**The Solar Eclipse August 21, 2017**

1. **Web sites:**
	1. Information about the eclipse:

 www.eclipse2017.org

* 1. Information about the timing of the eclipse and Johnson City: [https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/in/@7318018](https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/in/%407318018)
1. **Why does this have our attention?**

 Events such as this can be signs given by God to get our attention (Genesis 1:14). We are a nation that has rebelled and turned from God in the vein of Romans 1:18-32. We have not repented, despite the fact that God has been merciful in withholding His hand of judgment upon us. It is possible that the Lord is giving a final warning for us to repent before He releases His chastening judgments upon us. They could come in the form of economic chastening, military conflicts, diseases/plagues, and natural disasters. God’s purpose in doing so would be to motivate us to cast away the false idols that we trust in and return to the One True and Living God!

1. **There are several facts that could be important markers**.
	1. The Hebrew **month of Elul begins at sundown in Jerusalem at 7:16 pm** (Local time in Jerusalem). The month of Elul is spent preparing for the 10 high holy days of repentance (Rosh Hashana through the Day of Atonement) that come in the following month. A trumpet is blown every day during Elul **to prepare the people for sobriety and repentance**.
	2. The path of ***total darkness* begins at 8:17 pm Jerusalem time**. This path of total darkness begins its procession across the nation only **1 hour and one minute after the sounding of the first trumpet for the month of Elul** in Jerusalem.
	3. It is also significant that **this is a jubilee year** for the Jews and it ends on Elul 29 (sundown on September 20Th). Many of God’s economic chastenings have occurred on or around that date in relation to Shemitah and Jubilee years.
2. **What could this eclipse mean for us? Is it a sign from heaven?**
	1. This eclipse is clearly focused on the USA.
	2. This eclipse cuts directly across our nation splitting it in half from northwest to southeast.
	3. It is amazingly juxtaposed with the beginning of the call to repent on the Jewish calendar.
	4. It is also amazingly juxtaposed with the ending of the Shemitah and jubilee year, when God shakes up things in order to return them to order.
	5. **At best**, it is an opportunity for us to consider our ways and cry out for our nation to return to the Lord. **At worst**, this could be a final warning for us to repent before God severely chastens our nation.
3. **An interesting historical fact:**
	1. There was a total solar eclipse near Nineveh in 763 BC, near the time that Jonah would have been preaching there. His message was that God’s judgment was coming to Nineveh in 40 days. The people immediately repented and God staid His hand. It is possible that God used the ominous foreboding of the solar eclipse to prepare the people to respond with repentance to Jonah’s preaching.
4. **What should our response be?**
	1. For those who have eyes to see, this could be a time as described in 2 Samuel chapter 24 (please read). David had sinned against the Lord and His repentance lessened the judgments that came upon the nation of Israel.
	2. We should consider this a Joel chapter 2 moment where we “blow the shofar”, gather together, and cry out to the Lord! We should approach this time with an urgent and sober mindset, knowing that God has a legal case against our nation’s sin, rebellion, and idolatry.
	3. We should seek the Lord’s face personally and corporately, crying out for the Holy Spirit to convict us of our sin, His righteousness and His just judgments so that we are moved to respond.