

An illustration of Moses, depicted as an elderly man with a long white beard, wearing a brown robe and sandals. He stands in the center, holding a staff in his right hand and gesturing with his left hand towards the sea. The sea is parted into two large, blue, turbulent channels that flow away from him. In the background, a bright, golden light emanates from the sky, and a crowd of people is visible on the shore. The scene is set in a desert landscape with palm trees and a dark, stormy sky.

The Miraculous: 1. OT & NT Miracles

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What is a Miracle?

- Dictionary definition: *Webster's New World Dictionary (1966)*:
 - *An event or action that apparently contradicts known scientific laws.*
 - Not too bad, but this eliminates striking providences, like the quail blown into camp in Numbers 11:31.
- Let's have a look at biblical terminology for miracles.

Biblical Terminology

- Terms expressing the wondrous or marvelous aspect:
 - Hebrew *mofet, niflaot, pele', temach*
 - Greek *teras, thauma*
- Terms expressing its power:
 - Greek *dunamis*
- Terms expressing its significance:
 - Hebrew *'ot*
 - Greek *semeion*

What is a Miracle?

- So we suggest a biblical definition of miracle:
 - *A Biblical miracle is a striking or wonderful event, displaying supernatural power and intended to carry a certain significance.*
- We will operate with this definition, which does not rule out striking providential events.



Old Testament Miracles

A quick tour of their nature & purpose

Creation

- Narrated in Genesis 1-3
- Numerous events here seem to involve the miraculous, even though humans were not present.
- So the miraculous may not occur only for the benefit of humans.
- Or they may occur for the benefit of later generations of humans, e.g., us!

The Flood

- Narrated in Genesis 6-9
- There seems to be both intervention and providence involved here.
- The purposes of the flood are clearly:
 - Judgment, for those not on the ark
 - Deliverance, for those who are

The Patriarchal Period

- Babel (Gen 11) – judgment
- Abraham
 - Flaming torch (Gen 15:17)
 - covenant, revelation
 - Sodom & Gomorrah (Gen 18-19)
 - judgment with deliverance
 - Isaac's birth (Gen 18, 21) – promise
- Joseph's dreams (Gen 37, 40-41)
 - revelation, deliverance, attestation

The Mosaic Period

- Burning bush (Ex 3)
 - revelation, promise, deliverance
- Moses' signs (Ex 4) - staff, hand
 - attestation of message, messenger
- The Plagues (Ex 7-12)
 - attestation, judgment, deliverance
- Crossing Red Sea (Ex 14)
 - deliverance, judgment

The Mosaic Period

- Provision in Wilderness
 - Cloud - guidance, protection, attestation
 - Manna, water, quail – provision
 - Clothing, sandals (Deut 29:5) – provision
 - Sinai events - revelation, attestation, covenant
 - Amalek defeated (Ex 17) – judgment, attestation, deliverance
 - Korah, Dathan, Abiram destroyed (Num 16) – judgment, attestation
 - Aaron's rod (Num 17) - attestation

Conquest of Canaan

- Crossing Jordan (Josh 3)
 - attestation (3:10-13, 4:6-7, 22-24)
 - provision (3:15)
- Jericho (Josh 2, 6)
 - judgment, deliverance
- Sun at Gibeon (Josh 10)
 - judgment, attestation

Period of Judges

- Angel of Lord (Judg 2)
 - revelation
- Gideon's fleece (Judg 6)
 - attestation
- Samson (Judg 13-16)
 - judgment, deliverance

Kingdom Period

- Birth of Samuel? (1 Sam 1) - attestation?
- Samuel's vision (1 Sam 3) - revelation, attestation?
- Ark among Philistines (1 Sam 5-6)
 - revelation, attestation to pagans
 - phenomena surrounding return especially interesting (cart, cows, etc.)
- Call of Saul (1 Sam 10) - attestation (10:7)

Kingdom Period

- Jonathan's exploits (1 Sam 14)
 - attestation (14:8-10)
- David & Goliath (1 Sam 17)
 - judgment, deliverance, attestation
- Disaster moving ark (2 Sam 6) – judgment
- Cloud in temple (1 Kings 8) – attestation
- Sign to Jeroboam (1 Kings 13)
 - attestation, judgment

Kingdom Period

- Sign to Abijah (1 Kings 14)
 - judgment (14:6-11)
 - attestation (14:12,17)
- Ministry of Elijah (1 Kings 17 - 2 Kings 2)
 - See separate slides
- Ministry of Elisha (2 Kings 2-13)
 - See separate slides

