

THE COMING **BLOOD MOONS** WHAT ARE THEY?



Chapter 1

Are “Blood Moons” Biblical?

There is already a growing interest that is arousing concern within the Christian community about what some believe to be, *allegedly, end-time signs* presented in the books of Joel, Revelation, and a few of the Gospels—and their fascinating connection to the *coming biblical blood moons*. There are a few ministries already jumping at the “prophetic end-time” *money making opportunity* these astronomical anomalies provide. Books are already in the making and some of the authors have been rushing to the speaking circuit promoting what they believe to be the coming onslaught of disastrous misfortune that will occur to Israel and the rest of the world over 2014 and 2015. Assuredly, some will be promoting survival gear, or precious metals, dehydrated foods, guns and ammo, maybe even a bomb shelter, or silo, to get some of the “financial action” this kind of opportunity provides!

Others, especially from the Christian preterist worldview, yawn with indifference from the perspective of “been there—done that,” and simply say, “Here we go again”—while others just don’t know what to think. Sadly however, I suspect some will be persuaded into making misguided decisions and/or investments that may cause themselves varying degrees of hardship they could have avoided, if only they would have been told the truth; instead of allowing themselves to be victimized by some of these “*charlatan opportunists*” who care only about how many books, gold, silver, food, or guns, they can sell. We’ve seen it happen time and time again within the Christian community—the Y2K concerns of a few years ago at the turn of the century, or more recently, Harold Camping (who is since deceased), the Mayan Calendar scare, and now blood moons—and how so often it just simply results in undermining and dishonoring the legitimacy of the Bible, the gospel of Jesus Christ, and in this context, *most importantly, His real end-time prophetic signs*.

There are descriptions in the Bible about the moon turning red and the sun becoming black as sackcloth of hair, and the heavens departing as a scroll when rolled together (Revelation 6:12–14). And yes, these are horrible descriptions of catastrophic events that will result in the death and mutilation of literally millions, if not billions, of people around the world. But, is that really what we can expect at this point in man’s history—in the years of 2014 and 2015? Or are those scriptures referencing a *different place on God’s timeline* of the latterday scenario? The answers to these questions underpin a very important *segment of clarity* that, if understood correctly, would better prepare us for evaluating the information advanced by these modern-day prognosticators and result in a more balanced, healthier, and mature view of this coming astronomical phenomenon *that is indeed going to happen!*

Evaluating the Information

To properly evaluate any information, *we must understand it fundamentally*. That is basic and foundational to determining what decision we will make concerning the matter under consideration. Contrary to the politicians of today, like Nancy Pelosi, who announced with

affirmation, “We must pass the law [Affordable Health Care Act—a.k.a. Obamacare], in order to find out what’s in it” —really?

Who among us would make long-term commitments to something that would obligate oneself to spending money and time, without first fundamentally understanding what the contract contains and how it will impact the persons involved? I would venture to say, most of us, if not all of us, would *not make* that decision or believe that opinion, teaching, or instruction, unless we clearly understood what it was all about and exactly what it entailed.

And so it is with blood moons—how can we make a fair evaluation of the credibility of those claiming they actually represent the signs of Joel and those written by John in the book of Revelation, or Matthew and Mark, until we understand what they are? The truth of the matter is, we can’t! Instead, we should take some time and review the facts about just what these blood moons are all about. Only then can we come to an honest assessment and, hopefully, mature view of just what this phenomenon is.

As we begin to understand this topic we should recognize there are *two major terms* we need to become familiar with. The first one has already been presented, *blood moons*. However, the other is the *lunar tetrad*. These are *two distinctly different terms* that describe *two different items*. Unfortunately, there is some confusion resulting from misappropriating the term blood moons, when talking about the lunar tetrad. Why this *merging of terms* is being done is hard to say. I suppose that is better left to the specific prognosticator to explain his reason, or his agenda.

But this is the definition of a ***lunar tetrad***: four successive *total lunar eclipses*, with no partial eclipses in-between; and of which are separated from each other by six months, happening over two years in a row—2014 and 2015 specifically. That’s right; a tetrad is four successive ***TOTAL lunar eclipses***, spanned over two years, six months apart—but ***the point is: they are total lunar eclipses!***

Why the term “blood moon” is used to describe a *total full moon eclipse of a lunar tetrad* (which is a total lunar eclipse), other than it might have a red coloration to it on the outer rim, is highly questionable since it isn’t an accurate term—they’re two different things! Therefore, it’s easy to suspect the term “blood moon” is being used to describe a lunar tetrad for the purpose of connecting (or maybe exploiting?) the prophetic writings of Joel and John—which would be very disingenuous at best!

But whatever the reason, be assured—the term blood moon, astronomically speaking, is not a correct term to use when describing lunar tetrads—it is astronomically wrong to describe these *total lunar eclipses* as blood moons. Make no mistake: it’s highly doubtful any credible astronomer will use the term “blood moon” when describing the four (4) upcoming consecutive total lunar eclipses (the lunar tetrad) over the next two years.

Is the Term “Blood Moon” Exclusive to Prophecy?

Many people do not realize the full moons of every month have names—and some have more than one. They are usually, but not always, associated with the seasons. Let me give you

some examples.

It's understood both hemispheres have assigned names to the full moons of the months. Here in North America many of the names of the full moons can be traced back to the Native American tribes that were indigenous to this continent before the English and other Europeans arrived in mass. However, the Europeans adopted many of the names assigned by some of these Native American tribes; and *according to the Farmers Almanac*, are rather fascinating. A few examples are as follows.

