

Lesson 2: Jews Require a Sign

Introduction:

- How are we to understand and view miracles, signs, and wonders?
 - Are miracles, signs, and wonders the means of God's navigation of our lives, the instrument of communicating His will for us?
- In the first lesson we assessed the fact of God's use of miracles, signs, and wonders as testified in the scriptures.
 - The covenant of wonders God made with Israel within the confines of the law covenant
 - The blessings and curses would demonstrate in visible, seeable phenomena God's elementary tutelage
 - Of course these Genesis - Malachi occasions would not be the total of God use of them, rather after a hiatus of their exercise they would be once again dispensed, this time "freely" by Jesus Christ.
 - The works of Jesus Christ in gracious healing all manner of sickness and disease were appointed to signal to God's promised and prophesied, as well as, long-awaited kingdom of heaven which when spoken of by John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, and the apostles was "at hand", even "nigh at hand". They were tastes of the powers of the world to come, the kingdom of Christ that was not of this world.
 - Lastly, we noted these supernatural phenomena deposited in gifts to the 12 apostles, the apostle Paul, and others, eventually the church.
- With that brief survey of categories of miracles, signs, and wonders, we will shift to a more careful examination of each holding the questions,
 - Does God use miracles, signs, and wonders to communicate and teach us today? If not, why?
 - If not, what is the medium of God's communicate and education of His will for my life?

Preview:

- In this lesson we will gain a further report and understanding of:
 - The covenant of wonders
 - The blessings and curses of the law
- Especially, as it corresponds to that which is found in Genesis - Malachi

Sermon:

Jews Require a Sign

- **1 Corinthians 1:22** - "For the Jews require a sign..."
 - What is the grounds for this?
 - What is the basis for not simply "a sign"?
 - What is the basis for their "requiring" of one?
 - **Matt. 12:38-40** - "...we would see a sign from thee..."

- Christ had done many "signs" in their midst, they wouldn't believe the sign
 - Note: signs do not instinctively lead to belief, God's word doesn't say, "faith cometh by seeing, and seeing by signs"
- The Basis for the Jews Requirement of Signs
 - The basis for the "signs" would be God's power
 - The basis for their requiring them would be God's covenant to do seeable "marvel's" before them
 - **Exodus 34:10**
 - One of two things in which God would provide to Israel to possess before the nations:
 1. **Marvels**
 2. **Statutes and Judgments of the Law (Deut. 4:5-8)**
 - Instances:
 - Judges 6:11-17 (:13, 17)
 - Psalms 74:9 - "We see not our signs: here is no more any prophet: neither is there among us any that knoweth how long."
 - Prophets were one instrument of God to communicate His will by marvels
 - Enemies were one instrument of God to communicate His will by marvels
 - Increase of the Curse of the Earth via famine, pestilence, supernatural disasters, and animal attacks were one instrument of God to communicate His will by marvels
- The Exhibition of the Marvels in the Blessings and Curses of the Law
 - **Lev. 26:1-39 (Deut. 28:1-27)**
 - 1st Set - Judges (Gideon)
 - :16 - sow your seed in vain and enemies eat it
 - **Judges 6:11ff**
 - 2nd Set - Prophet (Elijah)
 - :19 - heaven as iron and earth as brass
 - **1 Kings 17:1**
 - 3rd Set - Prophet (Elisha)
 - :22 - she bears
 - **2 Kings 2:24**
 - **2 Chronicles 7:19-22** - forsake God
 - Careful - **Deut. 13:1-5**
- Israel were a people who required signs on the basis of the law covenant and the covenant of marvels which was the means to walk by faith and not by sight.
 - **Galatians 3:12**
 - The law wasn't deposited through Israel's faith in God's promise (Abe. Cov.), therefore those living under it would walk by sight (although one could have

faith) leading them by the orchestration of the exhibition of the marvels in blessings and curses to understand who God was and their rightful place in the sight of God.

Conclusion:

- Christ had much to say about "faith", along with Paul and other post-Christ Bible writers. Therefore, are we being dealt with by God through miracles, signs, and wonders?
 - We looked at the OT, but what about the New, what about Jesus Christ, and what about the time in which the apostle Paul wrote when there were "gifts of the Spirit"?
 - How do we understand expression of "walking by faith, not by sight", that we are not "under the law", and what role does God's Word have in the equation?