

THE GOSPEL OF MARK: SIGNS - Part 1`

Jesus the Messiah

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Part of The Gospel of Mark Signs

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Jesus the Messiah



Signs perform a useful and helpful function in our daily lives: they convey important information and point beyond themselves to an ultimate destination.

—Anthony Selvaggio



In the Bible, signs generally designated “deeds by which God makes known his purpose and his power.” (Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible)

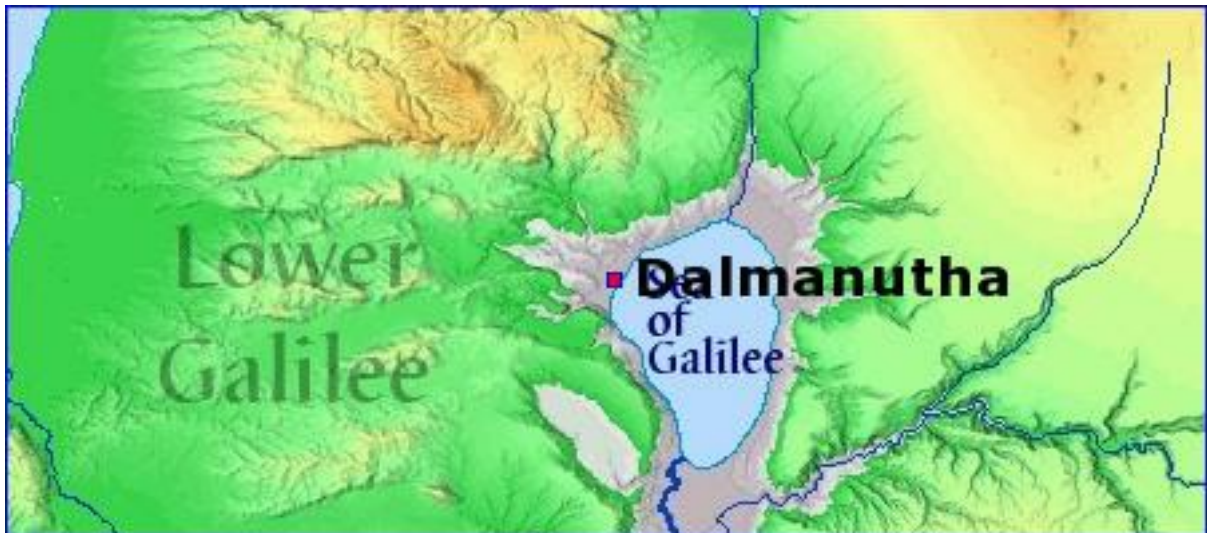
Signs *about* Jesus or *done* by him appear to have two general purposes:

1. **They were intended to authenticate his ministry and reveal his glory; and**
2. **They were to persuade people to put their faith in him.**

The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

—John 20:30-31 (NLT)

The Bible also makes it clear that signs, even powerful ones, were no guarantee a person would come to faith in Jesus Christ.



When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had arrived, they came and started to argue with him. Testing him, they demanded that he show them a miraculous sign from heaven to prove his authority.

—Mark 8:11 (NLT)

When he heard this, he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, “Why do these people keep demanding a miraculous sign? I tell you the truth, I will not give this generation any such sign.”

—Mark 8:12 (NLT)

Even when a sign was performed by Jesus, the Gospels show us time after time that some still chose not to believe.

But despite all the miraculous signs Jesus had done, most of the people still did not believe in him.

—John 12:37 (NLT)

So he got back into the boat and left them, and he crossed to the other side of the lake.

—Mark 8:13 (NLT)

Jesus and his disciples left Galilee and went up to the villages near Caesarea Philippi....

—Mark 8:27a (NLT)



...As they were walking along, [Jesus] asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

—Mark 8:27b (NLT)

Much of Mark’s Gospel has been leading up to understanding who Jesus is, and after this, the thematic center of the Gospel, the text shows us that Jesus then begins to head to Jerusalem and the suffering he will endure there on the cross.

“Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say you are one of the other prophets.”
—Mark 8:28 (NLT)

People know there’s something special about Jesus, but they’re thinking in very human terms.

Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?” Peter replied, “You are the Messiah.”
—Mark 8:29 (NLT)

This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God....
—Mark 1:1 (NLT)

Peter probably still doesn’t understand all that the title “Messiah” means, because the Jewish Messiah wasn’t necessarily thought to be divine or the Son of God or the Second Person of the Trinity.

Messiah (Hebrew) = Christ (Greek) = the “Anointed One” of God

Peter’s confession is politically dangerous, for he is saying that as Messiah, Jesus is the true King of Israel.

Mark has been showing us that Jesus was redefining what Messiah really meant.

Jesus was speaking powerfully but cryptically of and demonstrating a strange new agenda - the coming of the Kingdom of God that was much more than a physical region of land.

Jesus’ life, death on the cross, and resurrection from the grave would become the defining sign of God’s new Kingdom.

But Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.
—Mark 8:30 (NLT)

Who do I say Jesus is?

We're always in danger of forgetting, and so the early church recognized the great importance of signs, of the body of Christ coming together regularly to worship, pray, fellowship together, perform baptisms and celebrate Holy Communion.

Next Week - Signs, Part 2 (*Mark 8:11-13, 27-30*) (read ahead)