



*"Mark is a well-qualified prophecy expert
to examine the popular blood moons prophecy."*

DR. TIM LAHAYE
bestselling coauthor of the Left Behind series

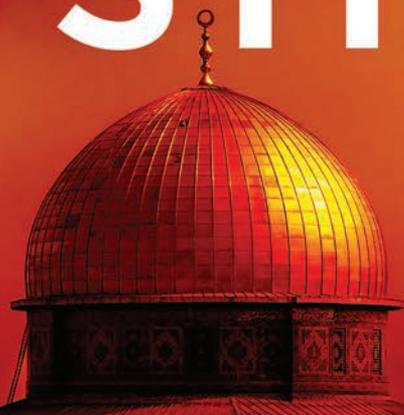
BLOOD

BIBLE PROPHECY, ISRAEL, AND

MOONS

THE FOUR BLOOD MOONS

RISING



MARK HITCHCOCK

BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE END

B L O O D M O O N S R I S I N G



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PREFACE

I FIRST HEARD about the relationship between blood moons, the feasts of Israel, and the end times in the early fall of 2008 at a prophecy conference. During his presentation, one of the other speakers presented the view that a coming “blood moon” (lunar eclipse) that fell in close proximity to the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles signaled the soon coming of the Lord. Careful not to be labeled a date setter, the presenter constantly hedged his bets, yet he all but said this was a harbinger of the end or that the even more significant blood moon occurrence in 2014–2015 would signal the end.

Then, in October 2013, I had the privilege to speak at the largest annual prophecy conference in the United States, and questions about the relationship between the four blood moons in 2014–2015 came up several times in the question-and-answer session and while talking to individuals.

About the same time, John Hagee’s book *Four Blood Moons* was released, becoming an instant bestseller. By the time this book is published, Mark Biltz will have released his

book *Blood Moons: Decoding the Imminent Heavenly Signs*. In 2007 Pastor Biltz first discovered the correlation between when blood moons fell on Jewish feast days and key historical world events involving the Jewish people. He claimed to have found the divine link or intersection between biblical prophecy, historical events, and heavenly signs.

Being a student of Bible prophecy, I was of course interested, so I watched several videos of Mark Biltz's teaching about the blood moons prophecy and the Jewish feasts and read *Four Blood Moons* to learn what the furor was all about. I agree with many things in John Hagee's *Four Blood Moons* about God's future plan for national Israel, the Rapture, the Second Coming, and our need to be ready at any time for the Lord's return. I also deeply appreciate his commitment to the Jewish people and passion to bless them, in keeping with Genesis 12:1-3. Yet when it comes to his analysis of the four blood moons and their relationship to Scripture, history, and the end times, I disagree with his interpretation of some Scriptures and the conclusions he draws from the historical data. My view is that much of what people are saying today about blood moons is based on speculation and a misinterpretation of Scripture.

Blood Moons Rising will examine in the light of Scripture the view that many well-known prophecy teachers are presenting. In this book I will disagree with fellow believers, but my disagreement is not intended to be personal. I appreciate others who give their lives to ministry for Christ and His body, and I don't claim to have it all figured out when it

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comes to end-times prophecy. When I disagree, I hope to do so in an irenic spirit.

My goal is to present what I believe Scripture says about the end times, examine the historical evidence for the blood moons prophecy, and leave you to make your own decision. I used to be an attorney, so I want to make my case, present the evidence, and let you render your own verdict.

My prayer is that the Lord will use this book to help bring greater clarity about what lies ahead as we await the coming of the Lord, and stir within each heart a readiness for that day.

Mark Hitchcock

EDMOND, OK
JANUARY 2014



Chapter One

THE FINAL FOUR?



What a time to take the news of the day in one hand and the Bible in the other and watch the unfolding of the great drama of the ages come together. This is an exciting and thrilling time to be alive. . . . It is not just Christians that sense something is about to happen. The world knows that things cannot go on as they are. History has reached an impasse. This world is on a collision course. Something is about to give. With increasing frequency, commentators from secular media speak of Armageddon.

—BILLY GRAHAM, *THE REASON FOR MY HOPE*¹



IN A *PEANUTS* comic strip, Snoopy is sitting on his doghouse, typing a novel. He begins his story the way he always begins his stories, with the words “It was a dark and stormy night.”

Lucy comes by and puts in her two cents. In her assertive, blunt way, she scolds him: “That’s a terrible way to begin a story. It’s so trite! ‘Once upon a time . . .’ that’s the way all the good stories begin.” Lucy lectures him more and then leaves.

The last frame of the comic shows Snoopy starting over on his story. This time he types, “Once upon a time, it was a dark and stormy night.”

