

Question: What are your thoughts concerning "blood moon" teachings?

ANSWER #1 (by Bill Griffin):

1. Here's what Joel 2:28-32 says, and let's pay attention to the rest: "It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire and columns of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, As the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

2. So what would Jeremiah's take be on all this "blood moon" stuff that many Christians are getting all worked up about? "Thus 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. . . ." (Jer 10:2). Read the whole passage in context to what Jeremiah associates this kind of activity with (Jer 10:1-16).

3. The events Joel speaks about sound supernatural, not natural.

4. What about "the sun will be turned to darkness"? I don't hear about "black suns".

5. I do not think for a moment that Joel was speaking of a natural phenomenon which could be predicted IN ADVANCE, as the events they describe are.

6. I am not saying we are not in the end times--I do not know. There are wars and rumors of wars, lawlessness is increased, Christians are abandoning Biblical principles right and left, and so forth. Of course, these events have occurred in the past as well. The point is this: be ready if Jesus comes back now, and be ready to live a long life for Jesus Christ if He returns after you grow old and die. Be in it for the short run and be in it for the long run. Whatever one's view of eschatology is, the Christians in the southern Sudan or this week in Kenya did not get a pre-tribulation rapture. They died for their faith, and they needed to be ready.

7. Are what we call "blood moons" what the Bible is talking about anyway? It is not plural.

8. I am just waiting for a movie about the black suns and columns of smoke instead of the blood moons. Maybe I'll go see that one (and then again, maybe I won't).

9. Quite frankly, there are recent events in our world which might point to God's judgment a little more clearly than astronomical phenomena.

William P. Griffin, Ph.D.

ANSWER #2 (by Wave Nunnally):

1. In general, the Bible's posture is to warn against using astral phenomena to predict the future. It is described as a pagan practice and has a legitimate, biblical alternative: divine revelation that usually comes through the exercise of the Gifts of the Spirit (in BOTH testaments).

2. The recent blood moon came and went without a momentous event occurring. This is typical: it has happened before and will almost assuredly happen again. What is interesting is what the hype-mongers have to do with this reality: they have to FIND some obscure event that they will claim was the seed of something that eventually grows into a big movement or a big issue ONLY LATER. Another ploy used to avoid the onus of a missed prediction (and make no mistake about it, that is what this is—it is merely cloaked in different garb using astral phenomena and cherry-picked NASA data as cover). The reality is that God has not restricted His redemptive-historical activity in the earth to times marked by astral phenomena. This reality is quite similar and to be applied to other chronological schemes as well. For example, In Jonathan Cahn's newest installment, *The Mystery of the Shemitah*, makes the claim that all major world events correspond to the ancient seventh-year observance known as sh'mitah. To make this work, however, he has to crunch numbers in a manner similar to the purveyors of the "blood moon" message: 1) he has to begin with a calendar of his own choosing, because the dates of sh'mitah years going back to the original command of Moses are not assured; 2) he has to fudge a bit on major events to get them to align with some of the years of his own sh'mitah system; 3) he has to fudge on the dates of major events to get them to correspond to his sh'mitah dates. It is not surprising, by the way, that Cahn fully embraces the "blood moon" teaching and actually incorporates it into his own sh'mitah system. Several videos on YouTube show him doing exactly that.

3. Both the purveyors of the blood moon teaching (most visibly, John Hagee) AND the sh'mitah teaching (most visibly, Jonathan Cahn) bend over backwards to issue all kinds of disclaimers: "this doesn't mean that God HAS to work at these particular times" and "We don't want to put God in a box." However, what they give with the right hand they take away with the left: "but it IS interesting that God tends to move in accordance with these [astral phenomena]." They will CLAIM with their mouths that they are not engaging in biblically forbidden date-setting (Matt. 24:36 [and note here that this restriction comes in the midst of a discussion about natural SIGNS!]; Acts 1:7)—they have to do this in order to distance themselves from all other date-setters, who have been roundly discredited, AND to get their message accepted by a church that KNOWS that date-setting is outside biblical bounds-- and yet will do the exact opposite with their sermons, teaching, public appearances, and writings. This is disingenuous and the Church of Jesus Christ deserves better.

Wave Nunnally, Ph.D.