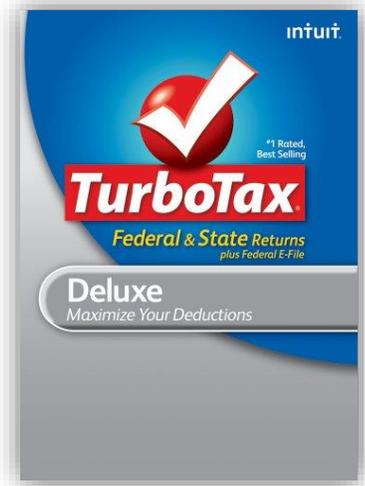


## From Dave's Laptop

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

Well, for starters, I hope you've gotten your taxes done ☺. Although I've been in the line at the post office at the end of the day a couple of times across the years, most of the time I get taxes done pretty early, thanks to TurboTax. I actually kind of look forward to doing taxes. TurboTax almost makes it fun (seriously).



And I expect that you have heard that there was a total eclipse of the moon last night, although the clouds prevented our seeing it here in Columbia. This photo was taken last night from Hot Springs, Arkansas.



It's possible that you've also heard of some radio and TV preachers who are making a lot of noise about this eclipse and the three that follow it, known as a lunar eclipse tetrad. The claims are that (1) lunar tetrads are most uncommon, (2) that when tetrads occur on Jewish feast days, as the eclipses of this tetrad do, signal events have happened to the Jews; and (3) therefore something most unusual is about to happen to fulfill biblical prophecies of the end times.<sup>1</sup>

I imagine that you know that a full lunar eclipse is sometimes called a "blood moon," because just as a full solar eclipse reveals the sun's corona, so a full lunar eclipse, were it to be viewed from the moon, reveals the earth's atmosphere. As the sun's rays pass through the atmosphere, they're shifted toward red just as sunrise and sunset often are, and thus the light that reaches the moon during the eclipse is reddish.

Lunar eclipses themselves are not particularly unusual, nor are tetrads, for that matter. What makes eclipses special is that they are visible from one's own location rather than having to travel to remote parts of the planet to see them. If you're interested, the good folk at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center down the road have calculated all of the solar and lunar eclipses over about a 5,000 year period.<sup>2</sup> They also have a short video specifically about lunar tetrads.<sup>3</sup>

At the end of this *Laptop* I'll put charts that show the sequence of lunar tetrads over the past thousand years, as well as the eight tetrads that will occur in the 21<sup>st</sup> century (the one that begins today is the second). Eight is the maximum number of tetrads that can occur in one century, and it has been over a thousand years since the last series of eight occurred.

Before I turn to consideration of the Scripture related to the current discussion, I invite your attention once again to the documentary film *The Star of Bethlehem*.<sup>4</sup> This is a powerful film that provides pretty convincing evidence of what the original "star" of Bethlehem may have been.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.cbn.com/cbnnews/insideisrael/2014/February/Divine-Sign-for-Israel-Hagee-Explains-Blood-Moons/](http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/insideisrael/2014/February/Divine-Sign-for-Israel-Hagee-Explains-Blood-Moons/)

<sup>2</sup> <http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse.html>

<sup>3</sup> [www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gzgSuJM5O8#t=77](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gzgSuJM5O8#t=77)

<sup>4</sup> [www.bethlehemstar.net](http://www.bethlehemstar.net).

The film ends by pointing out that there was a blood moon on the day Jesus was crucified (April 3, 33 A.D.), which is quite true. At the same time, that lunar eclipse was a partial one as seen from Jerusalem (see the NASA chart of that eclipse), and the eclipse had ended before the moon would have been visible in Jerusalem that night (the eclipse happened in the afternoon), so I'm not sure whether most persons in Jerusalem would have known that there was a blood moon that day or not.

With respect to the present discussion, the primary voices attributing divine import to the current tetrad are "prophesy aficionados" Mark Blitz and John Hagee.<sup>5</sup> While Hagee, in particular, is succeeding in selling books through these claims, he has failed to convince even other prophesy aficionados (and I place little credence in any of them).<sup>6</sup>

Even so, we do well to examine Scripture to see what, if anything, we have to work with. The texts that I've found that bear on the question include Isaiah 13:9-10; Ezekiel 32:7-8; Joel 2:10, 28-32; Matthew 24:29-31; Mark 13:24-26; Acts 2:14-21; and Revelation 6:12-14.

