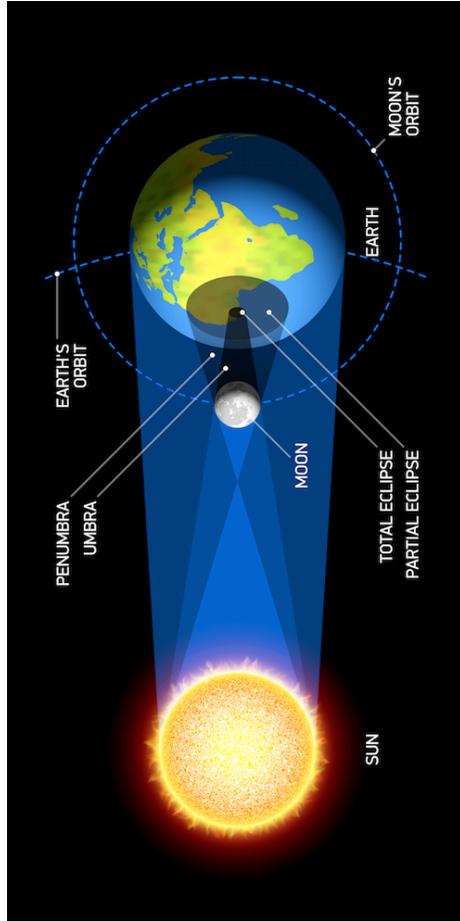


Living In Spiritually Dark Times ...

"Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

(2 Cor. 4:1-6)



Could we be
experiencing
a "Spiritual
Eclipse"?

"Darkness Surrounds Us ... Shine, Church, Shine!"

1 Kings 15:25 - 17:1

Critical Concept: God's "called out people," the true church of Jesus Christ, must continue to shine forth the rule of God in their lives despite the overwhelming spiritual darkness that surrounds them.

I. Israel's Kings: *Increasing Evil & Godlessness.*

A. Remembering the rejection.

B. From Nadab to Ahab ... outdoing each other's rejection.

II. Israel's God: *Yahweh is Still God in Israel.*

A. An important observation ... *"the God of Israel"*

B. An important exhortation ... *there were still Godly people in Israel.*

III. A Contemporary Call for the Rule of God.

> Evaluate your personal submission to the rule of God in your life.

> Commit yourself to shining forth a life yielded to the rule of God.

What is God Saying to Me? (Personal Application)