In the northern hemisphere, January's full moon is called the "wolf moon." This was due to wolf packs howling hungrily outside the Indian villages amid the cold and deep snows of winter. In February it was called the "snow moon." Obviously, this was due to the heaviest snowfalls of winter, which usually fell during this month. The full moon name for April was the "pink moon," due largely in part to the early blooms of some of the flowers. May was the "flower moon." July was the "buck moon," primarily due to the time of year the buck's new antlers would begin to push their way out of the velvety fur of the deer.

In the southern hemisphere some of the names are the same, but of course the month is different. For instance, the "snow moon" is in the month of August. Their "buck moon" is in January and their "harvest moon" is in March, while the "harvest moon" in the northern hemisphere is September. But, I think you get the picture—*all full moons have names*.

The "blood moon," or "hunter's moon" (another name for it in the northern hemisphere), was the month of October. It was during this month, most of the leaves being off the trees, afforded the hunters to easily kill the fattened deer and other animals, which were easy to see—hence the "hunter's (or blood) moons." In the southern hemisphere, it's the month of April.

But, here is the point: *as you can see, there are two blood moons per year by name, every year on planet Earth: and they have nothing to do with the book of Joel, or John's book of Revelation, or Matthew, Mark, or Luke!* Clearly, we can see the term "blood moons" is being overstated and also misappropriated, resulting in misinforming and misdirecting information to *claim something is, when it plainly isn't!* And admittedly, some very aggressive and popular Christian evangelists who either simply don't understand what they're talking about, or are purposely exploiting this terminology for personal gain, are once again going to undermine, smear, and denigrate the legitimacy of the Bible, the gospel of Jesus Christ, and sadly, *the real and actual signs of the end-times. This is what really is so unfortunate and disgustingly disappointing!* It just continues to *weaken the authority and credibility* of the Bible and *enfeebles the warning message* of the actual disastrous times coming upon mankind! How many times can you "cry wolf," before it loses any semblance of urgency and warning value?

Now some may argue this isn't completely true—there is a *second term* that must seriously be taken into consideration. There is something really *astronomically unusual* about the year 2014 and 2015—and it's called the *lunar tetrad*.

All right, *let's reiterate* what a lunar tetrad is—it's four successive *total lunar eclipses*, with no

partial eclipses in between, that are separated from each other by six months, *happening two years in a row*—in this case, 2014 and 2015.

Chapter 2

But What About the Tetrads?

Now is this an astronomical anomaly, or is it something that does indeed regularly cycle within the astronomical laws of space with regard to the Earth and moon's rotation? The short answer to that question is *yes, it's a regular cycle*. Admittedly, *it happens rarely*, but it does happen rather regularly—sixty-two times, some sources have asserted, since the first century (approximately over the last 2,000 years).

So, lunar tetrads are not all that uncommon, but they are rare and also don't happen every century. But interestingly enough, there will be a total of eight lunar tetrads over this twenty-first century alone—and believe it or not, one has already occurred in the years 2003 and 2004—there are seven left. The next one will be this year, 2014, and next year, 2015—followed by 2032 and 33, 2043 and 44, 2050 and 51, 2061 and 62, 2072 and 73, 2090 and 91 (ref. NASA). And uniquely enough, this century is packed with lunar tetrads, commencing this year in the month of April with *four total lunar eclipses over the next two years*, six months apart: defined as a lunar tetrad.

But, there is an *additional point of intrigue and curiosity to take into consideration* that some of these modern-day prognosticators are leveraging as an astronomical anomaly that justifies more earnest attention, and here it is: all four of these total lunar eclipses (not blood moons), two years in a row, *will occur on* the First Day of Unleavened Bread (Jewish Passover) and the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles. This is being presented with an *acceleration of sensationalism*, “salt and peppered” with *amplified and overblown speculation of potential* horrific events, possibly targeted for Israel (Jewish nation state in Palestine), and some have included the United States—and the term, “blood moons,” which are indeed mentioned in the Bible, is providing the fuel for these riveting and gripping descriptions of these alleged catastrophic conditions. *But, here's the question: is this an honest portrayal and is it really significant?*

Before we answer that, let's add another point of intrigue that's contributing to the intensity of concern and increasing the melodramatic hyperbole: *the numerology factor!* Now, what is that you may ask? As some of you may know, there are patterns of numbers used in the Bible that many rabbis and Christian scholars have assigned meanings to because of their associations to certain significant events, numbers of people, years, sequences, or places, and/or times, etc. For instance, the number two denotes difference; three is associated with completeness; and six represents the number of man. Seven is related to spiritual perfection, and nine denotes finality, or judgment. Twelve denotes governmental beginnings.

The number eight is significant to the blood moon teaching and the portending of end-time calamities, chaos, and destruction, *because it denotes* regeneration, new beginnings, change, or the commencement of the new first. But what does the number eight have to do with the 2014 and 2015 lunar tetrad of the twenty-first century? **Here it is:** it will be only the eighth time in 2,000 years a total lunar tetrad *will occur on Israel's holy days*. Furthermore, history has proven—or so

we're led to believe—a significant related key prophetic or historical turning point, a “*historical geopolitical benchmark*” of sorts has **allegedly happened on every one of them**.

