

AUGUST 21, 2017, TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE THE LORD GOD DISPLAYS HIS GLORY

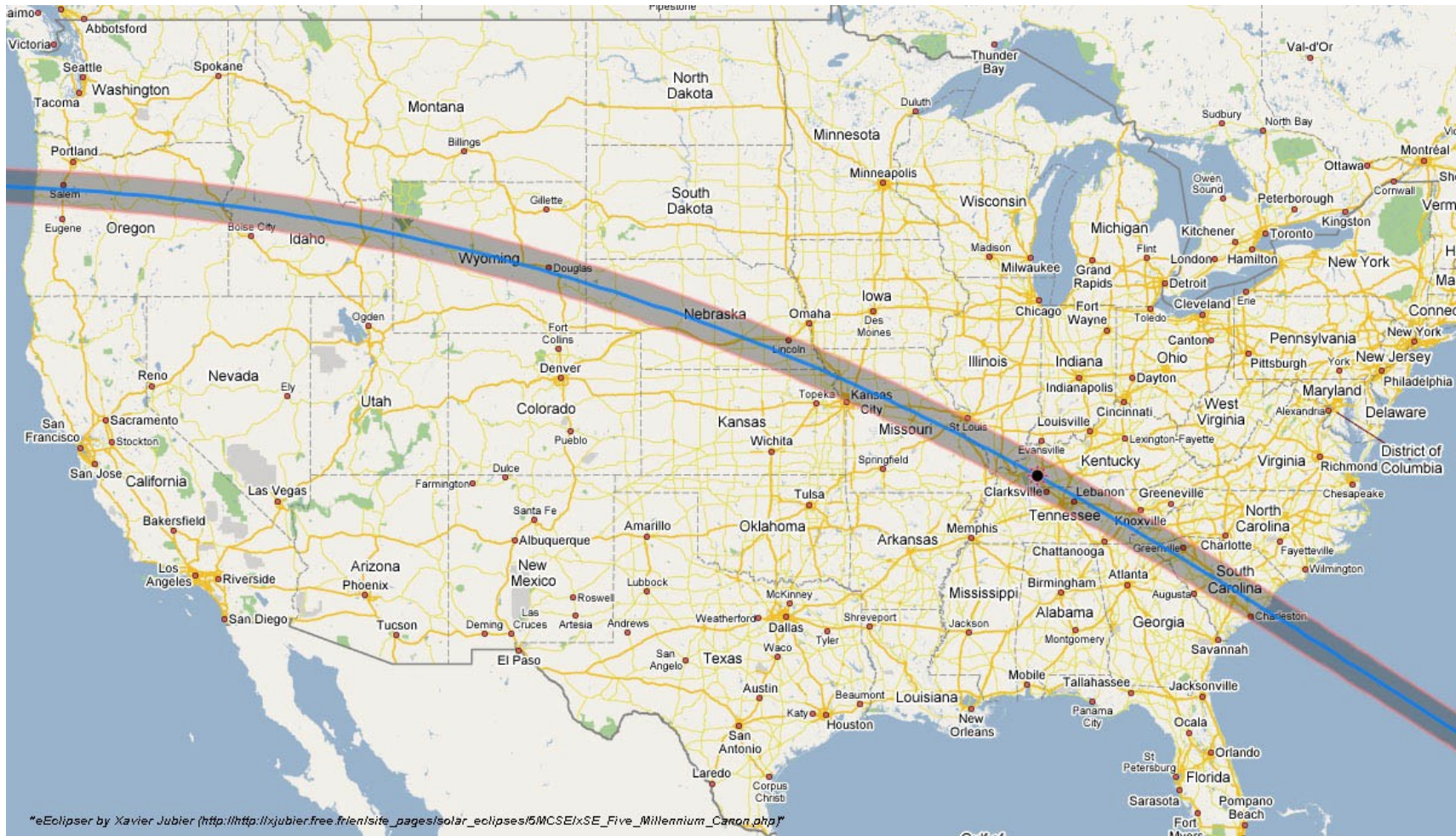
by Ken Wright

The date was August 21, 2017. A total eclipse of the Sun was to occur across the United States from Oregon to South Carolina. The path of totality passed through Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina (refer to Figure “August 21, 2017, Path of Solar Eclipse Totality across the United States” on Page 2). The interesting fact about the path of the Solar Eclipse Totality is that it was to pass over five state capitals: Salem, Oregon; Lincoln, Nebraska; Jefferson City, Missouri; Nashville, Tennessee; and Columbia, South Carolina.

