

Signs in the Heavens

Are eclipses a sign of the end?

Much is being made these days of a tetrad of total lunar eclipses and two solar eclipses that supposedly fall on rabbinic holy days and new moons in 2014-2015. But do these have any prophetic significance?

Timing:

These eclipses do *not* fit the timing of the heavenly signs prophesied in Scripture. The prophesied signs come at the opening of the sixth seal. This is after the 2½ years of tribulation and before the Day of the LORD:

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the **sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven**, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn...” (Matthew 24:29-30, KJV).

“For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things. But in those days, after that tribulation, **the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,**” (Mark 13:22-24, KJV).

“And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The **sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come**. 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 hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call” (Joel 2:30-32, KJV).

“I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and **the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth**, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?’ ” (Revelation 6:12-17)*.

While the eclipses of 2014-2015 are before the Day of the LORD, they are *not* after the tribulation.

Visibility and Effect:

The visibility of these eclipses is illustrated on NASA’s web site:

<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/OH/OH2014.html>

<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/OH/OH2015.html>

* The *New King James Version* is used throughout, when not otherwise noted.

For those who went out to look, the first total lunar eclipse of 2014 was visible throughout the USA (except where obscured by clouds). I was able to see it clearly.

The second lunar eclipse of 2014 peaked around 4:00 a.m. where I was. I intended to go out to see it, but managed to sleep through the whole thing.

Most eclipses go totally unnoticed. They often occur in places or at times when nobody but the dedicated astronomer would be out there to see them. Many a solar eclipse is especially hard to see, since they may occur almost entirely over the ocean or some uninhabited wasteland — arctic tundra or such.

Lunar eclipses can only be seen for a few hours in the night half of the earth, and total solar eclipses in a very narrow band for a brief period during the daytime. The heavenly signs prophesied in the above verses are apparently seen by *everybody* regardless of where they are on earth. And they strike terror in rich and poor alike (regardless of whether they have any access to watching world news).

Not very many in our modern era will go hide in a cave at the sight of an eclipse. Odds are, that apart from astronomy geeks and prophecy buffs, the 2014-2015 eclipses would have gone totally unnoticed by most of the world. At best they would be seen as an interesting phenomenon, only briefly reported on the news — something cool to look at, not to worry anybody but our own “Christian” prophets. Does anybody even remember that there was a tetrad of total lunar eclipses in 2003-2004?

Are eclipses and tetrads rare?

There are generally at least four eclipses every year (two lunar, two solar). Tetrads of *total* lunar eclipses (four consecutive) come in waves. Some centuries have none; some have many. In the twentieth century there were five lunar tetrads. There are 17 tetrads between 1909 and 2156.

The only thing that is so very rare is for eclipses to coincide with the rabbinic calendar holy days or new moons. On the *observed* Hebrew calendar of ancient times — which the rabbinic calendar is supposed to *calculate* (but falls short of doing) — solar eclipses would *never* occur on a new moon, nor on the day before the new moon; and lunar eclipses would very rarely occur on the 15th day of the lunar month.

Why?

Solar eclipses are seen in the daytime. They occur at the time of the lunar conjunction, which precedes crescent moon visibility by (generally) at least twenty hours. Therefore you *cannot* have an eclipse on a Biblical new moon day — not when the first of the month is defined by the sighting of the crescent in the evening commencing the day.¹

Lunar eclipses occur at night at the time when the moon is fullest. That is half a month after the *conjunction* — not half a month past crescent sighting. So most lunar eclipses

¹ With the Biblical calendar days starting at sunset, the ancient practice (as documented in the Mishna, Tractate Rosh Hashanah) was to declare the new moon day based on actual sightings of the first visible crescent in the twilight at the beginning of the day. This is in harmony with Genesis 1:14 that says the lights in the sky were given for “seasons” (Hebrew: *moedim*) — that is, for defining the *appointed times* (*moedim*) of God’s feasts.

occur *before* the 15th day of any given Hebrew month. The moon usually still appears to be full on the 15th day of the Hebrew month, but the moment of fullest illumination is past. This is true in both the calculated rabbinic calendar and the observed calendar of the Karaite Jews. For example, a total lunar eclipse was visible in the western USA on Thursday evening, September 26, 1996 — nearly twenty-four hours *before* the opening night service of the Feast of Tabernacles (as observed according to the rabbinic calendar²):

<http://www.cgsf.org/dbeattie/calendar/?roman=1996>
<http://eclipses.gsfc.nasa.gov/LEplot/LEplot1951/LE1996Sep27T.pdf>

Dates of the 2014-2015 Eclipses:

The association of these eclipses with new moons and holy days is a bit of a stretch.

Three of the lunar eclipses span the international dateline — with it being the rabbinic holy day on only one side of the dateline. On the other side of the dateline the eclipse is occurring on either the day *before* or the day *after* the holy day.

