

FOUR BLOOD MOONS

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Part I

INTRODUCTION

Periodically a new item of interest captures the attention of modern Christianity, particularly when it combines a measure of prophecy and/or science. Some recent examples are The Star of Bethlehem, The Gospel Message - Written in the Stars, Laminin and the Cross (a cross shaped protein in human blood), and God's Pharmacy (beneficial foods that look like parts of the human body). Currently, Mark Biltz, founder of El Shaddai Ministries has postulated the following assumptions:

- Relating eclipses of the sun and moon to biblical prophecies concerning Israel.
- Discussing the relevance of the moon often appearing as red from a total eclipse and referring to it as a "Blood Moon."
- The occurrence of consecutive four Blood Moons is referred to as a "Tetrad."
- Interprets the fact that back to back occurrences of four blood moons in successive years (with a total solar eclipse) is a rare event in history and have happened during three major prophetic events in Israel's history.
- Using NASA predictions that four blood moons and a total solar eclipse will occur during the sabbatical year of 4 April 2014 to 28 September 2015.
- Predicting that the 2014-2015 occurrences of four blood moons with a total solar eclipse could signal the beginning of end-time prophecy and/or the Lord's return.

Various similarities of these viewpoints have been echoed by some other well-known ministers and have resulted in major television interviews and three books; Blood Moons Rising by Mark Hitchcock, Blood Moons by Mark Biltz, and the best selling book Four Blood Moons by John Hagee. Before we look at the application of science and astronomy as applied to the Bible and biblical prophecy, let's look at the common terms that are used in the Four Blood Moons viewpoint.

Note: Scripture quotations are from the New King James Bible and art illustrations are by Paul Bunch.

DEFINITIONS

SOLAR ECLIPSE

When the moon passes between the sun and the earth and the moon fully or partially blocks the sun as viewed from the earth. A total solar eclipse occurs when the moon *completely* covers the sun (fig. 1) as viewed from the earth. A partial solar eclipse occurs when the moon only *partially* covers the sun as viewed from the earth.



Figure 1

LUNAR ECLIPSE

When the shadow of the earth falls on the moon. A partial lunar eclipse occurs when the shadow of the earth only *partially* covers the moon and a total lunar eclipse occurs when the shadow of the earth *completely* covers the moon (fig. 2).

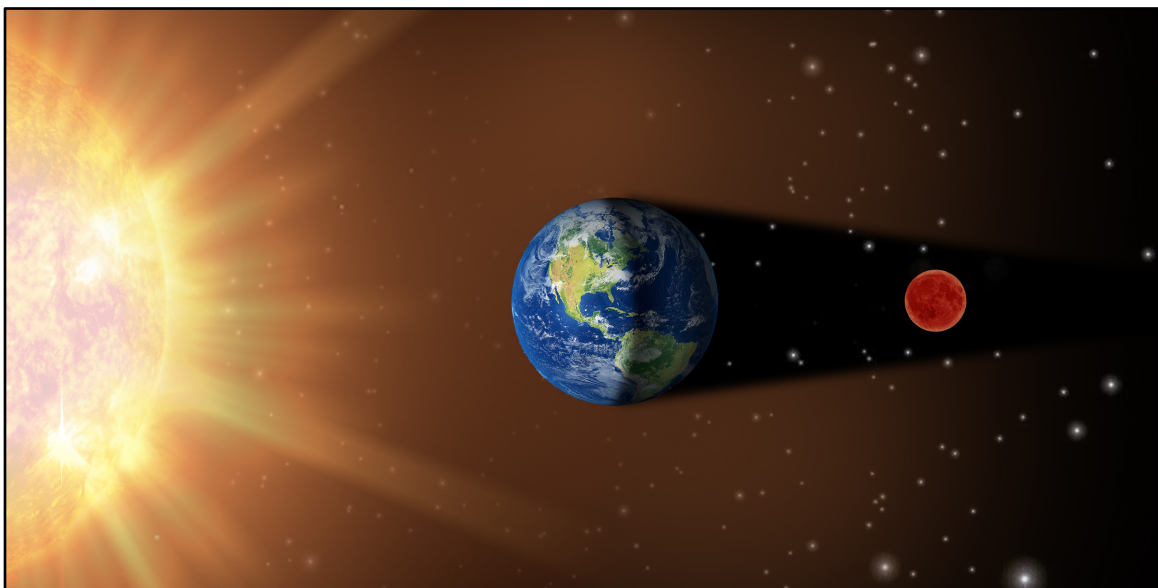


Figure 2

BLOOD MOON

When the moon is *totally* eclipsed it will reflect the color of light contained in the earth's shadow as in Figure 3.



