

# Signs of the Messiah: An Introduction

(Various Texts)

## *Give Me a Sign!*

- Have you ever asked God for a sign?
- If so, did He give you one?
  - What was it and how did it help you?
- Maybe you don't look for signs (1 Cor. 1:22)
- Throughout Scripture, God used signs as a means of communicating truths to people
  - Gideon asked for a sign of God's deliverance through his hand (Jdg. 6:36-40)
  - Hezekiah asked for a sign of God's healing (2 Kgs 20:8-11)
  - Moses performed signs showing God's power (Ex. 7:3)
  - The Prophets acted out signs to illustrate messages of judgment and mercy
    - Isaiah went around in his underwear to convey God's imminent judgment of Israel (Isa. 20)
    - Jeremiah uses various sign acts as teaching tools (Jer. 13:1-11; 16:1-4; 18:2-11; 19; 32:11-15)
    - Ezekiel also was called to enact signs as a way of portending Jerusalem's siege (Ez. 4)
- The overwhelming purpose of signs is to point people to the truth
  - Whether it be a teaching aide, miraculous occurrence, or foretelling an event
- And the result *should* lead to greater faith in God
  - Though this is not always the case

## *Jesus, the Sign-Giver*

- In the Gospels, Jesus is often asked to perform signs as proof of His claims
  - Though, this often was not due to their desire to trust Jesus, but rather as a means of trying to discredit Him (Matt.16:1-4)
- Jesus performed signs as proof of His claims
  - Like the Prophets, He used them as teaching tools to point people to the truth
  - And like Moses, He used them to display the power of God at work in Him
    - To bring about deliverance, healing, and even warn of judgment

## *John's Purpose*

- Jesus' use of signs is displayed the most clearly in the Gospel of John
- This is so central that the Jesus is not described as performing miracles in John
  - Rather, He gives the people signs (see John 2:11, 18, 23; 3:2; 4:48, 54; 6:2, 14, 26, 30; 7:31; 9:16; 10:41; 11:47; 12:18, 37; 20:30)
- John even states that his purpose in writing his Gospel is present Jesus' Messianic claims (John 20:30-31)
  - Using signs as evidential proof
- John makes it clear that it believe/faith in Jesus as Messiah that gives eternal life
  - His Gospel was written to show us that truth in the person and work of Jesus

## **Our Purpose**

- We will spend the next few months looking at the 7 signs that John lays out for the identity of Jesus
  - Water to Wine
  - Clearing the Temple
  - Healing the Official's Son
  - Healing the Lame Man
  - Feeding the 5,000
  - Healing the Blind Man
  - Raising Lazarus
- John tells us these signs help our faith (John 20:31)
  - “Start believing” or “Continue believing”?
    - Real faith must be enduring faith
- And we will wrestle with Jesus’ claim about our use of signs (John 14:12)

## ***So What?***

- Are we looking at the evidence of who Jesus is?
- Is it leading us to a deeper, enduring faith in Him?

**Meditation Verse:** *John 20:31*