/15, and 2032/33. I don't think I'll be around for that last one, either way, which makes this one of some importance for that reason alone. But let's have a brief look at what history records as happening on Tetrads in the past; not to the world, as it were, but to the nation of Israel particularly. Since three is abundant testimony, I will give three examples. The following all happened when there were Four Blood Moons. In each case the event in Jewish history parallels somewhat the situation God's people found themselves in in Egypt. There they were oppressed beyond measure and cried to Jehovah for deliverance, and He delivered them (Passover) and brought them forth in victory (Harvest Feast of Thanksgiving). I don't know all the particulars of the following but history records it as being true.

One other thing I should add before I continue. This I got largely from another brother on another site of similar interest. Signs, or events that are construed as signs, are best to be looked at as "signposts" indicating we are approaching something of significance, rather than the significant thing itself, in much the same way a highway sign announces an upcoming city before that city actually comes into view. Mistakes are often made when these 'signposts' are interpreted as markers to the beginning of an expected event, such as the Lord's coming, and the often sincere begin to attach exact dates and times which the scriptures forbid.

First, the four blood moons of 1493-94.

It's the time of the famous Spanish Inquisition when over 200,000 Jews living in Spain were singled out by the March 31, 1492 Edict of Expulsion and given 14 days to flee that country. One-half fled to Portugal, many elsewhere, and the rest became "Christian" to escape the persecution. Eventually the pogrom spread as other European countries turned anti-Semitic as well...Italy refused even the 3-day landing on her soil, Germany at "Judenburg" burned 24 Jews including women and children because someone was found guilty of "stabbing a consecrated wafer"; Sicily expelled 37,000, and Cyprus followed suit soon after. [An interesting side note: Just yesterday, Friday, April 11, residents of a town in Northern Spain voted to have their town's name changed from what it has been called since the Inquisition, Castrillo Matajudios, [Castrillo Kill Jews] to Castrillo Mata de Judios [Castrillo Jews' Hill]. They still hold an annual festival in Northern Spain, a "matar Judios fiesta" where the traditional drink is lemonade spiked with alcohol which they call "matar Judios". That is not about to change; it was glasses up again on Good Friday, April 18, celebration day].

It were many of these same Jews who backed Christopher Columbus with maps, money and goods, and encouraged him in his exploits for new lands to the west. We know that story well. America was discovered and became that grateful safe haven for hundreds of thousands of persecuted Jews from Europe and elsewhere. A

wonderful deliverance followed by a festival of thanksgiving, no doubt. Remember, they had no homeland to go to; they hadn't had one since the first century.

Second, the four blood moons of 1948-49.

I do not think I have to provide details of what atrocities were perpetrated against the people of Israel by Hitler, the Nazis, and many others as well before and during the Second World War. How many millions died and how many cried to God for deliverance no one knows for certain. Well, we know that story also. It was probably as a result of such treatment of the Jews, their having sustained such cruel and overwhelming losses, that allied nations finally agreed to create a homeland for the Jews (not overlooking the providence of God, of course). Wonder of wonders: a nation was re-born. Not since the age of man has such a thing taken place where a defeated and a dispersed people returned as a people to their native homeland. Most are, I forget the word, assimilated, is it, into the cultures and countries of the nations where they find themselves and lose their identity as a distinct people. Israel was that nation. Surely, another deliverance and a Feast of Tabernacles moment.

Thirdly, the four blood moons of 1967.

Israel was under attack and vastly outnumbered by the Arab nations that surrounded and came against her so overwhelmingly. She suffered many losses and looked to be defeated but eventually the tide turned and that day that little nation won a most resounding victory. Jerusalem, that holy city, without which there was no heart to the relatively new nation of Israel, had been out of Jewish hands, but not Jewish hearts, for nearly 2000 years. By the end of that Six Day War Jerusalem was back "on Israeli soil" or was it the other way round? In any event the victory was magnificent and Jews around the world rejoiced, many making plans to rejoin their native homeland. It too was a Tabernacle moment after a wonderful Passover-type deliverance.

