



“Show Us a Sign”

Matthew 12:38-39

“Show Us a Sign”

- Matt. 12:38-39 - “Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, Teacher, we want to see a sign from You. 39 But He answered and said to them, An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.”
- Heb. 2:3-4 - “How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”

The Great Salvation Has Been Confirmed By:

- Signs - supernatural means of pointing toward something important
- Wonders - supernatural events that astonish and amaze
- Various miracles - Visible manifestations of Divine power
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit - The Source Giver of miraculous power to men

What Do We Know About Bible Miracles?

- What were they?
- Why did they occur?
- What was their source?
- Who could do them?
- Where were they done?
- When were they done?

What Were Bible Miracles?

- Misconceptions:
 - Any act of God - “God’s answer to my prayer was a miracle.”
 - An amazing event - “The birth of my child was a miracle.”
 - Something highly improbable - “The fact that he survived the tsunami was a miracle.”
- Biblical definition - “A discernibly supernatural event demonstrating God's control and power over the material intended to produce faith in His word.”

What Were Bible Miracles?

- It is intended to produce trust in the authenticity of God's word.
 - Mark 16:20 - “And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.”
 - John 20:30-31 - “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”
 - Acts 14:3 - “Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.”

What Were Bible Miracles?

- It demonstrates God's control and power over the material condition.
 - John 3:2 - “This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.’”
 - John 9:32-33 - “Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. 33 If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.”

What Were Bible Miracles?

- It is necessary to discern between an event that is clearly supernatural and one that is not beyond nature.
- Jesus walking on the water was discernably supernatural, because it was visibly beyond the laws of this universe.

What Were Bible Miracles?

- However, just because a thing is supernatural does not necessarily mean it is a miracle.
 - God's existence is supernatural, but not miraculous.
 - God's answer to prayer may be supernatural, but not necessarily miraculous, as in the case of Hanna's prayer for a son.
- It must also demonstrate God's power and control of the terrestrial.

What Were Bible Miracles?

- Without doubt, God performs supernatural events in heaven on a regular basis; however, as heaven is not governed by the laws of this universe, those events would not be miraculous.
- But a miracle must take place in this universe to be discernable as a miracle.
- Bible miracles manifested God's power and control over nature, disease, death, and possession.
- If a miracle isn't demonstrable over the terrestrial, then it's not a miracle. Subjective opinions and protestations of faith do not make it so.

What Were Bible Miracles?

- Examples of Bible miracles:
 - Axe head floating - 2Kings 6:5-6
 - Jesus walking on water - Matt. 14:25-27
 - Raising the dead - John 11:43-45
 - Healing the blind, deaf, and disabled
 - Matt. 11:5 - “The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.”

What Were Bible Miracles?

- Examples of answered prayer without involving the miraculous:
 - Hanna's prayer for a son - 1Sam. 1:10-20
 - Prayer of Abraham's servant for a wife for Isaac - Gen. 24:12-15
 - Esther's prayer for deliverance from Haman's plot to exterminate the Jews - Esther 4:1-3
 - Joseph's protection from God - Gen. 39:2, 21

Who Could Perform Miracles?

- God is the source of all true miracles, and it is His power that empowers the one who performs the miracle.
 - Acts 3:11-13 - “Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed. 12 So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: ‘Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? 13 The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go.’”

Who Could Perform Miracles?

- Acts 10:38 - “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”
- Acts 14:3 - “Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.”

Who Could Perform Miracles?

- John 15:26 - “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.”
- Rom. 15:18-19 - “For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient-- 19 in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.”

Who Could Perform Miracles?

- God approves His spokesmen and miracle workers.
 - Moses - Ex. 4:1-9
 - Elijah - 1Kings 17:17-24, 18:24
 - Jesus - John 5:36, 14:10-11; Acts 2:22
 - Apostles - Acts 2:43, 5:12; 2Cor. 12:12
 - Those upon whom the apostles laid hands - Acts 8:14-19, 19:6

When Were Miracles Performed?

- Changing God's covenants with humankind
 - Ex. 4:29-31 - “Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel. 30 And Aaron spoke all the words which the LORD had spoken to Moses. Then he did the signs in the sight of the people. 31 So the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel and that He had looked on their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped.”

When Were Miracles Performed?

- Validating the authority of Jesus and the apostles
 - Acts 4:29-30 - “Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, 30 by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”

When Were Miracles Performed?

- When God required His word confirmed
 - 1Kings 18:24 - “Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God. So all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.”
 - Dan. 3:28 - “Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, ‘Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!’”

When Were Miracles Performed?

- Dan. 6:26-27 - “I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, And steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, And His dominion shall endure to the end. 27 He delivers and rescues, And He works signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”
- John 11:43-45 - “Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come forth!’ 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, Loose him, and let him go. 45 Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.”

When Were Miracles Performed?

- Godly compassion
 - Matt. 14:14 - “And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.”
 - Matt. 20:34 - “So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.”

When Were Miracles Performed?

- Mark 1:41 - “Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, ‘I am willing; be cleansed.’”
- Luke 7:13 - “When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, ‘Do not weep.’”

When Were Miracles Performed?

- Was faith required in the person receiving the miracle?
- Occasionally, but not always -- In some cases faith was a requirement.
 - The woman with an issue of blood - Matt. 9:22
 - The blind man of Jericho - Luke 18:42-43
 - The lame man of Lystra - Acts 14:9-10

When Were Miracles Performed?

- A lack of faith even limited the ministry in some cases.
 - Unbelievers at Nazareth - Matt. 13:58; Mark 6:5-6
- But not always
 - The dead son of the woman of Nain - Luke 7:11-16
 - The lame man of Bethesda - John 5:5-15
 - The blind man near Siloam - John 9:1-7
 - The lame man at the temple - Acts 3:1-8

When Were Miracles Performed?

- Signs, wonders, miracles, and works of the Holy Spirit were designed to point one in the direction of salvation, just like the Gospel; and, just as with the Gospel, many persons ignored the point of the miracles.
- There is no secret formula or magic incantation that will suddenly move you to obey the Gospel or be restored to the faith. Your response depends entirely on you.