

Eclipse Of The Son

by John Isaac Edwards

Monday, August 21, the United States is expected to experience its first coast-to-coast total solar eclipse in 99 years, where the moon will completely cover the sun.

Many today are in spiritual darkness because of an **eclipse of the Son** — *S-O-N*. Here are some things that obstruct folks from clearly seeing “...the **truth**...” (Jn. 14:6) and “...the **light**...” (Jn. 8:12) of Jesus, “...the **Son** of the living God...” (Mt. 16:16):

1) **Closed-Mindedness.** Some have a mind that is firmly unreceptive to the truth! Jesus said, “For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should be converted, and I should heal them” (Mt. 13:15).

2) **Prejudice.** The Pharisees were so rigid in their preconceived opinions that they rejected Jesus (Mt. 21:42-46)! Likewise, many today have preconceived ideas that keep them from seeing Jesus as He really is! Until these get rid of their prejudice, they never will submit to the doctrine of Christ or become members of the body of Christ!

3) **Tradition.** Some are so steeped in long-established custom or belief that has been passed on to them that the light of truth is blocked from them! Jesus asked, “Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?” (Mt. 15:3). Remember why Saul of Tarsus did many things that were wrong religiously? “...being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers” (Gal. 1:14).

4) **Self-Thinking.** Many simply have not learned, “...that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jer. 10:23). This got in Naaman’s way as he said, “...Behold, I thought...” (2 Ki. 5:11). Speaking of the past before he saw the light, Paul declared, “I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth” (Acts 26:9). “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Prov. 14:12).

5) **Faith In Men.** Too many put their faith in what men say, rather than what God has revealed! As long as the Watchtower Society, Roman papacy, councils and creeds of men and other sources of human authority are aligned between

you and the light of the Son, you will remain in darkness! “That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God” (1 Cor. 2:5).

6) **Ignorant Error.** Error is as old as man himself. Satan introduced it when he uttered, “Ye shall not surely die” (Gen. 3:4). Jesus faced it. He told the Sadducees, “Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God” (Mt. 22:29). Many today embrace error, not knowing the Scriptures! If we would but open our eyes, lay aside preconceived ideas, tradition handed down, what we think and men have told us and search the Scriptures with a sincere desire to know and do what is right, night would turn to day! “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me” (Jn. 4:39). “Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ” (Eph. 3:4). “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed...” (2 Tim. 2:15).

Don’t be among them “...whom the god of this world hath blinded...lest the light of the glorious gospel...should shine unto them” (2 Cor. 4:4).

Q & A

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Q: In Titus 1:6, does the word “children” mean one or more? Can you have just one child and be an elder?

A: A good way to determine whether “children” means one or more is to search the Scriptures and find out how the word is used.

1) **The Plural Word “Children” Includes The Singular Child.** The word translated “children” in Titus 1:6 is also translated “child,” “son,” and “daughter.” For example, “children” in Titus 1:6 is “child” in Luke 1:7. It is said of Zacharias and Elisabeth, “And they had no **child**, because that Elisabeth was barren...” If they had no child, they had no children. If they had a child, they had children.

2) **“Child” And “Children” Are Used Interchangeably.** Jesus said, “And brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the **child**: and the **children** shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death” (Mt. 10:21). Child =

children.

3) **Sarah Gave “Children” Suck.** Sarah said, “Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given **children** suck? for I have born him **a son** in his old age” (Gen. 21:7). Sarah gave birth to a son, Isaac. Did she have children?

4) **If A Man Die, Having No “Children.”** The Sadducees said to Jesus, “Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no **children**, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother” (Mt. 21:24). This is a reference to the Levirate law which taught, “If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no **child**, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband’s brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband’s brother unto her....” (Dt. 25:5). This is another instance where “children” and “child” are used equally. If a man died and had one child, did he have children; did he have seed? Would her husband’s brother be required to take her to him?

5) **Deacons Must Rule Their “Children” Well.** A qualification of deacons is, “... ruling their **children** and their own houses well” (1 Tim. 3:12). Whatever “children” requires of elders in Titus 1:6 is here required of deacons; it is the same word. Can you have just one child and be a deacon?

6) **The Widow’s Children.** Read 1 Timothy 5:3-16 about the widow indeed. Verse 4 says, “But if any widow have **children** or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents...” If you are the only child of your mother, are you exempt from shewing piety at home? Did your mother have children? Now notice verse 10. One of the qualifications of a widow being taken into the number is, “...if she have brought up **children**...” If she brought up you, did she bring up children? If a man is disqualified from being an elder because he has one child, then a woman must be excluded from being taken into the number on the same basis, right?

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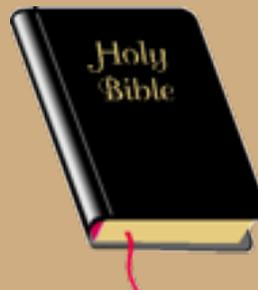
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