Figure 3

However, because the earth's atmosphere bends light from the sun around its edge and into the shadow, it is not totally dark due to the earth's atmosphere filtering out the shorter-wavelength lights such as violet through green. This results in longer-wavelength lights such as red, orange, and yellow remaining in the earth's shadow. Therefore, some lunar eclipses are red (fig. 4) but can also be orange or yellow along with lunar eclipses. This is also why sunrises and sunsets can also be red.

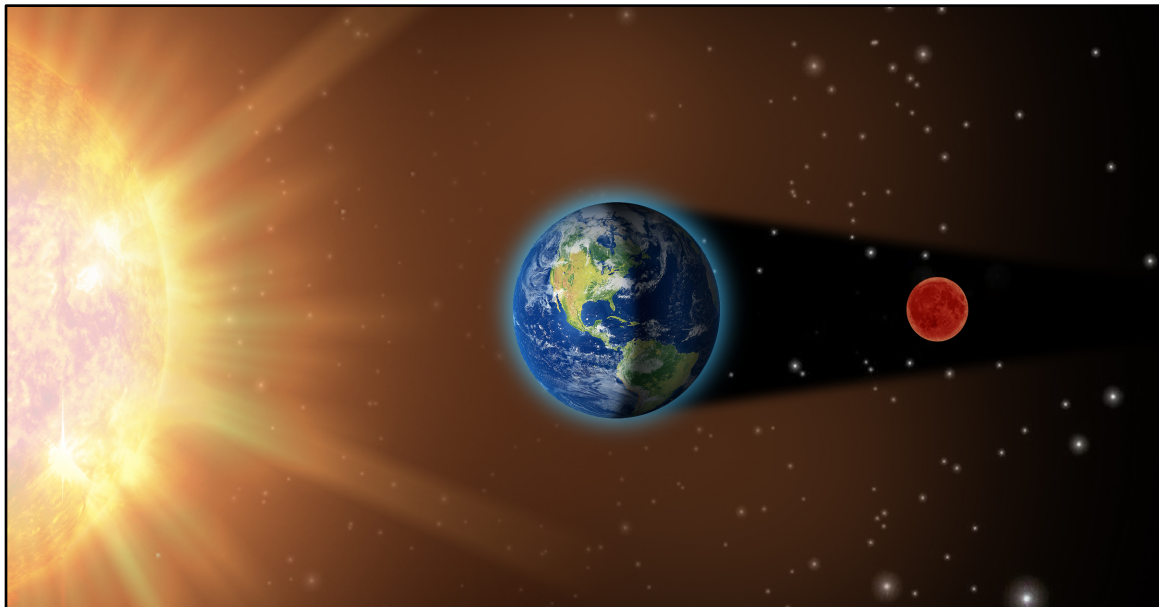


Figure 4

TETRAD

Four total lunar eclipses that consecutively occur during specific intervals of time (fig. 5). A tetrad can also contain a total solar eclipse.

