The Blood Moon Mania: Legitimate Sign or Hype?

by <u>Dr. David R. Reagan</u> Jan 2014



In 2008 the pastor of a congregation in Tacoma, Washington, by the name of Mark Biltz, began to teach that the Second Coming of the Messiah might occur in the Fall of 2015. He based this prediction on the pattern of an astronomical phenomenon that he had discovered. His speculation was picked up immediately by the Bible prophecy sensationalists who specialize in playing around with such matters. The result was that Pastor Biltz's theory became an Internet sensation.

The basis of his theory — and not his conclusion — has now been given legitimacy by the publication of Pastor John Hagee's book, *Four Blood Moons*.¹

Red Flags

But is Mark Biltz's theory really legitimate? The first red flag of caution that must be considered is the source of the theory. Mark Biltz is involved in what is called the Hebrew Roots Movement.² This is an anti-Christian, Judaizing movement. Its members have done everything they can to delegitimize the writings of the Apostle Paul because of his teaching that the Law of Moses was invalidated by the Cross.³

The second red flag is that Biltz is involved in date setting. Both <u>Matthew 24:36</u> and <u>Matthew 25:13</u> state that we cannot know the day or hour of the Lord's return. With regard to the parable of the wise and foolish virgins contained in <u>Matthew 25:1-13</u>, Biltz dismisses Jesus' warning in verse 13 that no one can know the day or hour of His return. He does this by arguing that it is directed at the foolish virgins, and not the wise ones.⁴ Yet, there is nothing in the parable to substantiate this conclusion.

With regard to Jesus' similar statement in <u>Matthew 24:36</u>, Biltz tries to explain it away by saying it is a reference to the Feast of Trumpets because although there is a yearly date for this feast, no one knows for certain when it will actually begin because its beginning is dependent on the sighting of a new moon.⁵ Again, there is no justification in the context of the this verse for such a bizarre interpretation.

A third red flag is the fact that there is no way the Second Coming could occur in the Fall of 2015 because there are too many prophecies that must be fulfilled before the Lord's return. To name a few:

- The Rapture of the Church must occur.
- The seven year period called the Tribulation must take place.
- The Jewish Temple must be rebuilt.
- The Antichrist must be revealed.
- A second Jewish holocaust must occur.

To his credit, John Hagee does not set a date for the Lord's return in his excellent new book, *Four Blood Moons*. Instead, he simply takes Biltz's discovery and argues that it is an omen of a major development that will take place — a development that will most likely have a significant impact on the Jewish people.

Red Moons

So, what is this omen that Biltz and Hagee have in mind and which they refer to as "the four blood moons?" A "blood moon" is...

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