



## Bethany Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Ministry

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## Viewpoints

*Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.*

### The Message of the Eclipse - August 21, 2017 *We Christians can use the eclipse to spread the Light.* [Online Version & Archive](#)

As I write this, I keep stepping away from my computer to look outside. Even though this is not my first solar eclipse, and even though for us in Saginaw it's only a partial eclipse, it's still attracting my attention because it's unusual. It's relatively rare for the moon to pass between the sun and the earth so that moon blocks the sun, casting a shadow over our nation.

Since the moon orbits the earth every 27.3 days, in theory there could be an eclipse every 27.3 days. However, most of the time the moon moves either above or below the sun, preventing an eclipse. And even when the sun and moon happen to align perfectly, the path of the shadow it casts usually falls over the earth's vast oceans so that few, if any, will see it. Because the shadow of this eclipse runs across our nation (it's been dubbed the "Great American Total Solar Eclipse") it's getting great attention. Certainly you've heard how the National Guard has called up in Oregon to help with crowd control? The crush of people swarming into the areas overshadowed by the eclipse's Path of Totality is making this a somewhat epic event across many parts of our nation.

But it's not the first time an eclipse has been epic. On May 28, 585 B.C. the Medes and Lydians were in the midst of a protracted war. During that day's battle the sky suddenly turned dark as the Path of Totality overshadowed the battlefield. Historians explain: "Interpreting the inexplicable phenomenon as a sign that the gods wanted the conflict to end, the soldiers put down their weapons and negotiated a truce." Thus the event has been named in history as the Battle of the Eclipse.

We know that the gods of the Medes and Lydians did not cause that eclipse to be some kind of heavenly sign. As Christ's apostle taught the Christians living in Corinth:

**We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. (1 Cor 8:4-6).**

The Father and his Son Jesus (along with the Holy Spirit) is the only true God who rules all things. And he's using today's eclipse to touch consciences. For example, even the news is aware of the Lord's warning through his prophet: **"I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth... The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the**

**coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved”** (Joel 2:30-32). Yes, this eclipse serves God, who lovingly reminds the world in connection with his word, that our end is coming. And that the end of this world is coming.

Since you know how the bloody cross and empty tomb guarantees Christ’s protecting forgiveness, you also know that **“the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night [because] the LORD will keep you from all harm-- he will watch over your life... both now and forevermore”** (Psalm 121:6-7). As people around us talk about the eclipse, it could be an opportunity to turn the conversation to Jesus. Here’s how I might do it...

*Wow! Did you hear how the National Guard was called out in Oregon because of all the people traveling there to see the eclipse? What a different world this would be if all the people curious enough to check out the sun’s shadow would be just as curious to check out Jesus, the Light of Life. He perfectly provides all that we need for living life here on earth, before he brings us to live forever in his perfect home far above the moon and sun.*

And if you need a little review on how Jesus perfectly provides all that we need, I know of a recent sermon that might help. [Click here to download the 8/20/2017 sermon, “Perfect Provision.”](#) †

[Source Material \(Links may become inactive over time.\)](#)

[Solar eclipse gridlock: It was so busy in Madras, Ore., they called in the National Guard](#)

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*Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz*

