

SS Doctrine 4 Current Events and Election con't. Tom Tillman

Two weeks ago, we talked briefly about the lunar eclipses, the so called bloodmoons. When there is a series of four of them, 6 months apart, over a 2 year period, it is called a tetrad. I said that I believed there was little significance to this current tetrad... the four lunar eclipses falling on Passover and feast of trumpets in both 2014 and 2015. Right now is a very significant time for the nation of Israel... and perhaps God has intended for these lunar eclipses to point to that. Remember, God said when He created the Sun, Moon and Stars that they were to be for times and seasons, and for signs.

Gen 1:14 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; ¹⁵ and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. ¹⁶ Then God made two great lights: the greater light, the Sun, to rule the day, and the lesser light, the Moon, to rule the night. *He made* the stars also.

and let them be for **signs** and seasons, and for days and years

We tell time... seconds, minutes, hours and days by the rotation of the Earth in relation to the Sun... One complete rotation of the Earth is exactly one day... we tell time in months and years by the path of the Earth around the Sun, knowing that one complete revolution around the Sun is exactly one year. And He said that He would use the Sun, Moon and Stars for signs to us... we don't know exactly what He meant... but it is possible that He intended these various series of Lunar eclipses, these Tetrads as signs for certain time periods.

There have been only 8 tetrads, falling on Jewish feasts since the time of Jesus Christ.

The first four did not occur around historical events which affected Israel directly, because Israel was not a nation... they were dead as a nation... but God kept and preserved them through all those centuries... the events around those first four tetrads had more to do with Roman persecution of Christians and then the threat of Islam... but the last four are a different matter... they did, all four... happen around times of real significance to the nation of Israel.

The first of the last four tetrads occurred in the years 1493-1494. In 1492, Ferdinand and Isabella King and Queen of Spain, ordered the expulsion of all Jews from Spain. Spain had become the most important home for Jews since the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 by Rome. Then, only a few months later, Christopher Columbus began his first voyage of discovery to the New World... America... which would become the nation God would use to protect millions of Jews and also to spread the Gospel around the world in the last days.

The second of the last four tetrads occurred in 1949-1950... that was just after the nation of Israel was reborn... following 1900 years of having been dead as a nation... that was what God's prophecy in Ezekiel 37 was all about... the valley of dry bones... remember, Ezekiel saw a valley full of dry bones... dead and scattered... they represent Israel and Judah... Israel saw them come to life again... pointing to the eventual rebirth of the nation of Israel after having been dead for 1900 years, culminating in the holocaust and then coming to life miraculously in 1948. When they declared their independence in May of 1948, all of the surrounding Muslim nations launched a war of annihilation through which God miraculously protected and preserved the nascent Israel... Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The third of the last 4 tetrads occurred in 1967-1968... at the time of the six day war when Israel's neighbors were once again planning to destroy Israel... Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, backed by Iraq, Algeria, Kuwait, Sudan and the whole Arab nation. just like evil Haman in the time of Ester... Israel recognized the threat and launched a preemptive strike... defeating all her enemies, finally regaining Jerusalem and the West Bank, that is, Judea and Samaria, the Golan Hts and Gaza. That was a most significant time.

That brings us to the final tetrad, of 2014-2015... the last eclipse of that tetrad happening just last Sunday evening...

Here is the extreme significance of the time of this final lunar tetrad... right now...

Paul wrote that at least two things would precede the Rapture of the Church... the great falling away that is, the great Apostasy, and the appearance of Antichrist...

2 Thes 2:3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition

Then, after the Church is removed, God will finish His dealing with unbelieving Israel during the 7 year tribulation period, that final 'week,' the final 7 year period of the 70 weeks of Daniel chapter 9. But God predicted something else to happen before that 7 year period, something very significant for Israel... Right after the prophecy of the valley of dry bones, speaking of the rebirth of Israel as a nation in May 1948... the very next chapter of Ezekiel, chapter 38... God tells Ezekiel to prophecy something else... a war... He predicts that Russia, along with a coalition of Muslim nations, including Iran and Turkey and fighters from many different Muslim nations will come down to invade Israel and that every other nation on Earth will stand by without lifting a hand to help Israel. Then God says that He will destroy the invaders on the mountains of Israel... He will cause them to fight each other... like the Midianites did at the time of Gideon and that He, God, will destroy them with a great earthquake, hail and raining fire... perhaps a great meteor fall.

