

JAMES RAFFERTY
2024
Q4
L2
SIGNS OF DIVINITY
OCT 5-11

2 —Signs of Divinity

Next week - lesson 3 - The Back Story - The Prologue

Sabbath Afternoon

Read for This Week's Study: *John 6:1–15, Isa. 53:4–6, 1 Cor. 5:7, John 6:26–36, John 9:1–41, 1 Cor. 1:26–29, John 11.*

Memory Text: “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’ ” (*John 11:25, 26, NKJV*).

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he Bible is clear that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son, one with the Father, underived and uncreated. Jesus is the One who created all that was made (*John 1:1–3*). Thus, Jesus has always existed; there never was a time when He didn't exist. Though Jesus came to this world and took upon Himself our humanity, He always kept His divinity, and at specific times Jesus said and did things that revealed this divinity. This truth was important for John, which is why, when recounting some of Jesus' miracles, John used them to point to Christ's divinity. Jesus not only said things that revealed His divinity but backed up His words with works that manifested His divinity. This week's lesson looks at three of Jesus' greatest signs of His divinity. What is striking is that in every case some people did not believe the miracle or perceive its significance. For some it was a time of turning away from Jesus; for others, a time for deepening blindness; and for others, a time to plot Jesus' death. And, for others—a time to believe that Jesus was the Messiah.

**Study this week's lesson to prepare for Sabbath, October 12.*
SE-4Q-2024, *Themes in the Gospel of John*, by E. Zinke & T. Shepherd

Lesson 2: Signs of Divinity (Sunday)

October 5-11

Sunday *October 6*

The Feeding of the Five Thousand

In John 6:4, 5, the apostle goes out of his way to state that the timing of the feeding of the five thousand was near the Passover. The Passover was a commemoration of the deliverance of Israel from Egypt. The Passover lamb took the place of the death of the firstborn. This sacrifice symbolized the death of Jesus in our behalf. On the cross, the punishment that we deserved because of our sins fell on Jesus instead. Christ, our Passover, was indeed slain for us (*1 Cor. 5:7*).

“He bore the guilt of transgression, and the hiding of His Father’s face, until His heart was broken and His life crushed out. All this sacrifice was made that sinners might be redeemed.”—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 540.

Read John 6:1–14. What parallels can be found here between Jesus and Moses? That is, what did Jesus do here that should have reminded the people of the deliverance that their ancestors had received through the ministry of Moses?

After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.

2 And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.

3 And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples.

4 And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.

5 When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

6 And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

7 Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,

9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

10 And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

11 And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

13 Therefore they gathered *them* together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

Numerous details of this story place Jesus in parallel to Moses in the Exodus. The time of the Passover (*John 6:4*) points to the great deliverance from Egypt. Jesus goes up on a mountain (*John 6:3*) as Moses went up Sinai. Jesus tests Philip (*John 6:5, 6*) as the Israelites were tested in the wilderness. The multiplication of the loaves (*John 6:11*) is reminiscent of the manna. The gathering of the leftover food (*John 6:12*) harks back to the Israelites' gathering the manna. Twelve baskets of leftovers are picked up (*John 6:13*), the same number as the twelve tribes of Israel. And the people comment that Jesus is the prophet coming into the world (*John 6:14*), parallel to the "prophet like Moses" predicted in Deuteronomy 18:15. All of this points to Jesus as the new Moses—come to deliver His people.

Thus, John is showing Jesus not only doing signs and wonders, but doing signs and wonders that, in their context, should have had special meaning for the Jewish people. He was pointing them, in essence, to His own divinity.

Read Isaiah 53:4–7 and 1 Peter 2:24. What great truth do these texts teach about Jesus as the Lamb of God? How does His divinity tie into this truth, and why is this truth the most important truth we can ever know?

"I and My Father are one" John 10:30

"SURELY HE HATH BORNE OUR GRIEFS, AND CARRIED OUR SORROWS: YET WE DID ESTEEM HIM STRICKEN, SMITTEN OF GOD, AND AFFLICTED. BUT HE WAS WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, HE WAS BRUISED FOR OUR INIQUITIES: THE CHASTISEMENT OF OUR PEACE WAS UPON HIM; AND WITH HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED. ALL WE LIKE SHEEP HAVE GONE ASTRAY; WE HAVE TURNED EVERY ONE TO HIS OWN WAY; AND THE LORD HATH LAID ON HIM THE INIQUITY OF US ALL."

ISAIAH 53:4-6 KJV

**“WHO HIS OWN SELF BARE OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BODY ON THE TREE, THAT WE, BEING DEAD TO SINS, SHOULD LIVE UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS: BY WHOSE STRIPES YE WERE HEALED.”
1 PETER 2:24 KJV**

**“CHRIST HATH REDEEMED US FROM THE CURSE OF THE LAW, BEING MADE A CURSE FOR US: FOR IT IS WRITTEN, CURSED IS EVERY ONE THAT HANGETH ON A TREE:” GALATIANS 3:13
KJV**

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