In America only three of the lunar eclipses fall on a rabbinic holy day. The October 8, 2014 eclipse was on Tishri 14.

In Australia the springtime lunar eclipses in both 2014 and 2015 take place on Nisan 16.

Neither of the solar eclipses in 2015 actually occurs on a rabbinic new moon. The first comes in the twelve-hour daylight period just *before* Nisan 1. The second is in the daytime *preceding* — but not on — the Day of Trumpets.

Color:

The four total lunar eclipses of 2014-2015 are being touted as “blood moons”. But the color of a lunar eclipse is hard to predict. It is dependent upon atmospheric conditions. A lunar eclipse *can* appear blood red (or brick red). But rust or copper-red seems to be more common, and some grey, brown, orange or yellow in the mix is not unusual. See the section on Selenelion and Danjon Scale here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunar_eclipse

The following web page has pictures of the total lunar eclipse in December 2010: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/December_2010_lunar_eclipse. Note how the color of the eclipse developed over time and was variable, dependent upon the location and atmospheric conditions where it was seen. (There is not much “blood red” in these photos.)

Photos of the 2014 lunar eclipses have more red, but they still peak at more of a rusty brown-red color rather than blood-red (except in artist renderings):

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April_2014_lunar_eclipse
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2014_lunar_eclipse

From my location the April 2014 eclipse was rather orange-brown, not very red. (Some of the wikipedia photos have more red in them than what I saw.) And there is no way to guarantee what color the eclipses of 2015 will be.

However, when the events just preceding the Day of the LORD occur, atmospheric conditions (dust and vapors in the air) *will* cause the moon to appear blood red, not just for a few minutes, but for many days or even months.

² The Karaite Feast began one day later — nearly forty-eight hours after the eclipse.

Note also in Revelation 6:12 that there is a *great earthquake* at the time that the sun becomes black and the moon becomes as blood. This implies that the color change to these two lights in the sky occurs at the same time — at the time of the earthquake. Yet solar eclipses (that darken the sun) and lunar eclipses (that darken the moon) cannot happen at the same time. They are naturally separated by half a month. (The moon is *between* the earth and the sun during a solar eclipse, but it is on the *far side* of the earth — furthest away from the sun — during a lunar eclipse.)

Was the “star” of the Magi an astronomical “sign”?

“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east [which they apparently did *not* see while on their journey, nor when they first arrived in Jerusalem], went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh” (Matthew 2:1-11, KJV).

It is highly improbable that the “star of Bethlehem” was a stellar event. No celestial body can lead people to — nor stand over and identify — a specific house. Nor would a star in the sky bring exceeding great joy. In figurative language a “star” in Scripture can be an *angel* or a *messenger*. (See Revelation 1:20; Daniel 12:3.)

Had this star been just a natural one, you would think that Herod would have asked diligently about *which* star it was so he could have followed it himself. So it seems inappropriate to use the star of the Magi as justification for viewing natural celestial events as signs from God.

We walk by faith, not sight:

God chose to teach His plan for mankind in a seven-day week. This period of seven days has *no* relationship to anything in the natural workings of the clock in the sky, except for the definition of the day itself. Why seven days? That has to be taken on faith, not sight.

The Scriptures do talk about signs in the heavens in the end time, but these are associated with the sea and the waves roaring (Luke 21:25) and the stars not giving their light (Joel 2:10; 3:15; compare Ezekiel 32:7-8). During eclipses the stars give *more* light.

When God begins to intervene, there will be a lot of extraordinary things going on in the skies. At some point there might be enough sun spot activity to make for eerie auroras the world over, not just in the far north (or far south).

At the opening of the sixth seal, there will be some dazzling, and un-missable, meteor showers — stars falling to the earth. And then the heaven of God's throne will itself be opened, at least in a vision, for all to see. Why else would men, great and small, cry out in fear: "Hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb!" (Revelation 6:12-17)? These "heavenly signs" by which the Day of the LORD is introduced are terrifying, to say the least, directly affecting *everybody*.

The book of Revelation seems to predict at least two large asteroids hitting the earth early in the Day of the Lord. And when, at the sounding of the fourth trumpet, the third part of both day and night are darkened (from ash or other debris filling the skies), the natural result will be a blackened sun (shining only part of the day, *every* day, for a while) and a blood-red moon (again, staying blood-red for many days, not just during an eclipse).

Although the timing of the current lunar tetrad is interesting (coinciding with some very troubling world conditions), the fact is: tetrads are not terribly uncommon in our era. But since eclipses do come in a predictable fashion, (four or more of them every year), they can be very useful in keeping track of the timing of historical events. So maybe God would cause some of them to occur at important times.

But we are instructed...

Learn not the way of the heathen:

The main reason I have avoided putting any weight on eclipse data in regards to the timing of end-time events is that God says not to get too excited about such things:

"Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them" (Jeremiah 10:1-2, KJV).

