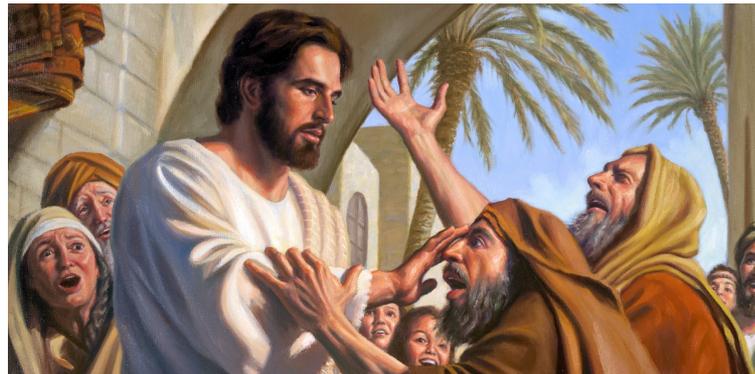
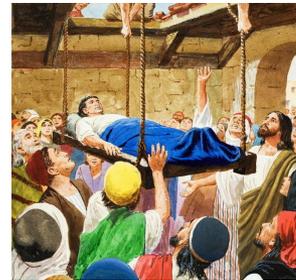


THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

PS JORGE VASQUEZ

12 FEBRUARY 2018



INTRODUCTION

This subject has for centuries been a battleground on which men have fought. The scientific mind of our twentieth century has attempted to solve the dispute.

Today there seem to be two schools of thought. Some accept them and others reject them. The scientist rejects them because he can neither understand nor prove them

The Evangelical accepts them because he has faith in a miracle-working God.

1. DEFINITION OF A 'MIRACLE'

A simple definition is that a miracle is the setting aside of a lower law by a higher law. The higher law being the law of God that superseded earth's laws.

Here is a more scholarly definition: "An effect in nature not attributable to any of the recognized operations in nature, nor to the act of man, but indicative of superhuman power and serving as a sign or witness thereof."

In Acts 4:16,22 both the Jewish Council and the Holy Spirit call the healing in Acts 3:1-11, a miracle.

2. UNIQUENESS OF JESUS' MIRACLES

The Lord's miracles were performed to prove His Deity and accredit His message. John 2:11, "This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth His glory; and His disciples believed on Him."

In all, Jesus performed 35 to 40 miracles (recorded in the Gospels) of various types because "all power" (Matt. 28:18) was His to use at His discretion.

2. UNIQUENESS OF JESUS' MIRACLES

Jesus in the Temptation, Luke 4 :3-4, refused to perform a miracle to obey the devil For satisfy His hunger after 40 days and nights of fasting.

3. THE SCOPE OF JESUS' MIRACLES

Over nature

- Matt. 8:26-27, "Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!?"

Over devils

- Jesus cast out devils in Mark 5:12-13 (demons went out into the swine);
- Also in Matt. 8:28-32; 9:32-33; 15:22-28; 17:14-18; Mark 1:23-27.

3. THE SCOPE OF JESUS' MIRACLES

Over disease.

- Palsy, Matt. 8 :13; 9:6;
- Impotent man, John 5:9;
- Curing a withered hand; Matt. 12,13;
- spirit of infirmity, Luke 13:12;
- stanching a flow of blood, Matt.9:22;
- cured dropsy, Luke 14:2;
- healed fever, Matt. 8:15;
- speech to the dumb, Matt. 9:33;
- sight to the blind, John 9:1-38;
- hearing to the deaf, Matt. 11:5;
- cured leprosy, Matt. 8:3; Luke 17 :19;
- Jesus healed at least ten different kinds of sicknesses.

3. THE SCOPE OF JESUS' MIRACLES

Over death

- He raised Lazarus from the dead, John 11:43-44;
- Matt. 9:18-26 Jairus' daughter;
- Luke 7:12-15, the son of the widow of Nain.

3. THE SCOPE OF JESUS' MIRACLES

Miscellaneous.

