

THE LORD WHO Heals | MIRACLES

INTRO:

WHY MIRACLES SERMON SERIES:

- Miracles reveal the power and authority of God
- Miracles reveal the supernatural activity of God — His intervening presence and redemption — in our world
- Studying how God has moved in one generation, reveals His willingness to move in another.
 - If God did this for them, we can ask Him to do so for us.
 - Our faith to pray and receive answered prayer can grow through reading and hearing testimonies of God's power recorded in Scripture

FIRST RECORDED HEALING IN SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 20:17–18 NIV

¹⁷ Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelek, his wife and his female slaves so they could have children again, ¹⁸ for the LORD had kept all the women in Abimelek's household from conceiving because of Abraham's wife Sarah.

FIRST RECORDED HEALINGS IN THE NT (canonical order):

Matthew 4:23–24 NIV

²³ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. ²⁴ News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them.

FIRST RECORDED HEALING IN ACTS (POST RESURRECTION/CHURCH AGE):

Acts 3:1–10 NIV

¹ One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. ² Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" ⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. ⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

THERE ARE ROUGHLY 28 INDIVIDUAL HEALING MIRACLES IN THE SCRIPTURES:

- **6 accounts in the OT**

- Abimelek's household: [Gen 20:17-18](#). Closed wombs.
- Miriam: [Num 12:10-15](#). Leprosy.
- Those bitten by serpents: [Num 21:4-9](#). Snakebite.
- Jeroboam's hand: [1 Kgs 13:4-6](#). Withered hand.
- Naaman: [2 Kgs 5:1-14](#). Leprosy.
- Hezekiah: [2 Kgs 20:1-11](#); [Isa 38](#); [2 Chr 32:24](#). Boil, near death.
- **17 accounts in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)**
 - Official's son. [John 4:46-54](#). Fever, near death.
 - Peter's mother-in-law. [Matthew 8:14-15](#); [Mark 1:29-31](#); [Luke 4:38-39](#). Fever.
 - A leper. [Matthew 8:1-4](#); [Mark 1:40-45](#); [Luke 5:12-16](#). Leprosy.
 - Paralytic lowered through the roof. [Matthew 9:1-8](#); [Mark 2:1-12](#); [Luke 5:17-26](#). Paralysis.
 - Man at the pool of Bethesda. [John 5:1-15](#). Infirmary of 38 years.
 - Man with the withered hand. [Matthew 12:9-14](#); [Mark 3:1-6](#); [Luke 6:6-11](#). Withered hand.
 - Centurion's servant. [Matthew 8:5-13](#); [Luke 7:1-10](#). Paralyzed (Matthew); sick and near death (Luke).
 - Woman with the flow of blood. [Matthew 9:20-22](#); [Mark 5:25-34](#); [Luke 8:43-48](#). Bleeding for 12 years.
 - Two blind men. [Matthew 9:27-31](#). Blindness.
 - Deaf man with a speech impediment. [Mark 7:31-37](#). Deafness and impaired speech.
 - Blind man at Bethsaida. [Mark 8:22-26](#). Blindness.
 - Man born blind. [John 9:1-41](#). Blindness from birth.
 - Woman bent over. [Luke 13:10-17](#). Bent over and unable to straighten for 18 years.
 - Man with dropsy. [Luke 14:1-6](#). Dropsy (abnormal swelling of the body).
 - Ten lepers. [Luke 17:11-19](#). Leprosy.
 - Blind man or men at Jericho (Bartimaeus). [Matthew 20:29-34](#); [Mark 10:46-52](#); [Luke 18:35-43](#). Blindness.
 - The high priest's servant. [Luke 22:50-51](#). Severed ear.
- **5 more accounts recorded in the book of Acts**
 - Lame man at the temple gate. [Acts 3:1-10](#). Lame from birth.
 - Saul. [Acts 9:17-18](#). Blindness.
 - Aeneas. [Acts 9:32-35](#). Paralyzed and bedridden for 8 years.
 - Lame man at Lystra. [Acts 14:8-10](#). Lame from birth.
 - Father of Publius. [Acts 28:7-8](#). Fever and dysentery.
- **Depending on your criteria and how you count you could add more**
 - I've tried to differentiate from the purely demonic conditions — although I included above the [Luke 13](#) healing of a woman whose condition was clearly the result of being demonized because she wasn't just freed, but described as being healed.
 - I want to distinctly address these on another day.
 - I also didn't include the miracles of resurrections, but there's 10 clear accounts—let's say 9 by removing Jesus (the greatest resurrection) from the list.
 - [Old Testament \(3\)](#)

