

JESUS PROCLAIMED AS KING: THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY JOHN 12:12–19

Introduction

This is the revelation of Jesus as the coming King. It involves both a false concept and the true concept of His coming. It is a picture of how men have seen Jesus down through the centuries.

- I. The setting: crowds gathered for the Passover (v. 12).
- II. The false concept of Christ (vv. 12-13).
- III. The true concept of Christ (vv. 14-15).
- IV. The disciples' reaction (v. 16).
- V. The people's reaction (vv. 17-18).
- VI. The religionists' reaction: despair and rage (v. 19).

I. *John 12:12 The Passover*

The crowds gathered for the Passover. Note the words “the great crowd”: a great number of pilgrims were swarming into Jerusalem for the Passover. Josephus, the notable Jewish historian of that day, estimated that over two million people were involved in the great Passover Feast. It is known that 256,500 lambs were slain at one Passover and that each lamb represented at least ten worshippers. This, of course, puts the number of people well over two million. Teeming thousands from all over the world were flooding into the city to observe the Passover. The mass of people and the necessary housing and food arrangements to handle such a mass of people can hardly be imagined. An excitable vacation and carnival-like atmosphere was bound to prevail over such a mob of people. Such was the scene as the people gathered for the great Feast.

II. *John 12:12–13 Misconceptions of Messiah: Deliverer, Utopia*

The false concept of Christ. The false concept sees Jesus as an earthly Saviour, One who is to bring utopia to earth for the people of God. The false concept sees Jesus...

- as the *Conqueror*; as the One who is to straighten out the problems of this earth by overcoming all the enemies of mankind including evil men, hunger, disease and poverty.
 - as the *Provider*: as the One who is to feed, house, and give health, plenty and success to man; as the One who is to be sought to bless man in all the good things of life.
 - as the *Indulgent, Passive Lord*: as the One who accepts man no matter what man does, just so he is somewhat religious; as the One who allows man to live as he desires, doing his own thing despite the sin and injustices and immorality of his behaviour.
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The false concept fails to see two things in understanding the Messiahship of Jesus.

=> It fails to see the demand of Christ: the demand to serve by reaching out to a world that is lost and reeling in needs so desperate that the thoughtful mind staggers at the reality of it. It fails to see the demand of Christ for self-denial, a denial that demands the giving of all one is and has to meet the needs of the world.

=> It fails to see the spiritual concern of Christ: His concern with bringing peace between man and God — with saving man and being mindful that man lives *with God* and not separate from God; His concern with man understanding that God is holy, righteous and pure; His concern with man's living a life of faith and diligently seeking God; His concern with man's living a holy, righteous, and pure life in order to be acceptable to God.

Note several significant facts in this point — facts that clearly show the false concept of Christ held by so many, both in Jesus' day and down through the centuries.

1. "Many people" were involved in welcoming Jesus in the Triumphal scene. Many held the false concept of Jesus as the earthly King and Saviour of man, as the One who was to be sought in order to secure all the good things of this earth.
2. The people "went out" to welcome Jesus. Note that they were not just sitting and waiting for Him to come. When they "heard" about Him, they actually went out to meet Him.
3. The people took palm branches to wave and lay before Him (See *Palmn Branches*, Jn. 12:13).
4. The people cried "Hosanna," which means *save now*, or *save, we pray*. Man desires to be free, but note: man desires to be free on this earth so that he can move about and do as he pleases. He thinks little if any about being free from the bondages of this earth. He loves this earth and he wants all of it that he can get: houses, lands, clothes, food, sex, and recreation. Man thinks little about being held in bondage by such things; he thinks little about sin and death. He thinks little of being set free from the power of this earth and its possessions so that he can live eternally. He thinks little of spiritual freedom.
5. The people received Jesus as the political King and Messiah. Their concept had deteriorated through the years.
 - a. First, few had ever seen "the seed" [the descendants] promised to Adam and Abraham as referring to the Messiah. They interpreted "the seed" as the nation Israel, as all circumcised Jews. "We are Abraham's descendants [seed]" they were later to tell Christ (Jn. 8:33). They saw Christ as being "the descendant [seed] of Abraham" only in the sense that an ordinary Jew was. He was just an ordinary man born through Abraham's line. Few ever saw the Messiah as "the Seed" or Descendant in whom all the promises made to Abraham were to be fulfilled.

- b. Second, the Jews saw the Messiah primarily as the Son of David. David had liberated and led their nation to its highest peak, so they saw the Messiah as following in David's footsteps. At first, the Jews saw the Messiah as a *liberator*; One who was going to deliver them from all their enemies and restore their nation to its greatest glory. However, as centuries rolled on and they suffered brutal violence after violence, their concept of the Messiah deteriorated into *anger*.

