

“In the Beginning, God Created the Heavens and the Earth”

Anytime I experience His creation in any way, it causes me to again honor God for His majesty. Monday was no different. The solar eclipse, as witnessed by millions here in the United States from coast to coast, is one of those events that is further evidence that “God’s in His heaven—all’s right with the world.” He controls all of the universe, and His skillful directing of the workings of the universe never cease to amaze me. Those who chalk all of this up to “chance” are so, so wrong!

Genesis 1:1 tells us that *“In the beginning, GOD created the heavens and the earth.”* In **verses 3-5**, we are told that *“God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light ‘day,’ and the darkness he called ‘night.’ And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.”* Jeremiah put it this way:

“This is what the LORD says, He who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the LORD Almighty is his name...” (Jeremiah 31:35)

God sent darkness for three days to the Egyptians, although it was light where the Israelites, His children, were. (**Exodus 10, 21-23**) He has caused the sun and the moon to stand still for a full day in **Joshua 10**, allowing Joshua to defeat the Amorites. He blotted out the sun when Christ was crucified. *“At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.”* (**Mark 15:33**) There are many who believe this was a total solar eclipse, and Jesus’ death just coincided with a natural event. Not so—it was God showing His power and might, controlling the elements as a sign to convince all who witnessed it that Jesus was and is his Son.

There will be one other time that the sun will cease to shine, at a time no scientist can predict. That **“day”** was prophesied by **Joel, Amos, Micah, and Zechariah**. Jesus repeated the prophecy in **Matthew 24:20-31**:

“the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

The apostle John also records the words of Jesus in Revelation **6:12-14**:

“I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. ¹⁴ The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.”

This is the day of the Lord's return. God will control the elements in an "unnatural" way, fulfilling prophecy, and send Jesus to take us home. It is a "solar eclipse" that I look forward to with greater anticipation than the events of this past Monday.

---Johnny Stephens