There, you be the judge. Does it make sense at all to you? The Tetrads above, the four Blood Moons, have two things in common: they witnessed great moments of tribulation and fear for the people of Israel and they saw great triumphs accomplished. Not because the people of that nation were wholly following the Lord, for they had pronounced their own devastation when they addressed Pilate concerning the crucifixion of Jesus. Pilate wanted to release Jesus, finding no fault in him, but the people cried out, **His blood be on us, and on our children**. That verse is in Matthew, the primary Gospel dealing with the coming Kingdom. It certainly has been so, but the promises of God are sure and what He told Abraham when He called him forth from Ur of the Chaldees will be accomplished in a not-to-distant day. He preserves them for His own sake. It is for this reason I believe that what happened in Egypt those many years ago took place on a Tetrads occasion as well. God surely has His eye upon His earthly people, and has preserved them in spite of the fact that they rejected His Son from heaven. He was their true King but they cried, **We have no King but Caesar, and they cast Him out**. Is there not going to be at least one other Blood Moon episode before the Lord Jesus, their true but rejected Messiah, comes to Tabernacle with them for the next 1000 years? Just maybe this current one is the signpost for something on the horizon. If it were blood moons, Tetrads even, that announced the first Passover and Feast of Tabernacles and these same signposts announced the many other significant tribulation/triumph episodes in Israel history, then just maybe it will be a blood moon event that will trigger what many believe must happen before the tribulation period begins...the regaining of the Temple Mount so the temple described so vividly by Ezekiel can be built. Everything is now ready in Israel for that long awaited edifice...all the ornaments, the vessels, the priestly garments, etc...they have them all, and probably the original mercy seat as well, just waiting for the actual site to begin the erecting. It seems a major national/political event would have to occur before that would happen...another major Arab attack maybe, or a pre-emptive Israeli attack on near-nuclear Iran...something very threatening and very real could mobilize the nation to take that final step.

Conclusion. It isn't that we have to search out the whole 142 Tetrads to see what happened on each occasion in order to accept our findings thus far. Nor do we have to be adamant that this one which we are in the midst of witnessing will amount to any more than the 2003/4 one did. Not all have been, or are, associated with episodes of tribulation and triumph. But the point is, that when such events as described above took place in Israel's history, they were associated with the "signs" as demonstrated. We have to look at the situation in Israel today, see what is facing her, see who it is that is opposing her, and to what degree, before we can ascertain 'the season'. With the "Arab Spring" of last year, the disaffecting of former friend, Egypt, and to some degree, Turkey, the nuclear threat of Iran, the rising Bear taking the Crimea, and positioning strategically on the border of the Ukraine, does it not at least appear that such a "season" might be here?

I close with this. I've spent my whole Saturday writing this, in quietness as my wife is in Ontario...that didn't sound right, did it?... but I have thoroughly enjoyed doing so. We live in remarkable times. I have a sense of awe and wonder about it all. Just another footnote. As I was researching some of this I found this interesting tidbit about the Crimea, just so recently in the news. The Crimea was one place to which some Jews fled after the ransacking of Jerusalem in 70AD. Excavations there at a place called Tauris shows that a viable Jewish community, complete with a synagogue, existed there in 80 AD. Apparently, the Bear has seen to it that they will not resort thither the next time.

*Pastor John Hagee has written a book by this name. I haven't read it but I have read a little about what it contains and it started me looking for more. I credit him with some information contained in this article. We are instructed to be Bereans in such things (Acts 17:11) ...and this I have attempted to be here. DHM

ADDENDUM

From: DHM

Sent: 2014-04-15 Tuesday 07:20 AM

Subject: Lunar Eclipse...Western Newfoundland

Hi;

The clock is striking 6:00 am as I'm writing this. It's a very windy, extremely heavy, cloudy morning; the weatherman was spot on with his forecast for Western Newfoundland..."heavy fog and cloud for the whole region moving in overnight". My daughter-in-law, Penny, called at 5:30 to say that she was out in her Jeep travelling all over the city since 4:00 trying to find a spot where she might see the moon, but only got to see one brief fingernail through the cloud. She wanted to know if I had seen anything.