So, just recently, Russia is definitely on the move regarding Israel. First, last year, Russia took over Sevastopol and the Crimean peninsula to give themselves a naval base in the Black Sea... opposite the northern coast of Turkey... and they've built a naval base at Tartus in Syria, then... having been invited into Syria and Iraq with open arms... they have begun to sail and airlift in soldiers, tanks, missiles, fighter jets and everything else necessary for an invasion. They've sailed into Syria with the world's largest Submarine containing some 200 nuclear warheads. Putin has just ordered an additional draft of 150,000 more troops into the Russian armed forces... far more than would be necessary to defeat ISIS, if that was even Russia's true goal, which they claim, even though only about 5% of their attacks have been against ISIS targets. Only someone lacking most of their reasoning ability could miss the significance of all that is happening in Syria right now... and, in case you didn't know... Syria is right next door to Israel... the direct path to the very mountains of Israel where the Russian, Iranian and Turkish and more armies will invade and be destroyed.

This could not have happened before now... before the current leadership in America and Russia. Never before would such Russian adventurism have been tolerated or their coming down to have anything to do with the Middle East, but then, never has this country had leadership so completely opposed to Israel.

Russia is now at the gates of Israel... they are now more invested, right next door to Israel, than anywhere else in the world.

At the time of Ester, when the Jews were captive in Persia... Iran... Ester's uncle, Mordecai, told Ester that God would protect and preserve Israel with her intervention with King **Ahasuerus or without it... but God would act. Today... soon... when Russia and her Muslim allies attack, there will be no one to intervene... Israel is all alone... but God will act and He will protect and preserve Israel because He is faithful and He has chosen Israel for His own... just as He has chosen us for His own.**

Ester 4:13 Mordecai to Esther: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴ For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?"

The world around us is getting darker by the day, but it is not a time for fear or shrinking back... for who knows but that you have come into God's kingdom for just such a time as this...

Everything God has ever prophesied, has come about exactly as predicted at the exact time of God's choosing. Whenever anything of prophecy has been fulfilled, it has happened right after... the day before... right after the week before... right after the month before... when no one would have believed it was about to happen... and yet, God had always set it up to happen at exactly His time and exactly in His way... we are in that time right now... that time just before... We are in the time just before the Russian invasion of Israel in Ezekiel 38 and 39, just before the appearance of Antichrist, just before the Rapture of the Church and just before the 7 year Tribulation, just before the return of Jesus Christ, accompanied by us, His body to begin His 1000 year reign on Earth from Jerusalem.

That is the great significance surrounding the final lunar tetrad of 2014-2015.

Questions before we move on?

Here is the picture... it is 2:30 am on the morning of April 15, 1912. The Titanic sank 10 minutes ago after having hit an iceberg only 2 1/2 hours before.

Of the 2200 passengers and crew, only about 700 will survive... mostly women and children. 1500 have either gone down with the ship or will freeze to death in the next 5 minutes in the icy waters of the North Atlantic... 1500 will perish, including the heirs of some significant family fortunes, including Straus, Astor and Guggenheim.

It is pitch-black-dark, it is freezing cold and there are hundreds of people in the water clinging to anything that will float. Most of those in the water will die; they are nearly dead now... it takes less than 15 minutes to die of hypothermia in the 29 degree waters of the North Atlantic...

You are in one of the lifeboats. You try to search out and rescue those in the water, but you discover that because of the darkness and extreme cold, they can neither see you nor hear you as you try to rescue them. Even if they are not yet dead, they may as well be. Even if they can catch a glimpse of the lantern in your lifeboat, they are unable to call or swim to where you are. They are completely unable to respond or come to the lifeboat for rescue.

That is what the Bible tells us is the state of all humanity. God has specifically chosen to place His elect heirs, His children, into His lifeboat of Salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ... and... He has chosen to not rescue those who are not His heirs, His children... we are those whom He chose before the foundation of the World. But, He has told us in His Word that there are also those among the floating dead to whom God has chosen to give life, at the time of His choosing. All who seem to be lost and dead are not necessarily so because God Himself will intervene to rescue some of them, Himself.

First, understand... every person born into the doomed Titanic of fallen humanity, because of their own sin and rejection of Jesus Christ, deserves to either go down with the ship or to freeze to death in the icy dark waters of the bottomless sea. No one deserves to be rescued.

Sometimes the phrase used to describe fallen man's inability to respond to God's call is 'Total Depravity.' That terminology is unfortunate because it seems to describe something other than what the Bible teaches. It does not mean what we think of when we hear the world depraved... raving, maniacal evil... the guy at Umpqua College murdering Christians... totally depraved...

What the phrase really means is that every part of man... body, soul and spirit, is affected by sin and dead to spiritual things... he is alive to... and aware of... only the physical world... what can be seen, heard, touched,

tasted or felt physically. A lost person isn't totally evil... they can still do things that humanly speaking are what we would call good... but because of their total 'lostness'... they cannot come to God on their own... they cannot do any good, that is, what God considers good, they cannot even understand anything of God and the Bible... it is complete foolishness to him.

