



Purpose of the Signs

Jn. 5-11

- 1. As we enter into Jn. 5-11 we have to have a good grounding in the following things:
 - a. The purpose of Christ's 1st Coming to call out the Believing Remnant of Israel out of the apostate nation to prepare them for ministry after Jesus leaves, and especially through the Tribulation Period and into the Kingdom.
 - b. The purpose of the signs.

- 2. Signs in John 1-4:
 - a. Most acknowledge 2 signs:
 - 1. Water turned to Wine, resulted in believing (Jn. 2:1-11).
 - 2. Healing of Nobleman's Son, resulted in believing (Jn. 4:46-54).
 - b. Some add:
 - 3. Cleansing of the Temple—did not result in belief (2:13-21).
 - c. Still others would broaden to include anything that "POINTS" to Christ—that is, after all, the definition of a "sign."
 - 4. Knowing Nathaniel's past, resulting in believing (Jn. 1:48-49).
 - 5. Lifting up of Christ--Explanation of "signs" that leads to believing (Jn. 3:14).

- 6. Knowing Samaritan's Woman's past, resulted in believing (Jn. 4:29).
- 7. The coming Samaritans to Jesus based on testimony of the sign from the Woman, resulting in believing (Jn. 4:35).

- 3. Remember that one of Christ's main purposes at His 1st Coming was to call out those who already believed in God, those who already belonged to the Father, out of the apostate (unbelieving) nation, so that He could hand them over to the Son to prepare and train them for ministry after He leaves, through the Tribulation and for entrance into the Kingdom (Mat. 21:43).
 - --In other words who had already received personal and individual salvation—justification before God and His Tribunal by faith without works unto eternal life...
 - --Were now invited to participate in Israel's national salvation
 —justification before Christ at His 2nd Coming by faith plus
 works unto the enjoying eternal life in the everlasting Kingdom.

- 4. Those who already believed in God recognized the words and works of the Father in the Son and received Him by believing.
 - --Those who had rejected God and His Word, would likewise reject Jesus's words and works in unbelief.
 - --But those who had believed God would have recognized the Father in the Son for the Son spoke the words and did the deeds of the Father.

- 5. So, let's establish why, exactly, God gave Israel "signs?"
 - a. God gave signs to His Nation of Israel in response to Moses statement: They will not believe me—who I am and what I say. They will say the LORD hasn't appeared to you! (Ex. 4:1-9).
 - b. The signs weren't given to Israel to generate belief *in God* (that is assumed!).
 - --They were given to generate belief <u>in Moses being God's</u>

 <u>appointed and true worker and spokesman</u>, which would lead them to follow God by following Moses to national redemption, deliverance and salvation into Promised Land.
 - --When Moses held up the rod (like a sign), God parted the sea, brought water from a rock and conquered enemy armies, they were to believe in Moses as God's sent one and spokesman, who will lead them safely into the Promised Land.

- 6. When Moses promised the ultimate Prophet from God (Deut. 18:15; Jn. 1:21; 4:19, 25), he also gives the requirements of a true prophet:
 - a. The true prophet speaks the words of the LORD in the Name of the LORD, and they will come true.
 - --If they don't, they are false prophets—don't be afraid of them and put them to death (Deut. 18:20-22).

- b. Just providing a sign that comes to pass, however, doesn't mean it is of the LORD and doesn't guarantee it to be of the truth (Deut. 13:1-5).
 - --It must also be in accord with the ultimate standard: God's Word. When those who believe God's Word see a prophetic sign that is in accord with that Word, it strengthens and encourages faith and leads them to the LORD (Ex. 19:4).
 - --It will only be seen by those who believe God's Word, who are already the children of God, who have eyes to see His things.

- c. In short, the signs were especially for those who already believed in God. They were given so that those who believed in the Father would believe, receive and follow His Son. The power Jesus Christ displayed came from God because He is God! The power of the Triune Godhead worked through this Man, who is the God-Man.
 - --Just as Moses was God's sent one to provide for Israel's national salvation via the Exodus and into the Promised Land,
 - --So too, Jesus was God's GREATER Sent One to provide for Israel's full national salvation through the greater Exodus out of the Egypt of the world in the Tribulation Period and into the long-prophesied Kingdom.