But is this true? Or is this, too, an overstatement—a misrepresentation of historical facts? These are good questions. Let's explore the historical dates and find out exactly what did actually happen during those previous seven times these tetrads coincided with Israel's holy days.

Two Coming Solar Eclipses in 2015

Some have claimed the two solar eclipses in 2015 may be fulfillments of the prophetic statements mentioned in our Bibles about the “darkening of the sun.” In one of Mark Blitz's videos, he attaches quite a bit of significance to the total solar eclipse on March 20, 2015, which he assigns to Nisan 1—the first day of the ceremonial year.

However, though this too is not a regular event, it has happened nineteen times of the 228 solar eclipses in the twentieth century. The reason for this is because *solar eclipses happen around the new moon*. So, it isn't that uncommon for a solar eclipse to hit on the first day of the ceremonial year of Israel. Especially since it is so close to the vernal equinox. In addition, there will be a partial solar eclipse on the Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah), September 13, 2015. But, in most cases with a partial solar eclipse, unless it's very close to being a total solar eclipse, usually its not noticeable—the sun is not appreciably shaded to affect its light.

Interestingly enough, only a small handful of people will witness these phenomena. On March 20, 2015, *the path of the total solar eclipse* will be in the North Atlantic and Arctic oceans. To the best of information available, the only landfalls the eclipse path will make are the Faroe Islands and Svalbard. The population of the Faroe Islands is about 50,000 people, while Svalbard is about 3,000 (ref. Dr. Dan R. Faulkner). It will be of very short duration and that part of the world—known for its overcast skies—there's a good chance very few people will see this particular eclipse.

Without having the opportunity to actually witness these events, except by a very few, if any at all, does give cause for one to think, how can this be an effective “warning sign” from God, when its so *remotely displayed*? And that is an especially poignant observation when comparing the heavenly signs described in your Bible, which are clearly worldwide in scope and, contextually, on the precipice of the battle of Armageddon (Joel 2:30—3:2; Revelation 6:12–17). Keep in mind, the darkened sun and blood moons of your Bible are *actual warnings*—they occur **before** the catastrophic disasters of misfortune happen—mankind will be notified before things ramp up!

2,000 Years of “Holyday Tetrads”

As mentioned, only seven lunar tetrads have occurred on Israel's holydays over the last 2,000 years. The next one—the *eighth*—will be the years 2014 and 2015. Both years will see a *total lunar eclipse* on the First Day of Unleavened Bread (the Jewish Passover) and the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles. The next two years will be only *The Coming Blood Moons: What Are They? The*

Coming Blood Moons: 10 What Are They? 11 the eighth time this has happened over the last 2,000 years—so here’s the question: *is this eighth holyday tetrad significant?* Let’s see what history can reveal.

The first one was in the year 162 and 163 CE. This coincided with one of the worst persecutions of Jews and Christians in the history of the Roman Empire. Also, within three years of this event, the Antonine Plague (a type of small pox and measles) killed an estimated five to eight million people in the Roman Empire. Some have considered this the fourth major persecution of Christians, the first being under Nero in about 67 CE, the second under Domitian in 81 CE, and the third conducted by Trajan in 106 CE. These persecutions were some of the bloodiest of brutalities ever exercised on a segment of people.

The second holyday lunar tetrad occurred on the Jewish Passover and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), two years in a row—795 and 796 CE. During this time, King Charlemagne of Rome established a DMZ buffer zone between France and Spain, stopping centuries of Arab Islamic invasions into Western Europe.

The third time it occurred was in the years 842 and 843 CE. Some have tried to make the case that during this time the Vatican was invaded by Islamic marauders and pillaged St. Peter’s and St. Paul’s, outside of the walls, but were prevented from entering the city due to the Aurelian Wall. However, this invasion and “sacking” actually happened about two years after this lunar tetrad, in 845 CE. Not a precise, or “spot on” connection, but definitely close—like horseshoes perhaps, close enough for points?

The fourth holyday tetrad took place in the years 860 and 861 CE. At this time, shortly after the eclipses—in about 863, again about two years later—the Byzantine Empire defeated Arab armies at the battle of Lalakaon in Turkey and permanently stopped the Islamic invasion of Eastern Europe. Once more, not exactly to the date, but *within two years after* the eclipses occurred.

The fifth time a holyday tetrad happened was in 1493-1494. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain ordered all Jewish and other non-Catholic Christian people to leave the country after almost 1,000 years of Spain serving as a type of Jewish homeland—and it was done very viciously with heartless brutality and devastating persecution to the Jewish people. However, the tetrad didn’t begin until about Consequently, if the holyday tetrad was to be a warning, this, too, missed its mark because it was about a year late; and unfortunately the Jewish people were taken by surprise with regard to their expulsion, suffering great loss and horrific ruthlessness at the hands of the Spaniards.

Additionally, in 1492 according to the diary of Christopher Columbus, he was awarded government approval to undertake his discovery expedition, looking for new shipping routes to the Indies; the same month their Majesties announced the edict to expunge the Jews—the Alhambra Decree in the month of April 1492. Keep in mind, the holyday tetrad didn’t occur until the following years, 1493 and 1494. Again, the holyday tetrads *were late* and certainly cannot be considered warning signs of this tragic law, which resulted in such adversity, affliction, and

misfortune for so many non-Catholics of Spain and especially the Jews—yet many of those advancing blood moons (actually a lunar tetrad) will insist they heralded this lamentably painful and disastrous event.

