

Signs, Wonders, And Mighty Deeds:

A Presentation About Miracles in the Bible

Rev. Douglas Kuiper
Edgerton Protestant Reformed Church



What Are Miracles?

Acts 2:22, 2 Corinthians 12:12, Hebrews 2:1-4

- Mighty deeds. Evidences of God's power; special applications of God's providence.
- Signs.
 - Evidences of God's presence and power.
 - Evidences that God authorized those who did miracles to speak in His name.
- Wonders. Amazing omens, reminders that God does greater wonders than these.



Biblical Miracles: 2 Categories

God's wonders without using humans

- Examples:
 - Creating the material world out of nothing, by His speech.
 - Sending His Son into our flesh by causing the Virgin Mary to conceive.
- Purposes:
 - Display God's unlimited power.
 - Show His love for His covenant people.
 - Warn of His coming judgments.



Biblical Miracles: 2 Categories

God's wonders using humans

- Examples:
 - 10 plagues; parting of the Red Sea, Jordan River.
 - The fall of Jericho's walls, fire from heaven.
 - Instant healings, casting out devils, raising the dead, providing food.
- Characteristics:
 - Always an immediate change.
 - Accompanied the declaration of God's Word, whether of mercy or judgment.



Biblical Miracles: 2 Categories

God's wonders using humans (cont).

- Using men who represented God/Jesus and were filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - Moses/Joshua; Elijah/Elisha; Jesus/12 apostles/ those immediately connected with the apostles.
 - None of these periods lasted more than 100 years.
- Not permitting these men to do any miracle anytime, but empowering them at specific moments for specific miracles.



Biblical Miracles: 2 Categories

God's wonders using humans (concl).

- To show that a prophet/apostle was God's appointed representative.
- To show that God's Word through them was true.
- To show God's mercy in saving His people in Christ.
- To warn of God's justice in destroying His enemies.



Miracles Today

Does God Do Them? Yes . . . rightly understood.

- His works of providence continue.
- He continues to do marvelous things - seed germination, child conception.
- He continues to work by His Spirit in the hearts of His people - regeneration, preservation.



Miracles Today

Does God do them through humans? Pentecostals/Charismatics say YES.

- Not only through certain humans (prophets), but ideally through every Christian.
- As proof that one has the Holy Spirit, and a genuine Christian, or a first-rate Christian.
- So those who lack the power to do miracles, either are not genuine Christians, or are not mature.



Miracles Today

Does God Do Them Through Humans? Cessationists Say: NO.

- God never intended that all His children would have the power to do miracles.
- God never intended that miracles should happen at any time in history.
- When the office of apostle ceased, God's purpose with miracles performed by humans ceased.



Miracles Today

Does God Do Them Through Humans? Cessationists Say: NO.

- When God's revelation was complete in the 66 books of the OT and NT, God's purpose with miracles performed by humans ceased.
- The evidence that one possesses the Holy Spirit is not found in unusual powers, but in possessing the fruit of the Spirit.



Miracles in the Future

Will They Happen? How To Explain Them?

- In history: AntiChrist and his false prophets will be given the power to do lying signs and wonders, Matt. 24:24, 2 Thess. 2:9.
- At the end of history:
 - ▶ Marvelous signs in nature will immediately precede the return of Jesus on the clouds of heaven, Matt. 24:29.
 - ▶ God will raise our dead bodies and recreate the universe!



Conclusion.

- We must know, understand, and rely fully on God's Word in Scripture. It is complete and sufficient.
- We must test the spirits, 1 John 4:1. Doing so, we reject the Pentecostal view that men today are God's instruments to do miracles.
- We must not be gullible or naive, supposing that everything we don't understand is a true miracle.

