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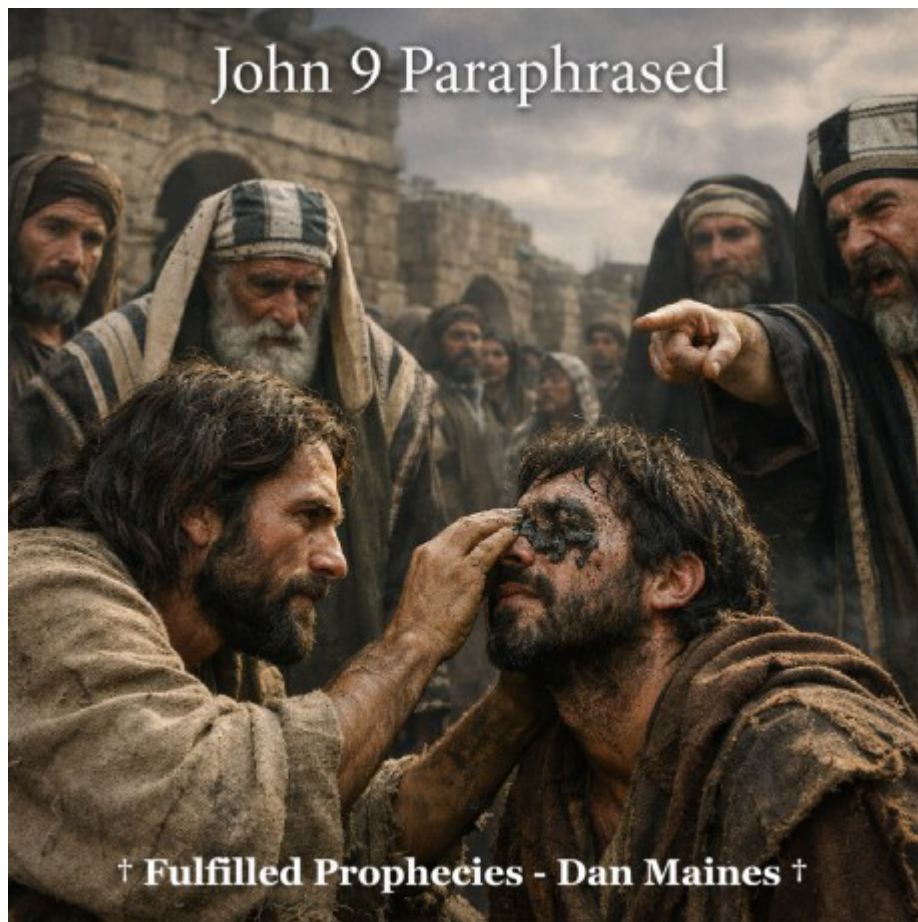
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John 9 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

John 9 Paraphrased

Introduction

† This chapter shows a man born blind being given sight, not just physically but spiritually, while those who claimed to see were exposed as blind

† It reveals the judgment that came in that generation, light had come, and those rejecting it were hardened

† This is about more than healing, it is about covenant transition, old system blindness versus new covenant sight (Isaiah 6:9-10)

John 9:1

As Jesus passed by, he saw a man who had been blind from birth

† This was not a random encounter, it was a divine setup to reveal truth

† The blindness from birth represents Israel under the old covenant, unable to truly see

† God often uses physical conditions to reveal spiritual realities (John 12:40)

John 9:2

His disciples asked him, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind

† They assumed suffering was directly tied to personal sin

† This reflects the misunderstanding under the law system

† It shows how people judged outwardly instead of understanding God's purpose (Luke 13:2-3)

John 9:3

Jesus answered, it was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but so that the works of God might be displayed in him

† The purpose was revelation, not punishment

† God was about to demonstrate His authority through Christ

† This shows God's plan unfolding through real events (John 11:4)

John 9:4

We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day, night is coming when no one can work

