

RABBI JASON SOBEL

SIGNS AND SECRETS
OF THE MESSIAH

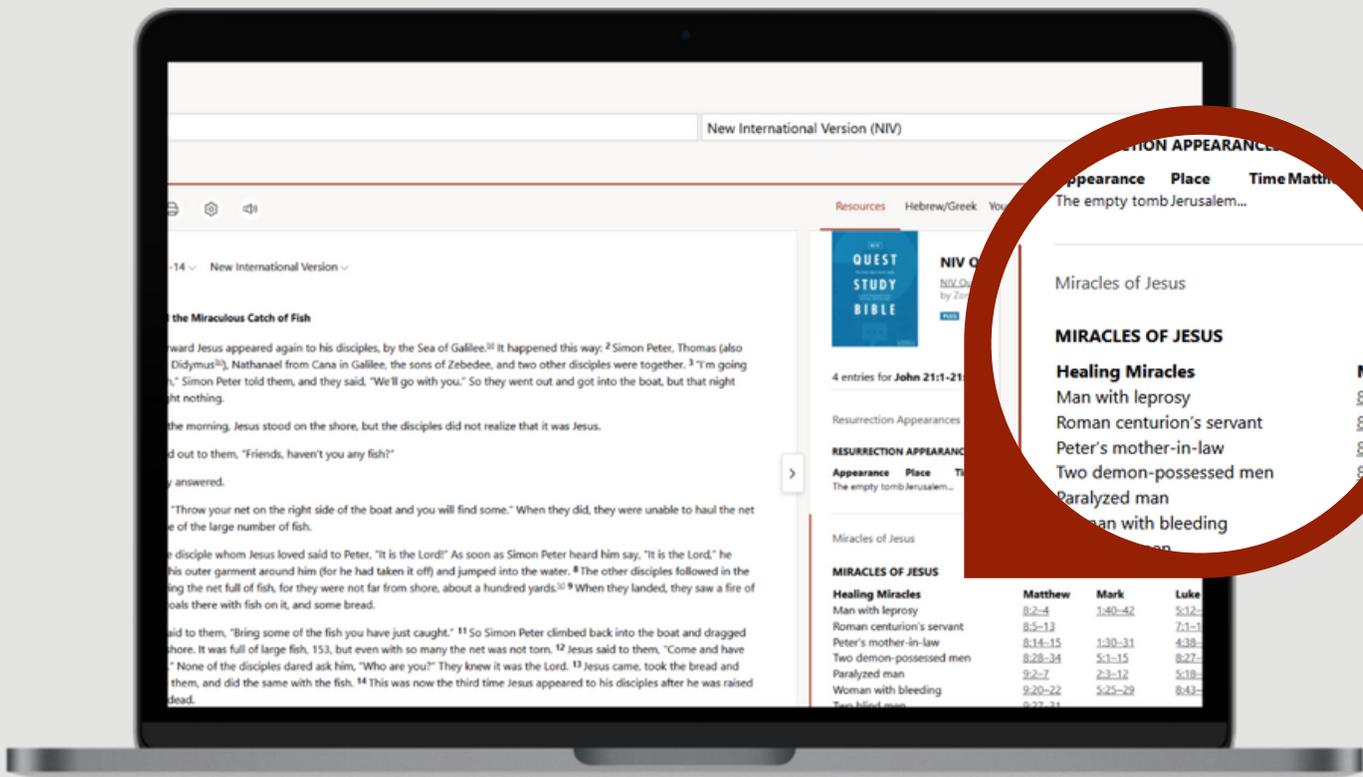
**A FIVE-DAY STUDY OF THE
MIRACLES OF JESUS**



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INTRODUCTION

EXPLORE FIVE MIRACLES OF JESUS WITH RABBI JASON SOBEL

As in the days of your coming out from the land of Egypt I will show him wonders.

[Micah 7:15](#)

As children of the King, we are called to immerse ourselves in the wonder and mystery of God's Word. The Bible is like a multifaceted diamond—its many sides contribute to its brilliance. There are many ways to read Bible text that are complementary and never contradictory. It's not worthless but worthwhile to look at every Word from many angles. Jesus (Yeshua) himself understood this about Scripture, as he was well-versed in the teachings of his Jewish upbringing. Therefore, it is our privilege and honor to study God's Word—both the Old Testament and the New—in order to better understand the revelations of God.

The Bible is also like the ocean—shallow enough for any child and deep enough that you can't explore all of it. There are infinite layers to God's Word. That's what makes the Bible different from any other book written by a human author. There's always some new mystery or secret to be uncovered. That's why the Bible needs to be read repeatedly. It's not boring and should create a sense of wonder that renews your mind and transforms you.

Spiritual truth is the greatest treasure because it transforms us and our relationship with the Lord. Seeing these connections between the Old and the New renews and strengthens our faith and gives us a sense of wonder and deeper love for God's Word. Deeper spiritual truths are often not obvious on the surface, but they can be found, and it's the glory of the King to seek them out and meditate on them. Jesus gives us an example in the road to Emmaus experience ([Luke 24](#)). The more we look at languages, make connections between Old and New Testaments, and consider the numeric connections, the more secrets and mysteries (deeper meaning in the Scriptures) are revealed.