The above passage goes on to describe the nonsense of observing the winter solstice (cutting a tree out of the forest...). But is that the only *sign* in the heavens that the heathen are dismayed at?

One of the most famous total lunar eclipses in all of history is the one that occurred shortly after sundown on September 20, 331 BC. It was taken as a bad omen by the Persian army, making them so demoralized as to be defeated before they started fighting the Battle of Gaugamela. So Alexander the Great quickly defeated the Persians who just gave up and quit — turned tail and fled. This was a battle that the Persians *should* have easily won, if they had not been so superstitious.

Indeed the heathen were dismayed at the signs of the heavens. We aren't supposed to be. So what do we make of the following passage?

"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 years" (Genesis 1:14, KJV).

While the Hebrew word that is translated “signs” here is often used in the sense of “signs and wonders”, that is not the only meaning. Signs can be just like freeway signs — navigational tools. That is how the skies served to guide the way of ships at sea for millennia. And the solstice and equinox are signs/guides for timing the planting of crops.

There is a spiritual lesson in this:

God’s servants are called “stars” for a reason (Daniel 12:3; Revelation 1:20). Their job is to guide people who are out there in the blackness of a dark night — in the “sea” of great Babylon — to show them the way to the “land” (stability) of Abraham.

But did God intend that we should be guided *spiritually* by chunks of rock and balls of fire in the sky? It seems like that should remain in the realm of direct revelation from the Word of God through the mouths and writings of His holy prophets.

All peoples, nations and tongues *are* instructed about the *greatness* of God by looking at His handiwork in the sky, as David wrote:

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard” (Psalms 19:1-3, KJV).

But Jeremiah 10:1-2 says to me that the varying arrangements of the sun, moon, planets (called “wandering stars”) and star groupings should not be seen as omens. An omen is a sign; but a sign is not necessarily an omen. Be not dismayed at the signs of heaven. They are not omens.

What is a star, or a constellation — or a dream (Jeremiah 23:25) — in comparison to the Word of God? We are to fear God, not His handiwork.

Some say the constellations tell the story of God’s plan for mankind. But isn’t the interpretation of star fields a bit like reading an inkblot test? Everybody reads it differently.

Genesis 1:14 does plainly tell us that the heavenly bodies were made to be for signs. Sometimes that is through supernatural intervention, as in the sign given to Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:8-10). But Jesus looked at the colors cast into the sky by the light of the sun as natural signs — to guide people in their day-to-day activities:

“The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times? A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas...” (Matthew 16:1-4, KJV).

Does history support the idea that lunar tetrads are “harbingers”?

The lunar tetrads of 1949-50 and 1967-68 are cited as evidence that the 2014-15 tetrad should be seen as a “harbinger” of war in the nation of Israel — and as a harbinger of the immanency of Jesus Christ’s return and the setting up of His kingdom on earth.

But is this claim true?

A harbinger is defined as “somebody or something that foreshadows or anticipates a future event” (Encarta® World English Dictionary © 1999 Microsoft Corporation).

Palestine was in the midst of civil war when Israel declared its independence in May of 1948. The war began November 30, 1947 and ended March 10, 1949.

The 1949-50 tetrad of total lunar eclipses *did not begin* until April 13, 1949 (the date of the first eclipse). All four eclipses in the tetrad came *after* the war was over. So this tetrad was *not* a “harbinger” foreshadowing or anticipating the Israeli/Palestinian conflict of 1947-49 — nor of the establishment of the new nation of Israel. All four eclipses came too late for that.

Similarly, it is stretching things to suggest that the 1967-68 tetrad was a “harbinger” foreshadowing or anticipating the Six Day War (during which there was the restoration to Israel of Gaza, the West Bank and east Jerusalem). *Only one* of the eclipses in the 1967-68 tetrad came before the war. (The *Six Day War* occurred June 5-10, 1967. The first eclipse of the tetrad was on April 24, 1967, and the second one did not occur until October — well after the end of that conflict.)

There is also an attempt to draw significance from the lunar tetrad of 1493-94 — associating it with the Spanish Inquisition against the Jews. But again, the Spanish Inquisition began in 1478, and the Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492. The lunar tetrad came later.

Clearly, these tetrads were not harbingers foreshadowing events of the Jews. But, like the interpretation of star fields and ink blot tests you can make them mean whatever you want them to mean.

Are we in the “end time”?

The numbers derived directly or indirectly *from Scripture* (7, 40, 49, 50, 70, 2520, etc.) — and some in the natural progression of the skies as well — lead me to believe that the prophesied great tribulation will begin very, *very* soon. But I am looking to the Word of God and to the signs of the times for the information about when the end of this age will be — not to any eclipses.

