

## SIGNS FOR THE KINGDOM

*The JEWS are the ones who need SIGNS, not us Gentiles. Signs were Israel's birthright. When God brought them out of Egypt, He did MANY signs and wonders:*

**1 Cor. 1:22** For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

*Here is the record of the first signs God gave to Israel. As God was preparing Moses to lead the Hebrews out of bondage, He began by giving Moses these two signs. Notice that they were handling snakes and physical healing of disease.*

**Exo. 4:1-9** And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.

2 And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod.

3 And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.

4 And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:

5 That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee.

6 And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow.

7 And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh.

8 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign.

9 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land.

*These are also two of the SAME signs mentioned at the end of the gospel of Mark. When the water was turned into blood, that was another sign .... drinking anything poisonous would not hurt them either:*

**Mark 16:17-18** And **these signs shall follow them that believe**; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

*God put 10 plagues upon Egypt to cause Pharoah to let His people go. These were also signs. (A plague is a 'stroke' of affliction, or disease, sent as a divine punishment.)*

*God led Israel to the Promised Land by signs. They had to look to their SIGNS to know which way to travel:*

**Exo. 13:21** And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

*God worked lots of miracles through the hand of Moses, one of which was when he parted the Red Sea:*

**Exo. 14:21-22** And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

*God fed them with quail every evening and angels' food every morning:*

**Psa. 78:25** Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full.

*Water from out of the rock supplied Israel's need in the desert:*

**Exo. 17:6** Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

*Israel was distressed if God was not showing their signs to them:*

**Psa. 74:9** We see not our signs: there is no more any prophet: neither is there among us any that knoweth how long.

*They knew they were in trouble if God was not giving them signs:*

**Prov. 29:18** Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

*The word for 'sign' is like a 'vision' or 'revelation Paul spoke of in:*

**2 Cor. 12:1** It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

*Here are the 'signs of healing.' Also notice how the water comes out of the desert. That's what God did earlier when Moses hit the rock:*

**Isa 35:5-6** Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

*The phrase 'in that day' refers to the time when Christ will come to the earth. Notice particularly that demon spirits will be cast out of the land then:*

**Zec 13:2** And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.

*That's just what Jesus did when He came to earth the first time, and He will do it again the second time He comes to earth. During the time that Christ was in Israel, there was a heavy concentration of demonic activity around Him and His disciples:*

**Mark 5:7-10** And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.

8 For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.

9 And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.

10 And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country.

*Matthew records the account, with a plea from the demons for Christ not to torture them, using a phrase 'before the time' --- indicating that they are very aware of their future judgment during the kingdom:*

**Matt 8:29** And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us **before the time**?

*The unclean spirits were certainly knowledgable of the prophecies concerning Jesus and themselves:*

**Mark 1:23-24** And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,

24 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

*Jesus not only healed EVERY **kind and type** of disease, but He healed EVERY **person**. NO one was over-looked. EVERY person was healed of EVERY thing that was wrong with them. They were 'entirely well':*

**Matt 4:23-24** And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing ALL manner of sickness and ALL manner of disease among the people.

24 And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him ALL sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

**Matt 14:36** And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made **perfectly whole**.

*Many people try to claim the 'physical healing' prophecy in Isaiah for themselves today, but the scripture says otherwise. The Bible says that passage was fulfilled ALREADY .... when Jesus was on earth, ministering to HIS people, Israel:*

**Matt 8:16-17** When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed ALL that were sick:

**17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.**

*Let's go back and read those verses. It is important to remember when Isaiah says the pronoun 'OUR' ---- he is speaking of 'ISRAEL' ---- not 'us Gentiles':*

**Isa 53:4-8** Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, (**NOTE: This is repeated at the end of verse 8 ---- again, don't miss the phrase 'of MY people'.**)

he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

6 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.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off of the land of the living: for the transgression **of my people** was he stricken.

