

A CRITICAL LOOK AT BLOOD MOON TETRADS

According to many modern-day paperbacks and websites, the celestial events foreshadowing and accompanying the Day of the Lord may be fulfilled by a certain plurality of successive eclipses. These events include the darkening of the sun and the moon turning to blood and are so frightening as to cause men's hearts to fail (Luke 21:26). This author contends that these must be supernatural signs. Mere eclipses, no matter how spectacular, do not cause such fear. Moreover, the prophesied signs also include such supernatural events as the stars being rolled up as a scroll and falling to Earth and of course, the Second Coming of the Lord. Notwithstanding, many enthusiasts imply that they foreshadow a pre-tribulation "rapture" some years *before* the Second Coming.

This paper will show that the 2014-2015 eclipses cited by enthusiasts are neither spectacular nor supernatural in any way. 80% of them do *not* fall on any feast day as commonly believed. 80% of them are *not* even visible from Israel for whom they are alleged to address.

It should initially be noted that blood red is a very deep and dark red. Even the darkest total lunar eclipses do not actually approach a true blood red appearance, but more of a reddish orange. The slang term "blood moon" for "lunar eclipse" most likely originates from the Biblical references of the moon turning to blood, not the actual hue of red as observed.

A *tetrad* is not a Biblical concept, nor are eclipses ever mentioned in Scripture. A *tetrad* is an astronomical term used to describe four successive total lunar eclipses with no intervening partial eclipse(s). From the years 1999 BC to AD 3000, a total of 142 tetrads have been calculated by NASA, averaging 2.84 tetrads per century. Because of their relative rarity, they are of moderate interest to astronomers and astrologers. Of recent interest are such eclipses falling on the Old Testament 7-day feasts of Passover and Tabernacles, which this paper refers to as Feast Tetrads. This supposedly has/shall occur only eight times in the 21 centuries from AD 1 to 2100, and three of these appear to coincide with major events in Jewish history:

1. AD 162-163	No historical significance
2. AD 795-796	No historical significance
3. AD 842-843	No historical significance
4. AD 860-861	No historical significance
5. AD 1493-1494	Jews expelled from Iberia one year earlier (1492)
6. AD 1949-1950	Israel reborn as a nation one year earlier (1948)
7. AD 1967-1968	Six-Day War after the first eclipse (1967)
8. AD 2014-2015	No major event one year earlier (2013)

It is of note that Feast Tetrad enthusiasts tend to ignore the first four tetrads entirely, apparently because of lack of historical significance. Ironically, they also marginalize the fact that the significant Feast Tetrads tend to *post-date* their coinciding events, hence defeating the normal sense of portending signs or omens. They also tend to neglect the fact that no tetrads of any type coincided with any other major events in Jewish or Christian history, including the AD 67-70 destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple; and the AD 27-30 ministry of

Jesus Christ. Also sidestepped is the fact that many of the eclipses showcased were not or will not be visible from Israel. It is also unclear as to whether future Feast Tetrads are to signify bad news (e.g., Spanish exile), good news (e.g., Israel's rebirth), or mixed news (e.g., the horror of war, yet Israel the victor). Recent claims by Tetrad enthusiast and promoter, John Hagee, include World War II foreshadowing the 1949-1950 tetrad. As World War II spanned from 1939 to 1945, apparently up to a decade of imprecision is now considered acceptable by book publishers.

The truth is that, of the 28 cited blood moons from AD 162 to 1968, the *only* eclipse to *pre-date* a significant event was that of April 24, 1967, but it was not visible from Israel.

Of the four cited lunar eclipses for 2014 and 2015, *only* the final one of September 28, 2015 will be visible from Israel. Moreover, if the post-dating history of previous Feast Tetrads is to be taken seriously, we should have already seen "something big" in 2013.

The modern-day Hebrew Calendar is not Biblical. Today, Jews use astronomical equations to identify the precise moment of the new moon conjunction, then establish the first day of the year, then fill the remainder of the year with 29- and 30-day months and a system of intercalary 13th months in order to approximate the true lunar "synodic" months which average 29.530587981 days. The Priests of Jesus' day used very similar techniques that were seeded while in Babylonian captivity. So, today's Hebrew Calendar is based in paganism.