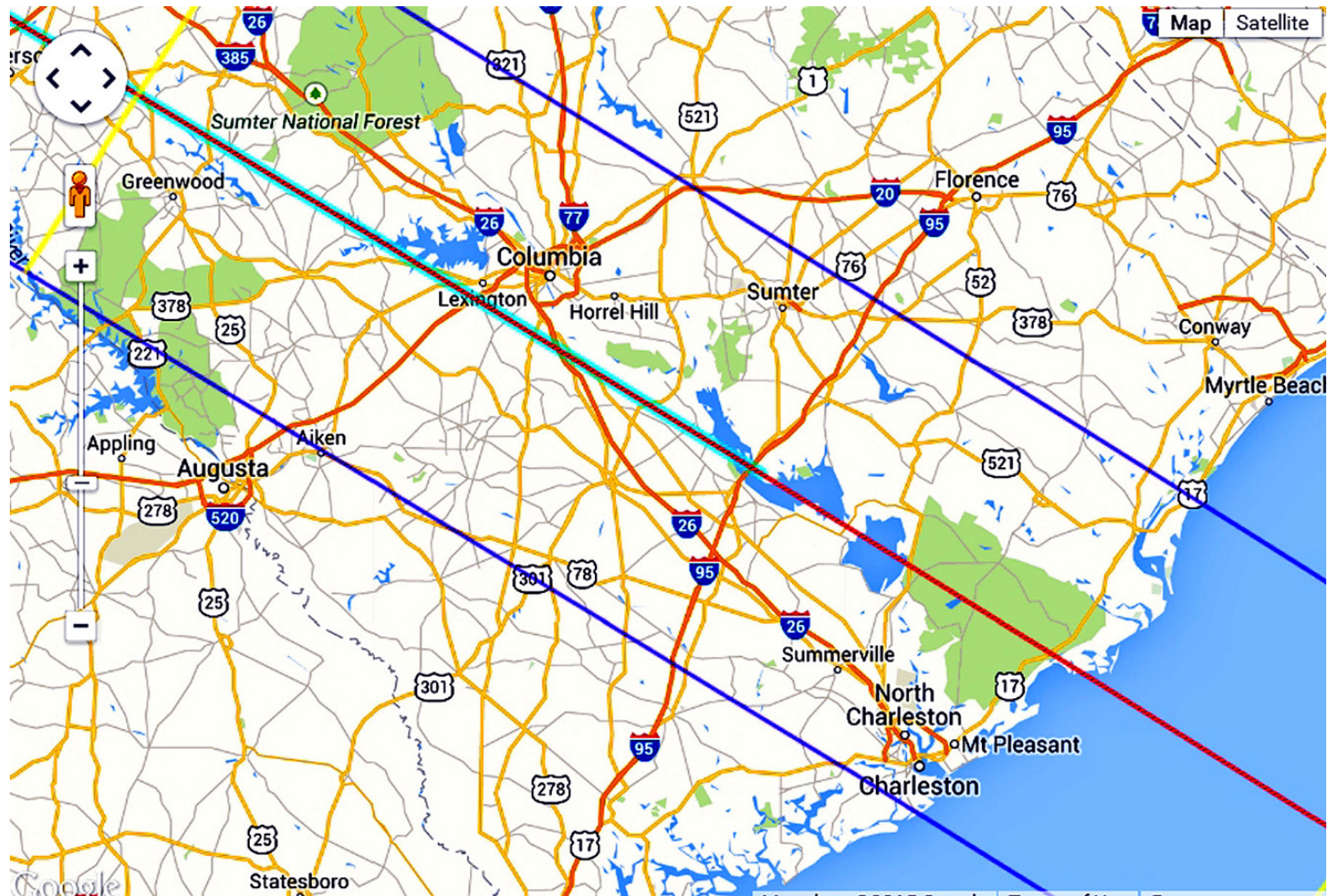
I live in Fort Mill, South Carolina, about 70 miles north from dead center of the Lunar Umbra Band where the Total Solar Eclipse would take place. Fort Mill is a suburb of Charlotte, North Carolina, and is just south of the North Carolina – South Carolina State Line. Lexington, South Carolina, is a suburb of Columbia, South Carolina, located to the west of Columbia along Interstate Highway 20. The center of town of Lexington, South Carolina, was located very close to dead center of the Lunar Umbra Band (refer to Figure “August 21, 2017, Path of Solar Eclipse Totality Across South Carolina” on Page 3).

