

**Revelation 18:2** - And the angel having great authority [ the King of Arms of the Angelic College of Heralds (v. 1) ] cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great [ Rome as headquarters of ecumenical religion ]! She has become a dwelling place of demons [ fallen angels ] and a prison [ φυλακή (*phulaké*): “prison”<sup>1</sup> ] of every unclean spirit [ demons ], and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird [ “unclean” refers to birds identified by the Mosaic Law as such; “hateful” denotes vultures that will soon feast on human carrion ].

28. We will come back to the word *phulaké* later to note an interesting concept it reveals in this verse.
29. Back in our passage, celestial phenomena occur which introduce the last two warnings that herald the Second Advent of Messiah:

**Acts 2:20** - ‘The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord shall come.’

1. Several problems emerge in this verse on how to translate it. In concert with other verses on the same subject, it appears to be taken literally, e.g., Isaiah 13:9–10; Ezekiel 32:7–8; Joel 2:10–11; Amos 5:18, Zechariah 14:6, cf. Joel 2:31 and Acts 2:20.
2. However, the sun cannot be darkened while at the same time the moon in eclipse appears with a reddish hue, a phenomenon referred to as a “blood moon.”

The puzzle of why the sky looks blue and a totally eclipsed Moon turns red is the Earth's atmosphere. The atmosphere is about 300 miles thick and is made up of different gases, water droplets and dust particles. When sunlight entering the Earth's atmosphere strikes the particles (they) get scattered. Colors with longer wavelengths like red and orange get refracted back to the surface of the moon and give it the reddish-orange glow.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> “In the New Testament figuratively of Babylon as the dwelling place, station, haunt of demons and unclean birds where they resort to holding their vigils (Revelation 18:2). Of a place where someone is watched, guarded, kept in custody, a prison (Spiros Zodhiates, ed., “φυλακή,” in *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, rev. ed. [Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 1993], 1456).

<sup>2</sup> “Why Does the Moon Turn Red During a Lunar Eclipse?” <http://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/why-does-moon-look-red-lunar-eclipse.html>. Copyright © Time and Date.com 1995–2015. All rights reserved.

3. So, obviously, this is not a “blood moon” but a moon that is given its reddish color when the sun, which is darkened, combines with atmospheric pollution to diminish its clarity.
4. Imagine the types of ordinance that will be available during the final days of the Tribulation. A world under the control of Lucifer who indwells the Beast-Dictator, world leaders under ingrained demonic influence, and armies converging on the Levant for the purpose of wiping out the Jewish people.
5. The effects of exploding ordinance, the kinds that First- and even Second-World nations presently possess, will cause tremendous darkening effects on the atmosphere of the region.
6. The sun will not be darkened in other areas of the world so its rays, projecting through the atmosphere, will imitate a blood moon, while in the area of Israel sunlight is diminished by the pollution.
7. Devastation and death will be widespread throughout the Levant, but all these things will occur “before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.”
8. The “day of the Lord” is a term assigned to the Second Advent of Christ which terminates Daniel’s seventieth heptad.
9. The events described in Acts 2:19–20<sup>a</sup> and Joel 2:30–31<sup>a</sup> occur before “the great and glorious day of the Lord shall come.”
10. This means that the atmospheric events described above are caused by pollution’s dramatic effects on the earth’s atmosphere. They are not the same as the supernatural events that commence in association with the Second Advent.
11. On the day of the Second Advent, there will be supernatural darkness for twenty-four hours over the entire world. No light will penetrate this darkness

12. This cover of darkness will bring the amassed armies to a halt and disrupt their attack on Israel. Several passages of Scripture describe this event.

**Zechariah 14:4** - In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half shall move toward the south.

**v. 6** - In that day there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle.

**v. 7** - For it will be a unique day which is known to the Lord, neither day nor night, but at evening time there will be light.

**Isaiah 13:9** - 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.

**v. 10** - For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not flash forth their light; the sun will be dark when it rises and the moon will not shed its light.

**Amos 5:18** - Alas, you who are longing for the day of the Lord, for what purpose will the day of the Lord be to you?

**v. 19** - As when a man flees from a lion and a bear meets him, or goes home and leans his hand against the wall and a snake bites him.

**v. 20** - Will not the day of the Lord be darkness instead of light, even gloom with no brightness in it?

**Joel 3:15** - The sun and moon grow dark and the stars lose their brightness.

**v. 16** - The Lord roars from Zion and utters His voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth tremble. But the Lord is a refuge for His people and a stronghold to the sons of Israel.

13. Prior to these events, the “last days” of the Great Tribulation are awash in vast military operations in a death struggle for dominance over the Levant.