As an additional proof substantiating the historical value of this tetrad, some will point to the approval of Columbus' voyage to discover America as further validation this holyday tetrad (which they call blood moons), deserves serious consideration as a sign from God—after all, some will claim, the founding of the “New World” offered an alternate place of refuge to the Jewish people in the coming years. However, what most won't tell you is that Columbus, though *responsible for sighting* the North American continent, may have never set foot on the land. Though he is recognized for discovering America, it would probably be more accurate to award him with much of the credit for discovering and settling many of the islands in the Caribbean, but that's another story for another time.

The point is, it would appear some of those promoting the idea that certain historical events connect up to these holyday tetrads are not exactly accurate in their characterizations. Frankly, there is some “overreaching and exaggeration” entering into the narrative that isn't presented as honestly as it could be for evaluation.

The sixth one occurred in 1949 and 1950 on the Passover and first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, or Sukkoth. During this time the first Arab/Israeli war for Independence occurred. Israel was just awarded statehood in 1948, and almost immediately the armies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq were invading, challenging its sovereignty. As many of us know, the war lasted for about fifteen months, claiming thousands of lives before Israel was able to secure its independence. On May 11, 1949, Israel took its position as the fifty-ninth member nation state of the United Nations.

The seventh time it occurred was again on Passover and the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles. This coincided with the six-day war (1967-68) when Israel had to recapture Jerusalem. This was started with a preemptive strike against Egypt in the south hoping to prevent what Israel considered an attack against its right to exist. Israel had to counter attack Jordan in the east, while routing the Syrian forces in the Golan Heights up north.

The Coming Eighth Holyday Tetrad in 2,000 Years

Interestingly enough, those promoting the *holyday lunar tetrad* of 2014 and 2015 as blood moons attempt to emphasize the last three holyday lunar tetrads as harbingers of greater calamities to come—with this eighth one expected to be the worst. Primarily, this notion is embraced because the Jews and Israel as a nation were the main subjects involved in the last three preceding holyday tetrads. And though they were both good and bad events, this time they are anticipated to be filled with havoc and hardship for the nation state of Israel in Palestine and potentially other parts of the world.

Much of this speculation of tragedy and misfortune is compounded by this *numerology factor*—this being the eighth time a *holyday tetrad* will have occurred over the last 2,000 years. And as was mentioned, the number eight in biblical numerology *means new beginnings, change,*

the commencement of a new first.

Because of this, some have taken the liberty to interpret this to mean, “Something is About to Change,” as subtitle of John Hagee’s book, *Four Blood Moons*, implies.

So, the anticipation grows with expectations for a variety of disastrous events about to be unleashed upon the Jews, with possibilities of the United States and other parts of the world to be drawn in. Can this be true? Are these four total lunar eclipses—the tetrad—that fall on the holydays of Israel, the blood moons of your Bible? Let’s take an honest look at some of the scriptures that many of these blood moon prognosticators reference for purposes of capturing your attention and arousing your concerns and see what they really say about the events they describe.

As many of us know, in Joel 2:30–32 God announces through the prophet that He will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, using blood, fire, and pillars of smoke. This will include the sun being turned into darkness and the moon into blood, and this will happen—notice verse 31—“before the great and terrible day of the LORD come.” Clearly, the context is the latter days, right before the return of Jesus Christ—before the great and terrible day of the Lord. This is plainly referencing many of the horrific descriptions of events captured and outlined throughout the book of Revelation as explained in the *sequence* of three sets of seven seals, trumpets, and plagues.

Joel goes on to say, “And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD has said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call” (Joel 2:32). Obviously, deliverance at that location, at that time, will occur upon Christ’s return and His establishment of God’s Kingdom on earth as described in Zechariah 14:1–9. But let’s see what the prophet has to say further on in chapter three.

Remember, the translators divided the Bible into chapters—this was originally just a prophetic letter of warning without any divisions. Joel says, “For behold in those days [What days? The days described in chapter 2:30–32—right before the great and terrible day of the Lord], and in that time, *when I shall bring again the captivity* of Judah and Jerusalem...”

STOP! Wait a minute. Are we saying that at this time—right before the great and terrible day of the Lord—Judah (Israel) and Jerusalem will be put into captivity again? YES! That’s what the prophet Joel is saying—and this couldn’t have happened until a nation state of Jewish people existed, which it does today! Furthermore, this agrees with what Daniel says in his writings. Notice Daniel’s warning: “And at the *time of the end* shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him [the king of the south] like a whirlwind, with chariots and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he [the king of the north] shall enter into the countries and shall overflow and pass over. He [the king of the north] shall enter also into *The Coming Blood Moons: What Are They? The Coming Blood Moons: 14 What Are They? 15* the glorious land [Israel, Jerusalem], and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape...” (Daniel 11:40–41).

Unquestionably, Daniel describes a future time, calling it the “time of the end,” when Israel (the Jews) will be invaded and occupied again—*at the time of the end!* This is exactly what Joel clearly says—“...when I shall **bring again the captivity** of Judah and Jerusalem” (Joel 3:1). We’re left to clearly understand this will happen sometime before Christ’s return, but near the time when all nations, including Israel, will be brought out of their scattering, taken down to the valley of Jehoshaphat, where God will plead with them to repent. (Joel 3:2).