My book [Signs and Secrets of the Messiah](#) explores every miracle and mystery disclosed in the gospel of John, which includes many of the most crucial of Yeshua's miracles on earth. For the next few days, let's examine some of the miraculous deeds of our Savior, paying special attention to some of the details revealed in the context of his Jewish culture and traditions. Spend a little extra time each day reading the words of Scripture, asking God to reveal something new to you. There is no such thing as too much Bible study; we can never get enough of God's Word!

Rabbi Jason Sobel

DAY 1

TURNING WATER INTO WINE

THE SIGNS AND SECRETS OF TRANSFORMATION



In [John 2](#), we see Jesus performing his first miracle at a wedding in Cana. The host ran out of wine, and at his mother's prompting, Jesus asked the servants to fill six water jars with water. When the master of the banquet tasted the water, it had been turned into the finest wine.

At first, this miracle may not seem too important in comparison to some of Jesus's other miracles, but Jewish weddings are something to behold. The fact that the Messiah's first miracle occurred during a wedding points to the abundance and blessing that come from our relationship with the Messiah Yeshua. His changing the water into wine was not merely a random act of kindness; rather, it reflected and metaphorically fulfilled the many Old Testament scriptures that speak of God's people, the proverbial bride, and the Bridegroom to come—Jesus himself.

The miracle of turning water into wine shows us that Jesus is not only able to meet our needs but also exceed them. He is able to take the ordinary and make it extraordinary. The miracle at the wedding was officially the start of Yeshua's public ministry, demonstrating that God was beginning to fulfill the messianic promises setting his redemption plan into motion. It makes sense that this miracle of abundance occurred at a wedding because Yeshua is the Bridegroom, and he was coming for his bride. A marriage—an eternal, covenantal relationship—is the kind of relationship God hopes to have with us as well.

Scripture

[John 2:1-12](#)

[John 3:27-19](#)

[Isaiah 54:5-8](#)

Reflect:

- Why was it a special and fitting miracle for Jesus's first public display of his supernatural nature?
- How have you experienced Jesus exceeding your expectations?
- How has he shown compassion in your life?

Pray:

Lord, thank you for showing us that you are able to exceed our expectations and meet our needs. Help us to trust in your provision and rely on your compassion.

DAY 2

HEALING THE NOBLEMAN'S SON

THE SIGNS AND SECRETS OF WHOLENESS



In [John 4](#), Jesus heals a nobleman's son who is near death. The official asks Jesus to come and heal his son, but Jesus tells him his son will live. The official believes what Jesus says, and in that moment, his son is healed from afar.

This miracle shows us that Jesus has the power to heal us both physically and spiritually. It also demonstrates the importance of faith without sight. The official believed in Yeshua's words and trusted that his son would be healed, and Jesus honored his faith by doing as promised.

Another significant detail of this miracle is the location of its occurrence. Often in the Old Testament, it is prophesied that the Messiah would come out of the Galilee region. Though the nobleman begs Jesus to come from Cana to his home in Capernaum—nearly twenty miles away—Jesus does his saving work from a distance. You may remember that Yeshua's first miracle took place at a wedding in the same town (Cana). Even from the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus is fulfilling prophecy in ways large and small.

Scripture

[John 4:46–54](#)

[Matthew 4:12–17](#)

[Isaiah 8:23 – 9:1](#)

Reflect:

- Do you believe Jesus has the power to heal you both physically and spiritually?
- How has your faith in Jesus helped you in difficult situations?

Pray:

Lord, I believe in your power to heal me. Help me to trust in your power and to have faith in your promises.

DAY 3

FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

THE SIGNS AND SECRETS OF MULTIPLICATION



Faced with a crowd of five thousand men—which may have been as many as ten thousand people including women and children—Jesus asks his disciples how on earth they will feed them all. Philip and the other disciples seem flummoxed, knowing how much money it will take to feed a crowd so large.

Jesus's question, however, is a test for his disciples. Would they rely on themselves and their efforts, or would they rely on God to do something magnificent?

This test is reminiscent of the way God tested Israel as they wandered in the desert. Many times he gave them the opportunity to rely on him for their needs; and many times they failed to trust in him, despite his steadfast care. Jesus's testing taught his disciples to depend completely upon him to provide in the same supernatural way God did for his people in the wilderness. Would they try to feed these people on their own, or would God provide a way?

With just five loaves of bread and two fish, everyone ate—and after everyone had eaten, there were twelve baskets of leftovers.

This miracle shows us that Jesus is able to provide for us in abundance, beyond anything we could imagine.

Scripture:

[John 6:1–15](#)

[Deuteronomy 8:2–3](#)

Reflect:

- How has Jesus provided for you in abundance?
- What blessings in your life do you need to give thanks for?
- When Jesus asked his disciples to help him feed the five thousand, his request may have been a test of their faith. Describe the outcome of their words and efforts, then think about a time when God supplied you with more than you could have provided on your own.

