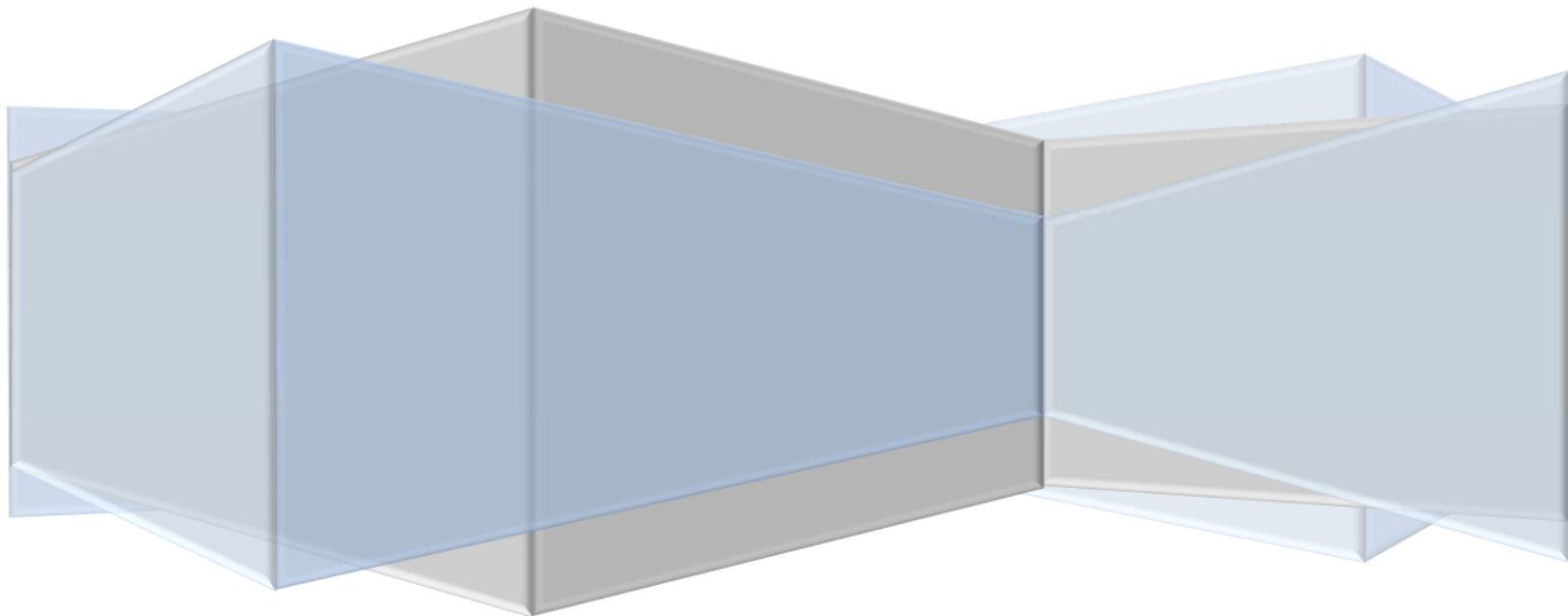


BIBL 323 – D12 LUO

Sign Miracles Paper

Jesus' Deity Revealed

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From the beginning of time, people have often looked for signs from heaven. They wanted to God to show them evidence or proof that not only He actually existed, but that He was always there. However this was not all. They also looked to God for signs of His power in times of need. The Israelites looked for a sign from God that would take them out of the bondages of slavery from the Egyptian Empire (Exodus 6:1). After they were released, they looked to God for protection (Exodus 14:13,14). When they were hungry they were given food to eat from the heavens (Exodus 16). However, after every sign they saw given to them by God Himself, they still turned away from Him. The stuff for which the Israelites witnessed with their own eyes was things for which God has continued to show people throughout the ages. Morris detailed the definition of Signs very eloquently in the first thirteen pages of Jesus Is The Christ. Every Sign has a significant meaning. Jesus gave eight signs/ miracles that should have not only proved that He is from God, but that He is God. Without mentioning any of the other miracles from Jesus, these eight signs are more than enough to show His Deity.

The first sign was Jesus turning water into wine (John 2:1-11). As Dr. Elmer Towns describes in his chart of “The Eight Signs of Jesus’ Power” found on page xiii of John, Believe and Live, Jesus shows His Deity through this sign by having “power over creation”. Jesus has the ability to make something completely different than what it was created or designed for. He took six pots of water, probably undrinkable water, and without touching or even getting near them, the water turned to wine. This wine was not just any wine, but a wine that was so magnificent. So much that the people at the party took notice and gave compliments about it. Dr. Towns said in his book ‘A Journey Though The New Testament’ pg 37, “This miracle was a means of Jesus manifesting His glory and so impressed His disciples that they began to believe in Him (John 2:11).” After the disciples witnessed this, Jesus Deity was made clear.

