

***Miracles***  
***Different Descriptions***  
***Same Purpose***

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

# *Different Descriptions*

- The inspired writers of the gospel wrote from different backgrounds to readers with their respective backgrounds
- Their readers would be able to see that the miracles confirmed Jesus as the source of salvation and delivering God's message of salvation

# *Observations*

- Jesus and the apostles did not work miracles to confirm OT Scripture
- God confirmed the Law by the miracles he performed through the prophets
- Once a thing is confirmed, it does not need to be reconfirmed in every generation
- The Law needed no further confirmation by Jesus and the apostles

# *Review*

- The New Testament needs no confirmation today
- The decline of miracles seen from the beginning to the end of the New Testament shows that miracles were accomplishing their purpose of confirmation

# *Miracles in Matthew*

- Rabbinic Jewish background
- Miracles confirmed Jesus as the Messiah and the fulfillment of Scriptures
- Jewish readers would be sensitive to this approach

# *Miracles in Mark*

- Focusing on the action and power of Jesus' miracles
- Miracles confirmed the direct power of Jesus' person and authority
- Roman readers would be responsive to this approach

# *Miracles in Luke*

- Background: Greek literary culture and medical knowledge
- Miracles confirmed Jesus' work as being the fulfillment of prophecies and a sign of God's Kingdom

# *Miracles in John*

- Symbolic meaning in the miracles
- Miracles gave sufficient evidence “that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God” (20:31)
- The Jewish reader concerned with the symbols of apocalyptic literature and the readers attracted to the symbols of the Greek Mystery Religions would be sensitive to this approach

# *Miracles in Acts*

- Background: same as Luke
- On the day of Pentecost the miracles showed that Old Testament prophecies were being fulfilled (2:16) and that the church was God's Kingdom, proven by what they could “both see and hear” (2:33)

# *Miracles in the Letters*

- Use of miracles is rare; previous miracles had confirmed God's man and message
- The main purpose of the letters was not to establish new revelation but to remind readers what they had been taught and to correct them to God's standard
- As time passed, miracle workers died
- Miracles were not so numerous or important