

Luke 2:1-20

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—> v. 12:

"And this will be a sign for you" 'You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

—> v. 20:

"And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seem, just as had been told them."

What is a "sign"?

σημεῖον - "Sign", "miracle", or "wonder"

Def. "Something that means something."

...but more specifically:

- 1. "That by which a person or thing is known or distinguished from others"
- 2. "An unusual occurrence, transcending the common course of nature."

...but what is the purpose of a "sign"?

-A sign demonstrates the power, knowledge, or authority of the sign-giver.

-And therefore, a sign gives credibility to the message of the sign-giver.

"Sign" working definition:

"A sign is an **extraordinary** occurrence that **demonstrates** the sign-giver's supernatural power, knowledge, or authority, thereby **giving credibility** to the associated **message**."

....shortened:

"An extraordinary demonstration that gives credibility to a message."

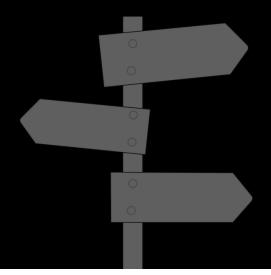
Let's test this definition...

Review: Zechariah, Elizabeth, & John

- -> Elizabeth:
 - -Bearing a child in her impossibly old age.
 - -Mary coming to her during her pregnancy.
- —> Zechariah:ˈ
 - -His voice being taken away from him until the baby was born.

Review: Mary's Miraculous Conception

- —> *Mary*:
 - -Being pregnant when it was impossible.
 - -Her barren cousin Elizabeth being pregnant



Signs

"An extraordinary demonstration that gives credibility to a message."

So....

- —-> The point of a sign isn't the sign itself.
- —-> The point is the message.

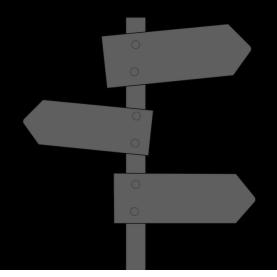
It's the message, not the sign: Exodus

- •8:10 "... that you may know that there is no one like the Lord our God."
- •8:22"... that you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth."
- •9:14 "... that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth."
- •9:29 "... that you may know that the earth is the Lord's."
- •10:2 "... that you may know that I am the Lord."
- •11:7 "... that you may know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel."

It's the message, not the sign: Luke 5

•Luke 5:15-26

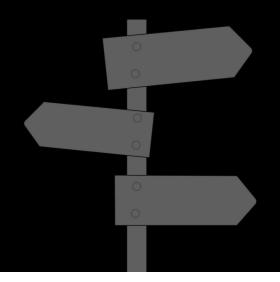
 Luke 5:24 "But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..."



It's the message, not the sign: Luke 4

•Luke 4:36-44

-v. 43: "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose."



Witnessing Signs: The Shepherds

- 1. God spoke (v. 10-12)
- 2. The shepherds heard and received the message (v. 15-16)
- 3. They saw the promised sign (v. 16-17)
- 4. They believed the message...and acted upon it (v. 17-20)

- 1. The message is given
- 2. The message is heard & received

3. The sign is witnessed

4. The message is believed

Witnessing Signs: Jesus' Ministry

- 1. Immanuel happened. "God 1. The message is given with Us".

2. The multitudes followed Jesus an listened to His teachings.

2. The message is heard & received

- 3. The multitudes witnessed Jesus' miracles.
- 3. The sign is witnessed

4. Many believed and acted upon the message...

4. The message is believed

Responding to the Signs

- 1. You can reject or ignore the signs (Jn. 12:37; Lk. 16:27-31).
- 2. You can marvel at the signs...but miss the message (Jn. 6, esp. vv. 30 & 36).
- 3. You can believe the signs...AND believe the message (Jn. 6:40).

So What?

John 20:30-31

"30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."



So What?

- Oheck your heart soft is what we're shooting for!
- Read the gospel with open eyes and a hunger to learn
- Don't let anything get in the way of belief