1. The widow of Zarephath's son, through Elijah: [1 Kings 17:17-24](#)
2. The Shunammite's son, through Elisha: [2 Kings 4:18-37](#)
3. The man thrown into Elisha's tomb, on touching Elisha's bones: [2 Kings 13:20-21](#)
- Gospels (5)
 1. The widow of Nain's son: [Luke 7:11-17](#)
 2. Jairus's daughter: [Matthew 9:18-19](#), [23-26](#); [Mark 5:21-24](#), [35-43](#); [Luke 8:40-42](#), [49-56](#)
 3. Lazarus: [John 11:1-44](#)
 4. The saints at the crucifixion: [Matthew 27:52-53](#). This is a group of unstated number, recorded only by Matthew.
 5. Jesus: [Matthew 28:1-10](#); [Mark 16:1-8](#); [Luke 24:1-12](#); [John 20:1-18](#)
- Acts (2)
 1. Tabitha (Dorcas), through Peter: [Acts 9:36-42](#)
 2. Eutychus, through Paul: [Acts 20:7-12](#)

A FEW NOTABLE SCRIPTURES THAT REFERENCE THE LORD AS OUR HEALER:

Exodus 15:26 NIV

²⁶ He said, "If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."

Psalms 103:2-3 NIV

² Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits— ³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

Isaiah 53:5 NIV

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Q: WHAT ARE WE TO MAKE OF ALL THIS?

- 1: God is our healer, but throughout the Scriptures His method of healing varies.
 - 2: Brokenness comes in many shapes, sizes, and has various causes connected to one root. SIN.
 - 3: Healing and salvation are connected. This points us to the ultimate healing.
- Lastly: 2 common questions that come up

1: GOD IS OUR HEALER, BUT HIS METHODS VARY.

WHAT DO WE SEE THROUGHOUT THE SCRIPTURES:

- **The variety of methods of healing:**
 - Speaks a word of command
 - Answers prayer of intercession
 - Heals through touch
 - Often the healing happens while they are in proximity of Jesus or the prophet/intercessor

- Sometimes the healing happens over a great distance
- Sometimes he uses a prop (spit or mud or a bronze serpent)
- Some times the one healed has to have faith (often times seen through a step of obedience)
- Other times, the faith of the intercessor is what matters
- On occasion Jesus intervenes on his own will
- We even have record of healings in the book of Acts when people touch the apostle's hankies, or when their shadow passes by
- We even see 'natural' remedies that are connected to healing—recovering from wounds/sickness
 - Paul tells Timothy to drink a little wine to settle his stomach
 - Jesus portrays the Good Samaritan's use of oil and wine on the wounded as good treatment
 - These recognize the good uses of medicines AND that the Lord approves and uses them in his healing works.
- **While the methods can and do vary—God is seen to be the source of the healing.**
 - In [Exodus 15:26](#) which we read earlier, God essentially gives himself the name Yahweh/Jehovah Rapha - "I am the LORD who heals you"
 - As outlined earlier, the Scriptures are loaded with accounts of God miraculously healing people.

WHAT DOES THIS TEACH US?

1: It is in God's character, nature, and authority to heal us.

- He has the power and ability.

2: It is in God's heart to heal us — generally speaking, this is His will

- [Mark 1:40-42](#) "40 A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." 41 Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" 42 Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed."

3: We're not to get caught up in the methodology of healing.

- Too often people try to create a formula for healing. Say this, do that, believe this. etc.
- Reality it is... "look to Jesus and do whatever He says"

Further this matter requires us to look into the human condition.

- We are often sick, dying, hurting, broken, and oppressed.
- We are in NEED of a healer.
- WHY?

2: THE ROOT OF BROKENNESS: SIN

SIN BROUGHT SICKNESS & DEATH INTO THE WORLD

- God made the world good, but sin corrupted it.
- God warned Adam in the garden that if they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they will die

- Therefore God is not the author of sin. Sickness and death entered the world through sin, and at times Scripture records God bringing sickness as judgment. But His heart is to redeem and heal.
- On a general level, all of creation groans under the curse of sin — sickness and death. ([Romans 8:22](#))

SICKNESS & BROKENNESS END IN DEATH: THE CONSEQUENCE OF SIN

- The result is that all men die.
- Scripture affirms this reality: “People are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment” ([Hebrews 9:27](#))
- Whether sudden or gradual, all death is a tragedy, but the consequence of living in a fallen, sinful world.
- Every sickness is a reminder that the world is NOT as it should be.
- Every death is a reminder that the world is under the curse of sin.

EVEN IN THAT, DEATH IS A MERCY

- Because we weren’t created to live in a sinful state for all eternity.
- Notice that once Adam and Eve sinned, God expelled them from the garden and the tree of life. ([Genesis 3:22-24](#))
- This subtle truth points us to His work of redemption... I’ll come back to this in a minute.

