

“The Seventh Sign: An Examination of the Raising of Lazarus; and the Purpose of Jesus’ Miracles, Part 1”

John 11:1-46

Associate Minister’s Class

12-9-14

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INTRODUCTION: The Gospel of John is a unique Gospel, in that it focuses primarily on presenting Jesus as the Son of God. John stresses, more than any other Gospel, the divinity of Jesus. This is clearly seen in the *prologue* of the book (John 1:1-18), which introduces Jesus as the *Logos*, the Word of God. John further declares that the Word is one with God, that the Word is the Creator, and that the Word is the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Additionally, the Gospel writer plainly states the purpose of this book. There are seven distinct miracles (signs) found in the Fourth Gospel. These miracles are presented, not merely as supernatural deeds, but as proof that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ. The author of John indicates that Jesus did many more than these seven. However, each miracle included in the Fourth Gospel, brings its witnesses (and the readers of John) to the point of decision - they must choose *belief* or *unbelief*.

When interpreting and making application of the signs presented in John, it is important that the Minister remember their purpose, as stated by the Apostle.

The Raising of Lazarus

- I. Lazarus’ Condition
 - a. The Place – v. 1a
 - b. The People – v. 1b-2a
 - c. The Predicament – v. 2b
 - d. The Plea – v. 3

- II. Jesus’ Response
 - a. His Proclamation – v. 4a
 - b. His Explanation – v. 4b
 - c. His Delay – V. 5-6

- III. The Disciples’ Fear
 - a. Jesus Heads Toward Danger – v. 7
 - b. The Disciples’ Fear – v. 8
 - c. The Parable of the Traveler – v. 9-10

- IV. The Disciples' Bewilderment
 - a. Jesus' Description of a Believers Death – v. 11
 - b. The Disciples Remain Confused – v. 12-13
 - c. Jesus *Makes It Plain* – v. 14-15a
 - d. Jesus' Desire For His Disciples – v. 15b
 - e. Thomas' Continued Misunderstanding – v. 16

- V. Martha Confronts Jesus
 - a. The Finality Of Lazarus' Condition – v. 17
 - b. Jesus Travels To Bethany - v. 18
 - c. The Arrival Of The Mourners – v- 19

- VI. Martha Confesses Christ
 - a. Martha's Response – v. 20a
 - a. Mary's Response – v. 20b
 - b. Miscalculated Faith – v. 21
 - c. Frail Faith – v. 22

- VII. Jesus Promise Of Eternal Life
 - a. Jesus' *vague* Proclamation – v. 23
 - b. Martha's Doctrinal Statement – v. 24
 - c. Jesus Reveals Who He Is – v. 25a
 - d. Jesus Proclaims The Gospel – v. 25b-26a
 - e. Martha Is Called To Believe – v. 26b
 - f. The Full Measure Of Faith – v. 27
 - g. The Satisfaction Of Faith – v. 28a