

# **Miracles**

## **from the Perspective**

### **of the New Testament**

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See also *Miracles: From God or Man?* by Jimmy Jividen

# Observations

Two things should be observed about miracles in the New Testament

- First, there is a decline of references to miracles from the beginning to the end of the New Testament
- Second, each account of the gospel emphasizes different aspects of the miracles for specific purposes

# Miraculous Activity

Matthew summarizes Jesus' ministry:

“Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them” (Mt. 4:23-24)

# Miracles in Acts

Prominent miracles at the beginning

- Tongue speaking, cloven tongues like fire, extreme sound of wind

Numerous miracles in the first part

- Healing of lame man, release from prison, many miracles by apostles, miracles in Samaria, Caesarea, Damascus, etc.

# Decline of Miracles

- There is a significant decline of the miraculous events from the time Jesus began his work to the close of the New Testament
- Even in Acts there is a decline in the miracles with the passing of time
- In the letters there is a more marked decline in the miraculous

# Miracles in the Letters

- References to abuse of miraculous gifts and their limited purpose and duration (1 Cor. 12-14; Eph. 4:11-13)
- Specific references are rare
- There are references to miracles of the past (2 Cor. 12:12) and inspiration (1 Cor. 2:13), but confirming signs are not evident

# Miracles in the Letters

- Incidents of recovery from illness (Phil. 2:25-30) and unrelieved afflictions (2 Cor. 12:7-10), but no miraculous cures like Jesus did
- Predictions of the passing of miracles (1 Cor. 13:8-10; Eph. 4:13), but a very conspicuous absence of mighty miracles

# Hebrews 2:3-4

“How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will”

# Hebrews 2:3-4

- The passage shows a progression
- First, there was that which was spoken by the Lord
- Second, the message was confirmed by those who heard Jesus
- Third, God bore witness to the message with signs, wonders, and miracles—perhaps indicating their purpose was almost complete