† Jesus is pointing to a limited time period before judgment

† The night refers to the coming destruction of Jerusalem

† The opportunity for repentance was about to close (Luke 19:42-44)

John 9:5

While I am in the world, I am the light of the world

† Christ is the source of truth and understanding

† Light exposes darkness and reveals reality

† Israel was rejecting the very light sent to them (John 1:9-11)

John 9:6

After saying this, he spat on the ground, made clay with the saliva, and applied it to the man's eyes

† This act shows intentional creation, like forming from dust

† It mirrors creation language, pointing to restoration

† Christ is re-creating sight, just as God formed man from the earth (Genesis 2:7)

John 9:7

He said to him, go wash in the pool of Siloam, so he went and washed and came back seeing

† Obedience was required before receiving sight

† The pool name means sent, pointing to Christ

† This act represents cleansing and response to the gospel (Titus 3:5)

John 9:8

The neighbors and those who had seen him before said, is this not the one who used to sit and beg

† The change was undeniable

† People struggle to accept transformation when it challenges their assumptions

† This shows how obvious truth is often questioned

John 9:9

Some said, this is he, others said, no but he is like him, but he kept saying, I am the one

† Confusion arises when truth disrupts expectations

† The healed man stands firm in his testimony

† Personal witness is powerful and undeniable (Acts 4:20)

John 9:10

So they said to him, how were your eyes opened

† People focus on the method instead of the truth behind it

† Curiosity without faith leads nowhere

† They were investigating but not believing

John 9:11

He answered, the man called Jesus made clay, anointed my eyes, and told me to go wash, so I did and now I see

† Simple testimony, no theological debate

† Obedience led to transformation

† This shows faith in action produces results

John 9:12

They said to him, where is he, he said, I do not know

† The man had limited knowledge but real experience

† You don't need full understanding to testify truth

† Encounter comes before full doctrine

John 9:13

They brought the man to the Pharisees

† Religious leaders step in to control the narrative

† Truth is often challenged by authority structures

† This sets up conflict between light and blindness

John 9:14

It was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes

† The issue shifts to law rather than miracle

† They valued tradition over truth

† This exposes their hardened hearts (Mark 2:27)

John 9:15

The Pharisees asked how he received sight, he said, he put clay on my eyes, I washed, and now I see

† The testimony remains consistent

† Truth does not change under pressure

† Simplicity exposes their resistance

John 9:16

Some Pharisees said, this man is not from God because he does not keep the Sabbath, others said, how can a sinner do such signs, and there was division

† Truth causes division

† Their system could not explain what they witnessed

† When truth conflicts with tradition, division follows

John 9:17

They said to the blind man, what do you say about him, he said, he is a prophet

† His understanding grows

† Light increases as one responds

† Recognition of truth develops progressively

John 9:18

The Jews did not believe he had been blind until they called his parents

† They refused to accept evidence

† Unbelief searches for ways to deny truth

† This shows deliberate rejection

John 9:19

They asked, is this your son, who you say was born blind, how does he now see

† They attempt to discredit the miracle

† Authority seeks control through interrogation

† Truth is being resisted, not examined

John 9:20

His parents answered, we know this is our son and he was born blind

† They confirm the facts

- † Truth is established by witnesses
- † Yet they stop short of full testimony

John 9:21

But how he now sees we do not know, ask him, he is of age

- † Fear keeps them from speaking boldly
- † Social pressure silences truth
- † This reflects the cost of standing for Christ

John 9:22

They said this because they feared being put out of the synagogue

- † Religious systems used exclusion to control people
- † Fear of man overrides truth
- † This was a real consequence in that time

John 9:23

So they said, ask him

- † They avoid responsibility
- † Truth is left to the individual witness
- † This shows the pressure environment

John 9:24

They called the man again and said, give glory to God, we know this man is a sinner

- † They demand agreement with their conclusion
- † They reject Christ openly
- † This shows hardened blindness

John 9:25

He answered, whether he is a sinner I do not know, one thing I know, I was blind and now I see

