

Blood moon to appear midnight April 15

Whether you are the occasional nightly sky observer or an astronomer by profession, the blood moon, set to appear just north of midnight on April 15, will be reason enough to pause and look up.

On Tuesday, there will be a total eclipse of the moon which will cause it to appear bright red. President of the Astronomical Association of Jamaica (AAJ), Errol Rickman said that the blood moon is a shading of the moon in an eclipse which causes it to appear red. "This is due to the reflection of light from the Earth. In an eclipse, the moon is in the total shadow of Earth and would be totally black were it not for this reflected light." Rickman explained. There are some Christians, however, who attach even more significance to the occurrence as several believe there is an association between the lunar eclipse dubbed the blood moon and the end of times or coming of God. Two Bible passages are known to make references to a 'moon like blood'. In Joel 2 verse 31, it says: "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come." It also states in Revelation 6 verse 12: "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood." Pastor Donahue Collash of the Galilee Gospel Hall in Kingston said, "I'm not so perturbed about the lunar eclipse or any such thing." He further explained; "My understanding of the scripture is that there is no more sign to look for to usher in the end of times. From my point of view, the church age will come with what is known as the rapture. After the church is raptured, there are going to be a number of things happening, but those things will not come to pass until first the church is raptured." He added that he is not of the opinion that the blood moon phenomenon has any association to the aforementioned biblical references.

Source: Jamaia Star