Thought 1. How much like what happens today. The false concept of Christ that sees Him as the One who gives us *material blessings* is proclaimed, and people rush "out to meet Him." (See *God's Blessings*, Eph. 1:3.) What men fail to understand is that they must come to Jesus because they love Him, not because they can get something out of Him. They must come because of who He is, not because He blesses them with the possessions of this earth.

Acts 2:40 *With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."*

Rom 12:1-2 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

1 Cor 7:31 *Those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.*

2 Cor 6:17-18 *"Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."*

Gal 6:14 *May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

Eph 5:11 *Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.*

2 Th 3:6 *In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us.*

1 John 2:15-16 *Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world.*

JOHN 12:13 PALM BRANCHES

These were a symbol of victory and triumph. They were waved triumphantly as a conqueror rode victoriously through the city streets. The point is this: the people were welcoming Jesus as the great Conqueror and mighty Deliverer. But Jesus had come in peace, not as the judge or conqueror of the Romans nor of anyone else - not right then and not right now. Presently He is the Saviour of all men: later when He returns, He will come as King. □

EPHESIANS 01:03 GOD'S BLESSINGS

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
Ephesians 01:03

God's blessings are spiritual and heavenly, not material blessings. Throughout history God has used two methods of blessings to deal with man. Before Christ, God dealt with man by blessing him with material blessings. He promised Abraham and Israel land, wealth, and fame. (See *Israel, God's Special People*, Jn. 4:22; Jews, the Seed of Abraham, Rom. 4:1-25. See Gen. 12:1f; 13:14-17; 15:1-7, 15-19; 22:16-18; 26:2-5, 24; 28:13-15; 31:13; 35:9-12.) But Israel misused and hoarded the material blessings. Instead of sharing its blessings with other nations, Israel isolated itself and claimed superiority and God-given rights over other nations of the earth. However, since Christ, God deals with man spiritually, blessing him with spiritual blessings.

Five things should be noted about this.

1. Spiritual blessings *are of the Spirit*. It is the Spirit that controls man and the circumstances that surround him. A man may feel bad; he may be down, depressed and oppressed; but if his spirit is strong, he arises and conquers his feelings. He controls and overcomes the oppressing circumstances, and he lives a victorious day. But if his spirit is weak, whether at work or at play, he often wallows around in self-pity, grumbling and griping and living a defeated day. And too often the days stretch into weeks and months until a person's life is down more than it is up — all because the spirit is too weak to conquer. Thus, the major blessings of God are bound to be blessings that are spiritual — that enable a person to control his life.
2. Spiritual blessings are the very opposite of temporal blessings. They are the *blessings of the inner man*, the blessings of the immortal. But of all blessings, they are the most glorious and satisfying. They are the blessings that erase the loneliness, alienation, and purposelessness of man. They are the blessings that give man an overabundance of life.

3. Spiritual blessings are vastly superior to material blessings. They are *permanent and perfect and eternal*, lasting forever. They are of the very same nature as God Himself. Spiritual blessings exist and can be experienced both upon earth (the physical dimension of being) and in heaven (the spiritual dimension of being).
4. Spiritual blessings are found only *in Christ*. Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead and exalted to the right hand of God the Father. He is in heaven, surrounded by all the heavenly atmosphere and blessings. All heavenly blessings are His; He is Lord and Possessor of all blessings. Therefore, if a person is to experience the spiritual blessings, he must be *in Christ*. If a person is *in Christ*, then he sits *in heaven* with Christ. How is this possible? When a person *believes in Christ*, truly believes, God takes his faith and counts it as righteousness. God counts the person to be the same as Christ, righteous and acceptable. In God's mind *faith in Christ* makes a person just like Christ: holy and righteous and acceptable for heaven. Therefore, when a person believes in Christ, God's mind sees the person in Christ; God sees the person identified with Christ, seated in heaven. And being seated in heaven, the person can experience all the blessings of heaven. Simply stated, to be *in Christ* means to believe in God's Son so much that God becomes elated - elated so much that He counts the person to be just like Christ: acceptable and worthy to be blessed with all the blessings of heaven. (See *Justification, Gal. 2:15-16.*)
5. God dealt with man in material blessings first because man had to learn several things.
 - a. An earthly inheritance does not last. It is subject to being lost or stolen. We either watch our material possessions deteriorate or else we leave our material possessions behind for others.
 - b. An earthly nation and material inheritance cannot bring peace and security. Peace and security are of the spirit. Earthly nations and material things are of the earth, of a corruptible nature. Thus nations and material things do not solve the spiritual struggle that man senses within his own being. Neither can nations and material things erase the spiritual divisions between men and between man and God.
 - c. Man has within his *inner being* a basic selfishness and greed. Man finds a tendency, an unregulated urge, that desires and seeks the material and hoards the corruptible to the neglect of the spiritual.
 - d. Man must undergo a basic change of character to be freed of this urge, this tendency that causes so much bondage, disruption, and division within one's self and between men. Man must be *born again*, made into a *new creation*, created into a *new man* — spiritually, permanently, perfectly, eternally. And such a spiritual creation must be performed by Someone much greater than himself. Man must be recreated by the hand of God Himself. □

