



The Seven Signs

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Overview

The "seven signs" in the Gospel of John are miraculous acts performed by Jesus that reveal His divine identity and mission. These signs are unique to John's Gospel, as he organizes them to demonstrate Jesus as the Son of God and the Messiah, inviting belief in Him (John 20:30-31). Here are the seven signs:

1. Turning Water into Wine at Cana (John 2:1-11)

- **Event:** At a wedding in Cana, Jesus transforms water in stone jars into high-quality wine.
- **Significance:** This first sign reveals Jesus' divine authority and foreshadows the new covenant of grace and abundance in His ministry.

2. Healing the Royal Official's Son (John 4:46-54)

- **Event:** Jesus heals a royal official's son in Capernaum without being physically present, simply by speaking the word.
- **Significance:** This sign demonstrates Jesus' power over illness and the efficacy of faith in His word, even at a distance.

3. Healing the Paralyzed Man at Bethesda (John 5:1-15)

- **Event:** At the pool of Bethesda, Jesus heals a man who had been paralyzed for 38 years.



- **Significance:** This miracle shows Jesus' power to restore life and health, even when human efforts are futile, and points to His authority over the Sabbath.

4. Feeding the 5,000 (John 6:1-14)

- **Event:** Jesus multiplies five loaves of bread and two fish to feed a massive crowd.
- **Significance:** This sign illustrates Jesus as the Bread of Life, providing both physical sustenance and spiritual nourishment.

5. Walking on Water (John 6:16-21)

- **Event:** Jesus walks on the Sea of Galilee during a storm and calms His disciples' fears.
- **Significance:** This act reveals Jesus' authority over nature, demonstrating that He is the Lord of creation.

6. Healing the Man Born Blind (John 9:1-12)

- **Event:** Jesus heals a man blind from birth by applying mud to his eyes and instructing him to wash in the Pool of Siloam.
- **Significance:** This miracle symbolizes spiritual enlightenment, emphasizing Jesus as the Light of the World who gives both physical and spiritual sight.

7. Raising Lazarus from the Dead (John 11:1-44)

- **Event:** Jesus brings Lazarus back to life after he had been dead for four days.
- **Significance:** This climactic sign points to Jesus' power over death and foreshadows His own resurrection, affirming that He is the Resurrection and the Life.

Theological Reflection on the Signs

Each sign is more than just a display of power; it is a revelation of who Jesus is:

1. **Water into Wine:** Reveals Jesus as the bringer of new joy and the fulfillment of the old covenant.
2. **Healing the Official's Son:** Highlights the power of faith and Jesus' authority over life.
3. **Healing the Paralyzed Man:** Demonstrates Jesus' mercy and authority over religious traditions.
4. **Feeding the 5,000:** Shows Jesus' role as the ultimate provider and sustainer.
5. **Walking on Water:** Affirms Jesus' divine sovereignty over creation.
6. **Healing the Blind Man:** Reflects Jesus' mission to bring spiritual insight.
7. **Raising Lazarus:** Declares Jesus as the conqueror of death and giver of eternal life.

John uses these signs to lead readers to believe in Jesus as the Messiah, as summarized in John 20:30-31: *"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."*