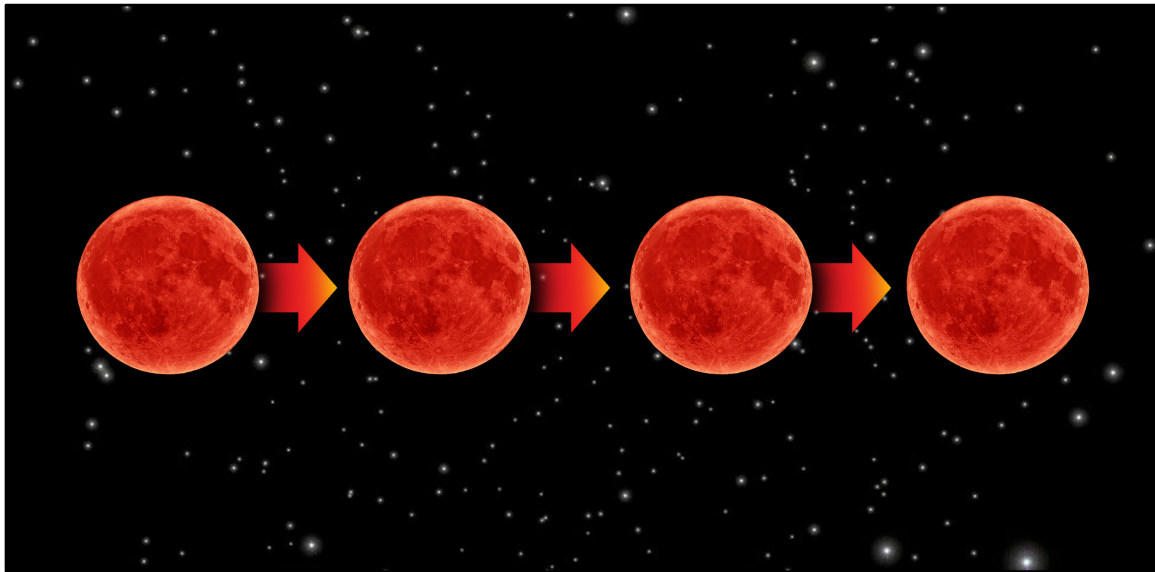


Figure 5

PASSOVER

The Jewish holiday of Passover (Pesach) begins on the 15th day of the Jewish month of Nissan (generally March or April by our calendar) and is the first of the two principal festivals of Pesach and Sukkot. Passover is primarily related to the Exodus from Egypt and is a time of celebration of redemption.

SUKKOT

The Jewish holiday of Sukkot (the Festival of Tabernacles) begins on the 15th day of Tishri (generally September or October by our calendar) and is a time to focus on a time of thanksgiving for God's provision and also is the rehearsal dinner for the millennial reign of Christ. Passover and Sukkot are always six months apart.

SHEMITTAH YEAR

Shemittah (Shem-a-tah) is the Sabbatical year that occurs every seventh year (Leviticus 25:4). The 7th Shemittah year will occur in 2015 and is also during the same predicted time period of the appearance of the final Four Blood Moons within this century.

ASTRONOMY

Astronomy is the *science* of studying the movements and positions of planets and stars.

ASTROLOGY

Astrology is the *worship* of stars that is pagan, occultism, not biblical, and forbidden by Exodus 20:4 "*You shall not make for yourself a carved image-any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth*").

HIGHLIGHTS

Although there are multiple viewpoints in relation to Four Blood Moons and a total solar eclipse occurring during the period of 2014 and 2015 and their

potential relevance to biblical prophetic implications, there are many similarities in the varied viewpoints. So, let's highlight their primary elements and commonalities by looking at the two key Bible verses with the National Space and Aeronautics Administration (NASA) predictions that form the basis of this viewpoint:

- Genesis 1:14 - Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for **signs** and seasons, and for days and years." The key word in this verse is "signs." In Hebrew this word is *mo'ed* (singular), or *mo'adim* (plural) and can be translated as a fixed or appointed time for religious assembly or divine appointments and is referring to determining the holy days such as Passover and the Feasts of Rosh Hashanah. This is also interpreted as meaning that God uses the sun, moon, and stars as signals to mankind, or, God uses the Heavens as His "divine billboard" to announce coming events.
- Since AD.1, there have been seven tetrads. These have occurred in 162-163, 795-796, 842-843, 860-861, 1493-1494, 1949-1950, and 1967-1968. The eighth tetrad is projected to happen during 2014 - 2015.
- During the preceding seven tetrads, three major events that are related to tetrads and Israel happened as follows (fig. 6):
 - 1493 -1494; Spanish Inquisition (expulsion of 150,000 Jews from Spain in 1492).
 - 1949 - 1950; Israel became a recognized state.
 - 1967 - 1968; 6-day war and restoration of Jerusalem and a reunited city in 1967.

