

REASONS

Solar Eclipse 2024

by Jeff Zweerink (*RTB Staff Scholar*)



In August 2017, my family and I watched the intense light from the Sun peek around the dark disk of the Moon. As the sky grew lighter in the waning solar eclipse, I turned to my wife and declared, “I can’t wait to see this again in 2024!”

Think about what it takes for a solar eclipse to occur: The Sun’s radius is about 400 times larger than the Moon’s! How could the relatively tiny Moon possibly block out the light from the enormous Sun? Well, the Moon is about 400 times closer to Earth than the Sun is. As a result, the Sun and Moon appear roughly the same size in the sky. Want to check for yourself? Extend your arm, hold up your thumb, and you’ll find that your thumb covers either of them. But be careful doing this with the Sun!

Solar eclipses are not just stunning visual spectacles, they also reveal God’s reliability. By studying past eclipses, scientists discovered helium; observed storms on the Sun that ejected huge amounts of hot, ionized gas; and confirmed important predictions of Einstein’s theory of general relativity. As we apply general relativity to our universe, we find strong evidence that our universe began to exist, just as the Bible stated, thousands of years ago.

This April, RTB hosted an unforgettable eclipse event in Burnet, Texas—right in the path of totality. Attendees enjoyed outdoor activities as well as presentations and engagement with staff scholars Hugh Ross, Jeff Zweerink, and George Haraksin, and Scholar Community members Leslie Wickman and David Block. The highlight of the event was witnessing the total eclipse. It was truly a wonder to see.

We put together a video so you can see some of the highlights of this awe-inspiring event. I encourage you to take a look.



Does God Really Hear My Prayers?

by Maureen Moser (RTB Staff Member)



Amid the many voices that supplicate him daily, how does God hear an individual person's concerns?

The 2003 comedy *Bruce Almighty* tackles this question in a funny scene. Having been temporarily granted God's power, Bruce (Jim Carrey) grapples with the enormous task of addressing humanity's prayers. He tries organizing the prayers into file boxes, sticky notes, and even emails—but still the flood of prayers overwhelms him. Finally, the impatient Bruce settles on replying, “Yes,” to all requests at once, which (as you can imagine) produces negative results.

The scene touches on the profound differences between limited humans and our limitless Creator. Answering prayers requires perfect wisdom, knowledge, power, and love. It also requires the ability to hear and respond to myriad petitions simultaneously.

In his book *Beyond the Cosmos*, Hugh Ross ponders God's supernatural abilities through a scientific lens. As Hugh explains, humans are constrained to “a single, unidirectional, unstoppable timeline,” which forces us “to communicate with other individuals (or groups) sequentially.” God operates outside of this

constraint. Hugh posits that God could extend a timeline perpendicular to ours, thus allowing God to give undivided attention to multiple prayers at once.

Not only is God capable of hearing all prayers, but he also cares deeply for the needs and concerns of his children (1 Peter 5:7). *Bruce Almighty* represents prayers as objects that can be, and often are, ignored (think of all your unread emails). Scripture reveals that the prayers of God's people are kept ever present in his throne room as incense in golden bowls (Revelation 5:8; 8:3–4).

When you “present your requests to God” (Philippians 4:4–7), no matter how big or small, you can rest assured that God does hear you and chooses to give you, his precious child, his caring attention.



PAKISTAN

UGANDA

Prayer Request

At RTB, we're amazed by how God spreads our resources around the world. Ken Samples shared with our staff recently about the global impact his books have had.

Christians in Pakistan meet regularly to study about the Trinity using the Urdu translation of Ken's book *Without a Doubt*. Pakistan is 97% Muslim, so Christian resources in Urdu are very limited. And the president of Apologetics Uganda recently quoted Ken's book *7 Truths That Changed the World* in his worldview lecture to leaders from a dozen Southern African countries.

As Maureen expressed in her article, praying holds immense power. We ask that you pray for the people in Pakistan reading about God and for the leaders sharing the gospel around the world. Pray for safety, peace, and courage as they step out in faith and for more doors to open, so that each soul can hear about God's love for them.

Lights in the Sky . . . Back in Print!

by Haley Ulbrich (RTB Staff Member)



We're pleased to announce that one of our classic titles is hot off the presses and back in print! *Lights in the Sky and Little Green Men* by Hugh Ross, Kenneth Samples, and Mark Clark originally published in 2002. This book has been out of print for several years, but thanks to a partnership with our friends at *The John Ankerberg Show*, the original edition is back in print.

Little did we know that this book would have such a lasting impact more than twenty years after its initial publication! Here are just a few examples of what readers have to say about this popular title:

"Lights in the Sky and Little Green Men . . . presents the case for UFOs to be viewed as nothing more than any other of the machinations of the dark side, in a way that would sustain the interest of scientists and laymen alike."

—Angela

"I've had this book for only a few weeks now and it's one of those publications you just can't put down. I have only one chapter left to go, and I've enjoyed reading this immensely. This is a very informative and well-set-out publication. The book is an easy read with a thorough study into the UFO subject."

—Roland

"Amazing! I've never had a more complete and satisfying education on any subject as the one laid out in this marvelous book. The sciences, though extremely complex, are simplified for the average reader without abandoning what's needed to explain the concepts undertaken. I am in awe!"

—Quinn

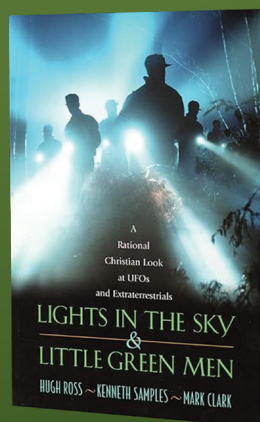
We're blessed to hear how this book continues to inform and encourage readers. Be sure to grab your copy of *Lights in the Sky and Little Green Men* while they last!

Connect with us on social media at @RTB_Official



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