Notice Mark 13, he records for us some interesting facts. Notice: “But in those days, *AFTER that tribulation*, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory” (Mark 13:24–26). Once again, the context is plainly talking about the time near the return of Christ and His glorious entry into our dimension to finally intervene into mankind’s affairs to save him from self-destructing!

A similar description is outlined in Luke 21. In this chapter we are told how there shall be signs in the sun and moon and stars, distress among nations, men’s hearts failing them for fear because of those things coming on the earth, and the powers of heaven being shaken. But, once more the *context is plainly revealed* in the narrative—this takes place very close to the return of Christ (Luke 21:25–27).

Chapter 3

God Is Working Off a Timeline: *There Is a Prophetic Sequence*

Though, there is much debate surrounding how to view the book of Revelation and, undoubtedly, it is considered highly controversial, for many it remains to be seriously considered a *sequencer for prophetic events*. It presents a timeline for the dramatic end-time spectacles that are arranged in a fashion that describes conditions and circumstances leading up to and culminating in the return of Jesus Christ, the destruction of the Beast and False Prophet and the final Babylonian system, the Millennium, the final judgment of the rest of the dead, Satan's fate, and the ultimate arrival of the Father who fully intends to tabernacle here on earth with His holy family—including those resurrected human beings that have been rewarded with immortality as *literally Spirit-born* sons of God (John 3:6–7).

In Revelation, we find descriptions of many of these events written in sequence—like a great earthquake, the sun becoming black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon becoming as blood. The narrative continues describing horrific conditions that outline devastation and destruction of worldwide proportions, causing great fear to come upon mankind, including the kings of the world, the rich and the great, the mighty men, and both bond- and freemen—all are terrified, asking to be hid, or killed, in the rocks and mountains, from the face of God (Rev. 6:12–17).

This matches the horrible conditions described in Matthew 21, Mark 13, and Luke 21. All of these chapters affirm, “but in those days *AFTER* that tribulation” (Mark 13:24) there will be signs in the sky combined with a black sun, blood moon, the heavens rolling back like a scroll, and mountains and islands being moved out of their respective locations. This is a time when the world is being served notification of God's intervention into human affairs—it is the introduction to the great day of His wrath (Revelation 6:17) and is just the beginning of many sorrows (Mark 13:8).

But here's the point: *these are the blood moons of your Bible—and they come after a particular time of tribulation!* There is a sequence—a pattern, a system, and timeline to this—*it has context and relationship to other events!*

Notice, in Revelation 6, we see the infamous Four Horseman described. Many of us have come to understand these *to be sequenced and cumulative* in their development—they will wax worse and worse—growing in intensity unlike any time in the history of mankind—finally becoming so bad that if the days weren't shortened, mankind would self-destruct as Jesus explains and outlines in Matthew 24:4–8, 21–22; Mark 13:5–8, 19–20; and Luke 21:7–11.

But notice in Revelation 6:8, the fourth horseman *describes a war* resulting in 25 percent of man's population being obliterated (assuming seven billion people presently live on earth, this calculates to about 1.75 billion deaths, which is approximately twenty two times the death toll of World War II). Notice: “And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard a voice of the fourth beast say, come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell [Hades, the grave] followed with him, And power was given unto them *over the fourth part [25 percent]* of the earth, **to kill with** sword (war; the second horseman), and with hunger (famine and pestilence; the third horseman), and with death (the fourth horseman), and with the beasts of the earth” (Revelation 6:7–8).

The sequence continues and is followed by the fifth seal, which *describes a Christian martyrdom* of great magnitude and coincides with Daniel 7:21–25, which warns of a coming “war with the saints, and [the Beast] prevailed against them.” In addition, Daniel explains the Beast with ten kings will “speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out [kill and beat down] the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand [the Beast will have the advantage and for a time dominate the saints] until a time and times and the dividing of time,” or three and one-half years.

Remember, the Beast will also require a mark upon the populace for those who intend to live and work within the system. If you refuse the mark, you will not be able to function within the system as a citizen (Revelation 13:16–18). You will not be able to make a living. This person will be at risk and considered dangerous to the Socialist state the Beast and its ten kings represent (Revelation 17:11–14)—and keep in mind: God expects those Christians who are alive at that time *not to accept the mark* but instead accept the consequences (Revelation 14:9–11). It will also be this Socialist system that will ultimately resist Christ upon His return and attempt to destroy Him (Daniel 7:17–18, 26–28; Revelation 17:11–14).

However, it’s *AFTER* this fifth seal—the Christian martyrdom—that the first description of *GREAT SIGNS occur supernaturally* in the sky—signs, *unlike* the coming tetrad called blood moons of 2014 and 2015, which three of the four lunar eclipses *won’t even be seen in Israel*. Conversely, these signs of the darkened sun and blood moon of the sixth seal, *will be seen by all*—it will be a *supernatural, worldwide event* witnessed by everybody (Revelation 6:12–17)!

But What About Acts 2:14–21?

In the book of Acts, Peter takes the liberty of assigning the description of what Joel recorded to that first day of Pentecost after Jesus Christ’s resurrection, when many in Jerusalem witnessed the supernatural events of the morning. Notice what Peter says concerning this experience. “But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judea, and all you that dwell at Jerusalem, *be this known unto you*, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as you suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day [about 9:00 AM]. But this is that which was *spoken by the prophet Joel*” (Acts 2:14–16). And then he goes on to quote Joel 2:28–32, which he claims is happening on this particular morning.

