

Miracles & the Authority of the Bible

"Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 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, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?" (Hebrews 2:1-4 NKJ)

In the last column on the Authenticity and Authority of the Bible, it was demonstrated that the Bible is the inspired Word of God as it recorded certain events by eyewitnesses; events that could be denied by other eyewitnesses at the time the Bible recorded them. These events were recorded by several men over about 2,000 years who were moved by the Holy Spirit to write them down accurately, not according to their own personal opinions. Because many of the events recorded have never been repeated in history, there are many scholars who deny that the eyewitnesses accounts actually occurred because they do not fit within their framework of presuppositions. They come along a couple of thousand years after the fact, arrogantly and ignorantly proclaiming that the miracles that were performed could not have been done; claiming they are not possible because their occurrence would require them to happen outside of the laws of nature – well, duh, that is why they are "miracles" and "supernatural events."

The miracles that are recorded in the Bible serve to confirm that the message proclaimed by the prophets of God in the Old Testament and the apostles and disciples of the New Testament had the full authority of God, as though He spoke the words Himself; and further serve to confirm the self-authenticating nature of the Bible.

The salvation that was first proclaimed the Jesus Christ and confirmed by those who heard Him (eyewitnesses) was also testified to be true by God *"with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will."* There were many miracles that were performed by Jesus Christ Himself as a testimony to the authority of the message of salvation He taught to His disciples. This was acknowledged by Nicodemus, a Pharisee, when he said, *"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 3:2 NKJ). The miracles Jesus did served as sign to the Jews that He was the long-expected Anointed One sent from God, the Messiah (Luke 2:29-32).

In Acts Chapter 2, verse 22, we read Peter's testimony in the temple, when He said amongst other things, *"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know--"* We see in Peter's testimony that God the Father *"attested"* to the fact that Jesus was the Messiah, the Savior of His elect

throughout the world by the miracles He performed. And the greatest miracle performed was the resurrection of Jesus Christ (v. 24). By God raising Jesus from the dead He testified that Salvation was and is only through His death, which satisfied fully the penalty for sin, and also assures the true believer in Christ of everlasting life.

Further, the miracles performed by His disciples in the exercise of certain miraculous gifts uniquely given to them during the time period the New Testament record was being established, were used as a means to authenticate their writings and set forth their authority (until A.D. 70). Even now, the miracles performed by God at that time not only signify to us, the authenticity of the Biblical accounts, but they also reassure us that the Bible carries with it the full weight of God's authority Himself. If there were no miracles then Paul could never have written in 1 Corinthians 14:37, that what he wrote are "*the commandments of the Lord.*"

As to the Old Testament, miracles were also used to authenticate that what was spoken by the prophets and subsequently written down were God's words, as though God Himself spoke the words Himself and wrote the books of the Old Testament with His own hand. In fact, we know that God did write the Ten Commandments Himself (Exodus 31:18). The authority of Moses was established by God, who worked miracles through Him on many occasions. Other prophets, such as Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, etc. either performed miracles themselves or benefitted from the miracles, which established their authority from God and the authenticity of what they spoke and wrote, or what was written of them by eyewitnesses.

So we see how God used miracles to authenticate and give authority to the Bible through the men He inspired to record His will and His way of Salvation, which is through Jesus Christ alone, by grace alone. In my next column we will consider how the prophecies of the Bible also serve to authenticate and give authority to the Bible.

From the signs and miracles recorded in the Bible, we can see that the Bible is a true, reliable, and trustworthy account of the revelation of the only true God and His redemption of sinners like you and me. In reliance upon the promises recorded in this God-breathed word, won't you this day come to Jesus Christ in repentance of your sins and in true faith in Him and putting your trust in His one atoning sacrifice on the cross for the forgiveness, and by His resurrection obtained for you everlasting life (John 11:25-16)?

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