

## The Gospel According to John

4-3-2019

1. Last week I taught Joh 2:14-17 by way of the *Doctrine of Anger* and when the clock tolled 7:45 P.M. I had just begun an analysis of Joh 2:18 by way of the *Doctrine of Miracles*.

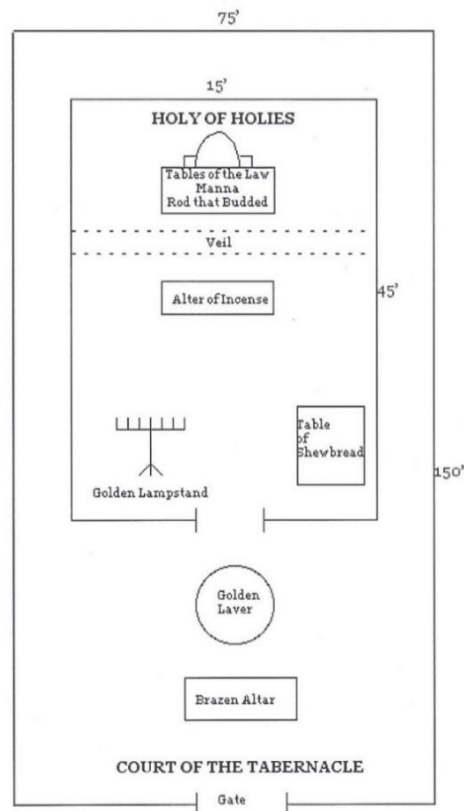
2. Before we return to that study, I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may or may not be necessary.

**Joh 2:14 In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.**

**Joh 2:15 So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.**

**Joh 2:16 To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!"**

**Joh 2:17 Later, His disciples remembered what was written in Psa 69:9: "Zeal for your house will consume me."**



3. I want to review some of that learned and then begin new material on page three.

Comments:

**NIV**

**Joh 2:18 Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"**

Comment:

1. Let's review the **Doctrine of Miracles**.

### *Doctrine of Miracles*

#### **Introduction**

1. The age of miracles is not per se over but the gift of miracles has vanished.
2. We must look to the Scriptures for guidance with reference to miracles.
3. Every heart beat in the Devil's world is a miracle, the sick being cured, the baby being born, the Gospel being proclaimed, the Word being taught and many other mundane everyday occurrences are miracles in this the Devil's domain.
4. Should we therefore pray for the extraordinary? Of course declares the Scripture. We should pray for the extraordinary and the mundane.

#### **Nature of the Miraculous**

1. Since the term miracle is popularly applied to unusual events, it is not easy to give the word miracle its true biblical significance.
2. Probably the simplest definition was provided by C.S. Lewis "an interference with nature by supernatural power."
3. J. Gresham Machen in his book, The Christian View of Man said, "A miracle is an event in the external world that is wrought by the immediate power of God ..."

4. A miracle occurs when God does something beyond what could be accomplished according to the laws of nature as we understand them, and may be in violation of them.

5. Moreover a miracle is that which is beyond man's intellectual or scientific ability.

6. As a biblical truth our living in the Devil's world is a miracle.

## **Etymology**

1. Four Greek words appear in the Gospels to describe the supernatural works of Jesus:

1.1 **Teras** (translated "wonder/s") speaks of their extraordinary character;

Joh 4:48 Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and **wonders**, ye will not believe.

Heb 2:4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and **wonders**, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Mar 13:22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and **wonders**, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

1.2 **Semeion** (translated "sign/s") symbolizes heavenly truths and indicates Christ's immediate connection with the Father;

1.2.1 Jesus warned the Scribes they would get no sign except the sign of Jonah.

Mat 16:4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a **sign**; and there shall no **sign** be given unto it, but the **sign** of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

1.2.2 **Semeion** is often used with **Teras**: Mar 13:22

Mar 13:20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.

Mar 13:21 And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not:

Mar 13:22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew **signs** and **wonders**, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

1.2.3 In Acts 14:3 we find both **Teras** and **Semeion** used to describe what Paul and Barnabas did.

Acts 14:3 Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted **signs** and **wonders** to be done by their hands.

1.3 **Dunamis** (“power/s”) can describe an exercise of divine power and demonstrates the fact that higher forces have entered into and are working in this lower world of ours;

Mat 11:20 Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty **works** were done, because they repented not:

Mat 11:21 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty **works**, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

1.4 **Ergon** (“work/s”) can refer to miraculous deeds which Christ came to do.

Mat 11:2 Now when John had heard in the prison the **works** of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,

Mat 11:3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

1.5 The three terms are brought together in Acts 2:22: “Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by **miracles** [*Dunamis*] and **wonders** [*Teras*] and **signs** [*Semeion*], which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know.”

## **The Purpose of Miracles**

1. Some tend to view miracles as isolated events in the lives of the prophets or Jesus Christ.

2. Miracles always have a purpose.

2.1 Every event in the life of a believer has a definite purpose and though we may not view it as such, it is a miracle.

3. Miracles were not helter-skelter events.
  4. Miracles served to authenticate the message and the messenger of God at critical junctures in the development of the Hebrew/Christian story.
  5. They also helped preserve the truth of God from extinction.
  6. The Bible was written by more than 40 men, in four different languages over a 1600 year period. The writers lived more than 1400 miles apart and in most cases were not acquainted with one another. Then tyrants for centuries have tried to destroy and/or discredit it, and yet, it remains the Word of God.
- 6.1 By all rights the Bible should have been destroyed and yet it is the most accurate book available from antiquity; a miracle!

