April 14, 2014

Do Not Fall For the "Four Blood Moons" False Teaching

Luke 12:35, 40 (NASB), "Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit...You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect."

Pastor John Hagee, who is the pastor of Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, the author of numerous best sellers and the head of John Hagee Ministries, released a book last fall called, <u>Four Blood Moons: Something Is About To Change</u>. In this book Hagee predicts that because of four blood moons which will supposedly happen in 2014-15 and which supposedly line up with the Jewish feasts of Passover and Tabernacles, the world is going to end.

Let me be very blunt about this teaching: It is utter hooey and it is *completely false*! John Hagee is a false teacher who has in the words of Hank Hanegraaf "made a cottage industry" out of this false teaching. Dr. Gary Shogren says in his blog, "You'll never go broke predicting the apocalypse."

Hank Hanegraaf on his radio show, <u>The Bible Answer Man</u>, on April 7 said that Hagee is "Wrong on Scripture, he is wrong on science, he is wrong on history, and he is wrong on semantics." Hanegraaf went on to say that Hagee commits one of the cardinal sins of Biblical exposition in that "He does not read Scripture in the light of Scripture but rather in the light of current events."

Hagee in his book implies that blood moons always are accompanied by cataclysmic world events. He further seems to imply that predicting a blood moon is not difficult but science seems to tell us otherwise. According to NASA and to Nat Geo, many lunar eclipses are red or coppery in nature but that is because of atmospheric conditions. It is impossible to predict a "blood moon." He acts as if a lunar eclipse during Passover is so unusual when in actuality it's not. "Passover by definition always takes place on a full moon" writes Dr. Gary Shogren who is a professor of New Testament Theology. We could literally go on and on with the problems with the blood moon prophecies that Hagee is spewing but what is important is that we rely completely on God's Word and not on the speculations of man.

1 Timothy 1:3-4 Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy, "As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith."

Here at Calvary Baptist Church, we have a Sunday evening Bible study on Matthew. In Matthew 24, the return of Christ is discussed by none other than Christ Himself. During this portion of our study there was much parsing of language as to when the Lord returns. Often times when we study the end times this is what we become obsessed with. When is Christ going to return? But throughout chapter 24 one theme overrides the answer to that question; that theme is the importance of being *prepared* for His return.

Matthew 24:13 says, "But the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved." Matthew 24:36 says, "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone." Not even Jesus Christ knows the date or time of His own return so that means

that John Hagee most certainly does not know. Matthew 24:44 says, "For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will."

Ultimately it really does not matter when Jesus returns; what matters and what should consume our thoughts is: Am I ready for His return? Am I prepared? Those that I love and who I work with, and live with, and socialize with; are they prepared for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ? We are as Christ followers to be *"dressed in readiness"* because Luke 12:40 tells us that He is coming *"at an hour that you do not expect."*

Friends do not be taken in by false prophets like John Hagee. John Hagee is concerned with one thing and that is selling books and getting more people to donate to his "ministry." Do not fall prey to the deception that is his teaching. Rather let me encourage you to ground yourself and gird yourself with God's Word. Expose yourself to solid expositional teaching and preaching. What do I mean by expositional? Expositional teaching and preaching is when the pastor or teacher preaches through the Scripture verse by verse.

As my New Testament professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary always said, "Doctrine matters." What we believe and what we teach and preach matters and it must always be rooted solidly in God's Word. It cannot be rooted in myths and genealogies and in the speculations of hucksters and sensationalists.