

A Challenge to the Church of God

Within the Church of God we find two kinds of people. Those who feel comfortable amongst a large group with a clearly defined and largely unchanging set of doctrines, and those who never seem content and continue searching for further understanding of God's word, which often bring changes to their lives, even at the risk of relative isolation.

To which group can we expect new understanding to be given, to fulfil Daniel 12:9? *'And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.'* Many people recognise that world events are bringing us closer to the 'time of the end', day by day. When this occurs as promised, which group is most likely to respond, most amenable to change? Or, will many say, "I won't be changing until *all* the Churches of God change?"

We gain some indication of the reaction we *should* have, from Acts 17:11. It is the clear word of God, *and by that I mean the sum of Biblical agreement*, that should determine our beliefs, not any church doctrine, or we may as well become Roman Catholics. Unless we are prepared to search the scriptures daily as did the **Bereans**, and check within the Bible until we have established truth, then we risk being turned from truth to fables.

For example, one of the verses in the King James Version, which was improperly translated, when correctly translated, destroys long held beliefs within the Church of God about the day upon which the First Resurrection occurs. If we find that the King James has been misunderstood, would that change your belief? The verse in question here is Revelation 6:12, which, in the King James reads, *'And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood.'* This verse is the equivalent of Joel 2:31, Acts 2:20 and Matthew 24:29. These heavenly signs are immediately followed by the arrival of Jesus Christ.

He returns in the heavens for His Bride, Revelation 6:16, *'and the kingssaid to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.'* Matthew 24:30-31, *'Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.'*

This is the first resurrection, the Sixth Seal. The first five Seals are actually called, 'the Tribulation of those days' in Matthew 24:29, *"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.'*

The Great Tribulation, as it is called, occurs *after* the First Resurrection, in Revelation 7, and is the Seventh Seal, **Revelation 7:14-17**, *'I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."*

The tears come about because they suffer the Great Tribulation unnecessarily, having been warned previously to repent. Because of deception they fail to do so, until it becomes clear that they have missed the resurrection, though as we see here, after repentance *during* the Great Tribulation, they are eventually rewarded.

You would have to prove it for yourself, but the fact is that in Revelation 6:12, when Christ arrives for His Bride, the Saints, at the start of the First Resurrection, the King James Version misses out the Greek word 'hol'-os', which means 'whole' or 'complete' (in extent, amount, time or degree).

The ESV has *'the full moon became as red as blood'*

The NAS has *'the whole moon became like blood'*

The Holman Christian Standard Bible has *'the entire moon became as blood'*

The ISV has *'the full moon turned red as blood'*

The NET Bible has *'the full moon became blood red'*

The Aramaic Bible has *'the whole moon became like blood'*

God's Word translation has *'the full moon turned as red as blood'*

All of the modern translations include the word whole, full, entire, or whole disc of the moon.

Now, if the Resurrection is at the **full** moon as this verse states, it *cannot* be on the **new** moon of the 7th month - the Feast of Trumpets, **as the Church of God has long been taught**, so, which *full* moon within God's Feast Days could it be? One that falls at this special time?

This year 2015, in Asia, Australia, the Pacific and the Americas, cameras were focussed on the moon on Saturday night, the night that Jesus kept His last Passover with the disciples, to witness the strange event of a total eclipse of the moon, when, for a brief period of just a few minutes, as the moon fell totally into the shadow from the earth, it turned a shade of red, caused by reflected light from the earth, known as a 'blood moon'.



This year also, around the world, maybe less than thousands were, that very same evening, following the instructions for that night in the Bible, about the ceremony instigated by Christ on the night before His crucifixion, instructions passed on to us by the Apostle Paul. 1 Corinthians 11:23-25, *'For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also*

he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.'

This was a very rare event, for it combined a blood moon, rare enough in itself, with the night of the Passover, when God passed over the houses of the Israelites but killed all the firstborn of the Egyptians. Exodus 12:27, *'That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the LORD'S passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped.'*

Exactly the same heavenly circumstances will be repeated on the blood moon just before the resurrection, but, in addition, for all the biblical requirements to be fulfilled, there is indication that that blood moon will not only occur on Passover night, but on a Passover night which must fall on a Friday evening, so that the day part of Passover is a Sabbath, Saturday, making the next day, Sunday, which is during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, also the Wave Sheaf day, the likely time of the resurrection. Leviticus 23:10-11, *'Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.'*

All of this makes it unlikely that these requirements can be fulfilled in the next few years, for we know when total eclipses of the moon will occur. Also, only a fraction of the world ever sees the blood moon at any one time, so that the question arises, would it have to be visible from Jerusalem, or from where the descendants of ancient Israel are mostly found today?

While this is no prediction, for only God the Father knows the timing of the resurrection, it is extremely interesting that a most unlikely event *could* occur in 2025. Now, that year in the Hebrew calendar, the Jews add the extra month Adar2, according to their Metonic cycle of 19 years, making their 'true' Passover, the evening of the 12th and day part of the 13th of April.

However, the Jews know that their calculated calendar is not biblical and are making plans to return to the one based upon observation of the barley crop etc., in Israel, which existed at the time of Christ. Only God determines *that* calendar and He may decide that in 2025, no extra month should be added, making the true Passover one month earlier.

Significantly, that would place it on Friday, 14th March, which is also a total lunar eclipse, and a blood moon. The chances of Passover falling on a blood moon as well as on a Friday must be hundreds to one, but it does then. I'm no mathematician, so it could be much greater!

Now, while we understand that God alone knows the time of the coming resurrection, and the events of the 'Day of the Lord', once they actually begin with God's divine intervention, those who are fully aware of God's instructions to them in the Bible regarding what they should do then, will not be in darkness, unlike those who follow only the traditions of the church, based upon the misunderstanding of man. Which group will you fall into?

1 Thessalonians 5:2-4, *'For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But **you** are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.'*

For more information on this subject read : <http://www.ozwitness.net/docs/neither-the-day-nor-the-hour.pdf>