

“The Signs of Jesus”

A clear understanding of the phenomenon of miracles in the Bible requires a Christocentric (Christ centered) approach. Jesus stated that all of Scripture is a testimony of Him (John 5:39)! Miracles are grouped like stars around a few men and events. The prophets like Moses, Elijah, Elisha and Daniel brought forth new revelation from God and were authenticated by miracles (Num. 14:22; Deut. 11:3, 29:39). Jesus and the apostles were likewise accredited in the New Testament (Acts 2:22; Heb. 2:3-4).

A basic definition of miracles is a supernaturally caused event. Yet the Bible is more specific in defining miracles as signs, wonders and mighty deeds or power. The power comes from God. They are wonders because they transcend natural law and inspire awe. Their purpose is to confirm God’s messenger and His message (by signs; Heb. 2:3-4).

Signs Derived from the Greek word *semeion*, it is used seventy seven times in the New Testament, sometimes of ordinary events (Luke 2:12; Rom. 4:11), but usually for a miracle (Matt. 24:3, 30; Luke 11:30, 21:7, 25; John 2:11, 3:2, 4:54, 6:2, 9:16; Acts 4:16, 5:12; 2Cor. 12:12).

Wonders The Greek word is *teras*, a prodigy or omen. (Matt. 24:24; John 4:48; Acts 2:19, 22, 14:3; Rom. 15:19; Heb. 2:4; 2Thess. 2:9).

Powers or Mighty Deeds The Greek word is *dunamis*, from which the English dynamo, dynamic, etc. are derived. (Matt. 6:13, 7:22, 11:20-21, 26:64; Mark 5:30; Luke 1:35; Acts 1:8; Rom. 1:16; 2Tim. 1:7; Rev. 19:1).

Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of God’s promises, prophecies and plans (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14, 9:6, 35:5-6, 61:1-2; 2Cor. 1:20; Gal. 4:4). He is God in the flesh (John 1:1, 14) and the **power** of God (1Cor. 1:24). Is it any wonder that miraculous power surrounded Him abundantly above every other biblical personage? No one was born of a virgin, walked on water, calmed the storm, changed water into wine, fed thousands, healed multitudes of every disease and raised the dead like Jesus. The **greatest miracle** was His own **resurrection**, in which He participated (John 10:18; Matt. 12:38-42)!

The authenticity of His miracles is indisputable because they were done in public. The Bible’s authors wrote independently of each other yet their witness agrees. Jesus’ enemies did not dispute His miracles (Matt. 12:22-24). The resurrected Christ appeared to more than five hundred (1Cor. 15:3-11). Changed lives further authenticate His power (Acts 17:6).