GREATER THAN THE ECLIPSE



By Allen Madigan

Do you remember the great eclipse of 2024?

On April 8, 2024, the moon passed between the earth and the sun and cast its shadow upon the earth's surface. Here in Canada, it could be seen all along the Great Lakes corridor.

It delighted astronomers and scientists and thousands of ordinary people. Crowds gathered to see the moon move and obscure the sun from shining on our part of the earth for three entire minutes. Hotels were full and highways congested as people sought the best place to view this rare event.

When the darkness settled in, there was an eerie silence and a cold chill. Streetlights came on and birds stopped singing. It lasted just three minutes, but it left an impact on history and thousands of people. Where were you when it happened?

A MORE NOTABLE DARKNESS

The Bible talks of a greater period of darkness that affected the whole world. Roughly two thousand years ago, outside the city walls of Jerusalen, God's only Son, Jesus Christ, was forced to carry a cross to a hill called Calvary. He and two others were escorted by Roman soldiers and followed by an angry mob. In the Gospel of Luke chapter 23 verse 33 we read, ***"And when they had come to the place called***

Calvary, there they crucified Him [Jesus], and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left." In verse 34 we read how Jesus reacted to the cruel treatment He received – He prayed, ***"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."***

Later in the chapter, we read that at midday there were three hours of intense darkness like the supernatural plague that happened in Egypt in the days of Moses. Psalm 88 foretells of His suffering in that dreadful darkness, ***"... I suffer Your terrors; I am distraught. Your fierce wrath has gone over me; Your terrors have cut me off"*** (VS 15&16). Out of the darkness we hear Him cry, ***"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me"*** (PSALM 22:1).

A great work was being accomplished in that darkness. God was pouring out His wrath and judgment for our sin upon His own Son. 1 Peter 2:24 tells us that ***He bore our sins in His own body on the cross.*** As the darkness lifts, we hear the victory cry of the Saviour, ***"It is finished!"*** (JOHN 19:30). Jesus died for our sins.

TURN FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT.

The Bible says that men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil (JOHN 3:19). We have all been in dark places - some in the past, some right now. Others in the secret places of their mind. The words of Jesus in John 8:12 are, ***"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of [eternal] life"***. Time is short and life is like a fleeting vapour. Now is the time to choose between eternal darkness and everlasting life and receive forgiveness of sins.

COVER PHOTO: "2014_Total_Solar_Eclipse..." / Public Domain

WHY NOT COME TO HIM NOW?

This world is becoming an increasingly dark place. Sin and sorrow abound on every hand. The Lord Jesus has finished the work and paid the penalty for our sin. He invites all to come to Him for the forgiveness of sins. His own words in John 6:37 are, ***"The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."***

All Bible quotations are taken from the New King James Version.

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