We cannot know the timing for sure until the “daily sacrifice” is taken away and the “abomination of desolation” is set up (Daniel 12:11; 9:27; Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14) — or the two witnesses appear (Revelation 3:11).

But we are instructed to *watch* (Mark 13:33-37).

We must *watch* to be sure we are doing what God wants us to do (Matthew 24:42—25:46). We must *watch unto prayer* (1 Peter 4:7 KJV), lest we enter into temptation (Matthew 26:38-41; 1 Peter 5:8, RSV). And we must *pray* to be counted worthy to escape, and to stand before the Son of Man (Luke 21:36).

Are we righteous before God — like Noah, Daniel and Job? Do we live by *every* word that proceeds out of the mouth of God? Have we even *read* every word?

Wondering *when* Messiah might come, I have analyzed *many* numbers that point to our day as the time of the end. But those numbers alone are meaningless.

Anybody can play games with numbers. And many apocalyptic preachers over the years have used Biblical numbers to come up with erroneous scenarios of when the end might be.

The primary reason that I *know* the end is near is found in the following passages:

“And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed *them* all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed” (Luke 17:26-30).

“But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be” (Matthew 24:37-39).

Why did God see fit to destroy the earth in Noah’s day? Why did God destroy Sodom and Gomorrah?

“The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto **Noah**, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth” (Genesis 6:11-13, KJV).

“...the men of **Sodom** were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD” (Genesis 13:13).

“And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know... And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? ... Peradventure ten [righteous] shall be found there. And he [the LORD] said, I will not destroy it for ten’s sake” (Genesis 18:20-21,23,32, KJV).

“But [when Lot took in the angels] before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of **Sodom**, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them” (Genesis 19:4-5, KJV).

“Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister **Sodom**, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good” (Ezekiel 16:49-50, KJV).

“**Sodom** and Gomorrah, and the cities around them... having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire” (Jude 5-7).

In Noah’s day and in the cities of Sodom, sins of violence against fellow man — and moral and spiritual depravity seem to have been the cause (or the “last straw”) for which God doomed them all to death.

But what about our world? How bad is it? And how much worse must it get before God steps in to put a stop to all the violence, bloodshed and sodomy?

Are we proud? Do we have fullness of bread and abundance of idleness... while we neglect or even abuse the poor and needy?

The following information was gleaned from the Gallup poll:

78% of Americans think that abortion — which is *murder!* — should be legal in some or all circumstances; only 21% oppose it altogether.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/1576/abortion.aspx>

66% of Americans think that gay and lesbian relations between consenting adults should be legal; 55% say same-sex marriage should be recognized by law as valid.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/1651/Gay-Lesbian-Rights.aspx>

In God's law murder carries the death penalty (Genesis 9:6; Exodus 21:12-14). And so does sodomy; it is an *abomination* (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13).

As in the days of Noah and Lot, day-to-day life goes on... while violence and perversion fill the earth.

Some research claims there are 50 million abortions happening annually across the globe — killing one in four of all the children conceived. This alone is a *great* atrocity, with far more victims than the Nazi Holocaust.

The cry of this world is great. We are *not* innocent. Like Sodom, we are a people filled with pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness — while not even caring for the poor and needy who come to visit us in the womb.

Our people do proclaim their sin like Sodom; they do not hide it (Isaiah 3:9).

Add to these sins *idolatry*, *Sabbath-breaking* and *adultery* (the death penalty applies to all of these: Deuteronomy 4:25-26; 13:1-18; Exodus 31:14; Leviticus 20:10) — and all the other *abominations* of the end-time Babylon the Great (including martyrdom of the saints) — and you have a recipe for disaster. The *vast majority*, refusing to repent at the preaching of God's two witnesses, will die during the hour of trial that is coming upon the whole world to test those who dwell upon the earth.

God says He is going to make Israel pass under the rod to take 10% to Himself (Ezekiel 20:37). If there are to be 10% worth saving — to live on into the wonderful world tomorrow — God is going to have to intervene *very* soon. I do not look forward to the 90% dying, but I yearn for the end of the suffering of innocent people in this present, evil age.

We do not need any eclipses to tell us that the tribulation is near. That should be obvious from the signs of the times.

But IF these eclipses are meant to have some lesson for the end time, then that meaning could be more important than what today's "prophets" are saying.

