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Written By Rev.
John Marinelli

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P. O. Box 5831413 Ocala, FL. 34483**

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Introduction

The Bible is full of signs. They're everywhere, all through the Old Testament and the New. There are signs from God, from the Holy Spirit and even Jesus did some pretty interesting signs and wonders while here on earth.

Many of the Bible characters sought a sign from heaven. They wanted to know if the Man of God was who he said he was or they wanted to know the future. The prophets, to validate their claims, used signs. In many cases folks would ask God for a sign so they knew it was God that was talking to them.

7-Most Revenant Verses Related To Signs

1. "Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; make it deep as Sheol or high as heaven." **Isaiah 7:14**
2. So Gideon said to Him, "If now I have found favor in your sight, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me." **Judges 6:17**

3. Then Hezekiah had said, "What is the sign that I shall go up to the house of the LORD?" **Isaiah 38:22**
4. The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven. But He replied to them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' "And in the morning, 'There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times? **Matthew 16:1-4**
5. The Pharisees came out and began to argue with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, to test Him. Sighing deeply in His spirit, He said, "Why does this generation seek for a sign? Truly I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation." **Mark 8:11-12**
6. Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you." But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet" **Matthew 12:38-39**
7. The Jews then said to Him, "What sign do you show us as your authority for doing these things?" **John 2:18**

There are many more bible verses related to signs. Do a Google search for Bible Signs and see for yourself. You'll find verses that talk about signs of the end times; signs of the 2nd coming of Christ; signs that God is speaking to you; signs of future events; signs of spiritual gifts and lots more.

The International American Standard Bible Dictionary says this about the definition of the word "Sign"

Definition & History

A sign is a mark by which persons or things are distinguished and made known. In Scripture, used generally of an address to the senses to attest the existence of supersensible and therefore divine power. Thus the plagues of Egypt were "signs" of divine displeasure against the Egyptians (**Exodus 4:8; Joshua 24:17**); and the miracles of Jesus were "signs" to attest His unique relationship with God (**Matthew 12:38; John 2:18; Acts 2:22**).

Naturally, therefore, both in the Old Testament and the New Testament, "signs" are assimilated to the miraculous, and prevailingly associated with immediate divine interference. The popular belief in this manner of communication between the visible and the invisible worlds has always been, and is now, widespread. So-called "natural" explanations, however ingenious or cogent, fail with the great majority of people to explain anything. Wesley and Spurgeon were as firm believers in the validity of such methods of intercourse between man and God as were Moses and Gideon, Peter and John.

The faith that walks by signs is not by any means to be lightly esteemed. It has been allied with the highest nobility of character and with the most signal achievement. Moses accepted the leadership of his people in response to a succession of signs: e.g. the burning bush, the rod which became a serpent, the leprous hand, etc. so too did Gideon seek proof of God in the sign of the fleece of wool. (**Judges 6:36-40**).

In the training of the Twelve, Jesus did not disdain the use of signs (**Luke 5:1-11**); and they interpreted the visions by which Peter and Paul were led to the evangelization of the Gentiles as signs of the divine purpose.

Biblical Examples of Signs

The sacramental use of the sign dates from the earliest period and the character of the sign is as diverse as the occasion. The rainbow furnishes a radiant suggestion of God's overarching love and assurance that the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy the earth. (**Genesis 9:13 & 4:15**); the Feast of Unleavened Bread is a reminder of God's care in bringing His people out of bondage (**Exodus 13:3**);

The Sabbath is an oft-recurring proclamation of God's gracious thought for the well-being of man (**Exodus 31:13; Ezekiel 20:12**); the brazen serpent, an early foreshadowing of the cross, perpetuates the imperishable promise of forgiveness and redemption (**Numbers 21:9**); circumcision is made the seal of the special covenant under which Israel became a people set apart (**Genesis 17:11**); baptism, the Christian equivalent of circumcision, becomes the sign and seal of the dedicated life and the mark of those avowedly seeking to share in the blessedness of the Kingdom of God (**Luke 3:12-14; Acts 2:41**);

Bread and wine, a symbol of the spiritual manna by which soul and body are preserved unto everlasting life, is the hallowed memorial of the Lord's death until His coming again (**Luke 22:14-20**); (**1 Corinthians 11:23-28**). Most common of all were the local altars and mounds consecrated in simple and sincere fashion to a belief in God's ruling and overruling providence (**Joshua 4:1-10**).

Signs were offered in proof of the divine commission of prophets (**Isaiah 20:3**) and apostle (**2 Corinthians 12:12**), and of the Messiah Himself (**John 20:30**; **Acts 2:22**); and they were submitted in demonstration of the divine character of their message (**2 Kings 20:9**; **Isaiah 38:1**; **Acts 3:1-16**). By anticipation, the child to be born of a virgin (**Isaiah 7:10-16**; compare **Luke 2:12**) is to certify the prophet's pledge of a deliverer for a captive people.