However, God's calendar has always been based on 30-day months, with Nisan 1 established when the first crescent is seen after barley is seen as green in the ear. In other words, God's calendar is based on things that can actually be seen. It cannot be predicted with certainty years in advance.

Scripturally, we can see that Noah used this standardized 30-day month. For 150 days the waters prevailed upon the earth until abated (Gen 7:24, 8:3). The Flood began the seventeenth day of the second month (Gen 7:11) and the Ark rested the seventeenth day of the seventh month (Gen 8:4), a span of exactly five months. Hence, Noah reckoned all months as exactly 30 days in length. Had Noah used the modern convention of lunar months, this span would have been only 148 days (or 149 days inclusively counting) because the modern months of Cheshvan, Kislev and Tevet total but 88 days, not 90. Clearly, the official modern Hebrew Calendar is a departure from God's original calendar.

We see the same type of 30-day month in Revelation when periods of 1260 days (Rev 11:3, 12:6) equate to exactly 42 months (Rev 11:2, 13:5). Moreover, these same 42 months are reckoned as three and a half "times" (Daniel 7:25, 12:7, Rev 12:14), suggesting that a "time" is a period of exactly twelve 30-day months, or 360 days. If this is so, the fixed 360-day "time" was distinguished from the less-precise "year" which naturally varied according to the observed yearly ripening dates of barley. A "year" normally consisted of eleven 30-day months, with the twelfth month extended or shortened to allow the new year to begin on the first crescent sighting after local barley was green in the ear.

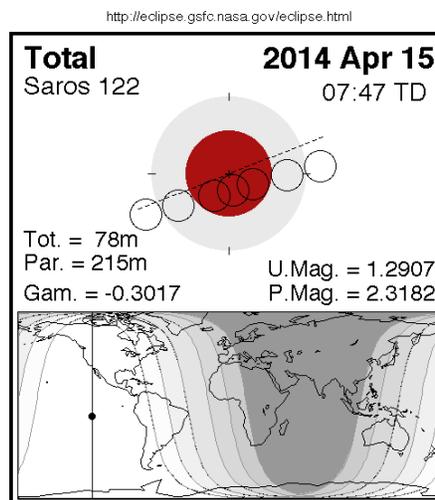
Moreover, a "full month" was ordered in the Law as the period of bewailment (Deuteronomy 21:13) and the deaths of Aaron (Numbers 20:29) and Moses (Deuteronomy 34:8) were each mourned for exactly "thirty days" in obedience to this instruction. It can easily be seen here that the term "month" during the time of Moses had nothing to do with lunar phases, much as

our modern Gregorian Calendar also ignores the moon. Notwithstanding, virtually all cultures imply a lunar connotation to months as “moon” and “month” are commonly derived from the same root words.

What this means is that the popularized tetrad dates are based on a false calendar that is lunar-based. Nisan 1 often actually begins later than the modern Hebrew calendar date, which is artificially and errantly offset. Autumn feast days are further offset. But, as we shall see, even if one respects the modern official Hebrew calendar, two of the cited eclipses still miss their touted Feast dates by several hours each.

Let us carefully examine the five total eclipses (four lunar, one solar) of 2014 to 2015 that are touted by Feast Tetrad enthusiasts as significant. Do they truly fall on Jewish feast days and holidays? Or have promoters been fudging? Are they truly visible from Israel for whom they are allegedly intended? Or are they hidden from Israel's view on the other side of the planet?