### **Old Testament Miracles**

1. Moses was a stranger to his people and needed a means to demonstrate that he had been sent by God to lead them from bondage.
  2. Moreover, “He needed” a way to persuade Pharaoh to release the enslaved Israelites.
  3. And, of course, once God led the Israelites out of Egypt, He had to exercise miraculous power to bring millions of them through the wilderness and into Canaan.
  4. Elijah and Elisha ministered to Israel in a day when calf worship and Baal worship threatened to exterminate faith in the true God and their miracles would seem to be purposed to exceed that of Satan’s idols.
- 4.1 Miraculous acts showed that the message of the prophets was true and worthy of belief, and that their God was the only true God.
- 4.2 This fact is made especially clear in Elijah’s confrontation with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel.
- 1Ki 18:21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

1Ki 18:22 Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men ...

1Ki 18:38 Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

1Ki 18:39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

1Ki 18:40 And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

4.3 Daniel and his associates were thrust into positions of leadership in a day when the temple and Hebrew political power had been destroyed, and when a large percentage of the leading members of the Hebrew community were exiled in Babylon.

4.3.1 Numerous questions must have rushed through the minds of the exiles:

- Did God any longer exist?
- Was He through with them?
- Were the Assyrians and Babylonians right when they taunted that their gods had greater prowess than the God of the Hebrews?
- Was the Hebrew God a local god able to protect His worshipers only in Palestine?
- Did God have power now that His temple was gone and He had no house in which to dwell?

4.4 The miracles performed in Babylon gave ringing answers to all of these questions.

4.5 The God of heaven was the one true God, universal in His power and loving in His tender watch care over His own.

4.6 He honored the testimony of His faithful servants.

Dan 6:16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

Dan 6:20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

4.7 He showed that the image of Nebuchadnezzar was nothing compared to His power.

Dan 3:1 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

Dan 3:2 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

Dan 3:12 There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Dan 3:25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

Dan 3:26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

Dan 3:27 And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

4.8 He struck down Belshazzar at the precise moment he dared to desecrate the holy vessels of the temple and make fun of the Hebrew deity.

Dan 5:1 Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.

Dan 5:2 Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.

Dan 5:3 Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them.

Dan 5:4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.

Dan 5:5 In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

Dan 5:22 And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this;

Dan 5:23 But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:

Dan 5:24 Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written.

Dan 5:25 And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

Dan 5:26 This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.

4.9 A people torn from their homeland and their customary worship patterns needed such a demonstration of power to carry them through the days of captivity.

4.10 The fact that the Hebrews were not assimilated into the Mesopotamian population but maintained their distinct nationality is a miracle.



4.11 It is even more remarkable that so many of those people who came to Mesopotamia as prisoners of war and slaves rose to prominence in Babylonian and Persian society.

Dan 2:48 Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.

Dan 2:49 Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

### **The Miracles of Jesus**

1. They had several purposes:

1.1 to demonstrate His Deity and thus to prove that He was sent from God,

1.2 to support His Messiahship,

1.3 to lead His followers to saving faith,

1.4 to help prepare His disciples for the ministry they were to perform.

1.5 and lastly, the miracles of the incarnation, the resurrection, and the ascension are part and parcel of the divine provision of salvation for mankind.

2. After Christ ascended to heaven, His disciples began to preach in His name, to interpret the events of His life and His death, and to write authoritative messages to their converts. Miracles were used to document the authenticity of their discipleship and message.

2.1 The question of authenticity often arose.

2.2 Were they truly God's messengers, interpreting correctly the message and work of His Son?

2.3 Were their pronouncements to be treated as inspired?

2.4 Miraculous acts helped answer these questions in the affirmative.

## **The Plausibility of Miracles**

1. Men living in the age of science frequently have difficulty accepting the miraculous.
2. Basic to any solution of the problem is an adequate view of God.
3. Once we admit the existence of God, we cannot deny supernatural activity in the space-time universe.
4. God is omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, sovereign, righteous, just, eternal life, love, immutable and truth; why would anyone doubt His ability to create miracles?
5. A Jesus Who is merely a martyr for the truth, a prince of philanthropist, a paragon of ethical teachers, could present to mankind only a threadbare idealism.
6. The only answer to the choppy seas of life is a Savior who can say, "Peace, be still."

Mar 4:38 And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

Mar 4:39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

Mar 4:40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

Mar 4:41 And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

7. The only hope for victory over Satanic power is through the One whom the demons recognized and obeyed.

Luk 8:30 And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him.

Luk 8:31 And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.

8. The only hope in this life and the next lies in the One who is Lord of life and death.

1Co 15:16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

1Co 15:17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

1Co 15:18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

1Co 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

1Co 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

1Co 15:21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

1Co 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1Co 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

9. The only hope for the soul rests in the One who died for our sins and rose again and ever lives to make intercession for us.

### **What About Miracles Today?**

1. The question is often raised as to whether the modern church may enjoy the same power of performing miracles as the early New Testament church did.

2. It must be granted that God is omnipotent and could enable His own to perform miracles today.

3. While it is clear from Scripture and history that God generally and gradually ceased to work through “signs” and “wonders” as the Canon was being completed and distributed, I think we all can agree miracles do occur today.

### **End Lesson**

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