III. *John 12:14–15 The True Concept of the Messiah*

The true concept of Christ. This was symbolized clearly in the riding of the young colt or donkey. In ancient days the colt was a noble animal. It was used as a beast of service to carry the burdens of men, but more significantly, it was used by Kings and their emissaries. When they entered a city in peace, they rode a colt to symbolize their peaceful intentions (see the judges of Israel and the chieftains throughout the land, Judges 5:10; 10:4). This differed dramatically from a conquering King. When a King entered a city as a conqueror, he rode a stallion.

Jesus was dramatically demonstrating two things for the people: first, that He was unquestionably the promised King, the Saviour of the people; and second, that He was not coming as the conquering King. His mission was not to come as a worldly potentate, in pomp and ceremony, not to be the leader of an army to kill, injure and maim; consequently, the people had to change their concept of the Messiah. The Messiah was coming as the Saviour of Peace who had been sent to save all men. He was coming to show men that God is the God of love and reconciliation.

1. The colt was a symbol of peace. Jesus came to bring peace, as pointed out in the above discussion.

Rom 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Eph 2:13-14 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.

Col 1:20 And through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

2. The colt symbolized service. It was a noble animal, an animal used in the service of men to carry their burdens. Jesus came upon the colt symbolizing that He came to serve men and to bear their burdens for them.

Mat 20:28 “Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Phil 2:7-8 But made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!

Heb 2:17-18 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Heb 2:14-15 *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

Heb 4:15-16 *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

3. The colt symbolized sacredness. This particular colt had never been ridden before, and this fact had a sacred meaning (Mk. 11:2). Animals and things used for religious purposes had to be animals and things that had never been used before (Num. 19:2; Dut. 21:3; 1 Sam. 6:7). This detail points to the very sacredness of the event. It pictured for everyone that Jesus was deliberately taking every precaution to proclaim that *He was the sacred hope*, the promised Messiah of the people.

John 6:38 *“For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.”*

John 8:28-29 *So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.”*

John 11:25-27 *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” “Yes, Lord,” she told him, “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.”*

IV. John 12:16 Understanding Scripture

The disciples’ reaction is clearly stated. They simply...

- did not grasp the meaning and significance of what was happening.
- misunderstood Jesus’ Messiahship and Kingship.
- thought that Jesus was to be a worldly King and earthly Messiah.

The disciples were as guilty as the people in misunderstanding Scripture. The truth of Scripture — its prediction of these things and how Jesus fulfilled them — was made clear after the resurrection of Jesus. The task of revealing the truth to the heart of man was to be the task of the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:26).

When the Holy Spirit came, He quickened the truth to the disciples’ minds, and the disciples saw clearly how Jesus had fulfilled the Scripture in the Triumphal Entry.

Thought 1. Scripture is unfathomable; its depth cannot be measured. There is a world of truth herein, an eternity of insight. The Holy Spirit takes the believer and quickens his mind and heart to grasp the Scripture.

=> To the man who seeks after the Word, the Spirit unfolds the Word of God and reveals the glorious truths of God.

=> To the man who hungers after the Word, the Spirit fills his soul with the good things of God's Word.

=> To the man who thirsts after the Word, the Spirit pours the living waters of the Word into his being.

Luke 12:12 *"For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."*

John 14:26 *"But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."*

1 Cor 2:13 *This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.*

1 John 2:27 *As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit - just as it has taught you, remain in him.*

Thought 2. Since Jesus has risen and been glorified, no man has an excuse for not understanding the mission of Jesus. Jesus came as the Prince of Peace and as the Saviour of the world. He did not come to fulfil the lustful cravings and worldly ambitions of men. Men are to be saved by Him and to surrender their lives to Him as the Lord of glory who now sits at the right hand of God the Father.

Mat 3:2 *And saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."*

Luke 13:3 *"I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."*

Acts 2:38 *Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

Acts 3:19 *Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.*

Acts 8:22 *Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart.*

1 Cor 6:20 *You were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.*

Thought 3. Believers must depend upon the Holy Spirit to understand Scripture. Scripture *cannot be understood* apart from the Spirit of God. Believers must...

- be the Lord's in the truest sense.
- hunger and thirst after righteousness.
- come to the Word, the Bible.
- seek the Spirit for understanding.

