



The “Blood Moons”—Nothing New Under the Sun

¹Hear the word which the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel. ²Thus says the LORD,

*“Do not learn the way of the nations,
And do not be terrified by the signs of the heavens
Although the nations are terrified by them;
³For the customs of the peoples are delusion;
Because it is wood cut from the forest,
The work of the hands of a craftsman with a cutting tool.
⁴They decorate it with silver and with gold;
They fasten it with nails and with hammers
So that it will not totter.
⁵Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field are they,
And they cannot speak;
They must be carried,
Because they cannot walk!
Do not fear them,
For they can do no harm,
Nor can they do any good.” (Jeremiah 10:1–5)*

*⁸All things are wearisome;
Man is not able to tell it.
The eye is not satisfied with seeing,
Nor is the ear filled with hearing.
⁹That which has been is that which will be,
And that which has been done is that which will be done.
So there is nothing new under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 1:8–9)*

Unless you’ve just emerged from a coma or NASA biosphere experiment, you would be a member of a very small minority who have not heard something about all the so-called “prophetic predictions” for what became popularly known as the “Blood Moons”, the last of which took place last night. Nothing happened on each of the previous three dates in the series, so it is no surprise none of the predictions came true for the last and the biggest in the so-called sequence. To the shame of the Church, millions upon millions of dollars were spent on books, conferences and support of the false teachers advocating it, an even greater untold number of hours diverted from much needed prayer and Bible study, and even more sad beyond words is how there will be no real remorse, repentance, or even simple acknowledgement of all the misspent foolishness.

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Some will turn into spin doctors revising the facts and history of this monument to false teaching while most will simply move on to something else, just as they had jumped on the “Blood Moons” bandwagon after their previous past failures. It is just another in a series for most, where in the end it is not just Christians who bring deserved ridicule and scorn upon their so-called “faith”, but effectively present to the world a distorted and often damaging picture of their Savior. If there was any authentic faith left in the Church we would all immediately fall to our knees and openly repent, but this has not happened in the case of past similar circumstances, and it will not happen today either. For the most part, today will begin the inevitable revisionism of the past while moving on to the next soon-to-expire fad.

For the youngsters in the audience, believe it or not there was a time when the Internet did not exist and Christian information was largely shared through a now all-but-extinct institution called your local Christian bookstore. Before the advent of the World Wide Web in the early 1980s, when in the midst of a fevered fifteen year outburst of books on the End Times, much of it to do not just with Israel’s statehood in 1948 but its reoccupation of Jerusalem in 1967, Israel’s approaching 40th anniversary of statehood in 1988 drew huge attention to a verse in the Olivet Discourse:

*³⁴“Truly I say to you, **this generation** will not pass away until all these things take place. (Matthew 24:34)*

A light bulb emerged over the collective heads of an unprecedented cross-section of teachers, authors, scholars and prominent leaders crossing not just denominational, but even often doctrinal divides, and an incredible consensus spanned the entire spiritual spectrum as they agreed that the definition of “generation” equaled forty years. Therefore, according to this mathematical revelation, when forty is added to the reinstatement of Israel in 1948, then the fulfillment of this prophecy “must” be fulfilled in 1988.

Never mind that this was not the right interpretation of the term “generation”, or of this verse in general, nor that anything could be scripturally ascribed to a countdown arbitrarily assigned to Israel’s statehood, members from nearly every demographic, dogma and strata within the worldwide Christian community were for the first time in agreement that 1988 was the year of Jesus’ return, and this was exemplified in Edgar C. Whisenant’s best seller, “*88 Reasons Why The Rapture Will Be In 1988*”.

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Like the recent “Blood Moons” debacle, Whisenant connected his predictions to the Hebrew festal calendar, so much so that he is quoted as saying, “[I]f there were a king in this country and I could gamble with my life, I would stake my life on Rosh Hashanah 88.”

So what happened when Jesus did not return in 1988? Was there widespread public repentance? Was there any kind of public remorse or apology? No, Whisenant would keep publishing books for each subsequent, revised position:

- *The Final Shout: Rapture Report 1989*. This predicted the Rapture would take place in 1989
- *23 Reasons Why a Pre-Tribulation Rapture Looks Like It Will Occur on Rosh-Hashanah 1993*. This predicted the Rapture would take place in 1993.
- *And Now the Earth’s Destruction by Fire, Nuclear Bomb Fire*. This was his final published prediction for 1994.

Like the Millerites who all expected the Rapture to take place in 1843 based on William Miller’s calculations of Daniel 8:14, and then went out to do it all over again in 1844 when they failed to take into account the year “0” in the Gregorian calendar, those who both teach and follow these things simply move on to the next thing. But Whisenant was not alone, and the list of those embracing this without fully repenting of its failure is both distressing and shameful.

The many false teachers such as Jonathan Cahn, Bill Salus, Tom Horn and their rabid supporters such as TBN, Worldnet Daily and Jim Bakker will not repent and return everyone’s money nor even experience a moment of personal embarrassment, but instead will do what their ilk has historically always done: they will move on the next thing they can sensationalize in an attempt to quench their craving for money and recognition.

There is nothing new under the sun. This is exactly what always takes place, just with a new book title, a revised tale to cover up the last failure, and an ever-more hardened heart determined to go even deeper and further than before.

¹³But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. (2 Timothy 3:13)

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So is there any way of breaking this cycle? Since this is the historical pattern which even in my own lifetime I've witnessed too many times to list here, is there anything which can actually address this issue head on and even reverse the trend?

Setting aside the question of whether or not we are so far along in the End Times process that we might not be able to permanently stem the tide of apostasy associated with the eschaton, there are biblical precedents for addressing this issue, but surprisingly, it does not begin with the unrighteous backsliders turning away from these things, but is initiated by the righteous who have remained faithful and not pursued these teachings.

When you look back over biblical history at what it took to recover God's people when en masse they abandoned orthodoxy for a counterfeit replacement, we see the most righteous acting as mediators on their behalf. We can see this with the examples of Moses, Daniel, Ezra and those in their character, righteous and faithful in their own right, but interceding with God on behalf of the apostatized. I am suggesting that we have reached a point where it must become the burden of the righteous.

It is tempting to draw such people into a debate, to make a good-faith effort to reassert the truth of God's Word in such matters, but the fact is that there is a deeper core spiritual issue at work. Before this thing, they had followed a number of other scripturally failed teachings, but that did not deter them from embracing this one; neither will this flop preclude them from taking up with the next one. There is an issue of the heart, some attachment to sin and rebellion which is really at work, and the remedy is much deeper than making a formal presentation of the facts. You can present a smoker with all the pictures of lung cancer you can find, but it has zero effect on those who care more for the pleasure of the experience than any fear of eventual consequences.

Even a modest dent in this behavior is going to require the consistent, dedicated prayer and pleading of the righteous on behalf of the afflicted, seeking for them to experience the two things which always accompanies every authentic revival: repentance and a return to the cross—the blood of Christ, and a return to the Word—putting His ways into practice so as to permanently change behavior going forward.

This is not actually a time to celebrate how stupid we always knew the “Blood Moons” thing to be, nor revel in another failure of the false teachers and false prophets of our time. This is but one example in the long line of failures which came before and will continue on until Jesus returns. No, this is a time to take our recognition of the truth to a

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deeper level on behalf of the deceived and plead on their behalf for their spiritual restoration necessary to actually break this cycle. If we don't do it, who will?

In Him,

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