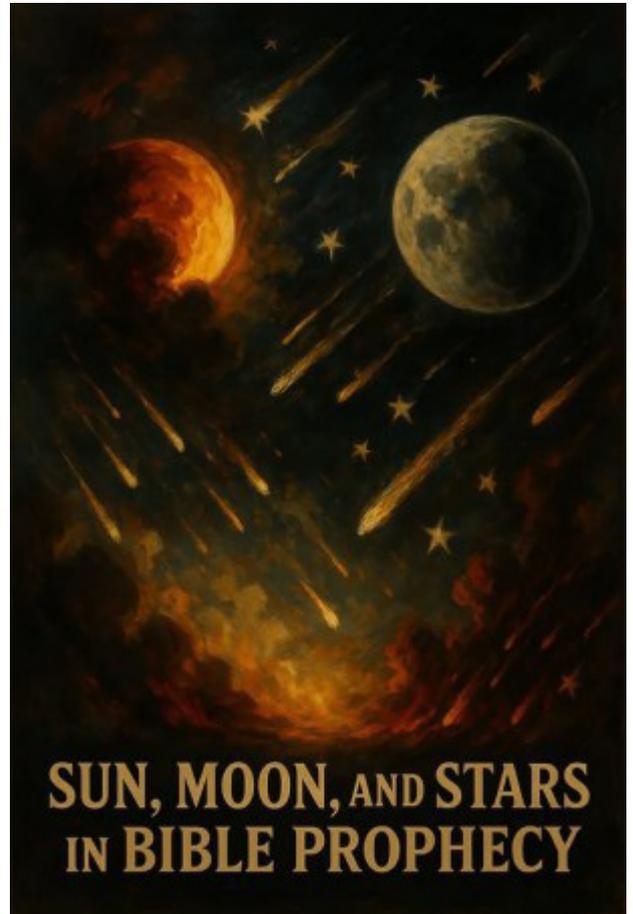


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Sun Moon Stars - Sun, Moon, and Stars in Bible Prophecy



By Dan Maines

Sun, Moon, and Stars in Bible Prophecy

Brothers and sisters, when we read about the sun, moon, and stars in Scripture, many assume these speak of physical cosmic events still in our future. But the Bible interprets itself. Today, let us understand these signs as they were intended: symbolic language used to describe covenantal and governmental change. As a Preterist, I hold that these prophecies were fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.

Let us look at the Scriptures and let the Word speak clearly.

Heavenly Language is Covenant Language

In Genesis 37:9-10, Joseph has a dream: "Now he still had another dream, and informed his brothers of it, and said, 'Behold, I have had yet another dream, and behold, the sun and the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.' He also told it to his father as well as to his brothers, and his father rebuked him and said to him, 'What is this dream that you have had? Am I, your mother, and your brothers actually going to come to bow down to the ground before you?'"

Joseph's dream was not about literal celestial events. Jacob immediately understood the imagery: he, Rachel, and the brothers were represented by the sun, moon, and stars.

This is the key to interpreting prophetic language. It is about rulers, authority, and covenant people, not astronomy.

Sun, Moon, and Stars in Judgment Language

Isaiah 13:9-10 speaks about the fall of Babylon: "Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, cruel, with fury and burning anger, to make the land a desolation, and He will exterminate its sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not flash their light, the sun will be dark when it rises, and the moon will not shed its light."

This already happened. Babylon fell to the Medes. These words did not describe literal darkened skies, but political and national collapse.

Ezekiel 32:7-8 about Egypt's fall: "And when I extinguish you, I will cover the heavens and darken their stars, I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon will not give its light. All the shining lights in the heavens I will darken over you, and I will

impose darkness on your land," declares the Lord God.

Again, symbolic language used in Old Testament prophecy about the downfall of a kingdom.

Jesus Uses the Same Language

Matthew 24:29-34: "But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory."

Verse 34: "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place."

This is not about the end of the physical universe. It is covenantal language referring to the fall of Jerusalem and the end of the Old Covenant system. Jesus quotes Isaiah-type judgment language to describe the downfall of that religious order.

Revelation Uses the Same Imagery

Revelation 6:12-14: "And I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake, and the sun became as black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth... The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place."

This was a vision of the judgment on Jerusalem. These symbols meant the end of the Jewish age. Not the end of the planet, but the removal of a religious world.

Daniel 8:10 and 12:3

Daniel 8:10: "And it grew up to the heavenly lights, and some of the lights, that is, some of the stars it threw down to the earth, and it trampled them."

Daniel 12:3: "And those who have insight will shine like the glow of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

These prophetic images show rulers and the righteous using celestial terms. Stars represent people, not planets.

Conclusion

The Bible consistently uses sun, moon, and stars as symbolic of governments, covenants, and leaders.

Jesus and the prophets did not describe literal destruction of the cosmos but the fall of kingdoms and the end of an age.

Matthew 24:34 proves this: "This generation will not pass away..."

The Old Covenant system fell, the New Covenant was fully established. The lights of the Old World were darkened, and the Kingdom of God shines forth.

Hebrews 12:27-28: "Now this expression, 'Yet once more,' indicates the removal of what can be shaken, things that have been made, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let's show gratitude..."

Let us not look for the sun to go out or stars to fall from the sky. Let us understand that Christ already reigns, and His kingdom is here. The sun, moon, and stars of the Old World have passed

away.

He who has ears, let him hear.

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