Pray:

Thank you, God, for providing for me. Help me to remember to give thanks for even the smallest blessings in my life.

DAY 4

HEALING THE BLIND MAN

THE SIGNS AND SECRETS OF SIGHT

Yeshua's compassion is evident in the healing of the blind man in [John 9](#). The fact that this man had been blind since birth adds to the dramatic nature of this miracle. It's hard enough to be blind in our modern times with all of today's technological advancements that assist the visually impaired; but imagine being blind in ancient times. It meant you were a poor beggar and societal outcast. Adding insult to injury was a commonly held belief by religious Jewish people and pagan Romans that disabilities and diseases were the results of either one's sin or the sin of one's parents. The blind man in John 9 had been in his condition since birth, which is why the disciples asked Yeshua whether this man or his parents had sinned.

Jesus made it clear to his disciples that this man's blindness was not a result of his or his parents' sin. Rather, the man's blindness becomes a way for God to be glorified. As Jesus mixes spit with mud and places it upon the man's eyes, he demonstrates his compassion and power. Though we may be physically or spiritually blind, Jesus offers sight and wholeness to us all.



Scripture

[John 9:1-12](#)

[Isaiah 35:5](#)

[Luke 7:20-23](#)

Reflect:

- The blind man carried the lifelong stigma not only of his disability, but also of what those around him considered to be a life of sin. How did Jesus combat this stigma?
- What else does Jesus teach us about generational sin and illness in this moment?
- If there is an area of struggle in your life that you're still waiting on answers for, have you asked God how it might be used to glorify Him?

Pray:

Father, thank you for your perfect plan. Please renew my mind and help me to see where my struggles are being used for your glory.

DAY 5

MIRACLE OF THE NETS

THE SIGNS AND SECRETS OF THE NETS

In [John 21](#), we see the disciples fishing all night and catching nothing. They were exhausted and discouraged. When Jesus appeared on the shore, they did not yet recognize him. Little did they know that the miracle of the full nets was about to happen.

Jesus told them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat, and though they did not yet know it was Jesus who spoke, they obeyed. As they pulled the net back into the boat, they found it was full of fish. In fact, it was so heavy that they could not lift it into the boat on their own.

Peter and the disciples had been fishing from a place of anxiety and worry about their future. God doesn't want you to be anxious or worried about what may or may not happen to you. Peter had anxiety and fear, but we must understand that fear is false faith. True faith believes the best, while fear thinks the worst. Fear undermines faith and corrupts our vision. It causes us to believe in the worst possible future. Fear leads to pessimism and cynicism, causing us to run around like Chicken Little, believing that the sky is falling when it isn't. Fear brings cursing, but faith brings blessing. Yeshua came for us to have victory and conquer the fears that can drag us down.



Scripture

[John 21:1-14](#)

[1 John 5:4-5](#)

[Isaiah 41:13](#)

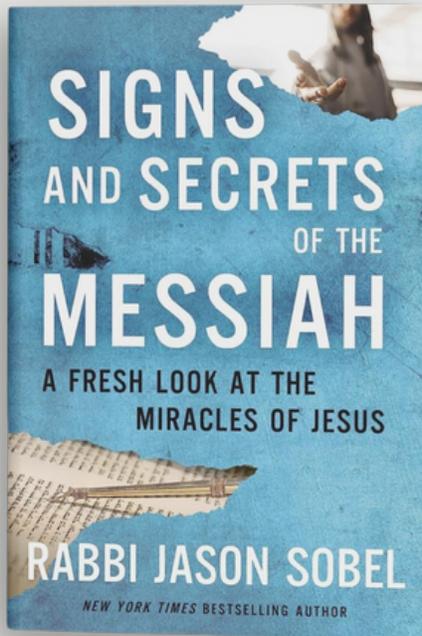
Reflect:

- What does it look like to operate out of faith rather than fear?
- At what moments in my life has God provided for me when I could not?
- Have you ever witnessed a miracle? Have you ever asked for one? Describe moments you've observed or heard of that demonstrate that God is still working in supernatural ways in our world.

Pray:

Thank you, God, for strength and salvation. Remind me when necessary to believe that you are for me and want a bright future for me.

For additional study with Bible Gateway Plus, see a list of all of Jesus' Miracles in the [NIV Quest Study Bible](#).



In this follow-up to his book *Mysteries of the Messiah*, Rabbi Jason Sobel dives deep into Scripture, biblical culture, and ancient texts to help you better understand the truths and the power behind God's miracles, and to increase your faith that Jesus can perform miracles in your life.

[Learn More](#)

Journey with Rabbi Sobel into the intricate details of the Messiah's miracles, and discover how they have meanings, often hidden from a modern audience, that give us insights into the way God still works in our lives today. This study guide has everything you need for a full Bible study experience, including:

- The study guide itself—with discussion and reflection questions, video notes, and a leader's guide.
- An individual access code to stream all video sessions online. (DVD also available separately.)

[Learn More](#)

