



April 10, 2024

Since we have just experienced a solar eclipse, I wondered how many times an eclipse was referenced in the Bible. Here is what I found!

The **Bible contains a number of references that are understood as referring to eclipses**, both solar and lunar. While the Holy Book does not explicitly use the word eclipse, these references are often symbolically interpreted as referring to these celestial phenomena. These passages send messages of prophecies, power, omens, warnings, and signs from God, in particular, the fall of kingdoms and the end of times.

Joel 2:31 Prophecy and Omens

“The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come.” This passage appears to refer to both a **solar eclipse (sun turned into darkness)** and a **lunar eclipse (moon turned into blood)**. It is generally understood to be a prophetic statement about signs preceding the Day of the Lord, a day of divine, apocalyptic judgment at the end of the world.

Acts 2:20 Prophecy and Omens

“The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:” This echoes Joel 2:31. This passage in Acts is part of Peter’s sermon at Pentecost, where he quotes Joel to explain the miraculous events happening and **to signify the coming of the Day of the Lord**. This is important in biblical terms, indicating the link between the Old and New Testaments.

Matthew 24:29 Warnings and Signs from God

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:”

In this passage, Jesus describes the signs in the heavens that will follow the tribulation period, which some interpret as references to cosmic disturbances including eclipses. The tribulation period is that time just **before the Second Coming** when everyone in the world will suffer hardship, persecution, disaster, famine, war and suffering.

Revelation 6:12 Prophecies, Power

“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;”

John’s vision in Revelation, the final book of the New Testament, includes this description of a cosmic event that **mirrors the language of eclipses and is interpreted as a sign of God’s power** and the unfolding of end-times prophecy.

Isaiah 13:10 Warnings and Omens

“For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.”

This passage from the Old Testament, is part of a prophecy against Babylon and uses imagery of darkened celestial bodies, which can be interpreted as symbolic of eclipses, **to predict the fall of kingdoms**.

Luke 21:25-26 (Signs from God)

“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.”

Here, Jesus talks about the signs in the heavens that will indicate the end times, **potentially including eclipses as celestial signs.**

Where in the bible does it talk about three days of darkness

The reference to **three days of darkness in the bible** appears in Exodus 10:22-23 as one of the plagues that **God visited upon Egypt** before the Exodus of the Israelites.

“And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven, and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.”

This darkness is not referenced as an eclipse and **three days of darkness would be far longer than eclipse lasts (they last a few minutes at most).**

Darkness at the time of the crucifixion

In Matthew 27:45 and Mark 15:33 the **Bible talks of darkness falling over the land during the crucifixion of Jesus**, however in both cases it was only for three hours not three days.

Matthew 27:45: “Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.”

Mark 15:33: “And when the sixth hour has come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.”

The idea of “three days of darkness” is found in Christian folk traditions and private revelations as an **apocalyptic future event tied to the end of times**, however these are not found in canonical Bible texts.

- David Nelson



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Study

Bible Study will commence on Tuesday, April 16, at 11:00 AM. After much discussion and deliberation, we will be studying Season 3 of The Chosen. This has been a most popular study for the last 2 years and we are very excited to be continuing with this stellar series. If you have not attended one of The Chosen studies, do not worry. Each episode stands on its own and provides much insight into the life of Jesus. Season 3 begins around the time of The Sermon on the Mount.

April 16 – Homecoming – Pastor Eric
April 23 – Two by Two – Pastor Eric
April 30 – Physician, Heal Yourself – Pastor Eric
May 7 – Clean Part 1 – Pastor Eric



May 14 – Clean Part 2 – Kathy Twynam
May 21 – Intensity in Tent City - Pastor Eric
May 28 – Ears to Hear - Pastor Eric
June 4 - Sustenance - Pastor Eric

Request from Pastor Eric

Pastor Eric needs a QUIET fan for the pulpit area. (Apparently, it gets quite warm up there) If anyone has one they are willing to donate to the church, please let Eric know.

What are YOUR Favourite Hymns?

You will notice an insert in this Sunday's bulletin. We are asking you to tell us what your top 3 or 4 or 5 favourite hymns are and would like to be sung on a Sunday morning. Please fill out the form and deposit it in the collection plate. We will do our best to please everyone, but depending on the response it may take a while.