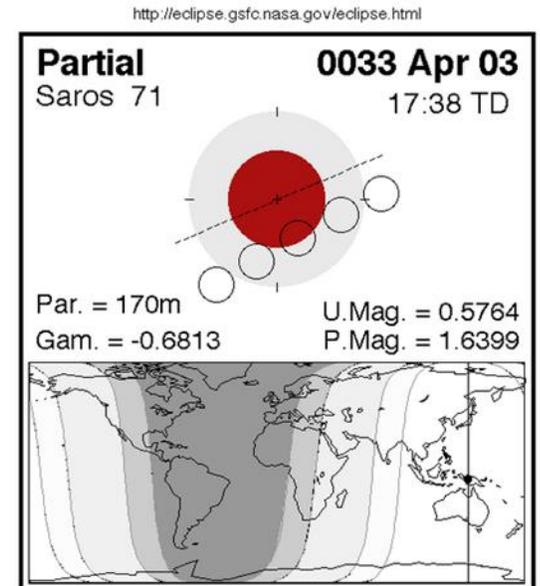
Most of these texts speak of the sun, moon, and stars all being darkened. Eclipses can't darken the sun and the moon at the same time, and eclipses have nothing to do with the stars, so there are no tetrads here.

Only two texts refer to the moon becoming "blood": Joel 2:31 and Revelation 6:12.<sup>7</sup> Revelation 6:12-14 includes not only the blood moon, but also a darkened sun, a great earthquake, stars falling to earth, and the heavens being rolled up like a scroll. This all sounds a great deal more dramatic than simply a lunar eclipse.

Jesus told us that these signs would be visible to all people on the earth and that His return would follow immediately thereafter (Matthew 24:29-31; Mark 13:24-26). This still doesn't sound much like a simple lunar eclipse, and certainly not like four eclipses over a period of 18 months.

Hagee and Blitz attempt to argue that what's unique now is that the eclipses of the tetrad coincide with Jewish feast days, and that when this happens, important things happen to the Jews. Unfortunately for their theory, not all such tetrads have coincided with such Jewish events, and in order to make their theory work, they have to claim that tetrads within a year or two of the events still count. And they fail to account for the fact that there were no tetrads to warn of the Jewish expulsion from Rome in the first century or of the coming Holocaust in the twentieth century, just to name some prominent examples.

As for the idea that it's unusual for lunar eclipses to fall on Jewish feast days, another "prophesy aficionado" site has pointed out that such coincidences happened nearly forty times



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

<sup>5</sup> [www.cbn.com/cbnnews/insideisrael/2014/February/Divine-Sign-for-Israel-Hagee-Explains-Blood-Moons/](http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/insideisrael/2014/February/Divine-Sign-for-Israel-Hagee-Explains-Blood-Moons/)

<sup>6</sup> <http://bibleprophecytalk.com/bpt-blood-moon-theory-debunked-and-more/>

<sup>7</sup> Acts 2:14-21 also refers to the moon being turned to blood, but Peter is simply quoting Joel.

in the twentieth century alone, which is not at all surprising, since the Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar, and Passover always happens at the full moon.<sup>8</sup>

Given all these considerations, I'm going to pay attention to the tetrad because *“the heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands”* (Psalm 19:1); but I'm going to leave my “white robe” in the closet for now.

Dave

### 21<sup>st</sup> century eclipse tetrads:

Eclipse #1	Eclipse #2	Eclipse #3	Eclipse #4
May 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2003	November 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2003	May 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2004	October 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2004
April 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2014*+	October 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	April 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2015*+	September 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2015
April 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2032	October 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2032	April 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2033*+	October 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2033
March 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2043*	September 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2043	March 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2044	September 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2044
May 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2050	October 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2050	April 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2051	October 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2051
April 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2061*+	September 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2061	March 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2062*	September 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2062
March 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2072	August 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2072	February 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2073	August 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2073
March 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2090	September 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2090	March 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2091	August 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2091
*Paschal Full Moon			
+Eclipse coincides with Passover			

Read more at [www.universetoday.com/110868/the-science-behind-the-blood-moon-tetrad-and-why-lunar-eclipses-dont-mean-the-end-of-the-world/#ixzz2yL6M1FHN](http://www.universetoday.com/110868/the-science-behind-the-blood-moon-tetrad-and-why-lunar-eclipses-dont-mean-the-end-of-the-world/#ixzz2yL6M1FHN)