When God created Adam and Eve, He created them in His image. God is triune... Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He created man triune... a soul within a physical body and within a spiritual body... all three melded into one.

God warned Adam that when He rebelled and ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which of course God knew he would... that Adam would die that very day...

Gen 2:16 ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." ...and they did die immediately... their spiritual bodies died. After that, every human born was only bipartite, or 'biune' no longer triune... two parts... a living soul within a physical body, with every part of their being... polluted by sin.

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all like an unclean *thing*, And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags;

Jer 17:9 "The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?

Eph 2:1 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins

He doesn't say... you who were lost... or you who were without Christ... or without salvation.... He says, you who were DEAD!

Not one word in God's Word is by accident... every word is planned by God.

Eph 2:4 ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in sin, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Rom 3:10 "There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. ¹² They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

1 cor 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Cor 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Rom 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

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All of humanity is traveling along a wide highway... all in darkness... it is the roadway through the kingdom of darkness. Everyone on the road are sinners who prefer darkness because their deeds, habits and desires are all of darkness... no one wants to be in any light because they don't want their dark deeds and desires to be seen.

Far back, at the beginning of the wide roadway, God stands in the road. Every once in a while, He chooses to touch one of the people passing... in their forehead and He gives them the ability to see light, and to recognize their own sin... He chooses to touch maybe one in a thousand.

Further on down the road... off to the side is a narrow gate with a light shining above it and a sign which reads... this way to life eternal. Jesus Christ stands at the gate and knocks on it to get people's attention, but sadly, most ignore Him completely. He calls out, 'Come unto me and I will give you rest.' Almost everyone on the road crowds along the far side of the road because they hate the light... they desire to be only in darkness.

But, whenever one of those people whom God touched back at the beginning comes near the gate, they hear and listen to Jesus' call and they go straight toward the light... they recognize their own sin and desire to leave the darkness and come into the light.

God sees each one who travels on in the darkness and He laments that they are continuing on toward death and hell. He would desire each one to turn to Him and live but... He is not obligated to touch or to save even one.

He has given to man a measure of free will, in that he is able to make choices in life... but a man can only choose what is consistent with his nature.

For example... when, on the wide dark road he approaches a dark stream... he can choose to cross over on the bridge, or he can choose to wade across the stream. But, he cannot choose to fly across the stream because that would be contrary to his nature. He is incapable of flying.

God has not chosen to give him wings, and God has not chosen to give him saving faith through which he could come to God... and be pleasing to Him...

Heb 11:6 without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

2 Tim 2 23 ²³ But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. ²⁴ And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, ²⁵ in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, ²⁶ and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.

Matt 19:25 When His disciples heard *it*, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" ²⁶ But Jesus looked at *them* and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

I want to take a detour here for a few minutes and discuss a few pressing matters of importance... or, as they said in High School... current events.

First, about the shooting down in Roseburg on Thursday... obviously a terrible thing... a young man goes into Umpqua College and kills several people, wounding many others.

There are many facets to this story... the rush by the current administration to politicize it... to cravenly blame republicans for the massacre... to use this to further their efforts to disarm the American people... the attempt to hide the race of the shooter... and calling him a conservative and a republican... so much about this entire episode is so shameful...

...but the part of the story I want to look at for a minute is the fact that the shooter was searching out and murdering Christians... but even that is not the real story... what is most shocking is that for nearly 24 hours... every news organization but the New York Post tried to hide the fact that Christians were being singled out and slaughtered. They all knew it from the very beginning... but they only began to report the anti-Christian angle when it could no longer be contained and hidden... this event was only important to Obama and the national news syndicate insofar as it could further their agenda to disarm the American people.

If the shooter had been white and singling out any other group... based on skin color, religion, nationality, sex or gender... it would have been headline news for 2 weeks, from the first minutes of the story. The major story here is that in America, 2015... the entire national news organization, so much of the government and so much of the population is so anti-Christian that they are ready to bend over backwards in trying to withhold any information that would engender sympathy toward Christians and Christianity... in any way.

At the same time, a college in Colorado has banned the use of the words God, Lord and Jesus... and Bible verses in commemorating those who donate to a new sports facility.

I could continue all day with countless examples from everyday news... if we could really get honest reporting of what is happening in the world... unfortunately, too many have chosen to bury their heads in the sand.

These are just some more small indications of the persecution of Christians that is exploding around the world and coming soon, in full force to this country also. Soon there will be nowhere to hide anymore.

Thankfully, God's Word teaches very clearly, the truth and reality of God's removal of His Church in the Rapture.

That brings us to our next detour...