

JAMES RAFFERTY

2024

Q4

L8

Signs, Works, and Wonders

Nov. 16, 17

Lesson 8: Fulfilling Old Testament Prophecies (Sabbath)

November 16-22

Lesson 8

**November 16–22*

Fulfilling Old Testament Prophecies

Next week - Lesson 9-The Source of Life

Sabbath Afternoon

Read for This Week's Study: *John 5:17, 20, 36–40, 46, 47; John 13:18; John 17:12; Jer. 2:13; Zech. 9:9; John 8:12–30.*

Memory Text: “ ‘But I have a greater witness than John’s; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me’ ” (*John 5:36, NKJV*).

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e can see over and over in the book of John all the things that Jesus said and did which revealed that, yes, the Messiah (*hammashiach*), the Christ, had come to Israel. And He had come, in fact, as one of them, a Jew born in Bethlehem, just as the Scriptures had predicted.

Yet, as John wrote, “He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him” (*John 1:10, NKJV*).

He was in the world, the world was made through Him, *and yet the world did not know Him?* That's an amazing statement. And, as we can see in John and in the other Gospels, many people didn't know Him even though they should have, especially because of all the things that Jesus did and said.

COMBINE THIS VERSE WITH VERSE 1:

“IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD.” JOHN 1:1 KJV

WE MARVEL THAT HIS OWN DID NOT KNOW HIM-THAT IS THE JEWISH PEOPLE BUT WHAT ABOUT HIS OWN TODAY? WHO WOULD THAT BE BUT CHRISTIAN PEOPLE. AND DO THEY KNOW JESUS, THE WORD ANY MORE THAN THE JEWISH PEOPLE DID?

DO BELIEVERS TODAY KNOW JESUS, THE WORD AS LORD OF THE SABBATH- THE BIBLE SABBATH, THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH?

DO CHRISTIAN BELIEVERS TODAY KNOW JESUS THE WORD OF GOD AS THE ONLY MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MAN OR DO THEY GO TO HUMAN MEDIATORS LIKE PRIESTS, MARY AND THE SAINTS?

DO JESUS THE WORD OF GOD AS THE ONE WHO WILL RAISE THE SLEEPING SAINTS AT HIS SECOND COMING OR DO THEY BELIEVE THE DEVILS FIRST & WORST LIE TOLD US IN EDEN THAT WE DO NOT SURLEY DIE BUT THAT THE SOULS IS IMMORTAL.

AND WHEN JESUS THE WORD OF GOD SHOWS UP - DO WE BELIEVE THEN? WHAT HAPPENED WITH GODS PEOPLE IN THE PAST WHEN JESUS SHOWED UP?

“HE CAME UNTO HIS OWN, AND HIS OWN RECEIVED HIM NOT.” JOHN 1:11 KJV
REV 3:20- STANDING AT OUR DOOR - WILL WE RECEIVE THE WORD

SO NOW WE MAY HAVE BEEN IGNORANT ABOUT THE WORD. WE MAY HAVE BEEN MISLED BY THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF OUR TIME BUT WHEN JESUS THE WORD OF GOD SHOWS UP WHAT THEN? DO BELIEVERS TODAY ACCEPT JESUS THE WORD OF GOD WHEN HE SHOWS UP? SURE, THEY MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN JESUS THE WORD OF GOD BUT WHEN HE SHOWS UP, WHEN THEY DO KNOW AND SEE FOR THEMSELVES, SURELY THEN THEY WILL BELIEVE?

And, even more so, because the Old Testament scriptures pointed to Him.

This week we will look at more ways John revealed Jesus as the Messiah, and also, we will look at why some people still continued to reject Him—despite all the powerful reasons affirming Him as the Christ.

What can we learn from their mistakes?

**Study this week's lesson to prepare for Sabbath, November 23.*

Lesson 8: Fulfilling Old Testament Prophecies (Monday)

November 16-22

Sunday*November 17*

Signs, Works, and Wonders

In addition to the specific miracles that John used to point to Jesus as the Messiah, he also recorded the broader discussion about the signs, works, and wonders that Jesus did.

The signs and wonders, in and of themselves, were not proof of His Messiahship, because many prophets, sometimes false ones, also performed miracles. John did not record the signs because they pointed to a great miracle worker only. The signs that John wrote about had the unique character of pointing to Jesus as the Messiah and to show that He, indeed, came from God the Father Himself.

Read John 5:17, 20, 36–38. How do these verses describe the relationship between Jesus and God the Father, especially in the context of the signs?

“But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.” John 5:17 KJV

“For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth Him all things that Himself doeth: and He will shew Him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.” John 5:20 KJV

“But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given Me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of Me, that the Father hath sent Me. And the Father Himself, which hath sent Me, hath borne witness of Me. Ye have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His shape. And ye have not His word abiding in you: for whom He hath sent, Him ye believe not.” John 5:36-38 KJV

Jesus used the signs to show His close working relationship with the Father. The two were one. The works showed that “ ‘the Father is in Me, and I in Him’ ” (*John 10:38, NKJV; see also John 14:10, 11.*)

The purpose of Jesus’ coming was to do the works of the One who sent Him, in order that these works might be made manifest to the world. That is, He came to do the work that the Father sent Him to do, and the works that He did testified, clearly, that He was from the Father.

And yet, as we have already seen, even despite the powerful signs and the testimonies from many people, people still chose not to believe.

The religious leaders asked Jesus, “ ‘How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.’ Jesus answered them, ‘I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me’ ” (*John 10:24, 25, NKJV*).

If Jesus had come right out and said He was the Messiah, the religious leaders—looking for anything they could find against Him—would have pounced on Him. Knowing this, Jesus

instead pointed to the works He had done. If Jesus had said He was the Christ, they could easily seek to deny that. But how could they deny the signs, the works, and the wonders? These were powerful testimonies to who He was and where He had come from.

How can we protect ourselves from having the kind of hard hearts we see among these religious leaders? In what ways might we be fighting against the work of God in our own lives?

SE-4Q-2024, *Themes in the Gospel of John*, by E. Zinke & T. Shepherd