



# Signs and Wonders in the Sky

There is a lot of talk lately about the upcoming solar eclipse. Because of its uniqueness along with converging with several other astronomical events, many have stated that they believe it to be a sign that God or Satan is about to do something big very soon. What should the Christian believe about these events? Is God speaking to us in the heavens? Please allow me to give a perspective you may not have considered.

Most of you know that I believe we are living near the end of time, because I have written about it and preached on it many times. If I had to guess, I would say that we will see the end in our lifetime (I am 62 going on 63). But I want to present a caution concerning the recent uptick in predictions. In history, pagan religions have looked for omens in the sky. Some even suggest that God used their superstitions to receive Jonah's message, since there supposedly was a solar eclipse during his preaching at Nineveh; this is questionable, since we know that Jonah preached during Jereboam II's reign (2 Kings 14:25), and Jereboam died in 753 BC, making Jonah's book written approximately 760 BC and the solar eclipse several years after that. But even if they coincided, we have some problems we need to face. Pagan religions embraced astrology because they believed the sun, moon and stars to be gods and directors of their fate. Genesis 1 contradicts the false religions of the Ancient Near East by stating that Yahweh created the sun, moon, and stars. In Isaiah 47:13-14 God condemns astrologers; this is because interpreting omens and astrology in general is occultic and condemned in Deuteronomy 18:9-14. Some point to Genesis 1:14, which states that the sun, moon and stars "will serve as signs for seasons and for days and years," as a clue that we are supposed to receive hidden messages from God, but this passage is clearly a reference that they are used to mark time for us and can be used for navigational purposes, not astrological purposes.

The Bible only sanctions astronomy, not astrology. We are never told to discern God's plan through the astrological events in the sky. Matthew 24 gives us birth pains as signs of when the time is near, none of which include astrology. Revelation indicates that at the very end of time the stars will fall from the sky, but we are not in the tribulation period yet and these are not spoken of as signs, just events of judgment. In light of this information, I would seriously caution Christians about using these things coming up to make us think something big is about to take place. A few years back a false prophet announced that four blood moons were signs that something big was about to take place, and he was proven wrong. In the Old Testament a false prophet was to be stoned. Since we are under the New Covenant, we shouldn't stone false prophets, but we also shouldn't listen to them or emulate them by appealing to astrology. I know this might sound harsh, but I care about you as sheep. Please at least consider this before you share the omens with others. From a Biblical perspective, the solar eclipse and its path as well as comets, etc. that are visible now are simply a part of God's creation doing what they are predicted to do, because we can trace their path and do the math. The heavens truly declare the glory of God. Even if God used pagan thought to lead unbelievers to repent (the Magi were probably astrologers), doesn't mean God will speak to His kids in this way. My stepbrother and his wife started going to church because he was told of "88 reasons why Jesus is coming back in 1988." He stopped going to church once the event passed and has never gone to church since then. The false prophecy hindered his ability to hear the true voice of God.

I hope you enjoy the solar eclipse. I do not believe anything big is going to happen, because these things are not signs. Even the Cicadas are simply obeying God's design for them. In the end God will use famines, pestilences, and persecution to warn us that the end is near. COVID-19 was certainly a wakeup call. I am sure Satan has plans to disrupt the world's economy as well (Revelation 18). But we don't need to, and we shouldn't look up to the heavens to discern what God is saying, besides the general revelation that a creation declares a glorious Creator. Listen to His voice as the Shepherd speaks to His children. Read the Bible and be prepared as you see the real signs. Don't get caught up practicing pagan thought. It's ok to be excited about the near return of our King, and we can predict the seasons, but no one knows the day or hour (Mt 24:32-36).

Thank you for listening,  
Pastor Larry Siekawitch