Ministry of Elijah

- Drought (1 Kings 17-18)
 - judgement, attestation
- Ravens (17) – provision
- Replenished food (17)
 - provision, attestation
- Resurrection of widow's son (17)
 - deliverance, attestation
- Fire on Mt Carmel (18) – attestation

Ministry of Elijah

- Run to Jezreel (1 Kings 18)
 - provision? attestation?
- Manifestation at Sinai (19)
 - revelation, provision
- Deliverance of Ahab from Syrians (20)
- Fire falls on soldiers (2 Kings 1)
 - judgment, attestation
- Elijah's ascent, Jordan parted (2 Kings 2)
 - attestation

Ministry of Elisha

- Opening Jordan (2 Kings 2) – attestation
- Healing water (2) - provision, attestation
- Two bears (2) - judgment, attestation
- Water-filled valley (3)
 - judgment, deliverance, attestation
- Multiplication of oil (4) - provision
- Raising Shunemite's son (4) – deliverance
- Canceling poison (4) - provision

Ministry of Elisha

- Multiplication of loaves (2 K 4) - provision
- Healing of Naaman (2 Kings 5)
 - deliverance, attestation to pagan
- Floating axe-head (6) – deliverance
- Heavenly army (6) – attestation
- Blinding Syrians (6) – deliverance, attestation
- Prediction of plenty (7) – attestation
- Resurrection touching bones (13)
 - deliverance, attestation

Kingdom Period

- Uzziah's leprosy (2 Chr 26)
 - judgment, attestation
- Assyrian army devastated (2 K 19)
 - judgment, deliverance, attestation
- Hezekiah healed (2 Kings 20)
 - deliverance
- Sun's shadow reverses (20)
 - attestation

Babylonian Captivity

- Daniel interprets dream (Dan 2)
 - revelation, attestation
- Fiery furnace (3)
 - deliverance, attestation
- Nebuchadnezzar's madness (4)
 - judgment, revelation, attestation
- Handwriting on wall (5)
 - judgment, revelation, attestation
- Daniel in lions' den (6)
 - deliverance, attestation

Summary: OT Miracle Themes

- Attestation of messenger
- Attestation of God
- Judgment (on false belief, sinful practice)
- Protection & Deliverance
- Picturing God's nature
 - Wilderness provisions, Holiness of ark
- Carrying out God's program
 - Abraham, Exodus, Elijah



New Testament Miracles

A quick tour of their nature & purpose

Miracles of Jesus

- His birth
- His ministry
 - Will return to these for the bulk of the course
- His resurrection & ascension

Apostolic Miracles

- Pentecost (Acts 2) (Jesus)
 - fulfillment, attestation
- Healing lame beggar (Acts 3) (Peter)
 - deliverance
- Death of Ananias & Sapphira (5) (Peter)
 - judgment
- Apostles rescued from prison (5) (angel)
 - deliverance

Apostolic Miracles

- Holy Sp to Samaritans (8) (Peter & John)
 - fulfillment, attestation
- Guidance & Transport of Philip (8) (HS)
 - revelation, ministry
- Conversion of Paul (9) (Jesus)
 - deliverance
- Healing paralytic Aeneas (9) (Peter)
 - deliverance, attestation

Apostolic Miracles

- Resurrection of Dorcas (9) (Peter)
 - deliverance, attestation
- Conversion of Cornelius (10) (angel)
 - deliverance, attestation
- Famine prophecy (11) (Agabus)
 - revelation
- Peter rescued from prison (12) (angel)
 - deliverance

Apostolic Miracles

- Death of Herod Agrippa I (12) (angel)
 - judgment
- Elymas struck blind (13) (Paul)
 - judgment, attestation
- Lame man healed at Lystra (14) (Paul)
 - deliverance, attestation
- Macedonian vision (16) (?)
 - revelation

Apostolic Miracles

- Demonized girl at Philippi (16) (Paul)
 - deliverance
- Earthquake at Philippian prison (16) (?)
 - deliverance, attestation
- Vision at Corinth (18) (Lord) – revelation
- HS on followers of Jn Bapt (19) (HS)
 - fulfillment, attestation
- Demonic attack on sons of Sceva (19) (Satan) - judgment