I sent you that little write-up of the "blood moons" yesterday so it becomes me to send a follow-up today. Here's my experience of the morning...make of it what you will.

No doubt the weatherman's dire forecast had put a chink in my faith that my prayer for a glimpse of that wonderful phenomenon would be answered. When my wife called from Ontario at bedtime I asked if she was getting up at 3:00 to view it since she was in such a great location. The long pause told me she was once again wondering why she should ever return to that loony-bin. Anyway, she asked if I was setting my clock for the 4:30 rise and I said No. It didn't sound good in the forecast and my prayer would be to let the Lord wake me if and when the time was right. So after my little session about "if it be Your will" I was about to climb in bed when I

remembered I never put out the fleece (if you're not sure what that means read the story of Gideon in the book of Judges...it amounts to preparing for an answer)...my binoculars were still downstairs in the back room hidden deep in what is affectionately called my "tickle-trunk". My mind immediately went to 'there'll be time in the morning...besides if it's cloudy...', you know how it goes, but No, that's not preparing for an answer, so off I trotted and eventually fished out the handy tool. It was a good thing I never waited till morning.

Ever have one of those nights when sleep never wants to come? It was one of those. Mind racing. Body tossing. Watching the clock, "I'll never get up in the morning"...but the next thing I knew I'm wide awake and the clock says 4:26. I'm up in a flash, out to the Patio, and gazing into a blanket of thick cloud now covering about one-third of the western sky. An old song by country singer Hank Snow came to mind, "The moon has gone behind the cloud, and I'm so lonesome I could cry". The morning is still, the city quiet; but beautiful Blomidon can't be seen, and there's nothing above it but the densest cloud. I study the region where the moon should be and there's no indication where it is; no glow of any sort. All this within a minute. Then...a flicker of light...a faint glow. I run for fleecy for though it's mild, it's still uncomfortable sitting in the open doorway.

I don't know if anyone else had the privilege this morning here in West NL to have seen this so I'll describe it a little for you. I know you folks to the coast must have been wrapped in fog as well.

For the next fourteen minutes or so till 4:40 I watch as the clouds part like the parting of the Red Sea, first gradually shining through the veil, and then an awesome display. With my binoculars ready I witnessed what I knew was the perfect timing of an event. At first I thought I had missed it as about 1/8 of the moon was shining brightly and I thought the eclipse had passed already, but no, it was about to go into its total eclipse. For a while the moon's face came and went as cloudy billows washed over it but then a v-shaped opening appeared and there it was in full, plain view and I was awestruck. The earth's dark circular shadow showed plainly on the moon's surface as it edged slowly forward in a southeasterly direction. And as it did so the regions of the moon farthest from the fingernail took on a reddish cast. By 4:39 it was completely covered, like a transparent lid having been drawn over it, and though not the 'coppery red' that will be seen elsewhere, it had that deepening tint. What I took to be the planet Mars was still shining brightly in its 4:00 o'clock position, not yet having entered the earth's shadow, and not the "fiery red star" it would become a little later. But I was not to see that. As quickly as it appeared it was gone. The clouds wrapped back in like you would imagine the way the Red Sea might have closed in and anyone walking in at that moment would never have believed my report. In no time the whole sky was cloud-covered and the winds were up; but so was I. A tremendous sense of awe and gratitude swept over me, lifting me, and I ain't singin' Hank Snow any more. I would not have changed a thing. Fifteen minutes one way or the other and I would not have gotten a glimpse, and without the binoculars I would not have seen the gradual unveiling of this remarkable event. I was so thankful I had gotten prepared.

Anyway, that's what happened here this morning. I trust some of you did get a chance to witness it in your area as well. Cheers.

Have a great day!

Derek

