

The Gift of Miracles

Greg Haswell | July 5, 2017

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A miracle in the biblical concept is limited to those not explainable solely by natural processes, but which require the direct causal agency of a supernatural being, usually God. These occur throughout all major eras of history but appear with greater frequency at key periods of God's self-revelation"

BAKER'S EVANGELICAL DICTIONARY OF BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

4 words the New Testament uses

Semeion

Semeion - a "sign" an evidence of a divine authority or commission; the seal of a higher power, an attestation of a divine message. It is specifically translated as "miracle" in Luke 23:8 NIV; Acts 4:16,22 NASB, NIV.

- John used it as a major theme in his gospel showing Jesus was:
- Lord of nature by turning water into wine in 2:1-11,
- Lord of life by healing the nobleman's son in 4:46-54,
- Lord over sickness by healing the paralyzed man in 5:1-15,

- Lord of provision by feeding the five thousand in 6:1-14,
- Lord of creation by walking on the sea in 6:15-21,
- Lord over sin by the healing of the man born blind in 9:1-41.

Teras or Terata

"wonders;" from the Greek word from which the word terror comes, wonder-causing events; portents; producing astonishment in the beholder or causing the beholder to marvel. (Acts 2:19). A sign appeals to the understanding, whereas a wonder appeals to the imagination.

"Wonders" are most often God's activity (Acts 2:19; 4:30; 5:12; 6:8; 7:36; 14:3; 15:12), though sometimes they are counterfeited through the work of Satan in human instruments (Matt. 24:24; Mark 13:22; 2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 13:11-13)

Dunameis

"mighty works", inherent ability, works of superhuman power, activity of supernatural origin or character ; of a new and higher power.

22 "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

ACTS 2:22

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—
19 by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

ROMANS 15:18-19

Erga

"works" employed in the New Testament in the sense of a miracle. John the Baptist heard of the "works" of Jesus while he was in prison (Matt. 11:2). The apostle John used the term frequently (5:20,36; 7:3; 10:38; 14:11,12; 15:24).

2 When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples

the works of the Christ - YLT

the works of Christ - NASB, NKJV

MATTHEW 11:2

So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?

and working mighty acts among you - YLT

and works miracles among you - NKJV

GALATIANS 3:5

- SIGNS: To build faith
- WONDERS: To get attention
- MIRACLES: Release of power for transformation
- WORKS: For cultural shift

Are they for all?

11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. 12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. (NKJV)

JOHN 14:11-13

Jesus promised they would follow believers

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly,

MARK 16:15-20

it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." 19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen. (NKJV)

MARK 16:15-20

Miracles function by faith

Jesus said that He would confirm the word of those who dared to go into all of the world and preach His gospel. He continued to rally those who heard Him, encouraging them to have faith, which would make everything possible, and nothing impossible for them.

22 "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." 23 "'If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."

MARK 9:22-23

19 Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" 20 He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

MATTHEW 17:19-20

- Often come by a gift of Faith
- Often accompanied by commands or steps of obedience
- Often are ignited by compassion