Snoopy’s first line is an apt description of how many feel today. It’s a dark and stormy night. The constantly escalating tempo of life in combination with cataclysmic natural disasters, wars and rumors of wars, unrest in the Middle East, terrorism, and mushrooming financial uncertainty have given the entire world a sense of impending crisis. People today are asking questions about the future as never before—solemn,

searching questions. Apocalypse is in the air. Many have a sense that the world is nearing closing time, that a day of reckoning is at hand. The words of philosopher Alfred North Whitehead are truer than ever: “It is the business of the future to be dangerous.”²

Some are taking drastic steps to get ready. Doomsday preparation is booming. Plans for surviving nuclear fallout, the shifting of the earth’s crust, complete financial meltdown, or the final apocalypse have reached new heights, or even new depths. The Vivos Survival Shelter & Resort in Atchison, Kansas, for example, is the world’s largest private underground shelter. The developers are converting an enormous underground limestone mine that covers 135 acres into square footage equal to the Empire State Building (2.25 million square feet). The luxury doomsday bunker has enough food and water to provide for five thousand people for a year.³ Many others are also taking precautions, albeit on a smaller scale.

Science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke observed, “This is the first age that’s paid much attention to the future, which is a little ironic since we might not have one.”⁴ Recent polls reflect the growing sentiment that something big is about to happen and that the end of the age is approaching:

- “Almost one in three Americans see Syria’s recent conflict as part of the Bible’s plan for the end times.”
- “One in four think that a U.S. military strike in Syria could lead to Armageddon.”

- “Nearly 15 percent of people worldwide believe the world will end during their lifetime.”
- “41 percent of all U.S. adults, 54 percent of Protestants, and 77 percent of evangelicals believe the world is now living in the biblical end times.”
- “Nearly 4 in 10 Americans (and 65 percent of white evangelicals) believe recent natural disasters are evidence of the End Times.”⁵

Hollywood reflects the mood of the mob. The apocalypse is big business. Hollywood is churning out television series and movies based on postapocalyptic scenarios. Richard Swenson notes how things have changed in recent times: “Before the nuclearization of the modern era, much of the literature of science fiction dealt with the promise of a glorious technological future. Today such optimism is seldom seen. Forty years ago, Hollywood’s futuristic movies were utopian. Now they are all apocalyptic.”⁶ Here are a few recent examples.

- *The Book of Eli* (2010)
- *The Road* (2009)
- *Revolution* (2012)
- *Elysium* (2013)
- *Oblivion* (2013)
- *This Is the End* (2013)
- *World War Z* (2013)
- *The World’s End* (2013)

- *2012* (2009)
- *The Walking Dead* (2010)
- *Falling Skies* (2011)

In recent times attempts to forecast the end have increased with predictions such as John R. Gribbin and Stephen H. Plagemann's *The Jupiter Effect*; Michael Drosnin's *The Bible Code*, *The Bible Code II: The Countdown*, and *The Bible Code III: Saving the World*; the panic surrounding Y2K and the year 2000; renewed interest in the quatrains of Nostradamus; and more recently the end-of-the-world predictions surrounding December 21, 2012. Following mystic Mayan prophecies, predictions of the end of the world were all over the Internet in the years leading up to 2012. While many predicted the end of the world, some in the New Age movement heralded the dawning of a new day for mankind in December 2012—an age of Aquarius. Nothing happened, which shouldn't surprise us. History is strewn with the bleached bones of prophecies and predictions that have failed the test of time.

While Hollywood and false prophets consistently miss the mark concerning the future, many signs that we see around us do point toward the end-times scenario laid out in Scripture. The Jewish people are back in their ancient homeland after a worldwide dispersion of almost two thousand years, just as Scripture predicted thousands of years ago. Peace in the Middle East is under constant negotiation, and the Middle East is center stage. Globalism and exponential advances in technology have provided the framework for

the end-times global government and economy predicted in Revelation 13. Israel sits surrounded by a sea of enemies who would delight in its destruction. Russia and Iran have risen to prominence as predicted in Ezekiel 38–39, along with other Islamic nations that despise Israel. Events in our world strikingly foreshadow the biblical predictions of the end of the age. We live in the times of the signs. End-times biblical prophecies will be fulfilled right on time on God’s calendar, just as hundreds of past prophecies have been fulfilled.

MOON SHADOW

Jesus said that in the days before His return there will be stunning signs on earth (see Matthew 24:4-28) and in the heavens (see Luke 21:25). Other biblical prophets predicted celestial signs in the heavens of Christ’s second advent. Based on these prophecies, a growing number of prophecy teachers today maintain that an astronomical event in 2014–2015 is a dramatic sign in the heavens that is about to change everything—that something very big is coming that will change the world forever.