*Israel is always called God's sheep .... never the Gentiles! Peter wrote his epistles (1 Peter 1:1) to Israel, who during his time were the 'strangers scattered throughout' .... which were the 'twelve tribes scattered abroad' to whom James also wrote (James 1:1). In Gal. 2:9, James, Peter (Cephas), and John agreed to confine their ministry to the circumcision. Peter quotes that same scripture we just read:*

**1 Peter 2:24-25** 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.  
25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

*Quite plainly, those scriptures are NOT talking about US, but about THEM. Gentiles were known as 'dogs' (Matt. 15:22-27). Israel is God's 'sheep':*

**Jer 50:17a** Israel is a scattered sheep;

*He is their shepherd, as King David wrote:*

**Psa 23:1** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

*When Christ commissioned His 12 disciples, He specifically gave them the SAME power to heal the sick and to cast out devils:*

**Matt 10:1** And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

*Those 'signs and wonders' is what the prophecy said they would do:*

**Isa 8:18** Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.

*In the narrow sense, the 'I' refers to Jesus, and the 'children' refer to his disciples. In the broader sense, the 'children' refer to the elect remnant of the Hebrew nation, as this portion of this verse is also quoted in:*

**Heb 2:13** And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.

*Jesus calls His disciples 'the men given to Him by the Father':*

**John 17:6** I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

*Jesus even gave His disciples the ability to perform greater miracles than He had done Himself after He would ascend back to God:*

**John 14:12-14** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If ye shall ask **any thing** in my name, I **will** do it.

*Yes, Israel's Messiah had come, and He brought healing with Him, for all:*

**Luke 6:17-19** And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases;

18 And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed.

19 And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them ALL.

*Ever hear of anyone 'snake handling'? .... It was one of Israel's signs:*

**Luke 10:19** Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

*When John asked if Jesus was 'for sure' the Christ, rather than answering "Yes," .... Jesus sent back word for John to 'READ THE SIGNS':*

**Luke 7:19-22** And John calling unto him two of his disciples sent them to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?

20 When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?

21 And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight.

22 Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.

*That was in fulfillment of the prophet's foretelling:*

**Isa 29:18-19** And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.

19 The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

*Another 'sign of the kingdom' was speaking in tongues. It is important to notice to WHOM God said He would speak .... 'THIS' people. Isaiah wrote to the people ISRAEL. THEY are the ones to whom God would speak with other tongues:*

**Isa 28:11-12** For with stammering lips and **another tongue will he speak to THIS people.**

12 To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

*God wanted them to rest, and be refreshed .... but they would not. Be careful to observe WHEN their sins will be blotted out .... WHEN they will be refreshed by Jesus returning to set up His kingdom on the earth .... NOT until THEN:*

**Acts 3:19-21** Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, **WHEN the times of refreshing shall come** from the presence of the Lord;

20 **And he shall send Jesus Christ**, which before was preached unto you:

21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

*Those were issues that God 'had told them about' all along. That is in contrast to the 'mystery revelation' God later committed to the apostle Paul .... in 'due time'. Through Paul, we learn we have 'NOW' received the atonement (Rom. 5:11).*

*We already read in Mark 16:17 that tongues were one of the signs that would follow them that believe. That happened at Pentecost .... to EVERY ONE of them. No one had to 'listen and practice' to get it .... no one had to 'ask' for it .... no one was 'left out' .... They ALL spoke 'foreign, legitimate languages' (from every nation) .... that they had never learned. It was a prophesied, miraculous thing:*

**Acts 2:4-6** And they were **ALL filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues**, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem **JEWS**, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak **in his own language.**

*It wasn't a surprise either, because John the Baptist had prophesied that Jesus would baptize them with the Holy Spirit and with fire:*

**Matt 3:11-12** I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

*Jesus Himself had told them to wait there on the promise:*

**Luke 24:49** And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

*The events at Pentecost and shortly thereafter were a subject of prophecy .... not mystery. Peter plainly says that 'what was happening then was what Joel said':*

**Acts 2:14-18** But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

16 But **THIS is THAT which was spoken by the prophet Joel;**

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

*Yes, tongues were part of God's Prophesied Program for Israel. Paul explains the phenomenon .... 'UNBELIEVING Israel' is the 'THIS people' to whom God was speaking. (Remember 1 Cor. 1:22a For the Jews require a sign):*

**1 Cor. 14:21-22** In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.

22 Wherefore **tongues are for a sign**, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

*The prophets wrote to God's people Israel, as opposed to the Gentiles (nations):*

**Heb 1:1** God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake **in time past** unto the fathers by the prophets,

