

Hebrew Heritage Bible Society

A division of the Gospel Research Foundation

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Miraculous Signs

Seven miraculous signs lead down the path to the cross. The seventh sign, the raising of Lazarus from the dead, creates conflict. Quite unusual, Imperial Rome is mentioned: “At that, the chief priests and the spiritual leaders gathered together for a meeting, and were saying, ‘What are we going to do? Certainly this man is performing many miraculous signs. If we leave Him alone to keep this up, all people will come to believe in Him! As a result, moreover, the Romans will take action and destroy both our place and our nation’” (John 11:47,48). Gospel writers seem to avoid direct mention of Rome because of persecution. The growth and expansion of the faith in the Roman empire has no chance if the early documents of belief speak negatively of the ruling powers. In spite of all that, the fourth Gospel expresses the fears of the Sadducees, namely that the Romans will respond to a messianic movement within the Jewish community. All people will come to believe because of the raising of Lazarus from the dead, and then the Roman soldiers will react by destroying the Temple and will crush any messianic hope violently with the sword. Here are the seven signs of the Gospel of John. Yeshua:

2:1-11 Turned water into wine

4:46-54 Healed the son of a royal official

5:1-18 Healed a crippled man

6:6-13 Multiplied the five barley loaves and two fish to feed five thousand people

6:16-21 Walked on the water

9:1-7 Healed the man born blind

11:1-45 Raised Laazar from the dead