



FOUR BLOOD MOONS ARISING

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When we see four blood moons arising, is it then that the “tides are turning”?

The fact that these holy days coincide with a full moon is not unusual because the Hebrew calendar is lunar. For instance, *Rosh Chodesh* (“Head of the Month”), which symbolizes renewal and restoration, is evident when the moon appears the first time of the month as a sliver (crescent) in the sky.

Early on Tuesday morning, 15 April, many people began to observe the moon change color to a burnt, reddish orange. The “blood moon” is the first in a series of four successive entire lunar eclipses to occur within a year and a half. The moon will change color as the result of an entire eclipse, during which the shadow of the Earth receives refracted sunlight; this will emit a reddish sheen upon the moon. The blood moon can be seen anywhere on the dark side of the moon; thus, half the world can see it while the other half cannot. According to NASA, “The action starts on April 15th when the full Moon passes through the amber shadow of Earth, producing a midnight eclipse visible across North America. So begins a lunar eclipse *tetrad*—a series of 4 consecutive total eclipses occurring at approximately six month intervals. The total eclipse of April 15, 2014, will be followed by another on Oct. 8, 2014, and another on April 4, 2015, and another on Sept. 28 2015.”¹

Moon eclipses are fairly common, and even though entire lunar eclipses are less frequent, they are more common than one may initially think. The sequence of four successive blood moons (known as a tetrad) rarely occurs. Lunar eclipse tetrads have occurred several times in the recent past: 1909—10, 1927—28, 1949—50, 1967—68, 1985—86, and 2003—04. A tetrad occurring in relation to Jewish history has only occurred thrice in the past 500 years: 1493—94; 1949—50; and, 1967—68 (there have been four others earlier in history: 162—63;

795—96; 842—43; and, 860—61). The 2014—15 cycle will occur during religiously significant dates for the Jewish people.

The first blood moon, which already occurred on 15 April 2014, was the second day of Passover. The second blood moon will occur on 8 October 2014, which is during the Feast of Tabernacles (*Sukkot*). The third will occur on 5 April 2015, during next year’s Passover celebration. The fourth blood moon will be seen on 28 September 2015, which is during the seventh (and final) feast that God commanded Israel to observe (next year’s *Sukkot*).

The fact that these holy days coincide with a full moon is not unusual because the Hebrew calendar is lunar. For instance, *Rosh Chodesh* (“Head of the Month”), which symbolizes renewal and restoration, is evident when the moon appears the first time of the month as a sliver (crescent) in the sky. Passover is always celebrated on the day of the first full moon subsequent to the vernal equinox. *Sukkot* is always observed on the day of the first full moon subsequent to the autumnal equinox. Passover and *Sukkot* always occur on full moon days and are continuously separated by six months.

Despite the fact that it is not unusual to have a lunar eclipse occur on the same day as Passover and *Sukkot*, there are individuals who believe there is prophetic significance regarding the lunar eclipse *tetrad* in 2014 and 2015. Mark Blitz is the founder of El Shaddai Ministries in Bonney Lake, Washington, which functions as a resource and

teaching ministry emphasizing the context and culture of “Hebrew roots” in order to have a correct understanding of the Bible.

Blitz explains how Jesus died for sinful humanity on Passover, was buried on the Feast of Unleavened Bread, resurrected as the Firstfruits, and sent the Holy Spirit to indwell believers on the Feast of Pentecost. He teaches that Jesus fulfilled the spring feasts to the very day; thus, the second coming of the Lord will likewise occur to the very day of the fall feasts. Consequently, the four 2014—15 blood moons have unusual, supernatural significance.

Joel 2:31 prophesies, “The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.” Peter referenced this prophecy on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:16-21). Blitz suggests that the lunar eclipses are a fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy and may be signs of the Lord’s return. Megachurch Pastor John Hagee of Cornerstone Church

(San Antonio, TX) has popularized Blitz’s assumptions.

In his latest book, *Four Blood Moons: Something Is About to Change*, Hagee described how the series of blood moons between April 2014 and September 2015 are celestial signs that have “world-shaking” significance for Israel. Hagee wrote, “The sun, moon, and stars are unmistakably connected to Israel and biblical prophecy—and that connection inspired this book. God will use them to light up the heavens with an urgent, top-priority message for all mankind.”² Writing with a word of encouragement, Hagee asserted, “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*. . . . 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 for a fourth time.*”³

Citing 2 Timothy 3:1-5, which states “that in the last days difficult times will come,” Hagee tentatively asserted, “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!”⁴ Previously, he was much more confident in his assertion: “Everything is about to change . . . forever!”⁵ *Merriam-Webster Online* defines the pronoun “everything” as meaning “all that exists”; thus, Hagee’s assertion is quite bold. Hagee also implied that the “new” four blood moons’ “prophetic revelation” is “absolute truth.” He asserted, “When I discover a



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Hagee's emphasis upon the blood moons as signs for America is odd, especially since earlier he asserted that the blood moons are celestial signs that have "world-shaking" significance for Israel. Unfortunately, the first three of the four blood moons will not be visible to those residing in Jerusalem, so they will not be able to observe their own "celestial signs."

potential new prophetic revelation, I go to the absolute truth of the Word of God, which is the foundation of all sound biblical research and teaching."⁶

Hagee refers to past appearances of four blood moons during Jewish feast days, and how they coincided with significant events for Israel and the Jewish people. For instance, the Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492, and Columbus discovered America, which became a place of refuge for the Jewish people. During more recent blood moon cycles, the nation of Israel was reborn (1948), and Israel won the Six-Day War in 1967 and recaptured Jerusalem. With each of the blood moons, Hagee explains, there is a tragic event that culminates in triumph.