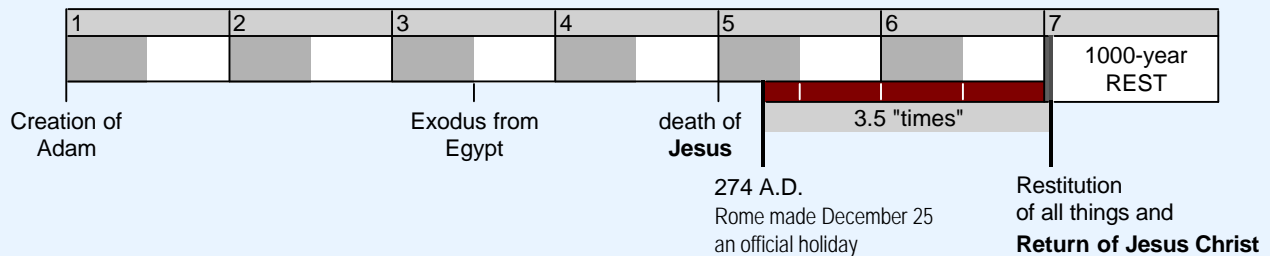
Consider: These eclipses could be seen as a *sign* that it is high time that the Jews (and all Israel) repent of using calendars which are *not* in sync with the clock in the sky.

Jewish records are very, very clear (in the *Mishna, Tractate Rosh Hashanah*) that the crescent new moon was used by the Jews historically to define the beginning of the month — until the Romans thought to change times and laws. The members of the Sanhedrin buckled under Roman persecution, which threatened their very lives. The Romans *forbid* them, on pain

of death, to send out their runners to spread the news about when the months and years began in the Holy Land. So, in 358 AD, the Jews switched to an imprecise calculated calendar — a calendar which can only approximate the workings of the clock in the sky — a calendar that is also sometimes out of sync with the growth of the barley in the holy land for the wave sheaf (omer) offering (Leviticus 23:10-14).

So even the rabbinic calendar is a product of the “times and laws” being given over into the hands of the Romans for 3½ “times”.

In terms of millennia, there have been one millennium’s “night” time, two “day” times and part of another “night” time since Rome began to enforce its religion upon the Empire — since they mandated the observance of Sunday, Christmas, etc. and forbid “Judaizing” by resting on God’s Sabbaths.



Just because the Biblical prophecy said Rome would be given this power does not make it right. This power was given in the context of the beast “speaking *pompous* words against the Most High” (Daniel 7:25) — which it will yet do again.

But, I am persuaded, it is *time* to restore all things — which, thankfully, Elijah *will* do!

God speed that day — and the Day of His coming! I *know* that it is near, as Jesus said, “at the *very* doors” (Matthew 24:33; Mark 13:29).

How do I know?

Because *lawlessness abounds* and *the love of many* — love for God, neighbors and brethren... for parents, spouses, children... and even unborn babes — *has grown cold* (Matthew 24:12). And the next thing cited in Matthew’s version of the Olivet Prophecy is the Elijah work:

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).

Indeed, the time is near. But *millions* will be saved. “Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:38).

You shall know them by their fruits

God was not behind the Y2K commotion, nor was He the author of the Mayan “prophecy”. Similarly, the current lunar tetrad craze is *not* something we should be concerned about.

“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes

of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:15-23, KJV).

In Scriptural symbolism the thorny plants (brambles, thistles...) represent the carnal people who worship and serve false gods, and / or do other abominable works. These thorny, *corrupt* “trees” *cannot* bring forth good fruit!

They may *look like sheep*. They may believe the Bible is the Word of God. They may even keep God’s Sabbaths and holy days — in some form or other. But do they *know* their God? Do they understand and live by His *every word* (including the part about not being concerned about the signs of the heavens)? Are they Jews *inwardly*?

Is the *true* God of the Bible real to them — or even to us? Or is our knowledge of God merely a commandment of men learned by rote?

Do we have our noses in the Bible day-in and day-out? Are we searching *the Scriptures* to guide our daily lives? Do we know the difference between prophets who truly *serve the Most High* — and those who do not?

How many preachers and commentators are making a killing (lining their own pockets) with hype about tetrads and many other wild things that may sound so-o-o... important — while they do little or nothing to prepare people *spiritually* for the nightmare that lies ahead?

Beware of false prophets

A false prophet in Scripture is *not* defined by whether a person gets the timing or other details of prophetic events right. Many of God’s true servants have failed in that regard. And many false prophets at the very end (possibly *including* some lunar tetrad enthusiasts) might actually get the timing right!

But God says:

“If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee” (Deuteronomy 13:1-5, KJV).

We do not live under the “administration of death” (2 Corinthians 3:6-11), when Moses’ Law was the law of the land. As churches and individuals we do not have the authority or responsibility to carry out capital punishment. But each of us has the power to turn off the radio, television or video of those whose prophecies mix elements of truth in with clever, but deceptive twists — as it is written:

“Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge” (Proverbs 14:7, KJV).

Are the tetrad proponents turning people to the true God — or to subtle counterfeits?

“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many... Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many... For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect...” (Matthew 24:4-11,24-25, KJV).

There is a lot of apocalyptic fervor these days — and rightfully so, because the sins of our people wax gross. But are the modern prophets turning people back to the true God of the Bible — or are they, themselves, part of the problem?

