

4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
~ Matthew 16:18



March 25, 2018

Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study9:45 AM
Worship10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service 2:30 PM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class.10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

James Thomas

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

Christian Evidences Seminar

March 23-25, 2018

Schedule

<u>Friday</u>	6:30pm	Science and Faith
	7:15pm	Break
	8:00pm	Apologetics and You
<u>Saturday</u>	5:30pm	Design in the Cosmos
	6:15pm	Break
	7:00pm	Earth: Our Occupied Orb
<u>Sunday</u>	9:45am	Bible's Inspiration
	10:40am	Defending Faith from an Immovable Foundation
	12:00pm	Lunch

Dr. Branyon May earned a Ph. D. in Astrophysics from the University of Alabama, where he held a three-year research fellowship through NASA's Graduate Student Researchers Program. Dr. May now combines his scientific and biblical passions serving as the General Manager of World Video Bible School, a non-profit organization focused on the production of Bible-based, faith-building resources. He also serves as an Auxiliary Scientist with Apologetics Press.

While earning his B.S. degree in Physics from Angelo State University, Branyon met and married his wife, Alana, who also holds a B.S. in Physics and M.S. in Astrophysics. They are the parents of three lovely daughters. They make their home and worship in the Austin, Texas, area.



The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. **Psalm 19:1-3**

Let us know if you want to study the Bible to know more about Christ and His Church.

Was the Darkness of the Crucifixion Merely an Eclipse?

For those who have experienced a total solar eclipse, the event is awe inspiring. Solar eclipses are incredible because they are a multi-sensory experience, from the amazing environmental changes of temperature and weather, to the sounds of nocturnal animal life, to the visual changes of the slowly dimming daylight and the brief darkness of totality. Lunar eclipses are similarly compelling as the Moon gradually changes from its usual bright white appearance to a more dim reddish hue. Yet, when we compare these physical events that have happened throughout history with the history changing event of Jesus' crucifixion, can we understand the element of darkness on that day as an eclipse event?

While this question has been posed by many people from many different contexts, we want to confront the reasoning of some who deny any supernatural descriptions for biblical events. This type of blatant denial of any supernatural elements is a ploy toward an ultimate denial of God. Rather, when we consider the historical reality and the blending of both God's supernatural power with God's establishment of physical laws, we find a full account that has both investigative and descriptive power to understand the unique events depicted in Scripture.

A MATTER OF TIMING

As we discuss the timing of the crucifixion, we need to note the particulars necessary for solar and lunar eclipses to occur. First, a solar eclipse involves the Moon passing between Earth and the Sun, casting its shadow on Earth. This means that the Moon's phase is always a New Moon during solar eclipses. In contrast, a lunar eclipse occurs when the Earth passes between the Sun and Moon, casting its shadow across the Moon. During a lunar eclipse the Moon's phase is always a Full Moon.

As an overview, here is the timeline for the relevant events of the crucifixion. According to Mark 15:25, Jesus was crucified at the third hour of the Jewish day or 9 a.m. which, from the context, we can understand as the initial placement of Jesus on the cross. Then at the sixth hour (12 p.m. noon) there came darkness over all the land for a duration of three hours until the ninth hour or 3 p.m. (Matthew 27:45; Mark 15:33; Luke 23:44). At this point, Jesus cried out three of His recorded sayings on the cross: "My God, My God why have You forsaken Me?" (Mark 15:34); "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" (Luke 23:46); and "It is finished" (John 19:30). At the point of Jesus' death, the darkness appears to have ended, as each account describes the darkness lasting for three hours, then Jesus giving His life.

With the particulars of both the crucifixion timeline and the necessary timings of eclipses established, we can address whether a solar or lunar eclipse could be a possible explanation for the darkness that occurred. We can quickly rule out a lunar eclipse as the cause, since lunar eclipses do not affect the appearance of the Sun and would not have any impact during the time of Jesus' crucifixion from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

When we consider solar eclipses, there is a definite affect on the Sun and the daylight levels as they occur. Solar eclipses, especially in the narrow path of total solar eclipses, have dramatic periods of darkness. However, we can confidently say that the darkness during Jesus' crucifixion was not the result of a solar eclipse event. This statement can be made based on the timing particulars that the Bible defines: first, the time of the month that the Jewish Passover occurs and, second, the duration of darkness outlined by the text.