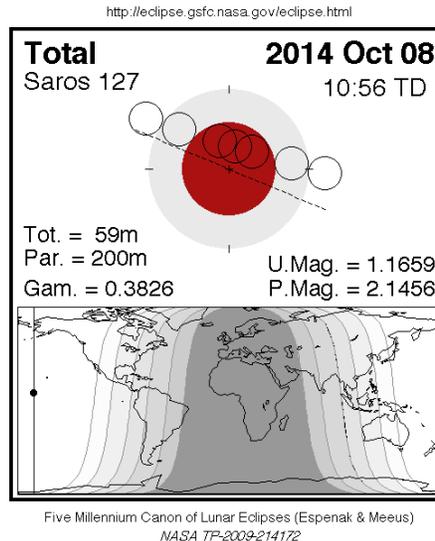
FIRST LUNAR ECLIPSE (April 15, 2014 at 9:47 AM Jerusalem Time)
Matches Original Calendar? YES Visible from Israel? NO
Matches Modern Calendar? YES



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

To find the correct date for Nisan 1, 2014, we see the conjunction as March 30 at 18:45 GMT, or 8:45 PM Jerusalem time. According to www.karaite-korner.org/, the following “aviv” crescent was sighted in Israel at dusk on March 31. Thus, Nisan 1 (the new year) began at dusk on March 31, 2014. Therefore, the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover) spanned from dusk April 14 through dusk April 21. This first eclipse occurred on the morning of April 15 at 9:47 AM. So, yes, it happened on the first day of Passover. However, since the sun had already risen, it was not visible from Israel.

SECOND LUNAR ECLIPSE (Oct 8, 2014 at 12:56 PM Jerusalem Time)
Matches Original Calendar? NO Visible from Israel? NO
Matches Modern Calendar? NO

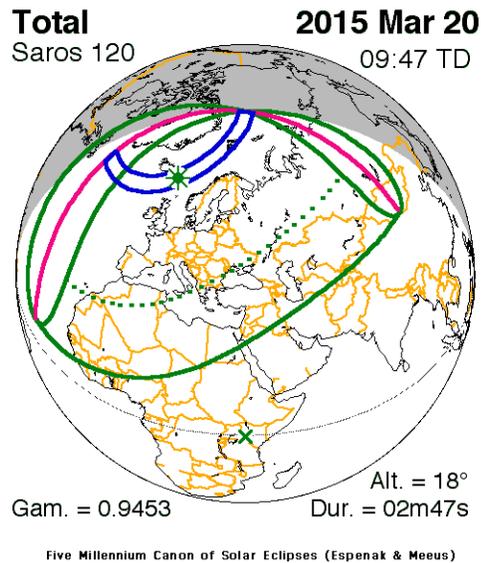


After some six months, we come to the Fall Feast of Tabernacles. In the intervening months, the modern Hebrew months of Iyar, Tammuz, and Elul all have but 29 days. Thus the modern calendar is offset by 3 days.

Six months before the Cross, Jesus states that he will delay his yearly journey to Jerusalem to attend the Feast of Tabernacles mentioned in John 7:2. He states, “I go not up yet unto this feast” (John 7:8) and sends his brothers to go before him in what may initially appear to be in defiance of the commandment of Deuteronomy 16:16. Assuming the Temple priests had correctly set Nisan 1 according to the day following the first sight of the crescent moon, this author suggests that the genuine Feast of Tabernacles likewise post-dated the false one declared at the Temple by this same 3-day error. Needless to say, Jesus was using God's Calendar to plan his travel.

Officially, Tabernacles (Sukkot) began on Tishri 15 at dusk October 8, 2014. On God's Calendar, however, by simply adding 194 days to Nisan 1, Tishri 15 begins at dusk October 11, 2014. Regardless of one's chosen calendar, the eclipse had already expired as of the *afternoon* of October 8, it's peak darkness having occurred at 12:56 PM. Moreover, with the sun high in the sky over Israel, this “sign” cannot be seen from there, but rather only from the opposite side of the planet.

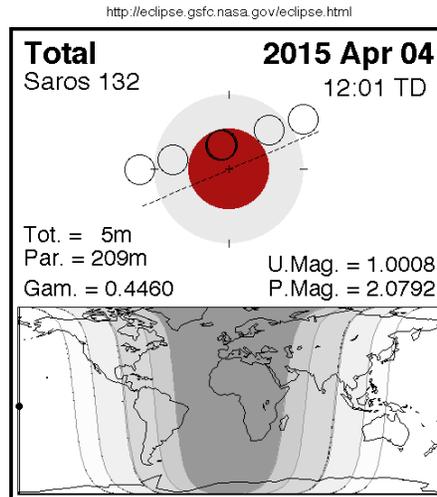
THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE (March 20, 2015 at 11:47 AM Jerusalem Time)
Matches Original Calendar? NO **Visible from Israel? NO**
Matches Modern Calendar? NO



Often cited as significant is the total *solar* eclipse of March 20, 2015 which is alleged to occur on Nisan 1, which is not a recognized holiday, but rather is commonly known as the first day of the “ecclesiastical” new year. Regardless, this eclipse will be invisible to Israel, being visible only to the fewer than 2700 brave souls of the Svalbard Archipelago in the Arctic Ocean.

