

## **THE PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S MIRACLES**

The major purpose of miracles is ultimately to glorify God (cf. John 17:4).

In the Old Testament, miracles demonstrated emphatically that the God of the Bible, the God of Israel, is God over all and that He alone is the one true God. In the New Testament, this God reveals Himself most fully and completely in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ (Heb. 1).

The miracles He did and those performed in His name demonstrated that He is, in fact, the Messiah, the God-Man, the coming, ruling, delivering one, and in fact, the God of Old Testament revelation.

God insists that His Lordship be believed, and He stresses it from Genesis to Revelation as seen most fully and finally in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ (cf. Heb. 1:1-2).

Saving faith personally recognizes and appropriates the biblical truth that Jesus Christ is Lord-God as clearly demonstrated in the miracles He performed.

### **John 8:24 (NKJV)**

**24** Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins.”

### **John 14:11 (NKJV)**

**11** Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

### **John 20:27–31 (NASB)**

**27** Then He \*said to Thomas, “Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing.”

**28** Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

**29** Jesus \*said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”

**30** Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

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

John uses the word “sign” to denote SIGN MIRACLES. The miracles that Jesus did were SIGNS indicating WHO He was as the Messiah. They had this specific PURPOSE!

God had John record them so that we might believe in Jesus for Who He is as the “Christ, the Son of God”.

The word “Christ” corresponds to the word “Messiah” in the Old Testament. It literally means “Anointed One”. It comes out of the OT where those uniquely chosen by God for a certain role (for example, priest, prophet, king) would be anointed, indicating their special calling.

So Christ refers to the unique CHOSEN One Who is the prophesied/promised Deliverer/Ruler Who would come. The title Christ as rooted in the OT finds fulfillment in Jesus of Nazareth in history. He is the CHOSEN/COMING ONE Who fulfills all the OT Messianic prophecies.

“Son of God” emphasizes that He is God of very God. It emphasizes His nature as God – that He is of the order of God. This is exactly how the Jews understood it when Jesus claimed to be the Son of God.

### **John 5:18–19 (NKJV)**

**18** Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

**19** Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

### **John 10:33–38 (NKJV)**

**33** The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.”

**34** Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your law, ‘I said, “You are gods” ’?”

**35** If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),

**36** do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?”

**37** If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me;

**38** but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.”

Jesus is the special CHOSEN one Who comes to fulfill all the OT promises and prophecies regarding deliverance and ruling. He came the first time to bring about spiritual deliverance through His death on the cross. He will come again to bring about physical deliverance as He sets up His kingdom.

There can be no doubt about the identity of Jesus of Nazareth being the Christ, the Son of God because His SIGN-MIRACLES proved it!