

# PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

1300 E. Boynton St. • Hamilton • [www.parkheightscoc.com](http://www.parkheightscoc.com)

*Thus Saith the Lord*

## TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN

By Jeff Sweeten

Little Jenny came home from Bible study in awe of God's grace and power, as revealed in Israel's Red Sea crossing. "What a miracle that the Egyptian army perished in the Red Sea," she exclaimed. "Seriously!" her anti-religious father scoffed, "It was the Reed Sea and there was only two inches of water where they crossed!" (Really? cf. Exodus 14:16). Taken aback for a split second, Jenny bubbled, "What a miracle!" "What do you mean?" her father responded in disbelief. "Why, isn't it one of the greatest of miracles ever that Egypt's entire army drowned in just two inches of water!"

The miracles recorded the Bible are often fodder for the unbeliever's cannon and one of the most subtle attacks is in negating God's supernatural intervention into the natural realm by offering some physical, semi-plausible explanation. However, such attempts are anemic and never quite pan out. Take for instance, the total eclipse of the sun as an explanation for the darkness at Christ's crucifixion.

First, one must actually read the record of the event in the Bible as a basis for any clarity on the topic. Here are some uncomfortable facts: (1) the time of the crucifixion is very specific (Leviticus 23:5) near a full moon, not the new moon characteristic of an eclipse, so the phase of the moon during the crucifixion event was all wrong, (2) the darkening of the sun (wrongly translated in the New American Bible as "eclipse") occurred for three solid hours, whereas the longest known total eclipse was less than seven minutes (2 minutes, 40.2 seconds in 2017), and (3) a NASA-discovered eclipse that did occur on March 19, 33AD, was visible nowhere near Jerusalem but, instead, went over Antarctica (missed by miles on that one!).

Second, the conclusion to honest research concerning this anomaly makes an investigator come to one of two conclusions: either the darkness of the crucifixion was a miracle or the Bible is a lie (and the second position makes most folks a bit uncomfortable). However, the statements of the Bible are clear, concise and correct.

It is a weak faith that finds cause to compromise God's inspired Word; there is no scarcity of evidence for the truth. It is simply a lack of honesty that fails to concede the reality of God's miracles in the Bible.

**JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!**

**SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Class • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship**

**WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130**