Apostolic Miracles

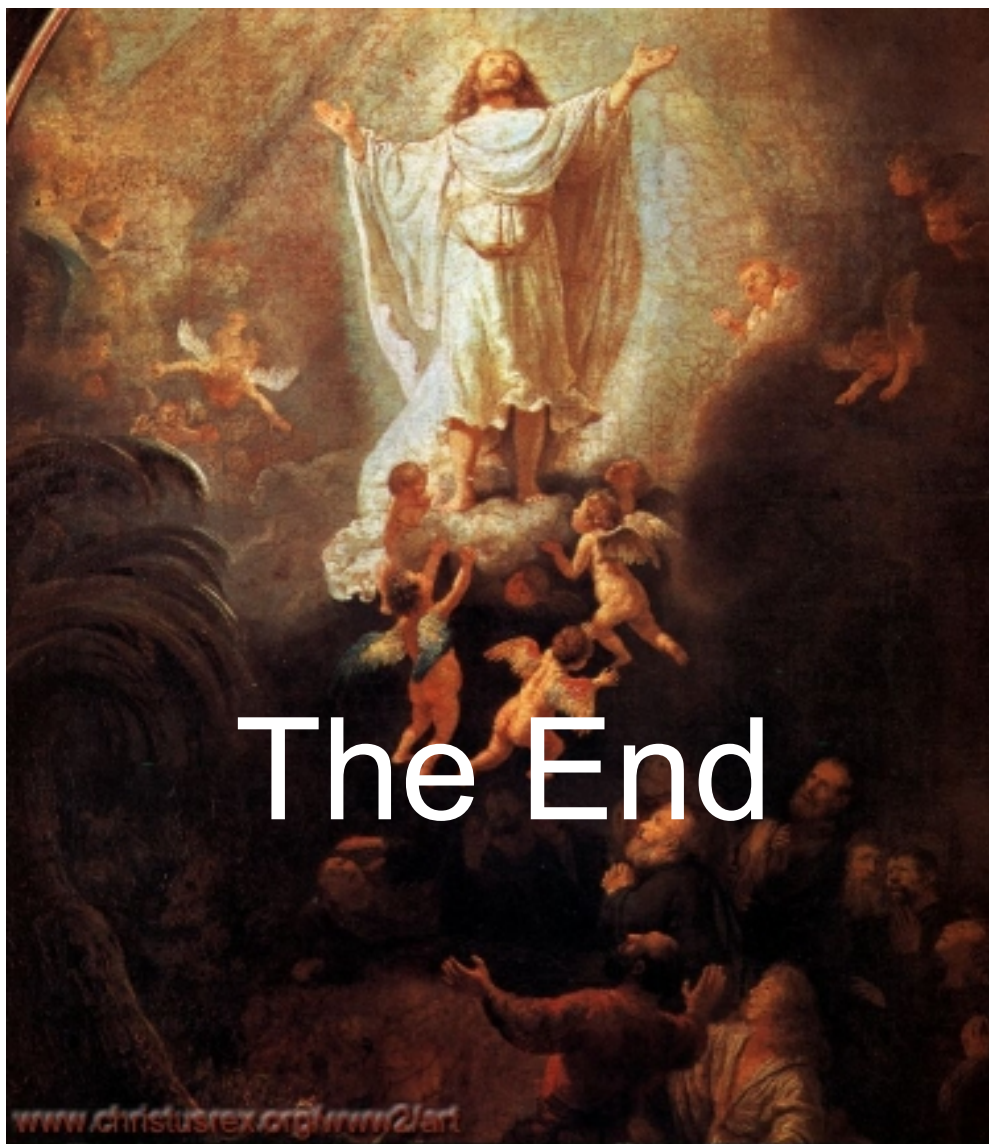
- Resurrection of Eutychus (20) (Paul)
 - deliverance
- Arrest prophecy (21) (Agabus)
 - revelation
- Vision at Jerusalem (23) (Lord)
 - revelation
- Vision re/ shipwreck (27) (angel)
 - revelation

Apostolic Miracles

- Paul not hurt by snake (27) (Paul)
 - deliverance, attestation
- Healings on Malta (28) (Paul)
 - deliverance, attestation
- Visions to John on Patmos (Jesus, angel)
 - revelation

Summary on NT Miracles

- Much the same as OT re/ themes
- More Christocentric
- Probably all of the miracles of judgment and deliverance have some function as attestation for the miracle worker or for the Gospel and the Christian church.
- No clear evidence in Acts of decrease in miraculous toward end of book.



The End