

**The Book of ACTS**  
**Week 4**

**Overview**

***The Miracles of Acts***

<b>MIRACLES</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>SCRIPTURE</b>
<b>Peter heals a lame man</b>	<b>Jerusalem</b>	<b>3:1-11</b>
<b>Ananias &amp; Sapphira struck dead</b>	<b>Jerusalem</b>	<b>5:1-10</b>
<b>Apostles perform many wonders</b>	<b>Jerusalem</b>	<b>5:12-16</b>
<b>Peter and John communicate the Holy Spirit</b>	<b>Samaria</b>	<b>8:14-17</b>
<b>Angel directs Philip to evangelize the Ethiopian Eunuch</b>	<b>Gaza Desert</b>	<b>8:26-40</b>
<b>Paul Converted</b>	<b>Road to Damascus</b>	<b>9:1-9</b>
<b>Peter heals Aeneas of Palsy</b>	<b>Lydda</b>	<b>9:33-34</b>
<b>Peter raises Tabitha (Dorcas)</b>	<b>Joppa</b>	<b>9:36-41</b>
<b>Peter delivered out of prison</b>	<b>Jerusalem</b>	<b>12:7-17</b>
<b>God kills Herod</b>	<b>Jerusalem</b>	<b>12:21-23</b>
<b>Sorcerer Elymas smitten with blindness</b>	<b>Paphos</b>	<b>13:6-11</b>
<b>Paul heals a cripple</b>	<b>Lystra</b>	<b>14:8-10</b>
<b>Paul casts out a spirit of divination</b>	<b>Philippi</b>	<b>16:16-18</b>
<b>Paul and Silas's prison doors opened by an earthquake</b>	<b>Philippi</b>	<b>16:25-26</b>
<b>Paul communicates the Holy Spirit</b>	<b>Corinth</b>	<b>19:1-6</b>
<b>Paul heals multitudes</b>	<b>Corinth</b>	<b>19:11-12</b>
<b>Paul restores Eutychus to life</b>	<b>Troas</b>	<b>20:9-12</b>
<b>Paul shakes off a viper</b>	<b>Malta</b>	<b>28:3-6</b>
<b>Paul heals the father of Publius and others</b>	<b>Malta</b>	<b>28:7-9</b>

1. Background of Biblical Miracles

3 Major Miracle-working Eras: Moses & Joshua, Elijah & Elisha, Christ & Apostles

2. Definition: A miracle is an extraordinary event wrought by God through human agency, an event that cannot be explained by natural forces. Miracles always are designed to authenticate the human instrument God has chosen to declare a specific revelation to those who witness the miracle.

**Augustus Strong:** *“A miracle is an event in nature, so extraordinary in itself and so coinciding with the prophecy or command of a religious teacher or leader, as fully to warrant the conviction, on the part of those who witness it, that God has wrought it with the design of certifying that this teacher or leader has been commissioned by Him.”*

3. Purpose of Biblical Miracles [Christ & Apostles far superior of other miracle eras]

a. Miracles introduced new eras of revelation.

Moses & Joshua: Law

Elijah & Elisha: Prophets

Christ & Apostles: New Testament

b. Miracles authenticated the messengers of revelation.

**1 Kings 17:23-24** – *“And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother; and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth. And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth.”*

**John 10:24-25** – *“If thou be Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not; the works that I do in my Father’s name, they bear witness of me.”*

**Acts 2:22** – *“Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know.”*

**Acts 14:3** – *“Long time therefore abode they (Paul and Barnabas) speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.”*

c. Miracles authenticated the apostles of the New Testament. [Acts 2:43; 5:12; 15:12]

**2 Cor. 12:12** – *“Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.”*

d. Miracles called attention to New revelation.

Moses: Egyptian Plagues & Pentateuch

*Elijah and Elisha*

**1 Kings 18:38-39** – *“Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt-sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God.”*

**B. B. Warfield:** *“Miracles do not appear on the pages of Scripture vagrantly, here, there, and elsewhere indifferently, without assignable reason. They belong to revelation periods, and appear only when God is speaking to His people through accredited messengers, declaring His gracious purposes. Their abundant display in the Apostolic Church is the mark of the richness of the Apostolic age in revelation; and when this revelation period closed, the period of miracle-working had passed by also, as a mere matter of course.”*

Stephen’s Acts 7 Message connects the “wonders and signs” of Moses with the “lively oracles” [Torah]

**Hebrews 2:2-3** – *“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”*

- e. Miracles ceased with the Apostles, the New Testament, and the founding of the NT church.

Apostles were chosen personally by Jesus Christ. [Matt. 10:1-4]

Apostles were eyewitnesses to the resurrection. [1 Cor. 9:1]

Apostles had absolute authority. [1 Cor. 14:29-33]

Apostles were authenticated by miraculous signs. [Acts 3, 5, 9, 20, 28]

The Church was founded upon the Apostles. [Eph. 2:20]

Apostles have an eternal and unique place of honor. [Rev. 21:14]

**1 Corinthians 3:5-11** – *“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. . . For we are laborers together with God, ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building . . . For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”*

**Ephesians 2:20** – *“(the household of God) and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.”*

**Eph. 3:4-5, 10** – *“Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ, which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit . . . To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.” [See also Eph. 4:11]*

**Rev. 21:14** – *“And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.”*

- f. Miracles today are more like the account of the Ethiopian Eunuch [God’s Providence]

### **Acts 3:1-11 – Gate BEAUTIFUL**

#### **Acts 8:26-40** [Throughout the Book of Acts]

**Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11** – *“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. . . He hath made every thing beautiful in his time; also he hath set the world (eternity) in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.”*

**Beautiful = Timely** [Greek *horaios*: seasonable, timely, blooming, beautiful in timing]

**Romans 10:15** [quoting Isa. 52:7; Nah. 1:15] – *“And how shall they preach, except they be sent: as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace; and bring glad tidings of good things!”*

**Acts 8:30** – *“And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?”*