With increase of faith the necessity for signs will gradually decrease. Jesus hints at this (**John 4:48**), as does also Paul (**1 Corinthians 1:22**). Nevertheless "signs," in the sense of displays of miraculous powers, are to accompany the faith of believers (**Mark 16:17**), usher in and forthwith characterize the dispensation of the Holy Spirit, and mark the consummation of the ages (**Revelation 15:1**).

” Secret Signs ”

All of the signs I see mentioned in the Bible were open to anyone who wanted to see them. They were not hidden in any way. However, there are, ***” Secret Signs ”*** that go unnoticed by the general public yet are clearly seen by God's Children. I will illustrate this by discussing **Mark 8:11-26**.

The Pharisees came out and began to argue with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, to test Him. Sighing deeply in His spirit, He said, "Why does this generation seek for a sign? Truly I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation." **Mark 8:11-12**

As you can see from the above verses, the Pharisees were asking Jesus for a sign to test Him. They wanted Jesus to operate outside of God's will in His own power. The request for a sign was an obvious sarcastic criticism because Jesus was performing signs and wonders all over the region. He did nothing in secret but the Pharisees were mocking Him anyway. It just goes

to show you that when you are doing what God wants, there will be those who will mock you and accuse you of being a fake.

Jesus' reply was to sigh deeply, being annoyed with their unbelief and accusations, He tells them that there will be no sign given.

The Leaven Analogy

In verse 15, Jesus warns His disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees. Leaven is like yeast. When put into the dough to make bread, it changes the very texture of the bread when allowed to sit for a while before baking. In this reference, leaven is a picture of the doctrinal errors of the religious leaders. The disciples were being warned not to listen to them and to keep their doctrine at arms length so it doesn't infect them.

There are many religions and pastors in our own Christian denominations that believe and teach heresy. We need to mark them that are among us and withdraw from them so we do not get confused and fall away from the Faith.

There are many voices crying for your attention and loyalty. But, Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice and follow me" **John 10:27**. It is important to listen for the voice of Jesus and follow Him.

The disciples did not understand what Jesus was referring to. See verses 18 and 19. Jesus tells them, in so many words, to look with the heart and not the eyes. He says, "Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember? When I brake the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? They say unto him, Twelve."

Jesus was encouraging the disciples to think about what He had done in the past and draw a positive, "Full of Faith" conclusion...that if He did it then, He'll do it again. This statement says a lot including:

1. Jesus has supernatural power.
2. We can rely on His ability to meet our needs.
3. No situation is beyond His control.
4. His Word can be trusted as truth.

It is obvious that Jesus was talking about the lies and heresy of the religious leaders and the disciples took one little part of His statement and ran with it straight into confusion.

What does leaven have to do with truth? Nothing, if you are talking about not bringing bread on your trip. However, if you are a thinker, seeker of truth, you will hear that the leaven is associated with the religious leaders and conclude that you should beware.

Jesus referred to the feeding of the five thousand and the four thousand. It was obvious that there were signs everywhere that proved His validity as the coming Messiah. That was what Jesus wanted His disciples to see, not the details of each but the fact that every one validated Him as their Christ.

Remember, we started out with the religious leaders tempting Jesus by asking Him for a sign from heaven to prove His identity as “The Messiah or Christ” The very mention of “Show Us A Sign” was an example of their unbelief in the midst of absolute truth. This refusal to believe in the face of overwhelming evidence is very prevalent in today’s world too.

I Can See Clearly Now

The story continues with the group going to Bethsaida where some folks brought a blind man to Jesus. He made a clay mixture with His spit and placed it on the man’s eyes and asked him what he saw. The man said, “I see men as trees.” He did it again and the man could then see clearly.

All the while, Jesus is teaching His disciples about how to see things in life. If they look with their heart instead of their eyes and hear with their heart instead of with their ears, they will understand.

This object lesson shows us a few things:

1. Without Jesus, we are as the blind man...in the dark, with no real understanding.
2. We must have divine revelation to perceive real truth.
3. Sometimes, we do not see all there is to see, because our vision is blurred with whatever.
4. What we see should be verified before acceptance. It might look like something it is not, like a tree.

5. Seeing clearly is directly subject to allowing God to take control and lead through the darkness into the light.

Now let's look at verse 26 of chapter 18. "And he sent him away to his house, saying, Neither go into the town, nor tell it to any in the town."

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Herein is the S-E-C-R-E- Sign of Mark Eighteen. Jesus send the blind man, who could now see, to his home, telling him not to go into the town or to tell anyone in the town about what Jesus had done. Why do you suppose Jesus did that? Can you imagine being blind and now seeing and not be able to tell anyone? How can you keep such a thing a secret? It would be impossible.

