**What Is A Sign?**

A sign is an announcement, a proclamation of sorts, it points to something.

**Type**

Practically anything can be a sign. A sign may be

1. **Something**
   1. The sun, moon and stars and constellations are signs that mark times and seasons [Gen 1:14]
2. **Someone**
   1. Isaiah and his sons were signs [Isa 8:18 cf., Isa 8:1-4; 7:3]
   2. Ezekiel was “a sign to Israel” [Eze 12:6,11]
3. **An action**

*(the following were all at God’s command)*

* 1. Isaiah went about “stripped and barefoot for three years, as a sign and portent against Egypt and Cush” [Isa 20:4]
  2. Jeremiah wore a yoke on his neck as a sign of Israel’s captivity in Babylon [Jer 27:2; 28:10]
  3. Ezekiel packed up his things, dug a hole in the wall and went through it covering his face as an exile [Eze 12:3-7]. This was a sign of what would befall the king of Judah and Israel [Eze 12:8-16]

1. ***Or,* An Event**
   1. The death of Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt was to serve as proof to Judah that the prophecies of Jeremiah were going to happen [Jer 44:29-30]

**Time**

With regard to the period of time a sign is concerned with, a sign may point to

1. **The Past**

*(serving as a reminder or an indicator of an existing agreement/covenant between two or more parties)*,

* 1. The rainbow serves as a sign of the covenant between God and all living creatures that he will not destroy all things with a flood again [Gen 9:9-11,12-13,17].
  2. Circumcision in the flesh is a sign of the covenant between God and Abraham and his descendants [Gen 17]
  3. The Passover meal was a reminder of the deliverance of Israel from Egypt by Yahweh with a mighty hand [Exo 13:9,1-8]

1. **The Present**
   1. The sun, moon and stars and constellations are signs that mark times and seasons [Gen 1:14]
   2. The Sabbath was a sign to Israel, a reminder that they belonged to Yahweh [Eze 20:12]
2. ***Or,* the Future**
   1. The sign on Cain prevented anyone who found him from killing him [Gen 4:15]

**Power**

With regard to power, sign from God may be

1. **Supernatural**
   1. The signs Moses presented to the Israelites Yahweh had appeared to him were miraculous [Exo 4:8-9,1-7,29-31]
   2. The sign that God gave through Isaiah that King Hezekiah would recover and would have another fifteen years was certainly supernatural—the shadow of the sun went backwards [Isa 38:5-8]
2. ***Or,* Not Supernatural**
   1. Although commanded by God, Isaiah going about as a sign “stripped and barefoot for three years…” [Isa 20:4] was not supernatural.
   2. Though commanded by God, Ezekiel’s demonstration of the fate of the prince of Judah was not supernatural [Eze 12:3-7]
   3. The observance of the Sabbath is certainly not supernatural

**Recipient**

When God gives a sign, it is meant to be observed or interpreted by

1. **God**
   1. Although the rainbow ought to remind men of the covenant they have with God, nevertheless, the rainbow as a sign is primarily meant for God and not for man [Gen 9:14-16]
2. **An Individual**
   1. The shadow cast by the sun going backwards was a sign to king Hezekiah that he would recover and that God would deliver Jerusalem from the Assyrians [Isa 38:5-8]
3. **Or to a group of people**
   1. The three signs Moses presented to the elders of Israel were directed at the people of Israel
   2. The signs of Ezekiel were directed at the people of Israel