SOME SICKNESS IN SCRIPTURE IS DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO SIN AND/OR SATAN

- We read of cases where a sickness or disease was directly attributed to personal sin.
 - Miriam, Moses’ sister ([Num 12:10-15](#))
 - Jeroboam ([1 Kgs 13:4-6](#))
- We read of sickness, plague and death is attributed to sin in the community.
 - [1 Cor 11:27-30](#) - Taking communion in an unworthy manner
 - [Numbers 16:41—50](#) - Plague in response to complaining against God
 - [Numbers 21:4-9](#) - Venomous snakes bite the people and many die because of complaining, speaking against God
- We read of sicknesses/brokenness that is directly attributed to Satan or demons
 - [Luke 13:10-17](#) - Woman crippled by a spirit
 - [Job 2](#) - Satan attacks Job’s health and he is struck with painful boils/sores
 - [2 Corinthians 12:7-9](#) & [Galatians 4:13-15](#) - are thought (by some scholars) to be connected: the thorn in Paul’s flesh was the eye disease/illness referenced in Galatians

WHAT I’M NOT SAYING:

- Not EVERY sickness is due to a personal sin, corporate sin, or caused by a demon
- Rather, there are SOME sicknesses that result from sin and the powers of darkness
- ALL of them are rooted in the curse as a result of the fall — man’s sin.

BUT THERE’S GOOD NEWS

- Christ is our healer!

- [Acts 10:38](#) “38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.”
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3: THE ULTIMATE HEALING

AG FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH (12): Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers.

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN HEALING AND SALVATION

Pentecostal theologian Vernon Purdy notes that salvation in Scripture includes the whole person, body and soul, and that healing flows from Christ's work on the cross.

- **God saves the whole person.**
 - He made us body and soul together, and through Christ He restores all of us, not just our souls ([1 Thessalonians 5:23](#)).
- **Saved and healed are connected.**
 - The New Testament word for salvation also means healing. Jesus forgave the paralytic's sins and then healed his body ([Mark 2:5-12](#)).
- **Healing was provided at the cross.**
 - Jesus carried our sicknesses as well as our sins. "By His wounds we are healed" ([Isaiah 53:4-5](#); [Matthew 8:17](#)).
- **God's goal is complete wholeness.**
 - The cross first restores our peace with God, and that peace is meant to reach every part of our lives.
 - God's shalom (peace/wholeness) is for the whole person: body, soul and spirit.
- **Every healing points to what is coming.**
 - Each healing today is a down payment on the day Christ returns and makes our bodies completely new ([Romans 8:23](#)).

THE ULTIMATE HEALING: RESURRECTION

- This is the final victory over sin, sickness, and death.
- When we are raised to life, in the new heavens — it's a bodily resurrection and heaven (as we think of it) is more accurately described as 'the new earth', it's a physical reality.
- Jesus didn't just save our souls, but he saves and redeems all of us.

THEREFORE, GOD'S WILL IS HEALING AND SALVATION

- Sin is the root of our brokenness, and Jesus carried both our sins and our sicknesses.
- Therefore, His saving work includes our healing.
- This is all included in His work on the cross and his plan of redemption.

WE MUST RECOGNIZE HOWEVER:

- That every healing this side of eternity is only temporary.

- It's a witness to the resurrection reality and promise one day soon to come.
 - That in God's sovereignty, NOT everyone gets healed.
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Q: WHY DO SOME PEOPLE GET HEALED AND OTHERS DON'T?

UPFRONT, I CAN'T SPEAK TO EVERY POSSIBLE SITUATION, BUT THESE ARE POSSIBILITIES.

(It is also good to note that we don't need to assume on another's situation—let God handle it)

- Sometimes God has a plan for it (not that He authored it, but gave it purpose in His plan). ([John 9:3](#), [2 Cor 12:9](#))
 - Sometimes the answer is 'not now' rather than 'no.' And so we must wait for His timing. ([John 11:6](#), [14-15](#) — Jesus would raise Lazarus later)
 - Sometimes the problem is unrepentant sin. ([James 5:16](#), [1 Corinthians 11:30](#))
 - Sometimes the problem is unbelief. ([Mark 6:5-6](#), [Matthew 17:19-20](#))
 - Sometimes... for His good reasons... He says no ([2 Timothy 4:20](#)) and we must wait for the ultimate—the resurrection ([Romans 8:23](#))
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Q: WHAT ARE WE INSTRUCTED TO DO TODAY AND WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT?

James 5:14-16 NIV

¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

INSTRUCTED TO DO:

- Confess your sins
- Call for the elders
- Anoint them with oil in the name of Jesus
- Pray in faith

EXPECT:

- Expect God to respond — the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well ([James 5:15](#))
 - Expect the Spirit to work through the church
 - Gifts of healing ([1 Cor 12:9](#))
 - Great commission empowerment ([Mark 16:18](#))
 - Expect without demanding — leave the matter in God's hands, but pray in accordance with what he taught us.
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RESPONSE:

- Receive Jesus as your Savior! Salvation for the whole person.
- Worship song
- Call forward the pastors, board members, and prayer team
- Invite all to worship/pray for healing