Jesus' trial and crucifixion happened near the feast of the Passover, which occurs every year in the same month and the same day of the month. According to Leviticus 23:5, the Passover began on the evening of the 14th day of the first month. Important is the fact that

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Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord's Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:00am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

God's Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)

Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Reading Schedule

Mar. 25 1 Samuel 10—12

Mar. 26 1 Samuel 13—14

Mar. 27 1 Samuel 15—16 (video)

Mar. 28 1 Samuel 17—19

Mar. 29 1 Samuel 20—22

Mar. 30 1 Samuel 23—25

Mar. 31 1 Samuel 26—31

Apr. 1 2 Samuel 1—3

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

(2 Timothy 2:15)



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **39 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **Wednesday evening** after Bible study, we will have cake and ice cream to **celebrate Jessica Stultz' retirement** from 3M (it is also her birthday!). Bring her a card and help her celebrate.
- ◆ Today is the last day of our **Christian Evidences Seminar with Dr. Branyon May**. We have been truly blessed to have Branyon and his family with us. He has brought four excellent lessons. We have been blessed with good attendance, with many visitors from area congregations, as well as from the community.
- ◆ Be sure to check out the **World Video Bible School display** at the back of the auditorium. All items on the table are free of charge.
- ◆ A big **"Thank You"** to everyone who made the past couple of evenings go so smoothly, especially those who helped with the food and/or provided cookies.
- ◆ We will have a **fellowship meal today** following our morning worship.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ August 14—Host Summer Youth Series.
- ◆ October 14-17—Fall Gospel Meeting with Jacob Rutledge.

Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ April 1-4—Gospel Meeting @ Hamilton with Jason Rollo.
- ◆ April 28—Ladies' Day @ Comanche, *"Be Still and Know that I Am God"*
- ◆ May 5-10—Focal Point @ University (San Marcos).
- ◆ May 23-28—Young Men's Development Conference @ College Station (BSC Church of Christ)
- ◆ June 24-28—Junior Camp
- ◆ July 15-20—Senior Camp

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the accounting of Jewish time is based on a lunar calendar, where each month follows the lunar cycle beginning on the New Moon. This connection can be seen by the Hebrew word often translated as month, *chodesh*, which originates from a root meaning "new." In context, this word is either translated as "month" in regards to time, or as "New Moon" in regards to a physical description. We can see a use of the physical "New Moon" translation in the account found in 1 Samuel 20 involving David and Jonathan: "And David said to Jonathan, 'Indeed tomorrow is the New Moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king to eat. But let me go, that I may hide in the field until the third day at evening'" (20:5). Here we have the New Moon (*chodesh*) used in conjunction with a time period of waiting till the "third day" of the month. Thus since Jesus' crucifixion happened near the middle of the month at Passover, the phase of the Moon was near a Full Moon instead of a New Moon, which is the complete opposite for a solar eclipse in apparent and physical orientation.

While the time of month for the crucifixion completely dispels the possibility of a solar eclipse, reasoning based on the darkness duration provides additional evidence for a supernatural origination. The Bible describes a three hour timeframe for the darkness (Mark 15:33). As we consider a solar eclipse, it is true that the entire event can be approximately three hours. However, this period includes the entire process from the point when the Moon begins to cover the Sun until the Moon finally completes its recession off the Sun. The partial eclipse phase of a total solar eclipse is a gradual process of slowly dimming

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Celebrate

"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)

March Birthdays: Ken Maninger (4), Wayne Kahlich (9), Ann Walker (10), Susan Ford (17), Allen Griffith (20), Mileen Kahlich (21), James Thomas (23), **Jessica Stultz (28)**.