Request from Tabbia Omolloh

Tabbia and her family, which includes her husband and three young children, are recent arrivals as asylum seekers from Kenya. They have been attending our church since shortly before Christmas. Tabbia and her husband have received their work permits. She is looking for a job in her field, which is food and nutrition. If anyone knows of any employment opportunities in these areas and could pass on that information or give her a referral, would they please contact Tabbia at: nutrition.tabia@gmail.com
Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

A Kind Donor

On Sunday, a very kind donor left a cash donation for Loonies for Lent on the collection plate in a plastic bag but did not include their name. Please contact Ena at 416-620-5723 so that she can process the donation.

Free Baby Grand Piano

The church office received this email from Susan Hartley <hartleysusan09@gmail.com>

Hello,

I hope this message finds you well. I am looking to give away my late husband's Yamaha baby grand piano to a passionate instrument lover, so please let me know if you will take it or have someone who will care for it.

Yours,

Susan.

From West Presbytery

Dr. Alan Wolfelt will be conducting a seminar on grief and loss at Tyndale College on May 7-8th, which may be of interest to you. Please see the details below.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

SINGLE DAY IN-PERSON CONFERENCE RATES

*MAY 7, 2024

7 PM to 9 PM

\$40 with early registration (before March 30, 2024)

\$50 after March 30, 2024

*MAY 8, 2024

9 AM to 4 PM

\$175 with early registration (before March 30, 2024)

\$200 after March 30, 2024

FULL CONFERENCE IN-PERSON RATES

MAY 7 & 8, 2024

\$200 with early registration (before March 30, 2024)

\$225 after March 30, 2024

Price includes coffee/snack breaks & light luncheon

In-person registration closes on April 29, 2024

ONLINE CONFERENCE RATES

\$175 Full Conference

\$150 Student & Alumni

Online registration closes on May 5, 2024

VENUE: Tyndale University | 3377 Bayview Ave. Toronto, ON

REGISTRATION: EMBRACE-HOPE.CA

A Spring devotional update:

The current edition of **Our Daily Bread (March/April/May)** is available in the devotional box on the church porch and on the table in the church vestibule.

These Days (April/May/June) - Coming soon!



Coffee/Tea Sign-Up: As you can see we need some volunteers for the month of May. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board opposite the kitchen in the basement. Many thanks to all who have signed up and served.

April 14 – Outreach

April 21 – Outreach

April 28 – Outreach

May 5 -

May 12 – Susan & Margaret

May 19 –

May 26 -

St. James Food Basket

St. James Food Basket needs egg cartons only. They currently have a good stockpile of reusable bags and have **run out of storage space.** Thank you for your help.

Saturday, April 13th, 2024 (This coming Saturday!!!)



Graceview's Mission Team, with the help of our Kenyan community invites you to a Kenyan themed luncheon at 1:00 p.m. Bring your appetite! We will serve some familiar food as well as some traditional Kenyan dishes. There will be a freewill offering in support of our projects in Kenya, Malawi and Nunavik.

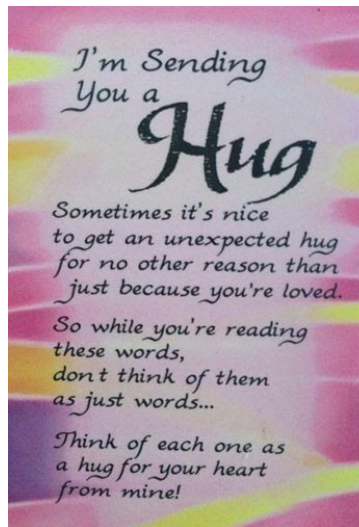
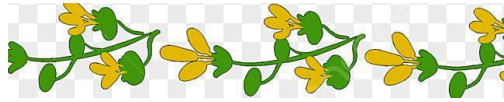
Everyone welcome! Bring family and friends.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PASTORAL CARE

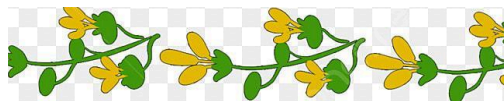
* Pray for the people of Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Turkey, Syria, Malawi, and the Sudan. Pray for all countries who are in turmoil. Pray for those who are affected by hate crimes here in our own city. Pray that all can get along and live in peace.

