



## *A Total Eclipse*

What a wonderful event this last August 21<sup>st</sup> it was. To see and be part of a historic event is always something to remember in our lives.

Thinking about how seldom these types of events happen make me realize how blessed we are to live in a time too witness such a natural phenomenon.

As Christians though, is this really a natural phenomenon? Or is there an intelligent designer behind such occurrences? How, where, or who do we learn from when such events happen in the world? Well, let me guide you to a specific Book that will give you some insight as to why these things happen.

We need only open the first few pages of the Bible to understand that God is the one who has put creation into existence. Genesis 1: 1-2: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was *without form* and *void..*” There was nothing out there! It was completely empty! Then God spoke, and the power and authority of His Word created everything that we know of in this entire universe to this day. Yes, science has tried to disprove God creating the world, but many of their attempts have left us with something they call theories. A theory is, according to the online Merriam-Webster dictionary, “an idea or set of ideas that is intended to explain facts or events; an idea that is suggested or presented as possibly true but that is not known or proven to be true.” In other words, it isn’t true.

You and I can come up with ideas about how things happen but if we don’t have evidence for the idea it is still just an idea.

What I am getting at with this fantastic occurrence is that Christians believe in the only true God who has created and given us this world to live in. He has allowed us to live in it but also given us a responsibility to take care of it. We have not done a real bang up job at that, however, God still is the creator and is showing us that He is by such things as this eclipse. Just look at the precision that took place with this eclipse. The extreme precision that had to take place in order for the moon and the sun to be in correct alignment so that the world could see the effects. How awesome is that. And then to be able to observe the eclipse as it took place.

One of the things that was alarming though was how the eclipse became such a focal point for so many people. Knowing that God has created the world and that events like the eclipse are a reminder of His power and sovereignty over all things should give Christians opportunity to fall on our knees and worship the Creator King! Instead, what becomes the focus is the importance of being a part of the festivities that go along with such an event.

I am reminded of so many of the Old Testament stories where the Israelites, instead of worshipping the one true God, fell into idolatry by worshipping gods of other cultures and nature believing that these other gods could do what the one true God could do. They were wrong of course and found themselves dealing with a jealous God who wanted and required worship only for Himself.

With all of the festivities and going ons associated with the eclipse how many of us reflected not on the event but on the glory and beauty of God’s creation. The Psalms are filled with words reflecting God’s glory in creation and I am reminded of the words in Psalm 19:1: “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork,” and 24: 1: “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof.” Here we see the very words of God speaking to us that the world is part of God’s glory and reveals His glory through things like the eclipse of last August 21st, 2017.

There is another red flag that comes up with all of the activity surrounding the eclipse that comes to mind and the apostle Paul speaks to that in Romans 1: 18-25.

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them. For His invisible attributes, namely His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things...because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.*

Understand, that it is wonderful to take part in these fantastic activities that take place in nature but we need to guard ourselves from getting to carried away with these events and think of them as celebrations praising the occurrence of the event rather than the Almighty God putting into motion activities that take place within His creation showing us the sovereignty He has over all things.

The eclipse was surely a fantastic event and what a beautiful way for the one true God, the God of all creation, to show how fantastic His creation is.

In Christ’s Service,

*Pastor Rich*