

ZOOM STUDY: IMPORTANT BIBLICAL WORDS

MIRACLES, SIGNS, WONDERS

Introduction

Deuteronomy 34:10-12 Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, who did all those miraculous signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

1.) Although we hear of many miracles in the Old Testament, God most often performed miracles at key points in Israel's history—at times of great change or testing when Israel needed to witness God's power in a striking way. How was this true in Moses' day? Can you think of any other times when miracles were performed in large numbers?

2.) Jesus did more and more amazing miracles than anyone else in the Bible. When did Jesus begin performing miracles (cf. John 1:32-34, 2:11)? How many of Jesus' miracles can you name?

3.) What made Jesus' miracles different from other miracles in the Scripture?

Exodus 8:16 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the ground...'"

Acts 3:6 Then Peter said, "...In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

Acts 9:40 Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up."

Matthew 8:26-27 [Jesus] got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

Luke 7:14-16 [Jesus] went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. They were all filled with awe and praised God. "A great prophet has appeared among us," they said. "God has come to help his people."

Matthew 10:1 [Jesus] called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

4.) At the same time, how did his miracles show the interpenetration of the persons of the Trinity?

Matthew 12:28 "If I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."

John 5:19 Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does."

5.) Think again of the pattern we spoke of in question 1. Why did God the Father give Jesus the power to perform the many miracles that he did?

John 2:11 This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

John 10:25 “The miracles I do in my Father’s name speak for me.”

John 20:30-31 Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

6.) Why did God give the Apostles and other early Christians the power to perform miracles?

Mark 16:17-18 “These signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”

Mark 16:20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

7.) When it comes to evaluating miracles what must we always keep in mind?

Matthew 7:22-23 “Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

2 Corinthians 11:4, 13-15 If someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted... such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

8.) What miracles do the Roman Catholics claim have been done among them? Evaluate them on the basis of Scripture.

9.) What miracles do charismatic and Pentecostal churches claim? Evaluate them based on what the Bible teaches.

Closing Prayer: Holy Spirit, cause us to be content with and zealous for your holy Scriptures, which are sufficient to make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Lead us to gladly learn and clearly proclaim your Word. Thereby keep us safe from Satan’s dangerous deceptions. Amen.

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