By definition, a total solar eclipse must occur at the astronomical conjunction. So, one would think this eclipse (the sun turned to darkness) would be the easiest for Feast Tetrads enthusiasts to substantiate. Yet, they fail again! On the official Hebrew Calendar, Nisan 1, 2015 begins at dusk March 20 (which is quite odd because there is no possible way the crescent will be visible at that time, even with large telescopes). However, this eclipse has already run its course some six hours earlier, meaning it occurs on the officially-recognized day of Adar 29. In reality, by God's Calendar, the crescent would first be visible on March 21 just after dusk, thus marking the true New Year (assuming the barley is ripe by this date).

THIRD LUNAR ECLIPSE (April 4, 2015 at 2:01 PM Jerusalem Time)
Matches Original Calendar? NO Visible from Israel? NO
Matches Modern Calendar? YES

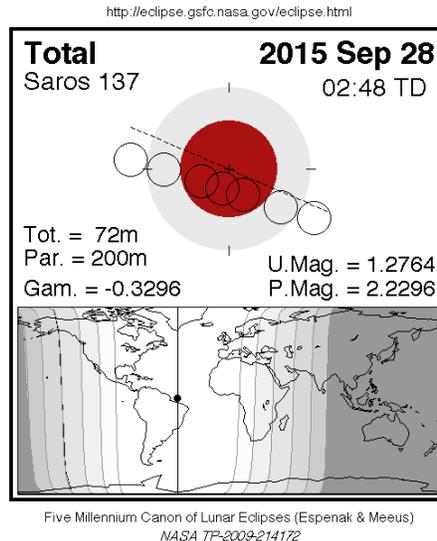


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Unfortunately for Feast Tetrads enthusiasts, since the official Hebrew Calendar begins 2015 one day too early (see previous section), their official Passover date is incorrect as well. Officially, the first day of Passover begins at dusk April 3, 2015. So, it would indeed seem to show this blood moon occurs during the daylight portion of Pesach I. However, with the sun high overhead, the moon does not appear bloody nor can it even be seen from Israel. It is on the opposite side of the planet, yet again! The correct day for the first day of Passover (Nisan 15) begins at dusk April 4, 2015 (assuming local barley is ripe on or before March 21). Yet, this blood moon is only seen thousands of miles away from Israel some 4 hours earlier.

For events to be “signs” to a nation, they should logically be *seen* by the nation. Thus far, however, *none* of these “signs” qualify and only one happens on its touted feast day.

FOURTH LUNAR ECLIPSE (Sept 28, 2015 at 4:48 AM Jerusalem Time)
Matches Original Calendar? NO Visible from Israel? YES
Matches Modern Calendar? YES



After another six months, we come to our final eclipse. Officially, Sukkot I (Tishri 15) begins at dusk on September 27, 2015, hence the popular applause that this blood moon is seen over Israel that very night, just before dawn. This is no surprise, because the modern Hebrew Calendar is artificially designed to align with lunar phases according to Babylonian tradition. However, the real beginning of Sukkot is over 3.5 days later, at dusk on October 1, 2015.

In summary:

Event	Original Calendar	Modern Calendar	Visible from Israel
Lunar Eclipse 15 Apr 2014	YES	YES	NO
Lunar Eclipse 8 Oct 2014	NO	NO	NO
Solar Eclipse 20 Mar 2015	NO	NO	NO
Lunar Eclipse 4 Apr 2015	NO	YES	NO
Lunar Eclipse 28 Sep 2015	NO	YES	YES