April 20, 2014 p.m.

**BLOOD MOON RISING**

* Sign in front of the Baptist church building next to Harpeth High School:
* Blood Moon Revival (also had an ad in the South Cheatham Advocate)
* I wasn’t sure at first (looked again to see if it was the name of the preacher), might have wondered about a passage a two we will look at but I didn’t have a clue as to why right now.
* Then I began to hear about the “blood moon” that was coming up.
* Did you see it this past Monday night/early Tuesday morning?
* Don’t feel bad because nobody in this part of the state did either (cloudy) and many in the rest of the world did not because it could not be seen everywhere.
* But if the Lord wills, we will have another chance on October 8th and then two more opportunities in 2015.
* **What is in the world is a “blood moon?”**
* **And why are religious people concerned about it?**

**WHAT IS A BLOOD MOON?** (not an astrological term)

* “The phenomenon is known as a tetrad, in which the moon is completely covered by the earth's umbral shadow for four eclipses in a row, as opposed to only partial eclipses that fall in the outer penumbra. But rather than succumbing to complete darkness, the moon will glow red as it receives the refracted light that spills over the Earth's circumference.”[[1]](#footnote-1)
* “The full eclipse is known as a "blood moon" because, NASA [explains,](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gzgSuJM5O8) the sunset red glow that rings the Earth as it blocks the light from the sun is cast upon the moon.”[[2]](#footnote-2)
* “A lunar eclipse occurs when the earth’s shadow (the umbra) falls on the moon. If the earth’s shadow completely covers the moon, it is a total eclipse. But a partial lunar eclipse happens if the earth’s umbra only partially covers the moon. Because the earth has an atmosphere that bends light around its edge, the earth’s umbra is not completely dark. So, the totally eclipsed moon will reflect the color of the light contained in the earth’s shadow. The earth’s atmosphere scatters out shorter-wavelength light (green through violet) leaving mostly longer-wavelength light (red, orange, and yellow) in the earth’s umbra. This is why sunsets and sunrises generally are red, and why most lunar eclipses are red.”[[3]](#footnote-3)
* “The reddish hue is a reflection of the sun peeking around the edges of the Earth during an eclipse, Tennessee State University astronomer Gregory Henry said. The Earth's atmosphere intensifies the shade's appearance.”[[4]](#footnote-4)
* **How often does it happen?**
* “The series is a rare occurrence in history, with large spans of time, such as the 300 years between 1600 and 1900, witnessing none. But the 21st century will be more promising, according to Fred Espenak, who works for [NASA's](http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/nasa-crowdsources-spacesuit-design/story?id=23065597) Goddard Space Flight Center and specializes in eclipse predictions.”[[5]](#footnote-5)
* "Frequency sort of goes through 585-year cycles," the astrophysicist explains. "So you go through centuries where you don’t have any, and centuries where you have a number of them."[[6]](#footnote-6)
* “After that, there are [six more tetrads this century](http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/LEcat5/LE2001-2100.html).”[[7]](#footnote-7)
* **Who can see it? Does everybody in the world get to see them?**
* “Other factors add to the singularity of this year’s event. For one, North America will have front-row seats to the show, not always a guarantee. It just so happens that this part of the western hemisphere, along with some of South America, will align perfectly with the cast shadow. The rest of the world, on the other hand, will experience partial visibility or none at all.”[[8]](#footnote-8)
* “There also is a question of from what portion of the earth one ought to view these eclipses for them to constitute a sign. One might think that Jerusalem would be a key site, but the first three total lunar eclipses in 2014–2015 won’t be visible from there, and only the beginning of the final eclipse will be.”[[9]](#footnote-9)

**WHY ARE RELIGIOUS PEOPLE CONCERNED ABOUT THE “BLOOD MOONS?”**

“Tuesday's first of four lunar "blood moon" eclipses mark one of two earth-shaking events, depending on your viewpoint: Either a critical moment in the unfolding

prophecy of the End Times, or Tax Day.”[[10]](#footnote-10)

