

## THE SIXTH SIGN-MIRACLE OF JOHN'S GOSPEL

A man born blind receives his sight – the third sign related to Israel  
(John 9)

Our Lord's act in giving sight to "a man who was blind from his birth" is recorded only by the Evangelist John and this in great detail. This is a sign relating to Israel at the end of the age, and of great significance.

Our Lord's act was in two parts. He first covered the man's eyes with clay made from His spittle and earth and then sent him to "wash in the pool of Siloam". We are informed that the man "went his way therefore, and washed and came seeing" (verse 7). In this incident we have a divine illustration of the time, now at hand, when a reserved remnant of the Jewish people will have their eyes opened as to which Jesus of Nazareth was and is. This remnant will know that it is He, acting in sovereign grace, Who has removed the veil that is upon their hearts, so that they can with eyes of a living faith see and receive Him as the Son of God, their rejected Messiah. (See II Corinth. 3:14-16).

One question of great importance remains to be answered. Why did our Lord send the blind man to the Pool of Siloam to wash in order to receive his sight? The Pool of Siloam was fed by a conduit made by Hezekiah, King of Judah (726-697 B.C.) in order to bring water into Jerusalem from outside the Holy City. These waters called "the waters of Shiloah", ran quietly and unseen and as such they formed a type of Immanuel Whose unceasing flow of love and power had from the beginning been the unseen source of Israel's strength. That this is so proved by the following utterance of God through the prophet Isaiah, addressed to Israel:

"Forasmuch as this people refuse the waters of Shiloah that go softly, and rejoice in Rezin and Remaliah's son... behold, the Lord brings upon them the waters of the river, strong and many, even the king of Assyria, and all his glory: and... shall fill the breadth of Thy land O Immanuel" (8:6-8). In effect, this simply means that Israel, instead of trusting in Immanuel, and His unseen but ever present power, preferred to trust to an alliance between their King, Pekah, the son of Remaliah and Resin, King of Syria.

Israel refusal of Immanuel, Who in the person of Hezekiah, King of Judah, pleaded with them to return to the worship of the God of Israel, is recorded in II Chronicles 30: where we learn from verse 10 that they laughed them (i.e. Hezekiah's messengers) to scorn, and mocked them". Our Lord's act in causing the blind man to wash in the Pool of Siloam before he could receive his sight is therefore a sign to every Israelite in the present day that, when the nation refused Hezekiah's invitation to return to the God of their fathers, they were in fact refusing Immanuel. By washing in the Pool of Siloam the blind man signified that he no longer refused "the waters of Shiloah". The veil fell from his heart and he instantly stood out in bold defense of the One who had healed him.

This led to an open breach with the nation's professed leaders until they cast him out. So will it be with the faithful ones in coming days who received Jesus as their Messiah. The

Lord openly revealed Himself as the Son of God, when He said, "Thou hast both seen Him and it is He that talketh with thee". We read that the man at once became a worshipper. He had found His Messiah!

From the book *The Restored Vision* by A.E. Ware.