

Miracles

Acts 2:22

Introduction:

- A. Do you believe in miracles? In Jesus? The Bible?
- B. Do not believe in every thing that is called a “miracle” – “It’s a miracle!”
- C. Do believe in “miracles”, “wonders”, “signs” of text.
 - 1. “Miracles” from *dunamis* meaning power. (“Mighty deed” 1; “Mighty work” 11; “Miracle” 8; “Power” 77)
 - 2. “Wonders” from *teras* - Almost always used in connection with signs and miracles.
 - 3. “Signs” from *semeion* - meaning a sign (“Miracle” 22; “Sign” 51; “Wonder” 3)
- D. What do we mean then by miracle?
 - 1. Not a mere wonder? Wonders of nature.
 - 2. Not just Divine intervention. Acts of providence.
 - 3. An overt act that only God can do, signifying it must be from God. (Cf. John 3:2; 9:16-24).
- E. We shall discuss three aspects of miracles:

Discussion:

- I. Bible Miracles And Their Purpose
 - A. It cannot be denied that they served immediate needs.
 - 1. Hungry needed food.
 - 2. Blind needed sight, etc.
 - 3. If satisfaction of immediate need was all that was seen then the point missed. (John 6:26).
 - B. In O.T. God communicated with man by various miraculous interventions. (Cf. Heb. 1:1).
 - C. In N.T. miracles centered around Son and His revelation. - Confirmed and aided.
 - D. The purpose of N. T. miracles was to confirm certain claims.
 - 1. Jesus claimed deity. (Matt. 9:1-8; John 20:30,31).
 - 2. Apostles & prophets claimed revelation and inspiration. (Mark 16:17-18; Heb. 2:3).
 - a. Additional miracles superfluous to producing faith. (cf. Luke 16:31).
 - b. Miraculous repetition not necessary to our faith. (Rom. 10:6-17).
- II. Bible Miracles And Divine Providence
 - A. A Miracles has a clear sign on it that says “No man can do it, only God”.
 - B. An act of providence is just as much from God, but it does not have clear sign.
 - 1. It could have been “by chance”. (Lk. 10:31).
 - 2. It could have been natural event or phenomenon.
 - 3. It could been an “act of God”.
 - C. Both Miracles and acts of providence are acts of God - but both not signs.
 - 1. Birth of Jesus and births of Isaac and John the Baptist.
 - a. Birth of Jesus was a sign. (Isa. 7:14).
 - b. Births of Isaac and John the Baptist were neither chance nor sign.
 - 2. Drought and Rain were acts of God in Elijah’s day, but not a sign. (Jas. 5:17,18)
 - 3. Importance to trust providence of God, but important not to attribute every event to that - will begin trusting something other than word.
- III. Bible Miracles And Modern Claims.
 - A. Bible miracles did not have to proven -- some questioned their origin.
 - B. Bible miracles were not drawn out processes.
 - C. Bible miracles were not isolated incidents like many claims today.
 - D. Bible miracles did not require vivid imaginations like many today.
 - E. Bible miracles were not fund-raising gimmicks like many today.

Conclusion:

- A. A miracle is something “no man can do” - only God.
- B. A miracle is not needed today to produce faith -- we have complete revelation. (Jude 3).