



# THE MESSENGER

## Important Things Christians Should Understand about Solar Eclipses



While the Bible does not specifically mention solar eclipses, it contains passages that speak to the significance of celestial phenomena like solar eclipses. The Bible presents phenomena in the sky as manifestations of God’s power and sovereignty over the natural world he has created. In the Old Testament, the book of Genesis describes God’s creation of the heavens and the Earth with order and beauty. [Genesis 1:14-18](#) reports: “And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.’ And it was so. God made two great lights – the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.” This passage highlights God’s purpose for creating the sun, moon, and stars.

Some Bible scholars point to biblical passages that describe periods of darkness as possible references to solar eclipses. For example, in [Amos 8:9](#), God mentions a day when “I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight.” This imagery describes the sudden darkness that accompanies a total solar eclipse. Also, [Joel 2:31](#) says: “The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.” Some scholars interpret this verse as a prophecy of future apocalyptic events that feature celestial signs before God’s judgment and renewal.

The Gospel accounts of Jesus’ [crucifixion](#) describe a period of darkness that enveloped the land, coinciding with our Savior’s death on [the cross](#). [Matthew 27:45](#) reports: “From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land.” This miraculous sign emphasizes the cosmic significance of [Jesus’ sacrifice for humanity’s redemption](#). So, while the Bible may not provide explicit commentary on solar eclipses, it does feature passages that show us the spiritual significance of celestial events such as eclipses.



Solar eclipses make God’s awe-inspiring power evident. They serve as tangible reminders of our Creator’s power, creativity, and sovereignty over the universe. When we witness a solar eclipse, we are witnessing a celestial dance that God has choreographed with meticulous precision. The intricate alignment of the sun, moon, and Earth – and the perfect synchronization of their movements – reflects God’s wise design for creation.

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#### Stitching with Love Ministry

meets every 1st Thursday  
April 4 at 9am –12pm.

#### Men’s Prayer Breakfast

Every 2nd Saturday of each month  
April 13 at 8 am

#### Home Extension Club

meets every 3rd Wednesday  
April 17 at 10:00 am –12pm

#### Sr. Saints Fellowship

meets every 3rd Tuesday  
April 23 at 11:00 am

## From the Pastor's Desk



Dear church family,

I am honored and humbled to be your new pastor. Already, I am so thankful for your love and support. As I step into this role, I want to take a moment to share with you my thoughts on our mission, vision, prayer, change, and exciting days ahead.

First and foremost, our mission is to obey the Great Commission and the Great Commands of Jesus Christ. We are called to be a light in the darkness, to share the hope and joy that comes from knowing our Savior. This mission is not limited to our Sunday services, but extends to every aspect of our lives. As we go about our daily routines, we have the opportunity to show Christ's love in the way we treat others, in the decisions we make, and in the way we live out our faith.

In order to fulfill this mission, we must have a clear vision of where we are headed. We must be intentional about our goals and how we plan to achieve them. As a congregation, we need to take time to pray and seek God's guidance for our future. We need to ask ourselves, "What is God calling us to do?" and "How can we best serve Him in our community?" By answering these questions and working together, we can create a shared vision for our church that inspires and motivates us to action.

Change can be difficult, but it is often necessary for growth and progress. As a new pastor, I bring fresh ideas and perspectives to our congregation. I want to work with you to identify areas where we can improve and make positive changes. I have already been meeting

with the deacons to evaluate and develop some short term and long term goals. This may mean trying new things, stepping outside of our comfort zones, and taking risks. But with God's help and our faith in Him, we can accomplish His plan.

None of this can be accomplished without prayer. Prayer is the foundation of our faith and the key to our success. We must pray for guidance, for wisdom, for strength, and for unity. We must pray for ourselves and our community. We must pray for each other, that we may be filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered to do God's will. We need to be a "House of Prayer." I ask that you pray diligently for God to bring revival to our church.

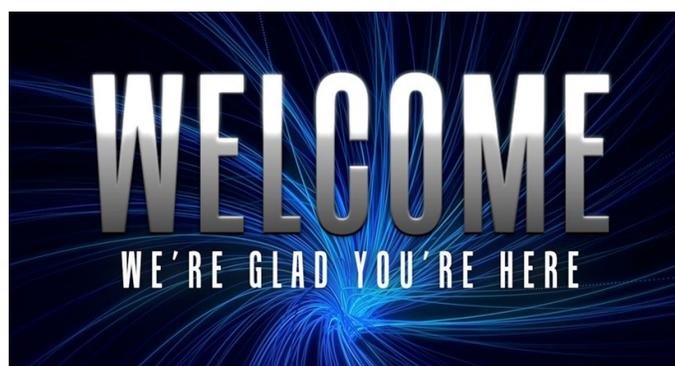
Finally, I want to share with you my excitement for the days ahead. I believe that God has amazing things in store for our congregation. It is no accident that God brought us together. I am eager to see how He will use us to make a difference in our families, our community and in the world. I am thrilled to get to know each of you better and to work together to create a thriving and vibrant church. I also like to have some fun in the journey, so let's laugh together. I want to be available to you. If you need me, please let me know.

In closing, I want to encourage you to join me in this journey. Let us embrace our mission, clarify our vision, pray without ceasing, be open to change, and anticipate the exciting days ahead. With God's help, we can accomplish His will.

*In Christ, Michael Luce*

**REVIVAL**  
**PREPARE YOURSELF**  
8 Weeks – Starting April 7

- Sermon Series on Sunday Mornings
- Groups – Sunday 6pm or Wednesday 6:30pm
- 9am Sunday – 10-minute Prayer Meeting



### New Pastor Welcome—April 7, 2024

Brother Michael has officially begun as the new Zion Hill pastor and we would like to welcome him and Sheri, with a potluck fellowship after the morning worship. Bring your favorite dish and enjoy some fellowship! The Luce's are expecting a grandchild to be born in April, so if their daughter goes into labor earlier than expected, we will reschedule.