The specific astronomical sign they point to is known as a “tetrad,” which is the appearance of four blood moons (lunar eclipses) falling on two Jewish feast days or high holy days (Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles). It’s known as the blood moons prophecy. This view is spreading quickly, and people everywhere are asking questions about its significance. The central question is this: Is the blood moons

prophecy different from all the apocalypse forecasts we have seen before? Is this another prophecy miscalculation, or could this celestial event be the most incredible sign of the times the world has ever witnessed?

According to NASA, four blood moons will appear on four Jewish feast days in 2014–2015. In the middle of the sequence, there will be a solar eclipse. Here are the times of their appearance.

BLOOD MOONS OF 2014–2015



04/15/2014 Passover
10/08/2014 Feast of Tabernacles
03/20/2015 Total Solar Eclipse
04/04/2015 Passover
09/28/2015 Feast of Tabernacles

These total lunar eclipses are known as blood moons because when they occur, the moon takes on a reddish hue or blood color. Many prophecy teachers, based on three past occurrences of this phenomenon and a few prophetic Scriptures that mention the moon turning to blood, believe that this tetrad of blood moons signals some impending event in Israel and America or even the end of the age. They believe this could be the *final four*.

John Hagee, the pastor of Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, has championed this view in his recent bestselling book *Four Blood Moons*. Hagee's teaching is substantially derived from Mark Biltz of El Shaddai Ministries, who was the first to discover the alleged blood moons prophecy. He

appears in numerous videos on the Internet and has authored a book titled *Blood Moons: Decoding the Imminent Heavenly Signs*. But John Hagee, with his worldwide television audience, has popularized the view and taken it mainstream. He believes that something dramatic, even world changing, is about to happen. He writes in *Four Blood Moons*:

This is the hand of God orchestrating the signs in the heavens. The final Four Blood Moons are signaling that something big is coming . . . something that will change the world forever. But the bigger question is, are we watching and listening? . . . What they *are* telling us is that God is getting ready to change the course of human history once again. He is preparing to display the next series of signs in the heavens. What is going to happen?⁷

Some are saying the blood moons are a sign of war involving Israel in 2015. Michael Snyder notes, “According to ancient Jewish tradition, a lunar eclipse is a harbinger of bad things for Israel. If that eclipse is blood red, that is a sign that war is coming. And blood red moons that happen during Biblical festivals seem to be particularly significant.”⁸

I watched John Hagee on Trinity Broadcasting Network on November 1, 2013, when he appeared with a panel of prophecy experts to say that if America doesn’t repent, something drastic will occur in 2015. He didn’t give any specific indication of what he expects, but he alluded to an event like

the World Trade Center attack on September 11, 2001, or the economic collapse of 2008. Hagee bases his prediction on the fact that every seven years in Israel was to be a Sabbatical year, or Shemittah, when Israel was to allow the land to rest and not plant crops. When Israel neglected this provision in the Law, there was judgment. God exiled the Jewish people to Babylon for 70 years for failing to observe the Sabbatical year for 490 years (see 2 Chronicles 36:20-21).

Hagee applies this to America and notes that the year 2001 was a Shemittah year, and 9/11 happened. Seven years later, in 2008—another Shemittah year—the economic tsunami hit America and the world, bringing the global economy to its knees. Adding seven years to 2008 brings us to 2015. Hagee asks the question:

Will America be at war? Will America's mountain of debt come crashing down, destroying the dollar? Will global terrorists attack our nation again with a force that will make 9/11 pale by comparison?

The attacks on the Twin Towers were on September 11, 2001.

The Wall Street crash was on September 29, 2008.

The next Tetrad will end in September 2015, which will include the Year of Shemittah. Will a crisis happen as before? What earthshaking event will it be?

This we know: things are about to change forever!⁹

Hagee and others who hold to the blood moons prophecy are forecasting a national cataclysm if America fails to repent.

THE SEARCH FOR ANSWERS

Four blood moons will appear in 2014–2015 and will fall on two Jewish feasts in each year—that much we know for sure. As this phenomenon bears down on planet Earth, a growing number of people are asking serious questions and even making predictions, and I expect the predictions and anxiety to increase dramatically in 2015. But what's it all really about? What's the uproar? Is there any truth to the notion that these blood moons portend ominous events for Israel, for America, and possibly even for the world? People everywhere are asking questions. Inquiring minds want to know. Is there about to be some great change or shift as some claim? Is the apocalypse upon us? The questions we face today are very real.

- Does the Bible say anything about blood moons?
- Are the four blood moons a *harbinger* or *hype*?
- Are they *signs* or *sensationalism*?
- Will America face judgment in 2015?
- Is the world racing toward Armageddon?
- Is there hope for the future?

B L O O D M O O N S R I S I N G

In the pages that follow I hope to answer these questions and more as we consider what the Bible says about Israel, blood moons, and the end of days.