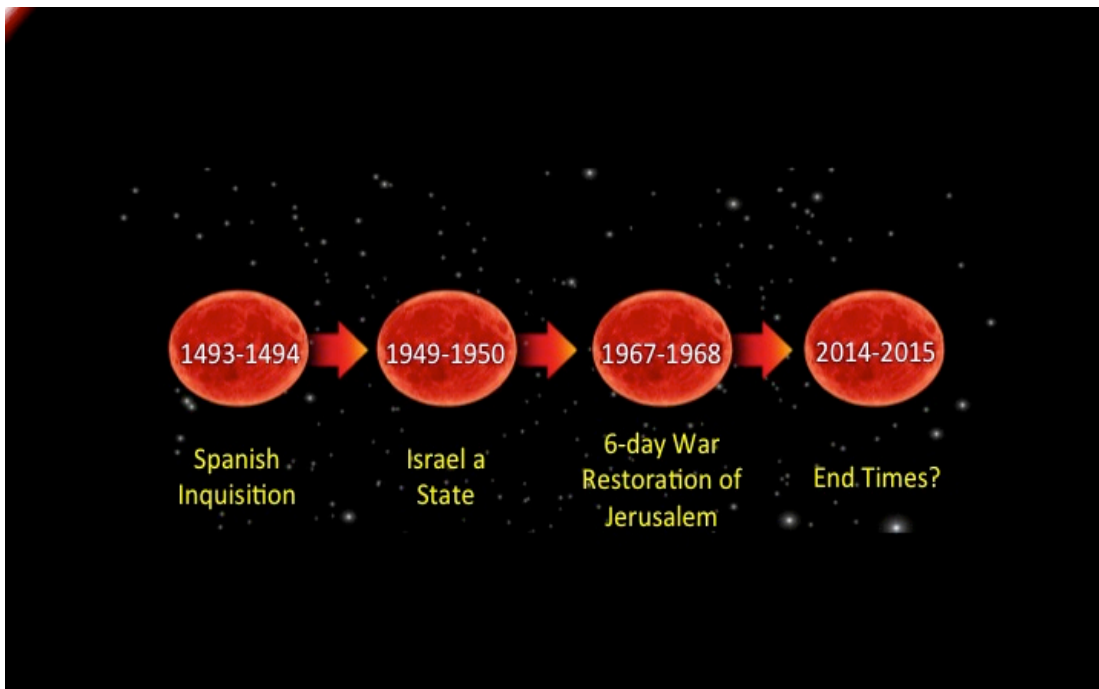


Figure 6

- Four consecutive total lunar eclipses are called a tetrad and their appearance is rare. A total solar eclipse occurring during a tetrad is considered an even

more “rare” appearance. A total solar eclipse occurring during a tetrad *and* falling on the Jewish holidays of Passover and Sukkot are considered an extremely rare event. Therefore, the four total *lunar eclipses* and one total *solar eclipse* during 2014 and 2015 have great significance.

- Four consecutive total lunar eclipses are projected by NASA to fall on the Jewish dates of Passover and Sukkot in 2014 and 2015 in combination with a total solar eclipse (fig. 7). **These eclipses are projected to fall on the following dates:**
 - **Blood Moon on 4-15-2014 (Passover).**
 - **Blood Moon on 10-08-2014 (Sukkot).**
 - **Total Solar Eclipse on 3-20-2015.**
 - **Blood Moon on 4-04-2015 (Passover).**
 - **Blood Moon on 9-28-2015 (Sukkot).**

