



“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world,When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” (Luke 21:25-26 & 28 NLT)

There is much excitement about the coming of the total eclipse which will be visible in our area on August 21st, 2017. So you might be “looking to the skies” for more than just an opportunity to have a mid-day twilight experience, and asking yourself, “Is this one of the “signs in the sky” that was predicted concerning the last days before Christ returns?” Only the Father knows the future, therefore you should put your anxiety aside, plan to “enjoy the moment” and trust that the Lord’s timing is perfect. – As stated in scripture, “No one knows about that day or hour ... but only the Father.” (Matthew 24:36 NLT),

The last time an eclipse traversed the entire American continent was 99 years ago, and it was 1869 when Missouri (and therefore our area) experienced a total solar eclipse. The path of this eclipse will track across Nebraska, the Northeast corner of Kansas, then Missouri from the Northwest edge, Southeastward across the State into Southern Illinois and the Western tip of Kentucky. The longest duration and totality of the eclipse will be in a direct line across Missouri. To celebrate this, dozens of locations are having special events to commemorate the occasion, including Concerts, Fairs, etc. and a lot of folks are planning where they want to be when it happens.

If you are one of those people who are making plans for this “once in a lifetime” experience, there are a few tips you should think about.

1. DO NOT look directly at the sun, even when it reaches “total eclipse” stage which will be between 1:08 and 1:11 PM (for about 2 ½ minutes) here in the Kansas City area. We are at the edge of the path that the sun will traverse so there will be a small portion of the corona that will not be 100% covered by the moon.
2. There are special glasses that are available in a number of places, including some viewing locations, some stores, and, of course, the internet.
3. You can make a “pinhole” device. While you won’t be able to see the sun directly, you can watch the moon’s shadow as it comes across the surface of the sun from beginning to end. There are instructions on how to do this on the website:
americaneclipse.org/how-to-watch-the-eclipse

This particular website seemed to have the broadest amount of information, however if you type – solareclipse2017 – in your search window, you will find a number of sites to explore.

Johnson County Parks and Recreation has designated at least 4 areas where events will be held:

- Antioch Park, 6501 Antioch Road, Merriam
- Heritage Park, 16050 Pflumm Road, Olathe
- The Theater in the Park, 7710 Renner Road, Shawnee, in Shawnee Mission Park
- Ernie Miller Nature Center, 909 N. K-7 Hwy, Olathe.

Contact Parks and Recreation regarding any of these events as a small fee may be required. Also, check with local colleges as they may also be planning to have programs associated with the event.

We have been given this opportunity to enjoy something special that should remind us to give thanks for our God who made the earth, moon, and stars and controls their very movements in the wide heavens.

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