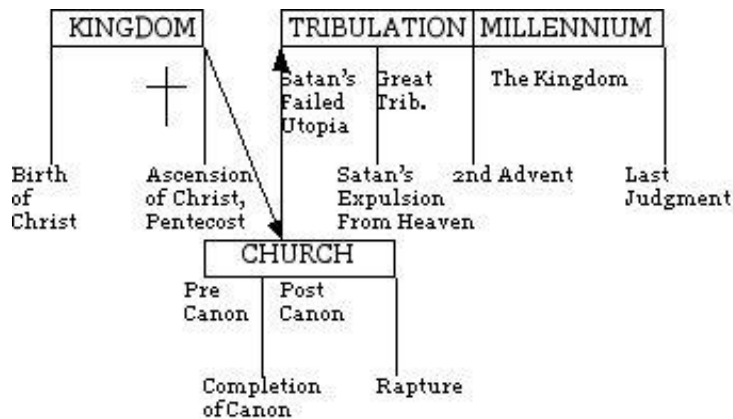


The Gospel According to John

9-30-2020

1. Last week I taught Joh 14:1-6 where we took note of how Jesus comforted His disciples. When the clock struck 7:45 we were in the process of studying Joh 14:7-12.
2. Before returning where we left off last week, I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may or may not be necessary.
3. Let's review some of that learned and then begin new material at on page four.
4. I want again to read a quote from Lewis Sperry Chafer regarding the Kingdom Age.

“When reading a Gospel (particularly a synoptic gospel) the Church Age believer must keep in mind to whom these books have primary application- Israel. According to the Scriptures, all time is divided into ... dispensations. Due recognition of the essential character of each of these dispensations is the key to the understanding of the Bible ... The fact of confusing ... the characteristics ... in each is common, and is, doubtless, the greatest error into which many devout Bible interpreters fall.”



5. A review again of the NIV of Joh 14:7-12 is in order.

Joh 14:7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Joh 14:8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

Joh 14:9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Joh 14:10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

Joh 14:11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.

Joh 14:12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

6. Last week I indicated that the best way to teach these verses is to 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.

7. Our Lord in John's gospel speaks to His disciples of His leaving and their responsibility as His representatives. In John 14:12(b) the Lord predicts in the future they will do more miracles than He did during the Kingdom Age.

7.1 He is speaking to His disciples-apostles who will later be Spirit filled. I want to answer the question; did they do just that?

Joh 14:12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

8. Let's begin our quest by looking at what the Scriptures record in the Acts of the apostles and the Epistles to the church. Four Greek words appear in Acts, the Gospels and the Epistles to describe supernatural works-miracles: Teras, Semeion, Dumas and Ergon.

Etymology

1. **Teras** (often translated "wonder/s") speaks of their extraordinary character;

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?

2. **Semeion** (often translated "sign/s") symbolizes heavenly truths and indicates Christ's immediate connection with a higher spiritual world;

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

2.2 **Semeion** is often used with **Teras**.

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

Acts 14:3 So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous **signs** and **wonders**.

2.4 **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;

Acts 4:33 And with great **power** gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

Acts 6:8 And Stephen, full of faith and **power**, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

Acts 10:35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

Acts 10:36 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

Acts 10:37 That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;

Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with **power**: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Rom 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the **power** of the Holy Ghost.

Rom 15:19 Through mighty signs and wonders, by the **power** of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

1Co 2:4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of **power**:

2Co 12:12 Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mightyt **deeds**.

2.4 **Ergon** (“work/s”) can refer to miraculous deeds which Christ came to do. It is less often used of a supernatural event—a miracle.

KJV

Rom 15:18 For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and **deed**,

NIV

Rom 15:18 I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and **done** --

Rom 15:19 by the power of **signs** and **miracles**, through the power of the Spirit. So, from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

1Co 16:10 Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear: for he worketh the **work** of the Lord, as I also do.

1Th 1:2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

1Th 1:3 Remembering without ceasing your **work** of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

1Ti 5:10 Well reported of for good **works**; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.

Heb 6:10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your **work** and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

3. 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.”

Acts 2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by **miracles** and **wonders** and **signs**, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

AND INDEED THEY DID!

Acts 3:2 Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.

Acts 3:3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.

Acts 3:4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!"

Acts 3:5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

Acts 3:6 Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.

Acts 3:7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

Acts 3:8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

Acts 3:9 When all the people saw him walking and praising God,

Acts 3:10 they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

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 tradition.

5. 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.

5.1 Then tyrants for centuries have tried to destroy and/or discredit it, and yet, it remains the Word of God.

5.1 That we have the word of God today is itself a miracle.

6. By all rights the Bible should have been destroyed and yet it is the most accurate book available from antiquity!

7. Perhaps the greatest miracle of all was the miracle of creation itself. Most objective scientists today no longer believe the earth evolved.

8. What is today known as the Big Bang theory has changed a lot of minds. Let me quote from Francis Collins's book *The Language of God*.

“At the beginning of the twentieth century, most scientists assumed a universe with no beginning and no end. This created certain physical paradoxes, such as how the universe managed to remain stable without collapsing upon itself because of the force of gravity, but other alternatives did not seem very attractive. When Einstein developed the theory of general relativity in 1916, he introduced a “fudge factor” to block gravitational implosion and retain the idea of a steady-state universe. He later reportedly called this “the greatest mistake of my life. Other theoretical formulations proposed the alternative of a universe that had begun at a particular moment, and then expanded to its present state but it remained for experimental measurements to confirm this before most physicists were willing to consider that hypothesis seriously.”

8.1 Most physicist today agree that at one time all of the galaxies were one mass. Such must have been an incredibly large mass that came from somewhere and then the Big Bang occurred.

8.2 Let's see what else we can learn from Dr. Collins' most informative book.

“Calculations suggest ... it (*the big bang*) happened approximately 14 billion years ago. A particularly important documentation of the correctness of this theory was provided rather accidentally by Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson in 1965 when they detected what appeared to be an annoying background of microwave signals regardless of where they

pointed their new detector. After ruling out all other possible causes (including certain pigeons, who were initially suspected as the culprits).

“Penzias and Wilson ultimately realized that this background noise was coming from the universe itself, and that it represented precisely the kind of afterglow that one would expect to find as a consequence of the Big Bang, arising from the annihilation of matter and antimatter in the early moments of the exploding universe. Additional compelling evidence for the correctness of the Big Bang theory has been proved by the ratio of certain elements throughout the universe, particularly hydrogen, deuterium and helium. The abundance of deuterium is remarkably constant from near-by stars to the farthest flung galaxies near our event horizon.

“That finding is consistent with all of the universe’s deuterium having been formed at unbelievably high temperatures in a single event during the Big Bang. Based on these and other observations, physicists are in agreement that the universe began as an infinitely dense, dimensionless point of pure energy. The laws of physics breakdown in this circumstance, referred to as a “singularity ... The evidence of the Big Bang begs the question of what came before that and who or what was responsible ... The consequences ... for theology are profound.”

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