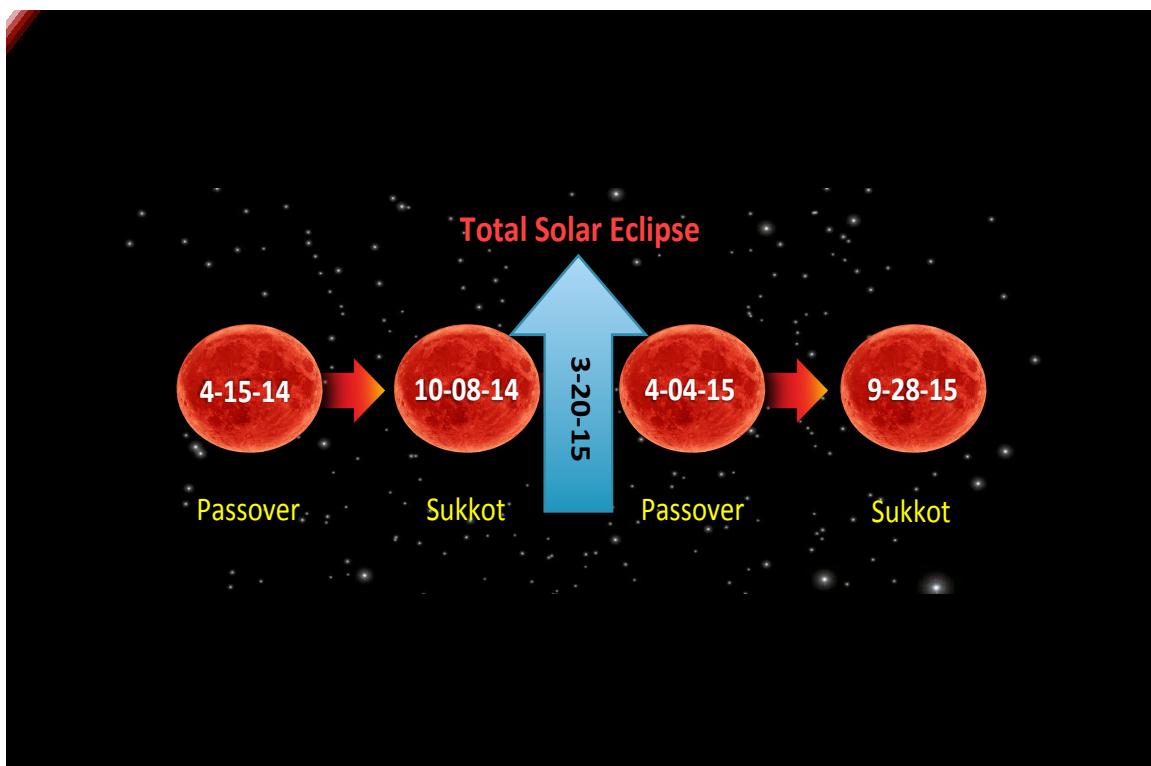


Figure 7

- The years 2014 – 2015 overlap into a Jewish Sabbatical year (Shemittah year) and will occur on the Jewish Feasts of Passover and Sukkot in 2014 and again in 2015.
- Joel 2:31 “*The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.*” As a result of a total solar/lunar eclipse and the moon appearing as blood during 2014 to 2015, this suggests this may announce the Lord’s return and other major prophetic events such as the beginning of the Tribulation, etc.
- Since the Crucifixion of Jesus was during Passover, the Second Coming of Christ must happen on the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. This holiday and time of celebration will be during the eighth tetrad of 2014 – 2015.

Part II
February 27, 2014

COUNTERPOINT

With the preceding overview of the primary highlights of the Four Blood Moons viewpoints, let's turn our attention to counterpoint perspectives that should be evaluated and thoughtfully considered in conjunction with the preceding assessments.

- The Bible does not say to watch for tetrads and/or attach any prophetic significance to tetrads.
- As previously mentioned in Figure 4, the color of lunar eclipses can vary from red, to orange, to yellow while some may be black. This is dependent on atmospheric conditions, humidity and dust concentrations. Therefore, it is somewhat presumptuous to assume that any future eclipse (or the four lunar eclipses of 2014 – 2015) must be Blood Moons.
- Tetrads of total lunar eclipses may occur fairly frequently - or not at all. So, their “rarity” is questionable. As an example, in the 21st century, there are a total of 8 tetrads, but in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, there were none. Additionally, the centuries from the 1st century through the 21st century witnessed a total of 62 tetrads. Interestingly, during the 1st century to the 21st century, 8 tetrads specifically occurred on the Jewish holidays of Passover and Sukkot, the other 54 did not.
- In astronomical terminology, Blood Moons are not often used as the term Hunters Moon is more prevalent. It appears that the term Blood Moons as applied to biblical prophecy / end times may have been popularized outside of astronomy circles.
- From an astronomical perspective, total lunar eclipses can only occur when the moon is full. The moon is full at the start of Passover and Sukkot as each begin on the 15th of their respective lunar months during the time of the full moon. Therefore, it is common for tetrads to occur during these two biblical holidays and the coincidences of these holidays with lunar eclipses is not as rare as is being implied.
- The heavens have been titled “*God’s divine billboard to announce coming events.*” However, consider the following two realities:
 - The total solar eclipse of March 20, 2015 (projected to occur in the middle of the 2014 -2015 tetrad) will travel an eclipse path in the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans, will be of short duration in combination with weather that is normally overcast much of the time. Therefore, it is likely that few people will actually see this eclipse.
 - The first three total lunar eclipses of 2014 – 2015 will not be visible from Jerusalem and only a portion of the final eclipse will be visible from there. One must evaluate how much of a sign this tetrad will be if few people are expected to notice it.
- As previously mentioned, Joel 2:31 refers to the moon turning to blood “*before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.*” This verse speaks of unmistakable heavenly phenomena that will signal the imminent arrival of God’s wrath in the Day of the Lord. However, the tetrad of 2014 -2015 that few people are likely to see falls short of catastrophic heavenly phenomena.

CONCLUSION

Even though some aspects of the Four Blood Moons viewpoint are not without controversy, it should be noted that *it is possible* that the Four Blood Moons (eighth Tetrad projected to appear during 2014 -2015) may debut major events that are associated with Israel and biblical world history. However, remember that the Bible explicitly warns against setting dates for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ as “*no man knows the day or hour of the Lord’s return.*” Therefore, it is of primary importance to place the principal emphasis on your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and always be ready for his return.

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