March Anniversaries: James & Cindy Fuller (2), Randy & Laura Huckaby (23), Tom & Carol Wilcox (23).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Mar. 11, 2018	Mar. 18, 2018
Bible Class	36	47
AM Worship	51	68
PM Worship	37	48
Wednesday PM	32	38
Contribution	\$2,056	\$2,433

	This Week: 3/25/18	Next Week: 4/1/18		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p>March 2018 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: Allen & Linda Griffith Clean Building: Fuller / Stultz</p> <p>April 2018 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Dennis Family Clean Building: John Barnum Family</p>	
Greeters	Randy & Laura Huckaby	Dennis Family		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Rafe Smith*, Ryan Settles Hank Wheeler, Allen Griffith	James Thomas*, Larry Petty Randy Huckaby, Jack Turner		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	John Barnum		
Attendance Cards	Jaceten Evetts	Aaron Smith		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	James Thomas	James Fuller		
Scripture Reading	Don Smith	Ryan Rudloff		
Communion	Rafe Smith	James Thomas		
Closing Prayer	Mike Bannister	Gene Bannister		
Wednesday Devotionals:	March 28 Don Smith	April 4 Prayer Night	April 11 Ryan Rudloff	April 18 Rafe Smith

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of March 25, 2018

Sunday Class **Christian Evidences Seminar**
 Wed. Class **Old Testament History: Genesis 19:30**

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to a point of maximum eclipse, then slowly brightening after maximum. This gradual variation does not match the succinct description of darkness over all the land that the Bible defines. Those who have witnessed a total solar eclipse would agree that "darkness" does not characterize the Earth until the brief maximum darkness phase of the eclipse. The duration for the maximum darkness of a total eclipse, however, is only a matter of minutes, not hours. The 2017 total solar eclipse that crossed the United States only had a maximum duration of two minutes and 40.2 seconds. In fact, the maximum duration possible for any total solar eclipse is less than seven minutes.

CONCLUSION

When we reach the climax of God's plan at the cross, we see God using all elements of the event to highlight the incredible uniqueness of Jesus' innocence, sacrifice, and love. One of these elements was God causing a great, supernatural darkness to cover the land and extend to the point of Jesus' death. This darkness was not a simple coincidence, nor was it simply some usual event. Rather, it played a part in showing those at the cross then, and those who come to the cross today, the crucial message of salvation that Jesus brought to the world.

Branyon May, Ph.D.

(apologeticspress.org – references cited in original)

Galatians 4:8-20 – Justification: Not by Law but by Faith in Christ (5)

Paul's Personal Plea

- I. Justification: Not by Law but by Faith in Christ (Chapters 3-4).
 - H. Paul's Personal Plea (4:8-20).
 1. The Galatians' Return to Spiritual Slavery (8-11).
 - a. Paul considered the Galatians' status before they had become Christians – "when you did not know God".
 - 1) Their condition was a form of slavery (Rom. 1:18-32).
 - 2) While in the past the Gentile Christians had "served those which by nature are not gods" (practiced idolatry), as Christians they had "known God, or rather are known by God" (9).
 - 3) Since the Galatians had gained this marvelous freedom in Christ, Paul asked, "How is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?"
 - 4) The irony of their current situation was that having been freed from one bondage they had willingly walked right into another bondage.
 - b. "I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain" (11).
 2. Paul's Perplexity at the Galatians' Behavior (12-20).
 - a. "Brethren, I urge you to become [be] like me" (12).
 - 1) Paul reminded the Galatians, "You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first" (13).
 - 2) "And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject" (14). The Galatians had gladly accepted Paul despite his appearance.
 - 3) What had changed? "What then was the blessing you enjoyed?" [Where then is that sense of blessing you had? – NASB] (15).
 - 4) "So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?" (16).
 - b. Paul continues to speak about the Judaizers, the root of the whole problem: "They zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them" (17).
 - c. Verses 19-20 express the heart of Paul as no other passage in Galatians.
 - 1) "My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you" (19).
 - 2) "I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you" (20).