- † Powerful testimony cannot be refuted
- † Experience of truth stands firm
- † This is undeniable evidence

John 9:26

They asked again how he opened your eyes

† Repetition shows their desperation

† They are not seeking truth, they are resisting it

† Their blindness deepens

John 9:27

He answered, I already told you and you did not listen, do you want to become his disciples too

† He exposes their unwillingness

† Truth confronts pride

† This shifts the tone boldly

John 9:28

They insulted him and said, you are his disciple, we are disciples of Moses

† They cling to the old covenant identity

† They reject fulfillment in Christ

† This shows their allegiance to tradition

John 9:29

We know God spoke to Moses, but as for this man we do not know where he is from

† They claim knowledge but reject revelation

† They knew the law but missed its fulfillment

† This is the core of their blindness

John 9:30

The man answered, this is amazing, you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes

† He exposes their inconsistency

† Truth reveals hypocrisy

† Even the healed man sees what they cannot

John 9:31

We know God does not hear sinners, but if anyone worships God and does his will, he hears him

† He uses their own logic

† Truth is undeniable even from a simple man

† This dismantles their argument

John 9:32

Never since the world began has anyone opened the eyes of one born blind

† This miracle is unique and undeniable

† It points directly to divine authority

† This was a clear sign of the Messiah (Isaiah 35:5)

John 9:33

If this man were not from God, he could do nothing

† Logical conclusion based on evidence

† Truth stands firm

† The man now speaks with confidence

John 9:34

They answered, you were born in sin, and they cast him out

† They resort to insult and exclusion

† When truth cannot be refuted, it is rejected

† This reflects judgment against Christ followers

John 9:35

Jesus heard they cast him out and found him, do you believe in the Son of Man

† Christ seeks those rejected by religion

† True faith is personal

† This shows God's care for the faithful

John 9:36

He answered, who is he that I may believe

† He is ready to believe

† Light continues to grow

† Desire for truth leads to revelation

John 9:37

Jesus said, you have seen him, it is he speaking to you

† Full revelation is given

† The man now sees physically and spiritually

† This is the moment of recognition

John 9:38

He said, Lord I believe, and he worshiped him

† Faith leads to worship

† This is the proper response to Christ

† He moves from healing to full belief

John 9:39

Jesus said, for judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind

† This is covenant judgment language

† The humble receive sight, the proud are blinded

† This was fulfilled in that generation (Matthew 13:13-15)

John 9:40

Some Pharisees asked, are we blind too

† They question but do not repent

† Pride prevents them from seeing

† Their blindness is self-inflicted

John 9:41

Jesus said, if you were blind you would have no sin, but since you say we see, your sin remains

† Accountability comes with claimed knowledge

† Their rejection seals their judgment

† This is the final verdict on that system

Historical References

† Josephus describes the blindness of leadership and their rejection of signs leading to Jerusalem's fall

† Irenaeus wrote that Christ revealed truth to the humble while the proud remained blind

† Eusebius records how early believers saw these events as fulfillment of judgment in that generation

† Clement of Alexandria taught that true sight comes through Christ, not through law

How it applies to us today

† We must recognize that true sight comes only through Christ, not tradition

† It's not enough to claim knowledge, we must respond to truth

† Pride blinds, humility opens our eyes

† We've got to stand firm in truth even when rejected

† Spiritual sight grows as we walk in obedience

Q & A Appendix:

Q: What does the blind man represent

A: He represents those under blindness who receive sight through Christ (Isaiah 35:5)

Q: Why were the Pharisees blind

A: Because they rejected the truth despite having knowledge (Matthew 15:14)

Q: What is the night Jesus spoke of

A: The coming judgment on Jerusalem (Luke 21:22)

Q: Why was the man cast out

A: Because truth challenges religious systems (John 16:2)

Q: What is the main message of this chapter

A: Christ gives true sight while exposing spiritual blindness (John 12:46)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† John 9

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies
† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History
† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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