The second sign was when Jesus healed the noble man's son (John 4:46-54). This is considered Jesus' "power over space" according to Towns. Jesus does not have to be exactly where you are to reach your need. It didn't matter where the noble man's son was; he was not too far for Jesus. This proves Jesus' Deity, in that, He is always present. This is basically called omnipresence. Omnipresence simply means to be everywhere at one time. Now, I know what you're thinking. How can a man be here and there at the same time? Well, Jesus is the God-Man. As a man, certainly you can't be here and there at the same time. It's physically impossible. However, just as much as Jesus is man, He is fully God (John 1:1-4). The fact that you can never be out of reach in space from Jesus proves His Deity.

The third sign was when Jesus healed the lame man (John 5:1-9). This is considered Jesus' "power over time", according to Towns. Towns says, "It was unlawful to carry a bed on the Sabbath particularly in Jerusalem (Ex. 23:12; Neh. 13:19; Jer. 17:21)". Not only were the Jews upset about the lame man being healed and told to pick up his bed by Jesus, but they argued fault for Jesus healing him on the Sabbath. However, Jesus' timing is perfect when it comes to giving sight to God's glory. Jesus did not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it (Matt. 5:17). The Jews looked at time according to the Law of Moses. But because Jesus was the One who wrote it, He has the power to fulfill the old law by His own authority. Power over time proves His Deity.

The fourth sign is the feeding of the 5000 (John 6:1-14). Jesus proves His Deity by having "Power over food". (Towns) As the crowd gathered, Jesus' concern was the people and their physical need for food. After giving assignments to His disciples about food, His disciples became distraught and worried about not having enough. In fact, they gave Jesus every excuse as to why Jesus needed to send the crowd away. But Jesus, knowing the physical need of the

people, also saw the spiritual need of His own disciples. “Look at the birds of the sky: they don't sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they (Matt. 6:26)?” Jesus will take care of your spiritual and physical need. With two fish and five loaves, Jesus fed 5000 men. Not only did they eat, the bible says that they were physically full with 12 baskets as leftovers. Spiritually, Jesus also proved to His disciples that He is the ultimate provider and will sustain their every need. Spiritually they were full.

The fifth sign was when Jesus walked on water (John 6:15-21). This proves His Deity by having “power over natural laws”. (Towns) The natural law for walking on water is that you would sink like a rock. If you don't believe me, try it. Naturally, a person is not supposed to walk on water. However, because Jesus is the God-man, He walked on water. For His disciples to see this, again I must say, they witnessed Jesus proving His Deity.

The sixth sign was when Jesus healed the blind man (John 9:1-12). This proves His Deity by having the “power over physical law”. (Towns) Physical law is described by www.thefreedictionary.com as being the scientific law or the law of nature, not to be confused with the Natural law. Physical law is when a person has a noticeable disfigurement or is handicap that everyone knows about but can do nothing about it. These can be things like blindness, CP, leprosy, mute, and etc. Dr. Towns states in *A Journey Through The New Testament* pg. 137 & 138, “This man was known by his reputation as one who had been born blind (John 9:8) and that he had over the years become almost a permanent fixture in the area as he begged from those on their way to worship in the temple.” This man was born blind. There was nothing no one could do about it. However, when Jesus came by him, Jesus showed His Deity by proving that He and He alone is over the physical law. He is the great physician.

The seventh sign of His Deity was raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-44). We have seen Jesus' Deity through creation and all living things, but in this particular sign Jesus proves His power even "over death" (Towns). If all the others were not enough to prove who He was, this should have definitely opened some eyes. Mary and Martha lost their brother Lazarus, yet Jesus waited until there was no doubt about the death. In fact, these were His words after hearing that Lazarus was sick, "This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." (John 11:4) Jesus knew that He was fixing to give what I call the "hook, line, and sinker" of Deity. God would be glorified and through that Jesus would be glorified as well. After all that Jesus has done up till this moment in time should have been enough to prove that He is God. His disciples and those who witnessed all other signs saw Jesus in His Omnipresence (ever presence) through healing the noble man's son, His Omniscience (all knowing) with the physical and spiritual feeding of the 5000 and His disciples, but now, He is about to show His Omnipotence. Jesus is going to prove that He is all powerful. Although He could just think it from where He was and Lazarus come forth, He decides to allow all to see and hear exactly who He is, who He belongs to, and where He came from. Jesus is over life and death.

The eighth sign is when Jesus gives directions for the disciples to cast on the right side of the boat and catch more fish than they could handle (John 21:1-11). According to Towns, this sign shows that Jesus has "power over all of the above". Jesus makes His third appearance to the disciples after His death on the cross. Jesus proved His Deity by all that He has shown to His disciples even through death itself. Jesus is provider, comforter, sustainer, and giver who has power over creation, time, space, food, natural and physical laws, and yes, even death. Jesus Himself was proof of His Deity.

In conclusion, after these signs, the disciples trusted Jesus with all they had. And according to Josh McDowell in More Than A Carpenter pg. 57, because of this, “I can trust the apostles’ testimonies because eleven of those men died martyrs’ deaths because they stood solid for two truths: Christ’s Deity and His resurrection.” As McDowell asked, “Who would die for a lie?” I have to say, after the disciples saw what they saw, and heard all that they did, how could they deny the fact that Jesus is the Christ? The answer is simple, they couldn’t.

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