

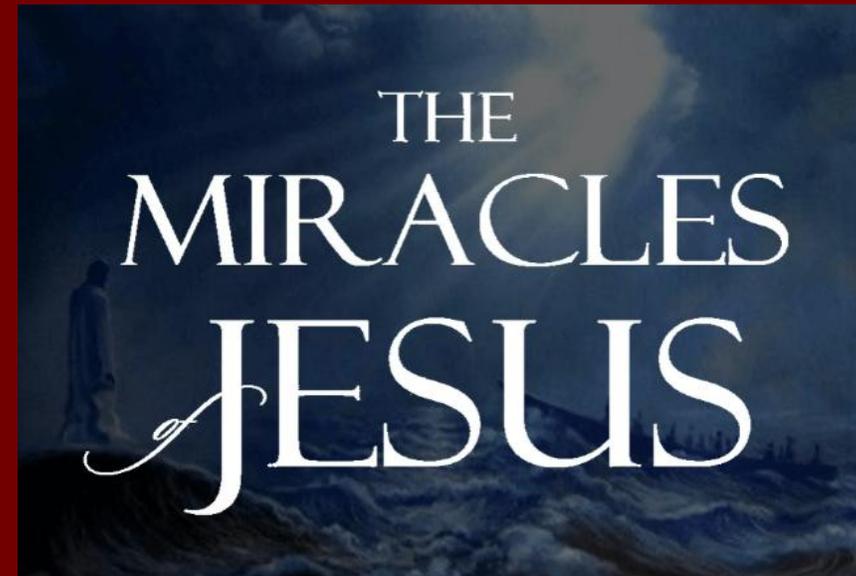


Miracles and Jesus

Neal Parker

Importance of Miracles

- **Miracles linked to profound Teachings**
- **Events and Teachings essential to Understanding the Nature and Mission**
- **Miracles – Authority and Compassion**
- **Teaching – Moral and Spiritual Guidance**

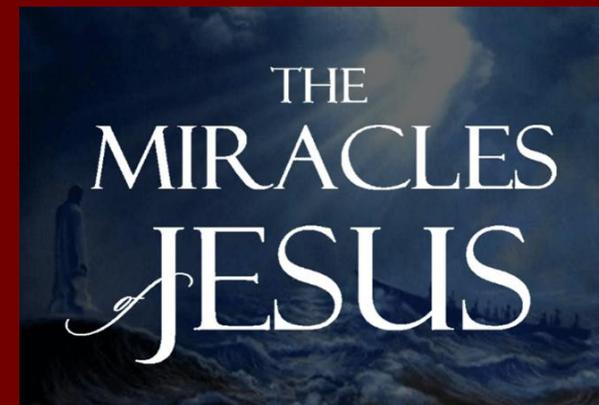


Miracles: Cultural Background

- **Miracles were widely believed when Jesus lived His human life.**
 - **Hercules**
 - **Asclepius**
 - **Isis**
 - **Pythagoras**
 - **Empedocles**

Miracles: Cultural Background

- **The first Gospels were written against this background of Hellenistic and Jewish belief in miracles.**
 - **John 20:30-31**
 - **John explicitly states that these signs were written to inspire faith and convey the message of eternal life through Jesus**



Miracles of Jesus

■ Nature

- Jesus demonstrated His authority over nature through miracles
 - Calming the storm (**Mark 4:39**: "Then He got up and rebuked the wind and the sea. 'Silence!' He commanded. 'Be still!' And the wind died down, and it was perfectly calm.") .
 - Walking on water (**Matthew 14:25**: "During the fourth watch of the night, Jesus went out to them, walking on the sea.").

Miracles of Jesus

■ Healings

- Jesus healed numerous individuals, showing His compassion and power over sickness.
 - Notable examples include the healing of the blind man (**John 9:6-7**: "When He had said this, He spat on the ground, made some mud, and applied it to the man's eyes. Then He told him, 'Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam'... So the man went and washed, and came back seeing.")
 - The healing of the paralytic (**Mark 2:11**: "I tell you, get up, pick up your mat, and go home.")

Miracles of Jesus

■ Exorcisms

- Jesus cast out demons, demonstrating His authority over evil spirits.
 - **Mark 5:8** , Jesus commands, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" His exorcisms were a testament to His power over the spiritual realm

Miracles of Jesus

■ Resurrections

- Jesus raised the dead, affirming His power over life and death.
 - The raising of Lazarus (**John 11:43-44**: "After Jesus had said this, He called out in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The man who had been dead came out...") is an example of His life-giving authority

Miracles of Jesus

■ Provisions

- **Jesus miraculously provided for physical needs**
 - **Feeding the 5,000 (Matthew 14:19-20: "Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, He spoke a blessing. Then He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied...")**

Traditional / Liberal Christian Interpretations

– Traditional Christians view the miracles of Jesus

- **Not merely as acts of power and omnipotence**
- **Works of love and mercy**
- **Performed not with a view to awe by omnipotence**
- **Show compassion for sinful and suffering humanity**
- **Each miracle involves specific teachings**

Traditional / Liberal Christian Interpretations

– Liberal Christians view the miracles of Jesus

- **Less emphasis on miraculous events associated with the life of Jesus than on his teachings**
- **Elevate Jesus's humane teachings as a standard for a world civilization**
- **Freed from cultic traditions and traces of pagan belief in the supernatural**
- **Prefer to read Jesus's miracles as metaphorical narratives for understanding the power of God**

Miracles Similar to Parables

- **Christ's miracles were parables in deeds, just as His parables were miracles in words**
- **God designed His miracles to symbolize His power to meet spiritual needs, as well as physical and material ones**
- **Jesus' recorded miracles are real-life experiences of what it means to be under the wonderful rule of the powerful but merciful King of God's Kingdom**

Miracles Similar to Parables

- **Matthew 11:2-3 (Isaiah 35:4-6; 42:7)**
 - His miracles provided proof of who He was.
- **Hebrews 7:26**
 - He was conscious of His God-given responsibility to bless and relieve mankind in miraculous ways.

Miracles Similar to Parables

- **Luke 5:17; 6:19**
 - His healing miracles emphasized the power of God.
- **Acts 10:38**
 - His healing miracles emphasized doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil.

Jesus Christ's Miracles Significant

■ Luke 11:16-17

- When asked for a startling sign from heaven, Christ refused to oblige
- His objective in performing miracles was not merely to astonish those who witnessed them.

■ John 7:45-46; 18:6

- His miracles not only formed a part of His teaching, but they were also proofs of His identity as the Messiah and of His purpose. Jesus' miracles were an exercise of God's power.

Jesus Christ's Miracles Significant

■ John 11:1-4

- Two essential purposes.
- Revealed the sovereignty, power, and glory of God and of His Son.
- Revealed mankind's desperate need to repair condition of sin.

■ John 4:48; Matthew 8:5-13; Mark 6:5-6

- Strong faith was rewarded with healing while, in contrast, unbelief caused Christ to refrain from manifesting His miraculous power.

Miracles of Jesus Christ

- **We do not know exactly how many miracles Jesus performed**
- **Jesus' miracles display His humility, mercy, and lovingkindness, as well as, declare the sovereignty and glory of His Father**