Of course, there are some problems with these dates and the appearance of the blood moons. For instance, the Spanish Inquisition began in 1483, and the Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492, yet the first blood moon was not seen until Passover, 2 April 1493. If the 1493—94 tetrad of blood moons was a sign to the Jewish people, the warning was late by one year (and the other three blood moons have no correspondence whatsoever with the events of the Inquisition). Similarly, the first of the 1949—50 tetrad was Passover, 13 April, yet Israel's War for Independence began in May 1948 and concluded in March 1949. None of the blood moons occurred during any significant dates associated with the rebirth of the nation of Israel, so there is no sense in which they could function as warnings to the Jewish people, especially if they occurred after the War ceased. Similarly, the

first of the 1967—68 tetrad was Passover, 24 April, which was six weeks prior to the beginning of the Six Day War (5—11 June 1967).

Hagee believes the 1493—94 blood moon is especially important for America. "The mantle of prosperity was lifted from Spain and placed upon the shoulders of an infant nation that would become the United States."⁷ America has been "a harbor of refuge" for the Jewish people since the 1492 Edict of Expulsion of the Jews from Spain; consequently, the United States has a unique responsibility to bestow protection for the Jewish people and must heed the sign of the four blood moons. The prominence given to America is peculiar, since the Great Commission is to "make disciples of all the nations."

Frankly, it is wearisome to witness the constant emphasis by individuals (such as Hagee) who want to assert that America is a special nation, uniquely endowed by God, when there is nothing in Scripture that affirms such a position. Certainly, the blessing of God is dependent upon obeying His Word, and confessing disobedience against it (cf. Neh 9:1-38). However, there is nothing in the Bible to assert that there are special signs and responsibilities for America. Hagee's emphasis upon the blood moons as signs for America is odd, especially since earlier he asserted that the blood moons are celestial signs that have "world-shaking" significance for Israel. Unfortunately, the first three of the four blood moons will not be visible to those residing in Jerusalem, so they will not be able to observe their own "celestial signs."

The Bible never references blood moons as an impetus to be ready for the Lord's imminent return. *Four Blood Moons* involves too much sensationalizing of biblical prophecy, and the assertions therein do not correspond with biblical revelation.

The biblical passages that reference the darkening of the sun and the moon becoming like blood (Joel 2:31; Isa 13:9-10; Matt 24:29; Rev 6:12), prophesy the time of the Lord's judgment in association with the return of Jesus Christ to earth. The blood moons prophesied in Scripture also include solar eclipses on the same day; therefore, the tetrads of blood moons in the past (and those occurring in 2014—15), are not the same as those in the Bible. To be in agreement with Scripture, one should also associate “world-shaking” events in association with solar eclipses (not just blood moons). Obviously, the prognosticators of the blood moons are selective with information that already agrees with their assumptions.

Furthermore, it is a natural (physical) impossibility for a blood moon and solar eclipse to occur simultaneously. When the Lord God causes both to occur (in addition to other cosmological phenomena), it will truly be an unmistakable sign that is unique to a period of which the world has never known. No current or historical parallel exists for the judgments and signs associated with the Day of the Lord. The prophesied signs of the blood moons refer to the eschatological period of the tribulation. Interpreting blood moons as biblical signs of that yet future time is more consistent with the historicist notion that there is a “progressive and continuous fulfillment of prophecy in unbroken sequence, from Daniel's day and the time of John, on down to the second advent and the end of the age.”⁸

The 2014—15 tetrad cannot be a sign of Christ's coming for His church, since there are no prophesied events that precede that blessed event (i.e. the rapture). If the Day of the Lord is defined as the

seven years of tribulation, and the 2014—15 tetrad occurs in association with that period, then it appears that Hagee is referencing the four blood moons as a means to prepare Christians for the Lord's coming for His church. The problem is that the Bible never references blood moons as an impetus to be ready for the Lord's imminent return. *Four Blood Moons* involves too much sensationalizing of biblical prophecy, and the assertions therein do not correspond with biblical revelation. Hagee's effort to bring attention to the prophetic Word is not a careful representation or study of Scripture. *Four Blood Moons* is reminiscent of Nostradamus' quatrains, which fail to predict the past and have nothing meaningful to assert regarding the future. One would do better to enjoy the blood moons as another aspect of God's marvelous displays of his splendor in creation.

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ENDNOTES

- 1 Tony Phillips, “A Tetrad of Lunar Eclipses” [article online] (NASA Science, 27 March 2014, accessed 25 April 2014) available from http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2014/27mar_tetrad.
- 2 John Hagee, *Four Blood Moons* (Brentwood, TN: Worthy Publishing, 2013) 41.
- 3 Ibid. 42.
- 4 Ibid. 174.
- 5 Ibid. 2.
- 6 Ibid. 173.
- 7 Ibid. 195.
- 8 Leroy Edwin Froom, *The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, 4 vols. (Washington, DC: Review and Herald, 1950) 1:22-23. Historicists interpret Scripture in a non-literal manner according to the belief in prophetic fulfillment throughout the history of church (the same as blood moon prognosticators).