

Remnant Life Church
August 30, 2015
Look to the Heavens
(Introduction)

Isaiah 40:26

Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

1. We are in the midst of a very interesting time in relation to the nation of Israel and the church at large
2. It has to do with the timing of the feasts of Israel and physical signs in the heavens
3. Familiar with the 4 blood moons?
4. Begin this morning with a clear understanding that this is not about astrology but rather God's creation
5. Then next week we will examine why we should care what happens to Israel
6. Finally the significance of these events (blood moons) and why they should matter to us

HOTM – God not only created the heavens (the sun, the moon, and the stars) but He used and uses them as signs of His promises and the fulfillment of His Word in the past, is doing so in the present and will continue in the future.

- The prophet Isaiah confirms the writings of Moses in Genesis that God created all of the heavens and put them in place
- In studying this we must carefully adhere to the Word without our own embellishments as if they were God's Word
 - *Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you (Deut 4:2)*
 - *Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar. (Prov 30:5-6)*
 - This is especially true in the teachings of the end times. John writes at the very end of his final book
 - *I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll. (Rev 22:18-19)*
 - We will NOT be attempting to determine when Jesus is coming back; that is NOT for us to know (Matt 24; Mark 13 - *But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*)
- Reading through the Genesis account of creation gives us a vivid picture of God's power over all of His creation
 - It is His to use as He pleases
 - He has used it throughout history to demonstrate who He is and as a way of giving us signs of events that occurred in the past and those that will yet come in the future

- The **Hebrew word** for “sign” is *owth* (oath) which also translates as “signal”
 - # A signal often means that a person should watch for something (signal light at a train crossing) or the begin of something “start at the signal”
- But many Christians today shy away from these types of things because they have been taken out of the context for which they were intended and perverted
- Understand the difference between Astronomy and Astrology
 - Astronomy is the study of the movement and position of the planets and stars
 - # i.e. – the North Star is in a set position in the sky and has been used for centuries, especially at sea, for navigation purposes
 - Astrology – is the worship of the stars in an attempt at divination for the meaning and actions of a person’s life; it is occultic and pagan in origin
 - Over 20 times in the OT are the people warned against the sin of divination
 - Divination in the OT was practiced in association with demonic power, witchcraft, and the spirit world that is not a part of God’s kingdom
 - It is a powerful tool that Satan uses to keep people from seeking guidance in their lives from the only true source
 - # People want and look for answers from the created instead of the creator
 - # Susan Miller – “The Astronomer to the Stars” - Today more than 6.5 million people, every month, seek her council to tell them who they are and how they should live their lives; and that number is rising.
 - # Many who claim to have spiritualist powers are frauds but there are those who are not because the demonic spirit world is very real and active (**Eph 6 armor!**)
- What’s wrong with astrology, horoscopes, the Ouija board, séances, or fortune-telling?
 - **First**, over and over again God condemned the occult practices (**Ex 20:4; Lev 20:6; Deut 18:10-12, Rom 1:20-21; and Rev 21:8**) Deuteronomy says it is detestable to Him.
 - How severe is the penalty?
 - # Saul, the very first king of Israel lost his life in part because he consulted a medium - **1 Chron 10:13** - *Saul died because he was unfaithful to the LORD; he did not keep the word of the LORD and even consulted a medium for guidance*
 - **Second**, these activities are doorways that, when you open them into your life, allow Satan and all of His perversion to come pouring into your life.
 - **Duet 4:19** - *And when you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars—all the heavenly array—do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshipping things the Lord your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven.*
- But the heavenly creation that God made is used by Him in perfection, not perversion
 - **Gen 1:14** - *And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years,*
 - God controlled the movement of the sun and moon and commanded it to stand still for an entire day so that Joshua would win his battle (**Joshua 10:13**)

- In **2 Kings 20** we read that Isaiah visits King Hezekiah and tells him that he is going to die
 - # Hezekiah pleaded with God for more time
 - # God heard his prayer and instructed Isaiah to tell the king he would be given 15 more years of life
 - # Hezekiah asked for a sign and God allowed him to choose so he asked that the sundial (movement of the sun) would move backwards 10 degrees
 - # God did not just stop time, he reversed it!!
 - # I would think that perhaps the amount of time that God reversed time was in all likelihood the same amount of time that Joshua needed to win his battle – God reset His solar clock!
 - Jesus' birth was foretold by a star in the heavens which then led the wise men to the place of where Jesus was – (**Matthew 2:2**)
-
- God's creation is His to use for His divine purposes
 - The perversion of His creation in no way diminishes or weakens God's use
 - Guard against the deception teachings and false use – remember...it will have elements of the truth
 - What is false? Anything that takes the glory away from or points you to anything but the power of God
 - Next Sunday: Why should it matter to us what happens to Israel?