

MIRACLES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The BIG QUESTION in the gospels was “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man am?” (Matt. 16:13-16; Mk. 8:27-29; Lk. 9:18-20; Jn. 6:66-69, 20:31). This was THE central issue in the gospels while the kingdom was being offered to Israel in the Person of Christ.

The major point of Jesus’ miracles was to demonstrate and to serve as proof that He was the MESSIAH. Being the MESSIAH meant that He was the God-Man. He was the PROMISED, COMING, RULING, DELIVERING ONE in accordance with O.T. prophecy.

It was clear to the people of His day that Jesus was a man who claimed to be the MESSIAH. What wasn't clear to them (although it should have been) was that being Messiah was a Lordship issue.

Being Messiah involves His DEITY, the reality that He is the SON OF GOD. This reality was demonstrated in part by the miracles He performed. When people recognized and acknowledged His DEITY/LORDSHIP they are said to have had faith in or believed on Him (cf. Jn. 20:28-31). THIS IS A MAJOR EMPHASIS IN THE GOSPELS! HIS MIRACLES DECLARE HIS LORDSHIP!

The truth of Christ’s Lordship is embraced in salvation.

Romans 10:9 (ESV)

9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

A leper came to Jesus worshiping Him saying, “Lord, if you are willing You can make me clean” and then Jesus healed him (Mt. 8:1-4). Jesus healed a paralytic as evidence that He had the power on earth to forgive sins (Matt. 9:1-8).

When John the Baptist was in prison had questions about whether or not Jesus was the “Coming One”. Jesus said, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them”. (Mt. 11:4-5)

Jesus rebuked the unbelief of His generation saying, “The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.” (Matt. 12:41)

When Jesus calmed the storm His disciples who were in the boat then “came and worshiped Him, saying, ‘Truly You are the Son of God.’” (Mt. 14:33) In Mark 1 the people were amazed at Christ’s authoritative power over unclean spirits saying, “For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey Him” (Mk. 1:27).

After fishing all night and catching nothing Jesus commanded Peter to once again let down his net and when he did they caught so many fish the net was breaking. In trembling awe Peter fell down at Jesus’ feet saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” (Lk. 5:1-8).

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, He said, “Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit.” Nathanael then said to Him, “How do you know me?” to which Jesus responded that He had seen Him “under the fig tree” (perhaps having his “quiet time”). Nathanael then answered, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” (John 1:47-49).

Jesus began His ministry with His first miracle of turning the water into wine and in doing so, “manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.” (Jn. 2:1-11; cf. 1:14-15). When the Jews demanded a sign Jesus said, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” (Jn. 2:18-19). The text goes on to say He was speaking about the “temple of His body” and the fulfillment would be in the resurrection (Jn. 2:21-22 cf. 8:28; 20:12).

In John 4:48 Jesus said, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will be no means believe.” Jesus then told the nobleman, “Go your way; your son lives.” Upon discovering that this very hour his son was healed the text says, “he himself believed, and his whole household” (Jn. 4:48-54; 20:31).

In John 5:36 Jesus said, “the very works that I do -bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.” In John 7:31 many people believed in Jesus saying, “When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man has done?” When Jesus healed a man born blind, the man then said, “If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.” (Jn. 8:33). And then when Jesus explained to him that He was the Son of God, the healed blind man “worshiped Him” (Jn. 8:35-38).

In John 10:41 the people said, “John [the Baptist] performed no sign, but all things that John spoke about this Man were true.” And then verse 42 says, “And many believed in Him there.” When Lazarus was sick Jesus said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” (Jn. 11:4). When it was reported to

Jesus that Lazarus was dead, He then said, “I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe” (Jn. 11:15).

Having then arrived at the tomb of Lazarus Jesus said to the Father, “I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me” (Jn. 11:42). Jesus then commanded Lazarus to “come forth!” And when he did it says many of the Jews who had seen these things “believed in Him” (Jn. 11:43-45). John 12:37 says, “although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him”.

When they came to arrest Jesus, He identified Himself as “I am” and then all fell to the ground (Jn. 18:4-6; cf. 20:31). In John, the gospel of belief, the crowning illustration of NT saving faith is doubting Thomas who upon seeing the risen Lord said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus then affirmed that Thomas had seen and believed and said, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (Jn. 20:28-29). John then went on to say:

John 20:30–31 (NKJV)

30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Peter in his sermon on the Day of Pentecost reviewed the ministry of Christ saying that He was, “a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst” (Acts 2:22). And then Peter said, “let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:36).

NOTE: Jesus in His miracles demonstrated His Lordship over nature, over Satan and the demons, over sickness and disease, and over death itself. Each miracle was a declaration of His LORDSHIP of which the resurrection was the ultimate statement (cf. Jn. 20:28; Acts 2:36). Paul affirms that Jesus was “declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead” (Rom. 1:4; 14:9; Eph. 1:19-23; Phil. 2:9-11).

When Peter healed the lame man in Acts 3 he then told the people, “And His name [Christ’s name] through faith in His name, has made this man strong” (Acts 3:16). When the proconsul in Acts 13 saw the power of the Lord working through Paul verse 12 says, “Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the

Lord.” Paul in summarizing his gospel ministry among the Gentiles spoke of those things that Christ accomplished “through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient – in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God” (Rom. 15:18-19).

When the miracle of languages (tongues) broke out on the Day of Pentecost, Peter explained this phenomenon as coming from Christ Who “being exalted to the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.” (Acts 2:4; 33). Peter’s challenge then followed: “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” (Acts 2:36). When the people asked what they should do, Peter told them to repent and be baptized (Acts 2:37-39).

When Paul and Silas were in prison at Philippi SUDDENLY a great earthquake shook the prison to its foundations and all the doors flung open. The prison guard in terror cried out to Paul and Silas, “what must I do to be saved?” They responded, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved”. They then “spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house” with the conclusion being he “believed in God with all his household” (Acts 16:24-34).

The end of the Bible presents the “DAY OF THE LORD” as found in the book of Revelation. The Day of the LORD begins with the “Tribulation Period,” in which the Lord, through an abundance of supernatural activity, manifests HIS POWER AND AUTHORITY in various ways related to judgment on the world (Rev. 6-18). He undeniably and supremely demonstrates His LORDSHIP on this DAY! Even the Christ-rejecting world will in that day be forced to recognize that this is the “DAY OF THE LORD” and yet most will not repent (cf. Rev. 6:16-17, 16:9-11; Also cf. Isa. 2; 24-27; 1Thess. 5:2-3; 2 Thess. 2:2-3; 2 Pet. 3:10).

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved! (Acts 16:31)