* Please keep in your prayers the following: Irene Cherniak, Shannon Jarvis, Wayne Jarvis and the Jarvis family, Christine and Brad Turcotte, Deb Thomas, Frank and Janet Ottewell, Olive Stanton, Mark McKennell, Charlotte Prentice and Margaret M's brother, Simon. Please keep these folks, and indeed everyone in our church family and people around the world, in your prayers.

Note from your editor: Could you please advise us from time to time on the status of your loved ones so that updates can be recorded and shared to prove that the power of prayer does work miracles.



From Nancy Green



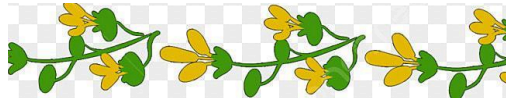
UPCOMING EVENTS

- * Tuesdays @ 11:00 AM – Walking Group – All are welcome
- * Saturday, April 13 @ 1:00 PM – Kenyan-themed luncheon
- * Monday, April 15 @ 7:00 PM – Outreach Meeting
- * Tuesday, April 16 – June 4 @ 11:00 AM – Bible Study – “The Chosen” season 3
- * Sunday, April 21 – Mission Awareness Sunday
- * Friday, May 24 @ 7:00 PM – Concert featuring a 13-member saxophone ensemble
- * Sunday, May 26 – Church BBQ
- * Saturday – June 8 * 7:00 PM – Concert featuring Pascale Menke and Kento Stratford

*Our services are now live-streamed. Go to the church's website (www.graceview.ca) to click the link for the most recent worship services on YouTube.

* We also have our own Facebook page. (Graceview Presbyterian Church). This site shows the world all that we are and what we have to offer as a church. Check it out and be sure to “follow.”

	<u>Prayer Roster</u>	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>Welcome and Announcements</u>
Apr. 14	Kathy Twynam	Nancy Green	Bob Twynam
Apr. 21	Mission. Team	Mission Team	Mission Team
Apr. 28	Susan Chopp	Harry Learoyd	Pastor Eric



GIGGLE FOR THE WEEK

I love bacon. Sometimes I eat it twice a day. It takes my mind off the terrible chest pains I keep getting.

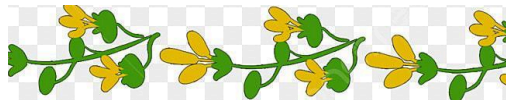
Driver: "What am I supposed to do with this speeding ticket?"

Officer, "Keep it. When you collect four of them, you get a bicycle.

I asked a supermarket employee where they kept the canned peaches.

He said, "I'll see," & walked away. I asked another & he also said, "I'll see," & walked away.

In the end, I gave up & found them myself in Aisle C.



Do you have any news or prayer requests that you would like to share? Drop me a line, and I will be happy to include it in the Weekly Email. Have a blessed week, everyone.

Susan choppertini@hotmail.com

Contact information for Pastor Eric Lee: 778-791-1741; leefyeric@gmail.com

NB: If the phone number for Pastor Eric does not connect you immediately (technical issues?) call the church (416-621-0888) and press #1 for Pastor Eric.

Email for Iris: ericirishk@gmail.com

* Message from **Pastor Eric**: "FYI, the Graceview website page below has been revamped so as to keep people updated on our activities and events. Visit us and enjoy all that is good about Graceview". <https://graceview.ca/calendar-events>

April Calendar



APRIL 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1	2 *Walking Group. 11:00	3	4 Choir Practice 7:00 PM	5	6
7	8 Music & Worship 1:30 PM	9 *Walking Group 11:00 *Elaine's Craft Club 11:00 *Mission 6:30	10	11 Choir Practice 7:00 PM	12	13 Kenyan-themed luncheon – 1:00 PM
14	15 Outreach – 7:00 PM	16 Bible Study 11:00 AM	17	18 Choir Practice 7:00 PM	19	20
21 Mission Awareness Sunday	22	23 Bible Study 11:00	24	25 Choir Practice 7:00 PM	26	27 9:30 AM Spring Property Clean-Up
28	29	30 Bible Study 11:00	1	2 Choir Practice 7:00 PM	3	4