

Got Life? Signs, Certainty, Salvation

John H. Niemelä at Crosspoint Community Church,
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Introduction

Part 1: Signs

John arranges his Gospel around eight signs:

20³⁰ Jesus actually performed many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these [eight signs] 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. (Logos 21 Version from the *Living Water*)

John's readers had not yet _____, so they did not yet _____.

Thus, John's Gospel differs from the other twenty-six New Testament books.

The other twenty-six New Testament books were written to _____.

What does a sign accomplish? A sign _____.

Moses predicted that the Prophet would have signs (Deuteronomy 18)

God will raise up a Prophet like Moses (18:15-17)

Israel must heed the Prophet like Moses (18:18-19)

How would Israel recognize the Prophet like Moses? (18:20-22)

Fulfillment of short-term prophecies would be the basis of proving His identity

Another name for a short-term fulfilled prophecy is _____.

John 6:14 and Acts 3:22-23. Jesus is the greater-than-Moses Prophet-like-Moses

Part 2: Certainty (Believing) comes through the Witnessed Signs in John

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The 100 Uses of *pisteuō* (always translated *believe*, except in 2:24) in John's Gospel

1:7, 12, 50; 2:11, 22-24; 3:12a-b, 15f, 18a-b-c, 36; 4:21, 39, 41f, 48, 50, 53; 5:24, 38, 44, 46a-b, 47a-b; 6:29f, 35f, 40, 47, 64a-b, 69; 7:5, 31, 38f, 48; 8:24, 30f, 45f; 9:18, 35f, 38; 10:25f, 37, 38a-b, 38c, 42; 11:15, 25, 26a-b, 27, 40, 42, 45, 48; 12:11, 36-39, 42, 44a-b, 46, 47; 13:19; 14:1a-b, 10, 11a-b, 12, 29; 16:9, 27, 30f; 17:8, 20f; 19:35; 20:8, 25, 29a-b, 31a-b.

The N-A/UBS texts vary in two underlined passages (John 10:38c; 12:47).

A. John 1-12 Has Seven Witnessed Signs (each more persuasive than those before it):

Sign 1: Water to Wine (*speaks in 2:7-8*) [2:1-11]

Sign 2: Heal Official's Son from Afar (*speaks in 4:50*) [4:46-54]

Sign 3: Heal Man who Was Lame 38 Years (*speaks in 5:8*) [5:1-15]

Sign 4: Feed 5,000 Men plus women/children (*speaks in 6:10-11*) [6:1-14]

Sign 5: Walk on water + Teleport to Capernaum (*speaks in 6:20*) [6:15-21]

Sign 6: Heal Man Born Blind (*speaks in 9:7*) [9:1-12]

Sign 7: Raise Lazarus (*speaks in 11:4; cf. "Didn't I tell you" in 11:40*) [11:1-44]

B. John 13-21 Has One Supreme Sign that is Predicted and Confirmed.

1. The Prediction of the Supreme Sign: (John 2:18-19, 21)

²¹⁸ So in reply the Jews [*loudaios* = Judeans in John] said to Him, “What **miraculous sign** do You show us, since You do these things?” ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this sanctuary and I will raise it up in three days!” ...

²¹ But He was talking about the sanctuary of His body. (Logos 21 Version)

Sanctuary (naos) speaks of the Holy Place/Holy of Holies;
it is not the word *temple courts (hieron)* used in John 2:15.

The Glory (Jesus) returned to the Temple. It had been
Ichabod (without glory) ever since Ezekiel 10–11.

2. The Supreme Sign: The Cross and Resurrection (John 19–20)

3. Four Confirmations of the Supreme Sign

Confirmatory Appearance to Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18)

Confirmatory Appearance to Ten Disciples: (John 20:19-23)

Confirmatory Appearance to Eleven Disciples: (John 20:24-29)

Confirmatory Appearance to Seven Disciples: 21:1-14)

How Were these Signs Confirmed to Unbelieving Readers (who did not see the signs)?

²⁰³⁰ Jesus actually performed many other miraculous signs **in the presence of His disciples**, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these [eight miraculous signs] 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. (Logos 21 Version)

²¹²⁴ This [John the apostle] is the disciple who testifies to these things and wrote them down; and **we** know that his testimony is true. (Logos 21 Version)

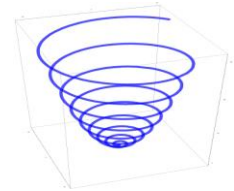
Part 3: Salvation (Eternal Life)

20³¹ **But these** [eight miraculous signs] **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.** (Logos 21 Version)

Contrary to popular thinking within conservative Christianity, neither Jesus nor John would say that unbelievers possess everlasting life, even though they will have a conscious *existence* for all eternity. Existence is not life. Jesus promises everlasting life to believers. Unbelievers will be in a conscious state of eternal perishing.

“For God loved the world so [this way]:¹ That He gave His *One and only* Son,² so whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16, author’s translation)



Mathematical formula written by George Niemelä

Revelation 20:14 calls the lake of fire: the second death.

CONCLUSION: Signs, Certainty, Salvation

John’s eight signs _____,

The eight signs are written so unbelievers may _____,

The ultimate purpose of belief based on the signs is that _____.

¹ *Houtō*, the word often translated *so*, is an adverb of manner. In fact, Spanish translations of John 3:16 correctly render it as *manera* (manner). Yes it would be true for John 3:16 to say that God loved the word *so [much]*, but that was not the intended point. Rather, this verse tells us *how* God loved the world: by giving His Son.

² I would be quite comfortable translating John 3:16 as *only begotten Son*, but the spelling of the word as *monogenēs*, rather than *monogennēs*, favors the idea of *unique*. For example, this word’s use in the Greek translation of Psalm 34:17 clearly evidences this meaning.