Some have proposed that Peter’s taking opportunity to draw on the book of Joel affords them reason and justification to also connect the alleged “blood moons” (which actually is a lunar tetrad) of 2014 and 2015 with the book of Joel and, by association, Revelation 6:12. But, the problem with that is the context does not apply just yet—we haven’t progressed far enough down the timeline at the first Pentecost to apply the “wonders in heaven” portion of this connection Peter makes with the book of Joel—we’re just not there yet.

An honest investigation of these passages show that Peter is simply saying, first, *don’t gainsay or ridicule* the miracle of speaking in different languages and, second, everyone hearing those languages in their own tongue is witnessing the *fulfillment of prophecy!* In stating that the prophet foretold this event, Peter is affirming *it’s from God*.

It was important for Peter to make this point due to the skeptics he was surrounded by. He wanted them to know this was a present, *IN THE MOMENT* sign from God that they have now, at this time—*in this moment*—entered into a new phase of God’s involvement in human affairs, and the scriptures, through the voice of the prophet Joel, unquestionably foretold this would happen. Peter confirms *this event is indeed* a miracle from God, which is the beginning of many more things to come—hence the “wonders in

heaven”—*but within the framework of the timeline!*

There were no blood moons, darkened sun, or the heavens rolling back like a scroll on that specific morning—that event *did not occur at that time*—because obviously the sequence of events that Revelation 6 discloses is not happening at this time. What was *singularly being addressed* was what everyone was witnessing, which dealt with the speaking and hearing of everyone’s own language at the same time—that was the attention grabber—and obviously created the “buzz” because there were some that thought those involved were drunk and, therefore, the event was doubtful to be from God.

Clearly, just because something is mentioned in the course of the context doesn’t give us licenses to apply it in any old fashion we see fit, or as we determine is necessary to fit our personal theology—that is what gets us in trouble with prophecy. Instead, we need to recognize how the context fits in with the pieces of the prophetic puzzle. What Peter is simply saying is there are additional signs that will arrive, heralding Jesus Christ’s actual day of return, and will occur in due course as the sequence plays out. We must take this portion of book Revelation.

Individuals who take the extreme position that Mathew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21 have all been fulfilled—that all these events have already occurred and have no prophetic value to the modern twentyfirst century Christian, is a *clear example* of ignoring sequence and timeline. They assign these listed items to historical events, completely ignoring the prophetic script, which describes the signs of the time Jesus Christ Himself told us would happen, as we close in on the period of His actual return to this Earth. Others attempt to ascribe items, like blood moons (which is actually a lunar tetrad), listed in the Bible as though they apply to current descriptions of specific modernday conditions, or peoples, when the context plainly doesn’t allow for it.

Another example of this, as I remember, was an attempt by a certain “new” Sabbath-keeping church organization applying 2 Thessalonians 2:1–7 to a change of leadership in an “older” Sabbathkeeping Church of God organization. The portrayal was an attempt to demonize the new leadership of the older church over perceived heresies they were advancing within the organization. Associations were drawn by the new Church of God organization to interpret verse 3 as describing the heresy that decimated this older church group and verse 4 identified the new leader with the role of setting himself up in the older church organization as some kind of false leader that was instituting this “mystery of iniquity.” It was a very personal and disingenuous explanation of what was really taking place—extremely cultish—and obviously an interpretation by this new organization. Unfortunately, Bible scriptures were misappropriated to leverage influence on the people of these two church groups to persuade the congregants to leave the older one and join the younger organization.

Over the years there have been additional examples of extreme misapplications of scriptures—like connecting your church organization with the event described in Revelation 10:8–11. In this case, a particular book this organization authored was announced, portrayed, and advanced as the actual book referenced in this portion of Scripture. In addition, there have been preachers and individuals who have claimed they are one of the two witnesses—or that God is going to “whisk away” certain Christians who belong to a specific group from the tribulation through some kind of a “rapture event,” either to a physical place of safety, like Petra, or to heaven itself for protection for three and a half or seven years—depending on the teaching of preference.

All of these misappropriations have one major thing in common—they ignore the context of the scripture and its *real time application* to history, or the *prophetic timeline* of *God’s progressive script*. And in the case of Acts 2:19–21, clearly there were no events happening that connect up with the descriptions

of “wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood and fire, and vapor 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 that’s the context—that’s when these signs in the sky, including these particular blood moons, will occur—right *before* that great and notable day of the Lord comes. In the book of Revelation we understand that *to be after* the four horsemen—after and during a great Christian martyrdom (the fifth seal)—that’s the sequence!

So What Are We to Expect During the Eighth Holyday Tetrad?

The short and direct answer to that question is, **frankly, we don’t know.** *What we do know:* this is one of sixty-two total tetrads and will be the eighth *holyday tetrad* over the last 2,000 years. It is also the second of eight total tetrads for this twenty-first century. Does this preclude any possibilities of something happening of some major consequence? Absolutely not—something could happen, especially when considering the unique times we live in.

Just consider: for the first time in its history, the United States is bankrupt! It carries over seventeen trillion dollars in debt with, as some say, an associated debt amount in excess of ninety trillion dollars in unfunded liabilities. Europe and the Euro-zone are not much better—they too are in a very fragile economic condition. China is busy about buying up gold and other assets from around the world to protect itself from the exposure of a debased U.S. dollar. It is also seriously investigating options for eliminating the U.S. dollar as the world reserve currency. It has already, in partnership with Russia, arranged a deal with Saudi Arabia to pay for oil with its own currency rather than convert to U.S. dollars.