## Youth, Children & Other Happenings

### Weekly Youth & Young Adult Gatherings

Wednesday Night *Switch* Services  
Music and a devotion from 6:30-7:30pm

**Invite your friends and come join us!**



Branson  
APRIL 15-17  
MANSION THEATRE

Springtime 2024 | Don't Miss It!  
**JUBILEE**

Keep our seniors in your prayers as they travel to Branson and back.

**STELLAR**  
SHINE JESUS' LIGHT

**VBS 2024**  
June 16—20

**VBS Children's Meeting April 2 at 6:00 pm**

All group leaders & volunteers are encouraged to attend to help with planning!

### SprOing 2024—Camp Siloam—Kids Camp

April 12-14, 2024

SprOing is a two-night retreat for kids 3rd-6th grade. It's like summer camp jam-packed into one exciting weekend.



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Thanks to Dad Hengeveld 10-23-2002

THE NEW PASTOR QUICKLY REALIZED HIS MISTAKE IN THINKING THAT THEY WERE SPEAKING FIGURATIVELY ABOUT THOSE "BIG SHOES" HE HAD TO FILL



April 28,  
2024  
2pm-4pm  
**Tools for Life**

Ladies and girls are invited to join us for a tea party as we enjoy some feminine fellowship with our sisters in Christ. We'll have a guest speaker, Becky Russell from Bayou Meto Baptist Church who will lead us in a study on Luke 10:27. "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind," and "your neighbor as yourself." Be sure and mark it on your calendar and make plans to be here on April 28. Wear your fancy tea party hats and join us for coffee, tea and a vast array of refreshments! Come and be strengthened and learn how to incorporate the necessary Biblical tools we so desperately need in our daily lives.

### Operation Christmas Child



We are beginning to gather items again for OCC. For the month of April, the items needed are, toothbrushes, soap and small stuffed animals, (4-5"). You can also fill a bottle with \$10 worth of quarters to cover shipping of boxes. Please place items in the box in the breezeway.

### Schools Out

- CABOT April 8
- PCSSD No Days Out
- JNP No Days Out

**ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
SERVICE TIMES**

**Sunday**

9:15 am Bible Study  
10:30 am Morning Worship  
11:00 am Children's Worship (Fellowship Hall)  
5:00 pm Revival Prep Group

**Tuesday**

10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study

**Wednesday**

6:30 pm Mid-Week Services  
Worship, Prayer and Bible  
(3rd Wednesday is Business Meeting)  
GA's, RA's, Mission Friends,  
Youth Switch Service  
6:30 pm Adult Choir Practice

**April Activities**

2 6:00 pm VBS / Children's Meeting  
3 5:45 pm Wednesday Night Meal  
3 6:30 pm Worship. Prayer. Bible  
4 9:00 am Stitching with Love Ministry  
6 5:00 pm Senior Saints Outing to First Baptist Beebe  
7 Sunday Services  
8 Solar Eclipse  
9 10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study  
10 5:45 pm Wednesday Night Meal  
10 6:30 pm Revival Prep Group & Youth Midweek Services  
12-14 Camp Siloam Kid's Camp  
13 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast  
14 Sunday Services  
14 11:45 am Finance Committee Meeting  
14 4:00 pm Church Council Meeting  
15-17 Springtime Jubilee Trip to Branson  
16 10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study  
17 5:45 pm Wednesday Night Meal  
17 10:00 am Home Extension Club Meeting  
17 6:30 pm Business Meeting  
21 Sunday Services  
21 4:00 pm Planning Team Meetings  
23 10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study - Sr. Saints Fellowship  
24 5:45 pm Wednesday Night Meal  
24 6:30 pm Revival Prep Group & Youth Midweek Services  
28 Sunday Services  
28 2:00 pm Ladies WoM Tea Party  
30 10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study



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Recent videos of Zion Hill's Sunday services can be viewed at  
www.zionhillcabot.com/sermons

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The experience of watching a solar eclipse is humbling. [Psalm 8:3-4](#) asks God: "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?" Eclipses remind us of God's great love for us, even though we are just small parts of the vast universe. As we look up to watch the upcoming solar eclipse, we can [discover the wonder of God's work](#) in a dramatic way. The spectacle of the eclipse can inspire us to marvel at God's infinite wisdom and creativity, reaffirming our [faith in God](#) as the wonderful Creator of the universe.

Witnessing an eclipse can move us to [pray and meditate](#) on God's wonder. As [Psalm 145:5](#) says of God: "They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty – and I will meditate on your wonderful works." While we watch the upcoming eclipse, we'll be filled with awe that can motivate us to move closer to God. An eclipse lasts only a brief time. But the spiritual growth we can experience from moving closer to God afterward will benefit our souls forever.

As we eagerly anticipate the upcoming solar eclipse, let's approach it with a sense of [reverence](#) that helps us discover God's wonder. An eclipse puts God's wise creativity on display in dramatic ways. When we watch the moon cover the sun, we see the wondrous design that our Creator has put in place for the universe. The ultimate significance of an eclipse is that it invites us to seek God more and enjoy closer relationships with him.

Excerpt taken from: <https://www.crosswalk.com/slideshows/important-things-christians-should-understand-about-solar-eclipses.html>

**Total Solar Eclipse—April 8, 2024**

At approximately 12:30pm CST, the eclipse will begin the process with maximum coverage at about 1:53 pm and will only last for about 2 minutes of the full eclipse. This phenomenon won't happen again in North America for another 20 years.