Do they mix truth with error — blending Scripture study in with false concepts of God and misguided traditions that were handed down to them from their forebears?

Is it right to mix the ways of the heathen in with the worship of the true God?

The fruit of worshiping a counterfeit god is death. You shall know the false prophet by his fruits. Do his teachings and manner of living lead to life — or death?

Good spiritual food does not come from bad trees. And there is no amount of disaster preparedness — no amount of knowing the times — that will save any of us from the nightmare to come... unless God Himself is our Rock and refuge.

God reveals His secrets through His servants, the prophets who worship Him alone, in spirit and in truth (Amos 3:7; John 4:22-24; compare Deuteronomy 29:29).

You cannot please God by mixing the worship of the true God in with the heathen practice of looking to eclipses as harbingers and omens.

Truth mixed with error is error. It is barking up the wrong tree — the tree of the knowledge of good *mixed with* evil. To take of the tree of life one must leave the other tree behind.

“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of... the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die’ ” (Genesis 2:16-17).

Take instead of the tree of life — the *pure* Word of God! Let that be your daily bread — what fills your soul morning, noon and night! And *obey* God’s simple command:

Learn NOT the way of the heathen.

Heed God and live!

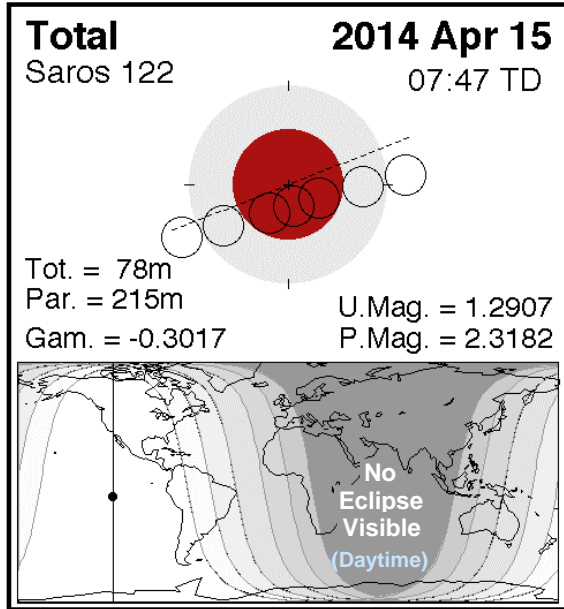


2014-2015

Tetrad of Total Lunar Eclipses

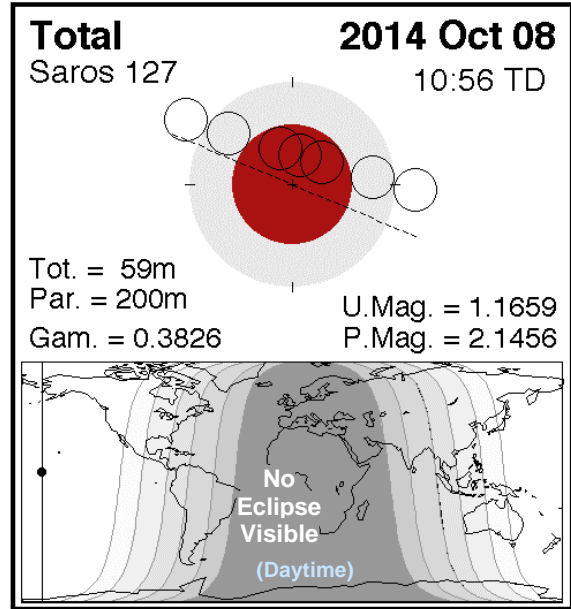
You would think that if these eclipses were harbingers — signs for the Jews in the land of Israel — that they would be *visible* in the land of Israel. But no, only one of these eclipses is visible in that land; and it is not visible there in its entirety.

<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse.html>



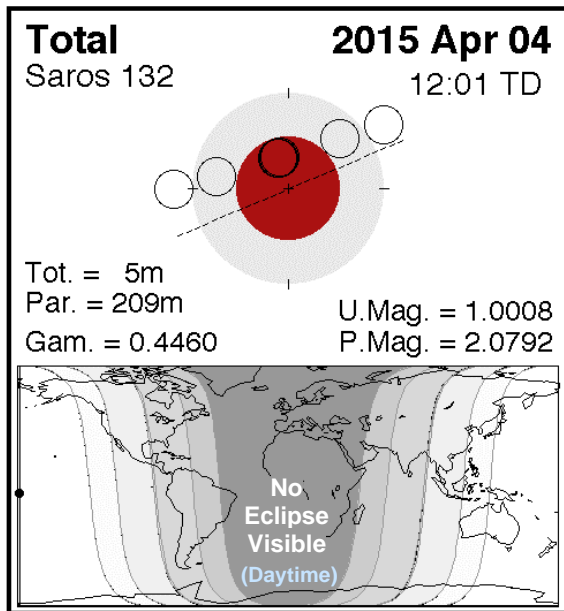
Five Millennium Canon of Lunar Eclipses (Espenak & Meeus)
NASA TP-2009-214172