Iran is on the precipice of acquiring weapons grade plutonium for the development of nuclear weapons. Consequently, the Israelis are very worried and could lash out at any time, preemptively assaulting Iran in an effort to offset their progress toward obtaining nuclear weapons. Russia and China have combined their support with Iran and are not amused with the position of Israel or the United States concerning these matters and are themselves busy *developing electromagnetic weapons.* And many of the jihadist terrorist groups like al-Qaeda, Hamas, Hezbollah, the Taliban, and the Muslim Brotherhood are all on the increase adding fuel to the malaise, labeled the “Arab Spring,” that has already resulted in a handful of regime changes, demonstrations, protests, riots, and civil unrest (i.e. Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Morocco, Sudan, Iraq, etc).

Add to that Western culture’s moral confusion, rebellion, and political stalemating and, undoubtedly, we have a recipe for many different types and/or conditions of multiple disasters and uprisings, generated from a variety of issues that can come from a multitude of nations and segments of disenfranchised peoples, or groups from very evil global factions. So, can we say with some sense of confidence: could something happen at the time of this tetrad? I think all of us could agree—the short answer to that is *YES, absolutely!*

However, on the other hand: *if something doesn’t happen,* it won’t be discouraging or disillusioning—and perhaps that’s the most important aspect to consider—that *if nothing happens, it will not affect my faith in a negative way.* But admittedly, this is what’s so dangerous about this kind of misappropriation and merging of terms—it can lead to individuals losing faith in God because of certain expectations that emerged over the course of the promotion of things like this, and then nothing happens—the expectations are missed! This can be very disheartening for some, especially when some have associated it with the “traditional rapture” teaching—that they will be “whisked” away to heaven, or a place of safety—kept from “harm’s way” when the tribulation explodes onto the world stage—and instead, there they are, remaining in the midst of all the calamities and chaos, *if they should occur.*

We must keep in mind the fact that God doesn't need to sequence any end-time events with the *natural cycles* of the rotating orbs in the universe. Actually, He could reverse things if He needed to and conform the signs in the sky to the events on the ground—we should keep that in mind, too. God is the master of the celestial bodies in the heavens. He can make them do anything He needs to have them do—and that may simply mean: *He will choose not to use natural astronomical laws* to accomplish what needs to be done in order to fulfill prophetic signs in the heavens He mentions in His script.

I'm sure we know the earth was covered in water at the very beginning of the creation record as is written in Genesis 1:2, indicative of a preceding geocentric catastrophe; that Elijah requested no rain for three and one-half years and it didn't rain (James 5:17). And though highly controversial, Joshua 10 describes a hailstorm that killed more men than what Joshua did in battle, followed up with what some believe to be another miraculous event known as "Joshua's longest day." We could point out the Red Sea parting, the raining of manna and quail, and the many plagues that befell Egypt prior to the Israelites departure. All of these enormous, eye-opening, and extremely stunning supernatural miracles, along with so many others we haven't mentioned, like Jesus walking on water, all go to prove the point that God is not confined to the physical limitations of the material world. If He needs to do something at a specific time for His will to be accomplished as He proposed prophetically, it will be done, because God is God and He is in control of His-story!

Chapter 4

The Conclusion of the Matter: *Are You Ready?*

The Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—is all about God’s interaction with humanity over approximately the last 6,000 years. He has been working with mankind in a very special way over these millennia. His focus and attachments to people and nations, as recorded in our Bible, is stunning and amazingly remarkable! The results of His steering circumstances to fulfill the destiny of this enormous saga *is proof positive He is in control of His-story*— and He will complete His mission of bringing many sons and daughters into His family as born sons of God—that is His mission and that is His-story!

Jesus Christ is a very intricate part of how this plan of salvation is achieved. Clearly, throughout the Bible we are told over and over again in so many different ways that without Christ in our lives we are all but dead men—doomed to the cold, still, dark vacuum of a nonexistent condition called the second death—that is our destiny without the atonement of Jesus Christ covering our sins.

So it becomes crucial to our progression in our Christian walk with God, through the *commitment we have to model Christ* in our lives, that we take careful thought as to what we adopt as truth—lest we lose our crown by the deceit of men who are ignorant of the ways of God and successfully seduce us into believing things that are not true or significant to God (Matthew 24:23–28; Mark 13:22; 2 Peter 2:1–3; Revelation 3:11).

Notice what Jesus tells us: “And take heed to yourselves [apply yourself, beware, pay attention], lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting [hung over from drunkenness, debauchery], and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always, that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:34–36).

Our Lord Jesus Christ is warning us that we should beware of how we are living. Be careful about what you participate in because most of the people in the world are going to be caught in a state of unawareness about the snares and pitfalls of this world and the intervention of God into human affairs.

Unfortunately, the advancement of prognostications like blood moons can entrap some well-meaning Christians into a “snare of expectations” that could easily set them up for some major disappointments—and that can sometimes be jeopardizing to one’s faith if you’re not careful about how much you “embrace a teaching” that may not be true. The Christian movement is enormously marred with disappointment after disappointment of expectations not met in our personal lives, and teachers who have misled and disappointed some about the timing of Christ’s

return or the rapture to safety (which isn't biblical). This type of "hyperbole" does nothing for building one's relationship with God or, for that matter, the reputation of the Christian Faith.

