

CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE? Part 8
“The Master of Miracles” (Lesson 2)
(John 20:30-31; Acts 2:22)

INTRO: Review: Around 140 miracles in the Bible (OT-80; NT-60). Of the 60, about 40 attributed to Jesus over a 3-year-period. He did more (Jn. 2:11, 3:2; 5:36; 20:30; 21:25; Acts 2:22). Jesus was the greatest miracle worker. Everything about Christ was miraculous – His eternal existence, virgin birth, sinless life, victorious resurrection, glorious ascension, and promised return – all were miracles. In what He *said* (His words content and authority) and in what He *did* (His miraculous works), Jesus was a miraculous person (Lk. 24:19; Rom. 15:19). All to prove deity and divine mission (Jn. 5:20, 36; 10:25, 38; 14:11; 15:24). If God became a man . . .

I. THE DESCRIPTION of HIS MIRACLES – “What is a miracle?”

Definition . . . “Must I believe in miracles to be a Christian?” Two . . .

- A. (Acts 2:22; Heb. 2:4) TERMS used to describe of a biblical miracle:
1. “*miracles*” (powers) is *dunamis* and it defines the *source*, cause, or origin of miracles – the power of God (Matt. 11:20-21).
 2. “*wonders*” is *teras* describes the result or *effect* produced in those who witness the miracle (Mk. 2:12; 4:41; 6:51; 7:37; etc.).
 3. “*signs*” is a *semeion* explains the *purpose* of the miracle (Jn. 2:11; 4:54). Miracles are signs for purpose, not shows. Like any sign, when Jesus did miracles they pointed to something or SOMEONE.
- B. TRAITS of His miracles:
1. divine *intervention* into natural course of events – Ex. . . .
 2. *instant* and immediate, not gradual
 3. *complete*, not partial – always successful (no relapses)
 4. *permanent* and lasting, not temporal
 5. *purposeful*, not sensational – introduced new eras of revelation (Moses and Joshua – Law; Elijah and Elisha – Prophets; Jesus and Apostles (NT). Once underway, they largely faded, as norm.
 6. *sovereign* – He chose to do them, not forced even by faith. Of all the miracles He did, faith of the recipient is mentioned in only ten. In most of these faith is not mentioned as a condition for the miracle. In some cases, unbelief was present. No amount of faith controls God.

II. THE DIVISIONS of HIS MIRACLES (“How many and what kind?”)

- A. NUMBER – The Gospels record Jesus did about 40 separate miracles over 3 years though He did many more (John 20:30-31).
- B. KIND – Of the 40,

1. 17 (44%) were *Physical diseases* and handicaps –
2. 10 (25%) were *Natural disorders* – Fed multitudes, stilled storms
3. 9 (22%) were *Supernatural demons* – (17 encounters)
4. 4 (8%) were *Final enemy death* – resurrections

III. THE DESIGNS of HIS MIRACLES (“Why did Jesus do miracles?”)

- A. His miracles had an *apologetic design to authenticate* His divine mission as Messiah. They proved His deity and showed His authority. (Acts 2:22 “accredited by God”) John 3:2; 14:11
- B. His miracles had a *prophetic design to fulfill prophecy* of God’s kingdom over the curse of the fall and the forces of evil. His miracles gave a foretaste of the future kingdom, when the curse that brought sin, sickness, evil reign, natural disorders, and death will be reversed (Isa. 35:5-10) – for His own. “Prophecies fulfilled in Jesus” . . .
- C. His miracles had an *evangelistic design to generate saving faith* (Jn. 20:30-31).
- D. His miracles had a *merciful design to demonstrate His compassion*. He never did a miracle in His own behalf, nor to satisfy sign-seeking crowds. Time and again He did a miracle because He was moved with compassion (Matt. 9:35-36; 20:34; Mk. 3:5; 5:19; 6:34; Lk. 7:13).

IV. HIS RESURRECTION – Greatest miracle of all. Foundation of our faith. Gospels are reliable records. Jesus predicted (Jn. 2:18-22; Matt. 12:40; 17:22-23) and rose from the dead (All 4 Gospels; 1 Cor. 15:1-8). G&N p. 78) If someone predicts their death . . .

ILLUS: Pollard (161-2) . . .

V. THE DURATION of MIRACLES (“Does God still do miracles?”)

- A. At His discretion and for His purpose, He occasionally does a miracle. They are *not* common and are gloriously and infuriatingly inconsistent. The greatest miracle He performs, and the most common, is to forgive a sinner and give eternal life.
- B. “What about the supposed miracles being performed?” Exercise great caution. God is not the only doer of miracles. Satan and demons do as well. Much is not even miraculous by definition. Know the traits and compare to determine the genuine.

CONC: “What does it mean and how does it apply today that Jesus Christ was (is) the miracle-worker?”

1. He is God and should be believed. He is Lord and should be obeyed.
2. He can handle whatever we face, either by the miracle of intervening or the miracle of giving the grace to endure.