

An Expositional Bible Study on the Wonders in the Heavens: The Sun Going Dark and the Blood Moon

By James Moriello, 12/31/2022

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3. Joel 2:28-32, Quoted in Acts 2:17-21

This passage is the most famous passage in the Book of Joel, in that Peter quotes it in his sermon on the Day of Pentecost at the birth of the church. It is also the most commonly misinterpreted prophecies in all of Scripture. The Charismatic/Pentecostal Christian crowd uses these verses to argue for the continuation of prophecy and frequency of signs, visions, dreams, and wonders throughout the church age. While we cannot deny that with God all things are possible, this is not the normative way that the Lord acts in this present church dispensation. According to the very next verse, the purpose of various signs (tongues included) was to attest to the truth of the Christian gospel message (Acts 2:22). The New Testament writers were inspired by God the Holy Spirit to write down that body of truth which God Himself determined was necessary for the proper exercise of Christian faith, nothing more and nothing less (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19:21). Prophecy is clearly stated by the Apostle Paul to be foundational to the church, and we are severely warned not to add to it or subtract from it (Ephesians 2:20; Revelation 22:18-19).

The diligent Bible student will immediately recognize that the things mentioned in this passage did not occur at Pentecost, and neither have they occurred historically since then. So what are we to make of this? Peter’s point was that the miraculous events at Pentecost were the work of God the Holy Spirit. Peter was making a point of similarity connection on this line. This prophecy was partially fulfilled in type by the pouring out of God’s Spirit at Pentecost. However, the entire prophecy will be literally fulfilled just prior to and at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (Cf. Revelation 16). The New Testament days inaugurate the “last days” (Hebrews 1:2, 2:4). The last days will be fulfilled at the Second Coming at the end of the Tribulation period. The point of similarity in Peter’s mind is that both the events at Pentecost and the events surrounding the Second Coming are the work of God, and not the work of dissipation (Acts 2:13; Ephesians 5:18). With the inauguration of

the church, history has entered into the period of the beginning of the last days. The things prophesied of by the prophet Joel will in fact literally occur, but not until the days of the Tribulation Period and the Second Coming.

For an explanation in audio sermon form, I refer you to the sermon delivered on 1/15/2017, available on our website.

https://www.firmfoundationri.com/images/001_A_009_firmfoundationri_170115_001_2017_01_15.wav

Additional Comments on the Events of Acts 2:19-20 (Joel 2:30-31)

1. Fulfillment of this is just prior to the Second Coming, during the Seven Year Tribulation Period, which follows the church age, not in the church age, as recorded in Scripture in-
 - a. The 6th Seal Judgment, Revelation 6:12
 - b. The 4th Trumpet Judgment, Revelation 8:12
 - c. The 4th Bowl Judgment, Revelation 16:8-9
 - d. The 5th Bowl Judgment, Revelation 16:10-11
2. Also references to the sun going dark are found in Isaiah 13:10, Joel 2:10-11 (note the timing in the context), Matthew 24:29, and Mark 13:24-26.

In relation the death of Jesus Christ, Matthew 27:45

1. Scripture records a supernatural darkness over the land. This is in relation to God's wrath against sin being placed upon His Son at the cross, and to make it mean anything beyond this is to go beyond the bounds of Scripture.
2. Oxford Scholars have dug into ancient Roman records to find record of a massive dust storm which caused a "blood moon" whilst Jesus was on the cross to explain this supernatural phenomenon in a more complex way, which goes beyond the Bible record. They date this as April 3, AD 33. If this is true, it is irrelevant, because Jesus almost certainly did not die in AD33! He was born between 4 BC and 6 BC (due to errors by a certain monk in the calendar dating), and would have been crucified between 27 AD and 30 AD, since according to Luke 3:23 Jesus was about thirty when He began His public ministry

and the gospels record 4 Passovers in His earthly ministry (making it span 3-4 years in total).

Additional Comments on the Blood Moon

- 1.** False prophets such as John Hagee have come up with a teaching that this sign of the end times will be visible in the church age. This finds no support in Scripture and in fact contradicts it, as has been demonstrated in this study.
- 2.** There may be variations of what is meant by a blood moon, whether it be wholly supernatural, partly supernatural, or a total lunar eclipse. But which is meant is irrelevant, there being only limited revelation on this in the Bible itself.
- 3.** ESPECIALLY AVOID ANY BIBLE TEACHER OR SO-CALLED SCHOLAR WHO USES THIS OR ANY PART OF BIBLE PROPHECY TO TRY TO DATE THE SECOND COMING. JESUS WARNS US ABOUT DATE-SETTING IN MATTHEW 24:36.