*After Jesus had commissioned His 11 disciples, He went back to heaven, and they went out preaching the gospel of the kingdom (which is the only one He had ever given them to preach), and the sign gifts DID follow those who believed:*

**Mark 16:19-20** So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

*Those were also the events surrounding Pentecost:*

**Acts 2:43** And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

*In Acts chapter 3, a lame man laying at the gate of the Temple Beautiful begged alms of Peter and John as they were on their way inside. The man did not even ASK for healing .... he was bumming for silver and gold, but instead he got physically healed. Signs and wonders continued on through the next chapter 4:*

**Acts 4:29-31** And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

*In Acts chapter 5, Peter's shadow healed people. NO ONE was denied nor refused physical healing. They EVERY ONE received it:*

**Acts 5:12-16** And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

13 And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.

14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, **that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.**

16 There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed **every one.**

*In summary, we have seen the 'Signs of the Kingdom' were in operation while Jesus was on the earth. Then after His death and resurrection, they were still continuing while God was allowing Israel another year to repent (in response to Jesus' plea, after He had ministered to Israel for 3 years):*

**Luke 13:5-9** I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

6 He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.

7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?

8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it:

9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

*After that, the next event on God's prophetic calendar for Israel was the pouring out of His wrath (Luke 3:7,8; Acts 2:19,20):*

**Isa 13:9** Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

*After which those believing Jews who 'endured to the end' would inherit the kingdom (Matt. 24:13,14) and preach the gospel of the kingdom to all the world.*

*An interesting event took place in Luke chapter 4, when Christ read the prophecy in the book of Isaiah and sat down, everyone STARED at Him .... because He STOPPED reading BEFORE He finished the sentence:*

**Luke 4:14-21** And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

*Now, let's check back in that passage, to see exactly WHERE Jesus left off reading. You see, He quit before the WRATH:*

Isa 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, **and the day of vengeance of our God**; to comfort all that mourn;

*Just when the anger of God was ready to be 'dispensed' out on the world, God interrupted the 'prophetic program' (put it on hold, to do something He had kept secret in Himself) and He ushered in a NEW dispensation of GRACE through the apostle Paul.*

*So, for THIS dispensation (God calls it 'But Now' in Eph. 2:13), the 'signs of the kingdom' have ceased .... while God is working a different program, called 'the mystery.' There is no more need for the signs today:*

**1 Cor. 13:8-10** Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

10 But when **that which is perfect is come, THEN** that which is in part shall be done away.

*While there was only 'partial knowledge' and 'partial prophecies' God was still giving revelation to mankind .... but when 'complete knowledge' came, there was no more reason for the 'partial things.'*

*Question: What 'perfects' (or completes, or matures) a man?*

*GOD'S Answer: ALL scripture is given for that purpose!*

**2 Tim. 3:16-17** All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 **That the man of God may be perfect**, throughly furnished unto all good works.

*That 'body of truth' that God committed to Paul completed the scriptures:*

**Col 1:25-26** Whereof I am made a minister, according to the **dispensation of God** which is **given to me** for you, **to FULFIL the word of God**;

26 **Even the mystery** which hath been hid from ages and from generations, **but now** is made manifest to his saints:

God 'specially gifted men' and equipped them for the purpose of compiling the canon of His Word. When that task was done and their mission was over, there was no more occasion for them needed:

**Eph 4:8** Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

***WHAT special gifts did Jesus give to men?***

**Eph 4:11** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

***WHY did Jesus give them?***

**Eph 4:12** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

***HOW LONG were they to function?***

**Eph 4:13** **TILL** we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the **knowledge** of the Son of God, unto a **perfect man**, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

**Col 4:12** Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

**Col 2:2-3** That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the **acknowledgement of the mystery** of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

**3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

*With the ENTIRE Word of God (we know as the Holy Bible), we understand that God has WRITTEN down in a book the complete KNOWLEDGE that will PERFECT us .... ALL scripture.*

*It is for us to study and to correctly recognize the divisions God has put in His word, so that we will know who we are (Col. 2:10) and what God is doing today (Rom. 16:25, 26, Eph. 1:7-9) in this dispensation of grace (Eph. 3:1-12):*

**2 Tim. 2:15** Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. *(This is D.D. saying, "Think about it!")*