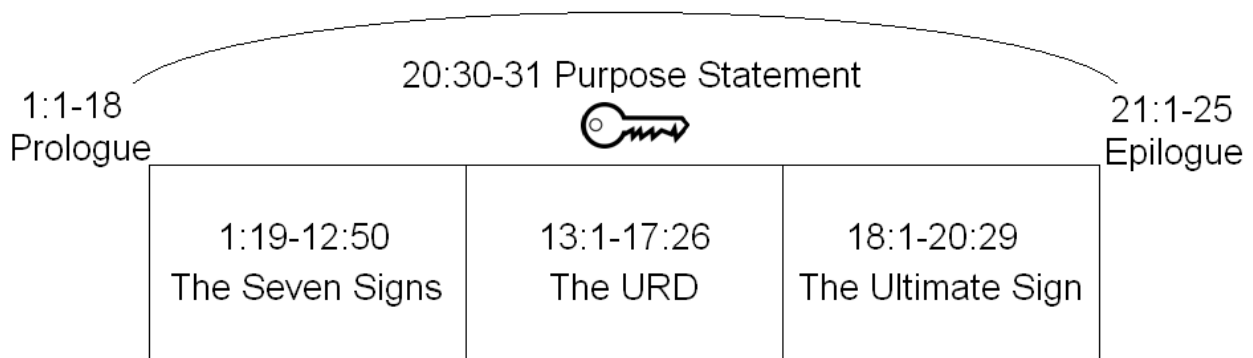


The Seven Signs of the Gospel of John

Sign #4: Jesus the Water-Walker

John 6:16-40



Q: What are “Signs” in the Gospel of John?

A1: The meaning of the original Greek word (σημειον):

Signs are miracles with a message: think signposts/spotlights; in his Gospel, the Apostle John selected seven specific miracles to confirm who Jesus is and what He taught.

A2: The purpose statement of the book (John 20:30-31):

Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Q: What are the Seven Signs of the Gospel of John?

1. Water into wine (2:1-11)
2. Healing the Royal Official's son in Capernaum (4:46-54)
3. Healing the Paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda (5:1-15)
4. Feeding the 5000 men and their families (6:5-14)
- 5. Walking on the Sea of Galilee (6:16-40)**
6. Healing the Man Born Blind (9:1-7)
7. The Supernatural Resuscitation of Lazarus (11:1-45)

John 6:16-40

Jesus the Water Walker is the Bread of Life

A Crowd of People “Experiences Jesus”

Seeing Him Feed 5000⁺ Using Only One Boy’s Happy Meal 6:1-15

The feeding of the 5000⁺ was a spectacular miracle of creation (bread from Heaven-the Messiah from Heaven), spotlighting the omnipotence of Jesus and designed to validate that Jesus is Who He claimed to be: the Messiah of the Jews/the Savior of the World.

Sign #4: Jesus Walks on the Water of the Sea of Galilee

To Rejoin His Disciples Away from the Crowd 6:16-21

This was a sign for believers not the crowd, designed to confirm and strengthen their (and our) faith as they/we follow Him. Skeptics who insist natural laws/modern physics make this “story” impossible, miss the point...this was a unique supernatural act that cannot be explained by natural laws/modern physics and in fact transcends them.

The Crowd Misses the Meaning of Their “Experience of Jesus” and Actively Pursues Him But.....Only for More Free Food!?! 6:22-27

What one thing that makes good food even better? When somebody else pays for it! The crowd’s initial reaction to the feeding of the 5000⁺ (they wanted to take Jesus “by force to make Him King/Lord” v15) was not an expression of saving faith, but rather a desire to put Jesus on the throne as the King of a physical welfare state. This is one reason the Lord then “withdrew” to be by Himself and why He confronted them in v26 in this way: “...you seek Me, not because you saw signs (miracles that validate that I am the Issue and the Issuer of everlasting life) but because you ate free physical food (that He provided the day before when He supernaturally fed the 5000⁺ and their tummies were filled).” Their understanding and their priorities were earthbound/exclusively physical.

The Crowd's Mistake Is Used as an Opportunity for Jesus to Explain Salvation by Grace through Faith in Him in Explicit Detail 6:28-40

Question by the Crowd 1 v28

What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?

Answer by the Christ v29

Believe in Him, Whom He (God the Father) has sent.

Question by the Crowd v30-31

What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see and believe in You?

IOWs: prove to us you are the Messiah/Savior...kinda like Moses who gave bread from Heaven

Answer by the Christ v32-33

Moses didn't give you (your forefathers) manna...God did! That manna was a prophetic type of a greater truth, that God would give Me-the Messiah to be the "Bread of God" to the world.

Command by the Crowd v34

Lord (the NT Greek word kurios here is a polite title not a theological affirmation here) from now on give us this (physica) bread!

Answer by the Christ v35-40

I am "the Bread of Life" (the Giver of Everlasting Life)

The one who comes to Me/believes in Me will never hunger/thirst spiritually.

You (the crowd at large) have seen Me (and have more than enough information to know Who I am) and yet you do not believe.

All who come to me/believe in Me, I will never not cast out! Double negatives in English are grammatically incorrect and logically contradictory, but in NT Greek they were grammatical conventions expressing strong negation "I will never ever under any circumstances cast out!"

This is the will of Him Who sent Me (God the Father as the Architect of the Plan of Salvation): that of all He has given Me, I lose not a one, but raise them all up on the last day.

This is the will of the Father (again as the Architect of the Plan of Salvation): that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have Everlasting Life and I Myself will raise him/her up on the last day.

John 6:16-40 Jesus the Water Walker is the Bread of Life

Jesus walking on the water of the Sea of Galilee was a unique sign miracle validating the truth that He is the Issue/Issuer of Everlasting Life to all who believe in Him. This truth is comforting to those who do believe but confounding/offensive to those who do not.

The Ultimate Question Who Was/Is Jesus? 1: Liar? 2: Lunatic? or 3: Lord?