My wife, Lee Ann, and I left Fort Mill at 0645 (6:45am) Eastern Daylight Time on August 21, 2017, to drive to Lexington, South Carolina. The Total Solar Eclipse would take place in Columbia, South Carolina, at 1441 (2:41pm) Eastern Daylight Time. We had left early to get to Lexington, South Carolina, in the morning to avoid traffic jams and be able to scope out the area where we could park and observe the Solar Eclipse. Lexington, South Carolina, was about 86 miles from our home. It took us about 90 minutes to drive from Fort Mill to Lexington. The sky was clear with only about 10% cloud cover so it looked like we would have good viewing of the eclipse. We drove around the town for about 15 to 30 minutes and found a Walmart Superstore with large parking lot. The Walmart parking lot would be perfect for Solar Eclipse observation. We looked for a place to eat breakfast. Lee Ann looked up a restaurant named “Eggs Up Grill”

August 21, 2017, Path of Solar Eclipse Totality Across the United States



August 21, 2017, Path of Solar Eclipse Totality Across South Carolina Columbia to Charleston



located at 205 Columbia Avenue in Lexington. Lee Ann ordered a home fried egg plate and I ordered a Philly cheese steak egg wrap breakfast. The breakfast was absolutely delicious and the service personnel at Eggs Up Grill were just awesome. After breakfast, we drove to the Walmart parking lot and got settled.

The parking lot worked out great because the Walmart has restroom facilities and the building is air conditioned if we needed to get cooled off. The day was hot and humid with the temperature over 90°F. There were several places in the shopping center where we can get food if we needed to. We would have to kill about 3½ hours of time before the Solar Eclipse would begin. The Solar Eclipse was to begin about 1310 (1:10 pm) Eastern Daylight Time. As the Moon began to eclipse the Sun, the temperature started to drop. Clouds began to form in the sky. This is an expected response because the humid air has less capacity to hold water vapor. When the temperature of the air drops enough for the humidity to reach 100%, then vapor will condense and rain can result. As the Moon blocks out more of the Sun as it moves toward the position to result in the Total Solar Eclipse, the temperature continues to drop. By 1415 (2:15pm) Eastern Daylight Time, the cloud cover had rose to about 75%. The Sun was now over 90% blocked by the Moon. Totality was to occur in about 10 more minutes. Lee Ann took a photo of me observing the Solar eclipse in the Walmart parking lot in Lexington (refer to Figure “Ken Wright in Lexington SC Walmart Parking Lot Observing Solar Eclipse” on Page 5). Note from the photograph that the illumination indicates an overcast day. Lee Ann said to me she was disappointed she rode down with me because she said she would have seen more in Fort Mill. I looked at her and shook my head. I made it clear to her that we could never see in Fort Mill the event that we hoped to see in Lexington. I don’t care if a Solar Eclipse is 25%, 50%, 75% or 99.9%. Anything less than 100% Solar Eclipse is still a Partial Solar Eclipse. Partial Solar Eclipses are a dime a dozen. The maximum Solar coverage by the Moon in Fort Mill was only going to be 99.8%, therefore, it was only going to be a Partial Solar Eclipse. Seeing a Total Solar Eclipse is an event of a lifetime to observe. If we cannot see the Total Solar Eclipse because of clouds or bad weather, that is just bad luck.

When the Total Eclipse of the Sun occurs, temperature would be expected to drop even more due to the absence of Solar heat and more clouds and vapor condensation in the atmosphere would be

Ken Wright in Lexington SC Walmart Parking Lot Observing Solar Eclipse



Total Solar Eclipse Photographed from Ken Wright's Digital Camera



Enhanced Photo of Total Solar Eclipse – Earthshine on Moon



expected to occur essentially eliminating any chance to observe the Total Solar Eclipse. With less than 10 minutes to the start of the Total Eclipse of the Sun, it looked like we were going to miss this spectacular event. I prayed to the Lord God and asked Him to remove the clouds so I could witness His Glory by observing the Total Eclipse of the Sun. I said to the Lord God that this may be my only chance in this lifetime to witness this event. The Lord God provided the miracle for us. Contrary to the laws of chemistry and physics, the clouds all disappeared.

Totality began and the sky darkened to a deep blue appearance. The corona around the Sun could be seen outside the Moon's near black image (refer to Figure "Total Solar Eclipse Photographed from Ken Wright's Digital Camera" on Page 6). My digital camera image doesn't even do justice to what we could actually see. Notice the star visible to the upper left of the Sun and Moon. Venus could be seen 20 degrees to the right of the Sun and Moon and Jupiter could be seen 20 degrees to the left of the Sun and Moon. A ring of red sky could be seen at the horizon for the full 360 degrees of the horizon. The view was absolutely awesome. God let us see His Awesome Glory through His Creation of the Earth, Moon, and Sun with the witness of this Total Solar Eclipse. I Thank You Lord God.

One could actually observe the lighter and darker patterns on the Moon facing the Earth due to Earth shine illuminating the Moon (refer to "Enhanced Photo of Total Solar Eclipse – Earthshine on Moon" on Page 7).

Having the opportunity to observe this wonderful celestial event demonstrates what an awesome and wonderful God we have. I hope those that anyone reading this story will be inspired and moved to learning more about our Lord Jesus Christ by getting into the Word of God.