So, as we're confronted with different predictions, or interpretations, of certain events that may or may not occur, we should always keep in mind the timeline that God is working and steering. This will undoubtedly keep us grounded and balanced as we evaluate the particulars of what is being advanced as something directly from God—lest we allow ourselves to be deceived. And, sadly, that is so often is the case. People end up buying, investing, or even moving and changing their lifestyles to greater or lesser degrees—and, as mentioned before, end up unnecessarily suffering personal setbacks in their lives that sometimes have long lasting effects to their families, careers, or friends.

The world and cultural times we live in are occasionally difficult, and adding to our life's drama by making foolish decisions based on someone's guess, or speculation, can be sadly detrimental, or at least very risky—we must guard against that. There is enough drama in the world and our society today without adding to it by adopting certain beliefs too prematurely. We must be really prudent about the subject of prophecy, especially if we are going to assign some world event, national or international geopolitical issue, movement, or skirmish to an actual written prophecy/scripture in the Bible. We certainly *don't want* to be guilty of adding to or taking away from the Word of God (Revelation 22:18–19).

As we approach the lunar tetrad of 2014 and 2015, let's keep in mind that, yes, it is a rare occasion for a lunar tetrad to fall on the holydays of Israel—this will be *only the eighth time in 2,000 years*

Does this have any significance? Will something terrible happen to the Jewish nation-state of Israel, or some place else in the world? *Frankly, we just don't know.* Can we say, based on the historical pattern of the previous seven holyday tetrads, that there is a good chance something will happen? I suppose you could come to that conclusion.

But, here's the real question: are these four consecutive lunar eclipses—the eighth holyday tetrad in 2,000 years—the blood moon of Joel 2:30–32 or Revelation 6:12? And the *conclusive answer* to that is: ***absolutely not!*** The blood moons of your Bible are totally different and are indeed the harbingers of far more significant disasters that will tragically result in the death of billions of people and the destruction of the worldwide geopolitical structure of nations, as we know it today. It will culminate with Jesus Christ landing on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:1–9), setting up His world government that will commence the Millennium, which is designed to prepare the world for the resurrection of the rest of the dead after the 1,000 years are finished (Revelation 20:5).

However, keep in mind that just because this eighth holyday tetrad isn't the blood moon of your Bible doesn't preclude something from happening! But, if something does happen, at best, it is just the *beginning of many more sorrows.* What is described *down the timeline* in the Seals, Trumpets, and Plagues is going to be so bad that if those days weren't shortened, *no flesh would be saved alive—mankind would self-destruct* (Matthew 24:22; Mark 13:20)! *So, be prepared!*

This is why Christ reminds us on multiple occasions from a variety of writers in the New Testament to *be watchful about the things we allow into our lives*. He is very clear about this important underpinning point regarding prophecy, and as a result, gives us instruction on what to do in the meantime while we live our lives, preparing for the resurrection and entry into the Kingdom of God. Notice: “But of that day and that hour knows no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father” (Mark 13:32). This is a crucial point of prophecy we *always want to keep in mind*, especially when certain individuals declare they know something that even Christ Himself doesn’t know—“that hour knows no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, *neither the Son*, but the Father. Take you heed [beware, perceive intensely], watch and pray: *for you know not when the time is*” (Mark 13:33).

Now, in this next section of Scripture, Christ explains what is going on and the expectations He has for us as Christians, while exemplifying Him in our lives. Notice: “For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch [stay awake, be vigilant, watchful]. Watch you therefore: for you know not when the master of the house comes, at even, or at the midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping [resting, to fall asleep]. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch [be vigilant, watchful]” (Mark 13:34–37).

Clearly, the message is: stay engaged, be vigilant, awake, and watchful while He is gone. What underlines this message of being watchful is *be prepared!* Our Lord wants us to be ready at any time because we don’t know when the time is up—and this includes our lives too! We have no idea of how much time we have left—and rightly so—lest we allow ourselves to become complacent. *Unquestionably, He is calling us to be ready at anytime.* This is why it is important to get our lives right with God as soon as we can! If you’re not baptized, then repent and get baptized. If you are baptized, then remain vigilant about your walk with Christ and be watchful and ready to respond to whatever God’s will is for you in your life.

Blood moons, tetrads, or lunar and solar eclipses, do not matter—if we are ready. By being busy about our Father’s business, we will qualify for the resurrection. But, if we let down, become complacent and unenthusiastic about the will of God in our lives, and go gallivanting around, doing things we shouldn’t, we will be left out (Matthew 24:45–51).

So don’t delay. Get ready! Prepare yourself—*suit up* with the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10–18) for the days and years ahead, because we have an incredible purpose and vision for our lives and *with certainty* (Christ has paved the way—He is qualified as our Savior) have an exceptional chance of being awarded immortality in the Kingdom of God. What a destiny we have, and it’s ours if we choose to commit and dedicate ourselves to fighting our nature by surrendering first to our Lord, and then living His values and ways—*taking it by force!*

About the Church of God International

This literature is published by the Church of God International, based in Tyler, Texas. Incorporated in 1978, the CGI has ministers and congregations scattered throughout the United States and Canada. We also have churches in Jamaica, the Philippines, and Australia.

The CGI's mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world (Matthew 28:19). We are blessed with four basic tools to accomplish this:

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