<sup>8</sup> [www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2013/07/12/lunar-eclipses-cause-blood-moons](http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2013/07/12/lunar-eclipses-cause-blood-moons)

It's interesting to check out the tally of total eclipses versus tetrads over 2,000 years:

Century	Number of Total Lunar Eclipses	Number of Tetrads	Century	Number of Total Lunar Eclipses	Number of Tetrads
11 <sup>th</sup>	62	0	21 <sup>st</sup>	85	8
12 <sup>th</sup>	59	0	22 <sup>nd</sup>	69	4
13 <sup>th</sup>	60	0	23 <sup>rd</sup>	61	0
14 <sup>th</sup>	77	6	24 <sup>th</sup>	60	0
15 <sup>th</sup>	83	4	25 <sup>th</sup>	69	4
16 <sup>th</sup>	77	6	26 <sup>th</sup>	87	8
17 <sup>th</sup>	61	0	27 <sup>th</sup>	79	7
18 <sup>th</sup>	60	0	28 <sup>th</sup>	64	0
19 <sup>th</sup>	62	0	29 <sup>th</sup>	57	0
20 <sup>th</sup>	81	5	30 <sup>th</sup>	63	1

Note that over a [five millennium span](#) from 1999 BC to 3000 AD, the max number of eclipse tetrads that any century can have is 8, which occurs this century and last happened in the 9<sup>th</sup> century AD. Read more at [www.universetoday.com/110868/the-science-behind-the-blood-moon-tetrad-and-why-lunar-eclipses-dont-mean-the-end-of-the-world/#ixzz2yL6Td100](http://www.universetoday.com/110868/the-science-behind-the-blood-moon-tetrad-and-why-lunar-eclipses-dont-mean-the-end-of-the-world/#ixzz2yL6Td100).



## ***The Joshua Code: Fifty-Two Verses Every Believer Should Know*** **O.S. Hawkins (Thomas Nelson, 2012)**

### **Week fifteen: The Bible: God's Inspired Word**

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work*  
(2Timothy 3:16-17).

“The call to memorize this verse and the intent of this chapter is not to defend the Bible. We do not have to do this. As Charles Spurgeon said, ‘There is no need to defend a lion when he is being attacked. All we have to do is open the gate and let him out. He will defend himself.’ The Bible will still be the Book of all books when all the other writings of men throughout the centuries have passed into obscurity. Let’s open the gates and let the Bible speak in its own defense. There are several important things to note.

#### **THE DEFINED EXTENT OF THE BIBLE’S INSPIRATION “*All Scripture . . .*”**

“While there are different degrees of worth in the Scripture, there are not different degrees of inspiration. One might find more personal worth in reading the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5–7 than in reading the genealogy tables in Matthew 1. But one passage is just as inspired as the other: ‘*All Scripture*’ . . . is inspired.

“When Jesus broke forth from the obscurity of the Nazareth carpentry shop to begin His public ministry, He was immediately tempted by the devil, and He replied with the Scripture: ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God”’ (Matthew 4:4). To what extent is the Bible inspired? The answer to that question is found in the first two words of our verse for the week: ‘*All Scripture . . .*’

#### **THE DETAILED EVIDENCE OF THE BIBLE’S INSPIRATION “*given by inspiration of God*”**

“The Scripture is ‘given.’ It is supernatural. It is given by God. It originates with God, not with man. It is a library of sixty-six books written over a period of more than fourteen hundred years by at least forty different authors from all walks of life. Some were fishermen, and others were prophets, kings, shepherds, doctors, and rabbis. Yet this Book has come together with one theology, one plan of redemption, and one theme running throughout its pages, leaving no explanation for its unique nature outside of God Himself. It is ‘given’ by God Himself.

#### **THE DIVINE EFFECTS OF AN INSPIRED BIBLE “*is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*”**

“God’s Word is indeed ‘profitable’ for these four things. There is a sense in which the Bible is like a roadmap. First there is doctrine, the way we begin our journey with proper teaching that shows us God’s plan of salvation and sanctification. But what happens if something causes us to veer off the road? The Bible is then profitable for reproof: it shows us our wrong turn. God asks, ‘*Is not My word . . . like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?*’ (Jeremiah 23:29). However, the Bible does not leave us in our reproof. Next, the Bible is profitable for correction: it corrects our mistakes and gets us on the road again. Finally, Scripture is profitable for ‘*instruction in righteousness*’: the Word instructs us how to stay on the road so that we do not get off again.”