- Water to wine, John 2:1-11
- Feeding of the 5,000, John 6:1-14
- Walking on the sea, John 6:15-21
- Feeding of the 4,000, Matt. 15:32-39
- the blasting of the fig tree, Matt. 21 :18-22
- Finding of the coin in the fish's mouth, Matt.17:27
- Miraculous draught of fishes, Luke 5:1-11; and again in John 21:6.
- His own resurrection was the greatest miracle of all, 1 Cor. 15:4; Rom. 1:4

4. CREDIBILITY OF JESUS' MIRACLES

Jesus' miracles were performed openly in the presence of many witnesses.

His miracles have never been disproved by scientists or doctors nor has anyone been able to reproduce them.

Jesus' miracles were effected immediately. The healing was instantaneous and supernatural.

John the Baptist's enquiry that He was the Christ by His miracles that He had done. See Matthew 11:3-6.

5. OBJECTIONS TO JESUS' MIRACLES

1. Some say that Jesus' personality was so strong that His healings were by strong influences that could cure certain nervous disorders. This is entirely unsatisfactory.
2. Foolish suggestions to explain miracles only make the speaker ridiculous and unbelieving. E.g. The sea was shallow and Jesus really walked on the ground. When the boy gave the loaves and the fishes everybody dug into their lunches and gladly shared them. The dead were really not quite dead, just sleeping, etc.

5. OBJECTIONS TO JESUS' MIRACLES

3. Materialism refuses to recognize Divine forces and acknowledges only physical forces, so rejects miracles outright.
4. To the Pantheist who recognizes the laws of nature only, miracles are impossible.
5. Agnosticism denies miracles for it denies the source of miracles - God Himself.

5. OBJECTIONS TO JESUS' MIRACLES

6. Naturalist says that the uniformity of nature excludes miracles.
7. Philosophy argues that miracles interrupt the continuity of thought, so are not desired.
8. To the optimist (or idealist) things are so good that miracles are not necessary.
9. Others reject the miracles simply "for insufficiency of evidence." To us, the veracity of Scripture is such that we accept the Written Word without question.

6. VALUE OF JESUS' MIRACLES

Jesus proved His Person and His Deity by the miracles that He performed.

Miracles are evidences of a superhuman power, 2 Thessalonians 2:9 (Antichrist's power is from Satan).

Jesus received His superhuman power from somewhere or someone. Whom? From God.

Miracles will not save anyone (John 12:37), but miracles should lead one to faith. Matthew 8:27, miracles certainly strengthened the faith of those who already believed.

Miracles shatter unbelief and teach us to believe Him implicitly without fear that He is too weak to complete the work of salvation that He has begun in us, Phil. 1:6.

7. THE POSSIBILITY OF MIRACLES TODAY

Miracles were performed in the Old Testament by men like Moses, Elijah and Elisha.

Jesus performed many miracles during the days of the Four Gospels. After the ascension miracles were performed by Peter, Paul and the other Apostles.

If miracles are wrought in the power of God, and they most certainly are, then as I God never changes, miracles are still possible today, Heb. 13:8.

However, one thing is changed: miracles were often performed to accredit the messenger and the need for that is greatly reduced today. We do not need miracles to prove that Jesus is God for the inspired Bible states it.

CONCLUSION

Let us honor the Lord by accepting the miracles at face value as they have been recorded in the Holy Word of God.

Let us not insult God with our puny intellect and question His statements in unbelief.

Rather let us be like the Negro lady who said, "I believe the whale swallowed Jonah because the Bible says so. If the Bible said that Jonah swallowed the whale I'd believe that too! "

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why have scientists rejected the miracles?
2. Are all so-called miracles actually miracles?
3. What is a miracle?
4. In what 3 ways were Jesus' miracles unique?
5. List 7 types of miracles that Jesus performed.
6. List 8 diseases and physical defects that Jesus healed.
7. Why should we believe the miracles of Jesus Christ?
8. On what 5 grounds do some object to the miracles?
9. List 3 values of Jesus' miracles.
10. Are miracles possible today?