* One Texas preacher is and has written about it. (and the Baptist church in KS)
* “But while the event is sure to be a breathtaking sight, for some it signals a certain foreboding. ‘Something is about to change,’ Pastor John Hagee of the Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, Texas, writes in his newest book on the four blood moons.”[[11]](#footnote-11)
* “The controversial 73-year-old founder of Texas' Cornerstone Church says he has been preparing for this tetrad for years. The [preparation](http://www.jhm.org/) includes a book — *Blood Moons: Something is About to Change*and an online TV special Tuesday.”[[12]](#footnote-12)
* “Because many biblical references cite the celestial bodies, Hagee says, ‘God uses the sun, moon and stars to send signals to us on the earth.’"[[13]](#footnote-13)
* “Among his most inspirational verses is Joel 2:30-31: ‘And I will show wonders in the heavens ... the sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the coming of the great and awesome day of The Lord.’"[[14]](#footnote-14)
* “He cites Acts 2:19-20 as a sign: ‘And I will show wonders in Heaven above and signs in the Earth beneath, the sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.’"[[15]](#footnote-15)
* “In extensive remarks [available online](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvLo57f0Do8) on his interpretation of the Blood Moons, Hagee says, ‘I believe that the heavens are God's billboard, that He has been sending signals to planet Earth, and we just haven't been picking them up.’"[[16]](#footnote-16)
* “He adds: ‘God is literally screaming at the world: 'I'm coming soon.'"[[17]](#footnote-17)
* What if it happens on Passover? Is that significant?
* “Another rabbi, Yitzchok Tiechtel of Chabad of Nashville, pointed out that all Jewish holidays are tied to moon phases, so sometimes there's just going to be a full lunar eclipse on one.”[[18]](#footnote-18)
* There is a total solar eclipse coming in 2015 as well. (March 20)
* “But how many people will witness this particular eclipse? The eclipse path is in the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. The only landfalls that the eclipse path will make are the Faroe Islands and Svalbard. The population of the former is 50,000 and the latter less than 3,000. The eclipse is of short duration, and the weather can be overcast much of the time at that latitude. There is a good chance that few people, if any, will actually see this eclipse.”[[19]](#footnote-19)

**SO WHAT DOES THE LORD SAY?**

* That nobody knows when the Lord is coming!
* For some folks, **Matt. 24:36** settles it.
* But what do these verses mean?
* **Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:16-21; Revelation 6:12-17**
* In the interest of loving everything God has every said, let’s look at them.
* The great day of wrath is most likely the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD.
* The lights went out in Judea. (see **Joel 2:1-2, 10**)
* God is done with Israel.
* "When all is said and done, the flag of Israel will be flying over the walls of the city of Jerusalem when Messiah comes, and it's going to be forever," he said. "And every nation that rises up in judgment against Israel God will punish and punish severely."[[20]](#footnote-20)
* If these “blood moons” have occurred before in tetrads (four in succession with each being about 6 months apart), did those living then interpret them to be signs of the end of time?
* If they did, they were obviously wrong.
* If a sign of the end of time, would not all see them?
* "I'm a scientist and Bible-believing Christian, so I want to be sensitive to this, but this in the category of '88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will Be in 1988,'" Henry said.[[21]](#footnote-21)
* There is a day coming when the only light left shining will be the light that God abides in in heaven and His children will abide with him. (see **Rev. 21:23-27**)
* God is light, Jesus is the light of the world, the gospel is the gospel of light and his children are the children of light. We better be abiding in his light now so that we can abide in his light then when the heavens & earth are no more.

(“Nashville Bible scholars: Relax, enjoy 'blood moon'” by Heidi Hall, hhall@tennessean.com)

<http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/religion/2014/04/17/bible-scholars-relax-enjoy-blood-moon/7842569/>

1. <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/miss-rare-blood-moon-lunar-eclipse-tonight/story?id=23316736> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/04/14/blood-moon-lunar-eclipse-john-hagee-end-of-world/7694331/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2013/07/12/lunar-eclipses-cause-blood-moons> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/religion/2014/04/17/bible-scholars-relax-enjoy-blood-moon/7842569/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/miss-rare-blood-moon-lunar-eclipse-tonight/story?id=23316736> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/religion/2014/04/17/bible-scholars-relax-enjoy-blood-moon/7842569/> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/miss-rare-blood-moon-lunar-eclipse-tonight/story?id=23316736> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
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12. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/04/14/blood-moon-lunar-eclipse-john-hagee-end-of-world/7694331/> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/miss-rare-blood-moon-lunar-eclipse-tonight/story?id=23316736> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/04/14/blood-moon-lunar-eclipse-john-hagee-end-of-world/7694331/> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. <http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/religion/2014/04/17/bible-scholars-relax-enjoy-blood-moon/7842569/> [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2013/07/12/lunar-eclipses-cause-blood-moons> [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. <http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/insideisrael/2014/February/Divine-Sign-for-Israel-Hagee-Explains-Blood-Moons/> [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. <http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/religion/2014/04/17/bible-scholars-relax-enjoy-blood-moon/7842569/> [↑](#footnote-ref-21)