

WHAT DO BLIND MEN SEE
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Prophecies made it clear where the Messiah would come from. Herod's counselors told him when and where the Messiah would be born. That is why the wise men went to Bethlehem. **John 7:42** makes it clear there was no question he was to come from the lineage of David. This was reiterated several times in the scriptures, in **Romans 1:3** and **2 Timothy 2:8**, to name just a couple. The Bible leaves us no doubt Jesus was the one who fulfilled those prophecies. He is specifically named in that role. In **Revelation 5:5**, one of the elders says to John, "Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book." In **Revelation 22:16**, Jesus Him self says, "I have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star." The problem was that the people of Jesus time did not recognize Him as being from the house of David or even from Bethlehem.

God arranged that Jesus would be identified as being from another region. It was prophesied and **Matthew 2:23** tells us He came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, so that He would be called a Nazarene. Perhaps this was done to initially hide His identity as the Messiah, despite His incredible displays of power. If so, it worked well. **John 6:40-42** speaks of how when Jesus claimed He had been sent by God, His listeners response was, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?" So far as they knew, He did not fit the exact conditions of the prophecy, so they discounted the possibility of His deity. It had to be concealed, or they never would have crucified Him and His role as the Lamb never would have been fulfilled.

Not every one was fooled though. Those who were blind seemingly saw right to Him. In **Mark 10:47-49**, when one heard Jesus was near, He cried out to Him. It was not remarkable that the blind man persisted when those around tried to shush him. It was what He called to Jesus that got my attention. "Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me." He did not say, "Thou son of Joseph." He saw more than those who thought they knew His identity. He identified Jesus as being from the house of David. He might as well have said, "I know who you are." And Jesus did for the blind man what only a Messiah, God on Earth, could do. Maybe word got around the blind community, because it happened again in **Matthew 9:27**. Again, the two blind men called Jesus, "son of David" while asking for their miracle. Maybe because they could not see with their eyes, they felt after Him with their spirits. Or maybe their need was so great; they were desperate enough to just say what everyone else was only content to wish for. They were willing to publically declare their belief in God. Think about it for a minute. What did they have to lose? They were already at the bottom.

An altered identity was not the only way in which Truth was hidden from people in the time of Jesus. These three men were just a few of the vast multitude who were blind – at least to Truth. This blindness on the part of us all was also a deliberate act on the part of God. In **John 9:39**, Jesus said, "For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind." It is only those who are hungry who come to eat bread. It is only those who are thirsty who come to the living water. It is only those who do not already feel they know everything, who come seeking to learn from the incarnate Truth. It is only those who can not see as well as they would like who come seeking the Light of the world. **John 8:12** and **John 12:35** plainly declare that Jesus was the one come to bring light to the world.

Scriptures use the word "light" as being synonymous with knowledge and understanding. We acknowledge this with our term "enlightenment." We obtain that kind of knowledge, Truth, from the Word of God. **Psalms 119:130** states, "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." In **Psalms 119:105**, His Word is a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path.

His disciples knew what Christ had to offer. That is why they followed Him and were rewarded by Him. They wanted to not only hear His words, but to understand them. When they did not understand His parables, they asked for explanations. In **Luke 8:10**, He told them, "Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand." Of course, when they did not understand God's Word, they were bothered enough by that to ask for understanding. **James 1:5** promises God will give wisdom to those who lack it – when they ask for it.

What about those who read, do not understand, and do not care? In **2 Thessalonians 2:10-11**, God rewards their lack of love for Truth with a strong delusion, so they will believe lies. God Himself blinds those who reject His Truth in favor of their own understanding. He makes them unable to perceive the Truth they disdain. **Romans 11:8** tells us “God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear.” **John 12:40** informs us He blinds eyes and hardens hearts, so they will not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted and healed.

What do blind men see? It depends on how hungry, thirsty, confused, or blind they feel themselves to be. It is only those who need a Messiah, who are desperate for a Savior, who cry out to the son of David. The rest of us, already having eyes and all the light we desire, prefer to remain blind. Perhaps this is because too much light makes it difficult to hide from ourselves how filthy we really are.