<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse.html>



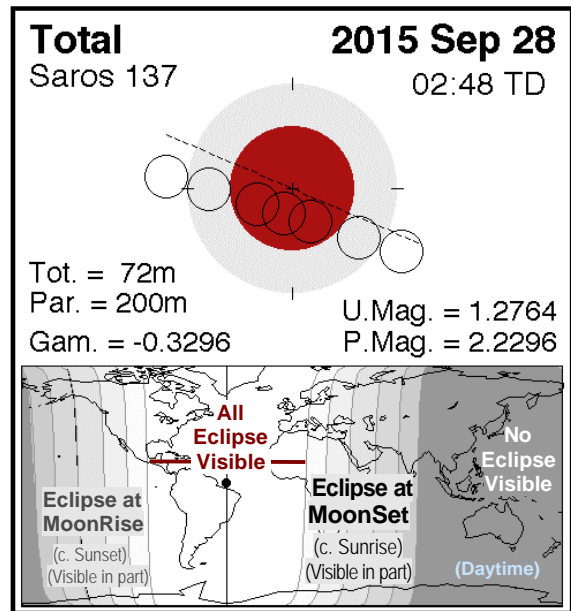
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Five Millennium Canon of Lunar Eclipses (Espenak & Meeus)
NASA TP-2009-214172

Total Solar Eclipse of 2015 Mar 20

Ecliptic Conjunction = 09:37:18.2 TD (= 09:36:10.6 UT)
 Greatest Eclipse = 09:46:46.8 TD (= 09:45:39.2 UT)
 Eclipse Magnitude = 1.0446 Gamma = 0.9454
 Saros Series = 120 Member = 61 of 71

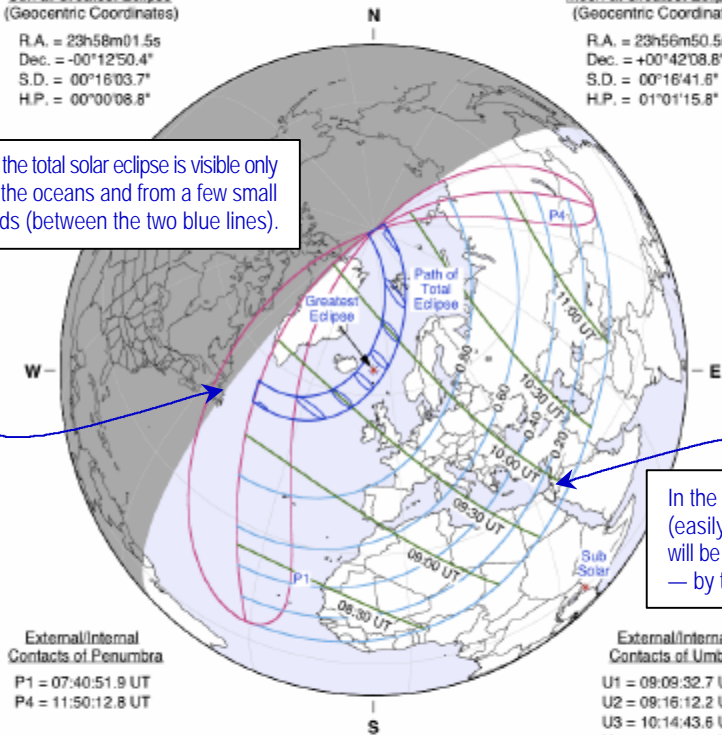
Rabbinic Nisan 1
 = March 21

Karaite New Moon
 (defined by observation of
 the new lunar crescent in
 Israel the evening before)
 = March 22 (or 23)

Sun at Greatest Eclipse
 (Geocentric Coordinates)
 R.A. = 23h58m01.5s
 Dec. = -00°12'50.4"
 S.D. = 00°16'03.7"
 H.P. = 00°00'08.8"

Moon at Greatest Eclipse
 (Geocentric Coordinates)
 R.A. = 23h56m50.5s
 Dec. = +00°42'08.8"
 S.D. = 00°16'41.6"
 H.P. = 01°01'15.8"

Here the total solar eclipse is visible
 over the oceans and from a few small
 islands (between the two blue lines).