I believe that Jesus knew the miracle of healing the blind man would get out and that the once blind man would be unable to keep it secret. I think that's why Jesus told the man not to say anything. He knew the reaction to signs by the religious leaders would be critical and even oppressive.

I guess Jesus was thinking of the time when He said, "*He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*" **Matthew 11:15** Most folks do not have ears to hear, meaning, they don't want to understand because it will reveal the truth and put them in a position of blatantly denying what is staring them in the face, The Truth!

Hidden In Plain Sight

So, the Secret Sign is the one that is set before your eyes only. It may be visible also to others but they will not see it because they have no eyes to see and no ears to hear and are unable to understand its significance. It is hidden in plain sight.

Can you recall a time when the Lord touched you and blessed you and gave you divine revelation as to a particular subject? How did others react when you told them? If it was like some of mine, you got a blank stare and the words, "That's Nice." Really? Wow! etc. When that happens, realize it was, "**For Your Eyes Only**".

I draw my revelation from the Bible. That is what gives me hope, strength, authority, perspective, and a lot of truth. May I suggest this as a course of action for you as well? Give it 30-days and discover God all over again.

Remember, the secret sign is the one that God's Holy Spirit speaks into your heart. Be sure to listen for it. It could keep you out of danger, keep you from making wrong decisions, and keep you from being attacked by the devil and so forth. It will be as plain as day but those around you will not understand.

Conclusion

Sometimes signs are clearly marked so we know it's a sign. But other times, they are in the shadows of prophecy and require conclusions or the arrival of a particular event. Hear are a few examples.

Psalm 19:1...“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.”

Luke 2:12... “And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

II Thess. 2:3... “Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition”

A Brief Survey of Heavenly Signs

From Bible Questions And Answers

Jesus' description of a darkened sun and moon, falling stars and the heavens being shaken would have struck a chord in the minds of His audience. So would John's record, which included the element of an earthquake. Such events were described many times throughout the Old Testament in connection with the time called the Day of the Lord.

Isaiah's vivid imagery also talks about people hiding in the rocks “from the terror of the Lord” (**Isaiah 2:10**) “Enter into the rock, and hide you in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty.”

Verses 11 and 12 go on to show part of the reason God will intervene in this way: “The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down. And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day

of the Lord of hosts shall come upon everything proud and lofty, upon everything lifted up—and it shall be brought low.”

Pride Goes Before A Fall

Human pride has always been a stumbling block to the incredible relationship God offers us—to be His children **1 John 3:1** says “Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knows us not, because it knew him not.”

Pride destroys our other relationships as well, leading to untold suffering and heartache. But seemingly the only way to break through a hardened shell of pride is to shake things up a bit. So that is what God will do.

In the midst of this traumatic time, people will finally see the worthlessness of their idols, which they will throw to “the moles and bats” **Isaiah 2:20** says “in that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats”

While this includes actual idols, charms and religious objects, the apostle Paul equates idolatry with our modern pastime of greed and covetousness **Colossians 3:5** says “mortify therefore your members which are on the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

Our cars, entertainment centers and other toys can be the focus of our attention and affections today, as much as a household god would be in a different society. Finally the greedy desire for more and more things will be seen for the pointless goal that it is.

Isaiah addresses the Day of the Lord again in **Isaiah 13:9-11...** “Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible, this time tied in to the darkening of the stars, sun and moon.”

Ezekiel also describes heavenly signs in his prophecy and lamentation for pharaoh and Egypt. **Ezekiel 32:7-8** says “and when I shall put you out, I will cover the heaven, and make the stars thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light. All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over you, and set darkness on your land, said the Lord GOD.”

The darkness mentioned here is reminiscent of the ninth plague brought on Egypt at the time of the Exodus. And in the end times it seems darkness will also play a part in softening up the hard hearts of a world too long under Satan's sway.

Joel also pinpoints the time of these heavenly signs: “The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord” **Joel 2:31** The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come.

Haggai 2:6 says “for thus said the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; reveals that God will once more “shake heaven and earth.”

The Nelson Study Bible says that this is “another way of speaking of the day of the Lord. The purpose of the day of the Lord is to prepare the earth for the glorious reign of Jesus Christ on earth.”

On A Personal Note

Realize that the sign is for *your eyes only*, not for all the “Thems” of this world. Stay away from the expectations of others and those that try to control you with their, “*Well Meaning*” advice. Hold on to what God gives you and never let it go. Your very life and destiny could hang in the balance.

Know that God still speaks through signs and they are everywhere. You just have to look for them. They are hidden in plain sight and only visible to those who see with their hearts.

May our Lord bless you in all that you do.