- seek exactly what the Word says (not what men say).
- seek what the Word says to a man's own heart (application).
- be prayerful, open-minded, depending upon the Spirit for illumination (eliminating all preconceived notions).
- study, rightly dividing the Word, letting the Word interpret the Word.
- *study*, seeking the approval of God, *not of men*.

1 Cor 2:14 *The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. (see v. 9-15)*

John 5:39 *“You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me.”*

1 Pet 2:2-3 *Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

2 Tim 2:15 *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*

2 Tim 3:16 *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.*

Col 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.*

Acts 17:11 *Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*

Acts 20:32 *“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”*

V. John 12:17–18 Reaction to Jesus Christ

The people's reaction. Many of the people were sincere: they “put their faith in Jesus” (Jn. 11:45). But many were as so many are in a crowd — simply sightseers, wanting to be where the people were and where the action was. They were after the excitement, the sensational, the spectacular (see *Signs, Miracles*, Jn. 2:23).

Mat 12:38 *Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, “Teacher, we want to see a miraculous sign from you.”*

Mat 23:28 *“In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.”*

Mark 7:6 *He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: 'These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.'"*

Luke 12:56-57 *"Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time? Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right?"*

John 4:48 *"Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe."*

John 6:30 *So they asked him, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?"*

1 Cor 1:22-23 *Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.*

Titus 1:16 *They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.*

VI. John 12:19 Religionist's Reaction to Jesus Christ

The religionists' reaction was that of despair and rage. Standing there, they witnessed the whole scene of surging thousands thronging the roadway welcoming Jesus as the Messiah. They became so upset and full of despair that they began to accuse and blame each other for the failure of their plots against Jesus.

John 3:36 *"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."*

John 8:24 *"I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins."*

Heb 3:12 *See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.*

Note the exclamatory truth they proclaimed: "The whole world has gone after Him." John pictured a most dramatic scene: even the enemies of Jesus saw Jesus conquering the world. Practically every pilgrim in the city must have been caught up in the excitement. Teeming thousands upon thousands were lining the roadway between Bethany and Jerusalem crying for their Saviour.

Thought 1. What a picture of how the world should be crying for the Lord's deliverance! Men by teeming thousands should be lining the roadways crying for His salvation.

Acts 17:27 *God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.*

Deu 4:29 *But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul.*

Isa 55:6 Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

Jer 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Amos 5:4 This is what the LORD says to the house of Israel: "Seek me and live." ■

JOHN 02:23

SIGNS AND MIRACLES — THE WORKS OF GOD

*Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name. **John 02:23***

There are four words used in the Bible for miracles or signs. These words are used to describe the works of God, and they show why people believed in Jesus.

1. **Teras** means the spectacular, staggering, amazing, dazzling. Many believed in Jesus because of the spectacular signs He performed. However, such belief made a person only a spectator, not a participant in His life. The word *teras* also means the sensational; that is, it appeals to the sensations of men. Many believed and followed Jesus because it made them feel good and comfortable and secure. Such belief is weak and often fails. This word is never used by itself to initiate faith in the Lord Jesus. If a person is to have genuine faith in the Lord Jesus, he must have some basis other than the spectacular sign (*teras*).

Luke 8:6, 13 Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.

Luke 9:62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

Heb 10:38 But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him."

2. **Dunamis** means power — unusual, extraordinary power; effective, explosive power. There were those who were attracted to Jesus because of the unusual power (*dunamis*) they witnessed. They believed because of the power. Such is a legitimate belief and leads to salvation for everyone who believes.

Rom 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Mark 6:5-6 He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.

1 Cor 1:24 *But to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

3. **Ergon** means distinctive works, deeds, and miracles. Such works come from God (Jn. 14:10) and bear witness to Christ. They point men to Christ (Jn. 5:36; 10:25). Some men look at the very special works of Christ and believe because of the *works* (ergon).

John 10:37-38 *Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”*

John 14:11 *Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.*

4. **Semeion** means a sign that characterizes the person, his nature and character. A few throughout Jesus’ ministry did believe because they saw *in the miracles* exactly who He was, the very Son of God.

John 2:11 *This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.*

John 20:30-31 *Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

However, the word *semeion* is also used of those who believed the signs but *did not have* the highest or right kind of faith. Their faith was *not a faith that committed itself* (see *Believe, Commitment*, Jn. 2:24).

- a. It was a faith that arose only from...

- a mental conviction, a head knowledge, an intellectual belief.
- a surface acceptance of the fact that Jesus was the Saviour.

John 2:23-24 *Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name. But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men.*

- b. It was also a faith...

- that only sought Jesus for what a person could get out of Him.
- that never gave any thought to what a person might do for Christ.
- that was unaware of the cost of discipleship, unaware that a person had to sacrifice himself and give all he was and had to Christ in order to become a follower of His (see note, Lk. 9:23).

John 6:26 *Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.”* □