External/Internal
 Contacts of Penumbra
 P1 = 07:40:51.9 UT
 P4 = 11:50:12.8 UT

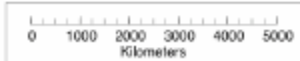
External/Internal
 Contacts of Umbra
 U1 = 09:09:32.7 UT
 U2 = 09:16:12.2 UT
 U3 = 10:14:43.6 UT
 U4 = 10:21:22.3 UT

Constants & Ephemeris
 $\Delta T = 67.8$ s
 $k1 = 0.2725076$
 $k2 = 0.2722810$
 $\Delta b = 0.0'$ $\Delta l = 0.0'$
 Eph. = JPL DE405

Circumstances at Greatest Eclipse: 09:45:39.2 UT
 Lat. = 64°25.9'N Sun Alt. = 18.5°
 Long. = 006°38.8'W Sun Azm. = 135.0°
 Path Width = 462.6 km Duration = 02m46.9s

Circumstances at Greatest Duration: 09:45:16.6 UT
 Lat. = 64°17'N Sun Alt. = 18.5°
 Long. = 006°54'W Duration = 02m46.9s

Geocentric Libration
 (Optical + Physical)
 $l = 1.22^\circ$
 $b = -1.22^\circ$
 $c = -24.92^\circ$
 Brown Lun. No. = 1141



F. Espenak, NASA's GSFC
 eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov
 2014 Feb 22

Partial Solar Eclipse of 2015 Sep 13

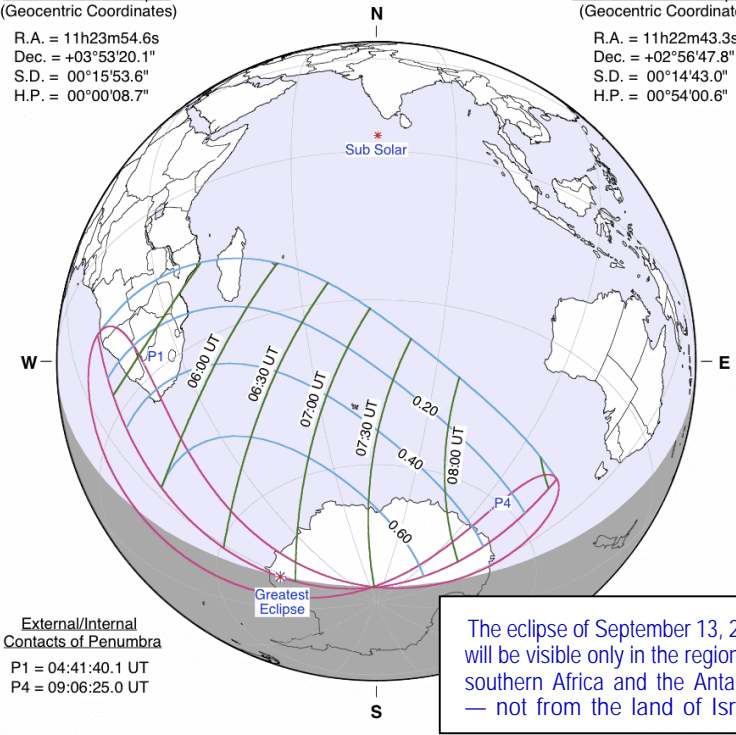
Ecliptic Conjunction = 06:42:23.9 TD (= 06:41:16.1 UT)
 Greatest Eclipse = 06:55:19.2 TD (= 06:54:11.4 UT)
 Eclipse Magnitude = 0.7875 Gamma = -1.1004
 Saros Series = 125 Member = 54 of 73

Rabbinic Tishri 1
 = September 14

Karaite New Moon
 = September (15 or) 16

Sun at Greatest Eclipse
 (Geocentric Coordinates)
 R.A. = 11h23m54.6s
 Dec. = +03°53'20.1"
 S.D. = 00°15'53.6"
 H.P. = 00°00'08.7"

Moon at Greatest Eclipse
 (Geocentric Coordinates)
 R.A. = 11h22m43.3s
 Dec. = +02°56'47.8"
 S.D. = 00°14'43.0"
 H.P. = 00°54'00.6"

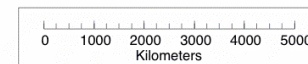


External/Internal
 Contacts of Penumbra
 P1 = 04:41:40.1 UT
 P4 = 09:06:25.0 UT

The eclipse of September 13, 2015
 will be visible only in the regions of
 southern Africa and the Antarctic
 — not from the land of Israel.

Constants & Ephemeris
 $\Delta T = 67.8$ s
 $k1 = 0.2725076$
 $k2 = 0.2722810$
 $\Delta b = 0.0'$ $\Delta l = 0.0'$
 Eph. = JPL DE405

Geocentric Libration
 (Optical + Physical)
 $l = 1.34^\circ$
 $b = 1.30^\circ$
 $c = 24.64^\circ$
 Brown Lun. No. = 1147



F. Espenak, NASA's GSFC
 eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov
 2014 Feb 22

Again, you would think these so-called "harbingers for the Jews
 in the land of Israel" would be fully visible there. But they are not.

Who would put up a freeway sign in an out of the way place — where it is difficult or impossible for drivers to see?