

Introduction:

1. This morning we showed that miracles were prophesied by God to cease in the first century.
 2. Tonight, we are going to look at the purpose for miracles, and why they are no longer needed today.
- I. What was the purpose of miracles in the Old Testament?
- A. To confirm the message was from God.
 1. The Israelites were enslaved in Egypt when Moses went to them and spoke the words God gave to him to speak (Exodus 1).
 2. God had give Moses three signs to perform before the Israelites to prove he was sent from God (Exodus 4:1-9).
 3. The miracles were to prove that he was indeed the messenger of God; if he was lying to them, God would not have allowed him to work the miracles.
 4. It worked, and the Israelites believed.
 - B. To confirm the messenger was from God.
 1. This can be seen in the example of Moses facing Korah's rebellion (Numbers 16:28-32).
 2. Moses said specifically, "if these men die a common death...the Lord has not sent me. But if the Lord make a new thing and the earth open her mouth and swallow them up...you shall understand that these men have provoked the Lord."
 3. The earth then opened up and swallowed them and their whole families.
 4. This was a sign, stated by Moses, that came to pass, proving he was from God and confirming the words he had been saying to the people.
 - C. To confirm that they were doing God's work.
 1. God said that He would glorify Joshua in the presence of the people "so that they may know" that He was with Joshua (Joshua 3:7).
 2. Joshua was able to do great works, including prophesying the waters of the Jordan dividing for them to cross over on dry land (Joshua 3:10-ff).
 3. Joshua commanded for the sun and moon to stand still during their battle with the Amorites (Joshua 10:12-14).
- II. What was the purpose of miracles in the New Testament?
- A. Not surprisingly, they are the same.
 - B. Miracles were given to confirm that the messengers were sent from God.
 1. This was true when Jesus sent the apostles out on the Great Commission.
 2. Jesus mentioned many signs that they would be able to perform (Mark 16:17-18).
 3. The Holy Spirit, through Mark, stated that the apostles went forth and preached the word, and "confirming the word with signs following." (16:20).
 - C. Miracles were given to confirm the message preached was from God.
 1. Paul miraculously blinded Elymas the sorcerer, causing Sergius Paulus to believe that the words Paul spoke were truth (Acts 13:9-12).
 2. Philip caused Samaritans to believe by the miracles that accompanied his teaching (Acts 8:5-7).
 3. Peter healed Aeneas, causing "all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron" to turn to the Lord (Acts 9:32-35).
 - D. Miracles were performed by Jesus to confirm that He was doing God's work.

1. When Jesus told the paralyzed man “your sins are forgiven you,” people accused Him of blasphemy because only God can forgive sins (Luke 5:18-24).
 2. Then, Jesus said “in order that you might know that the Son of man has power on earth to forgive sins, I say to you arise.”
 3. He healed the man to show that God had sent Him to do this work.
- E. Thus, the miracles were to let the people know that God approved of them and the message they were preaching.
- III. Why do we not need the miracles today?
- A. We have the completed, perfect word of God.
 - B. In the Old Testament, miracles occurred as certain messages from God needed to be confirmed.
 1. Moses performed miracles to let the people know God was coming to deliver them.
 2. Elijah and Elisha worked miracles to let the northern kingdom know that God was still real and ready to help them.
 3. Miracles continued (on and off) until the Old Testament writings were completed.
 4. Once those were completed, miracles ceased and the people were expected to live by the scriptures God had sent (Malachi 4:4).
 5. There were no prophets in Israel from Malachi until John the Baptist.
 - C. When there are no miracles, God expects His people to treasure His scriptures (I Samuel 3:1).
 - D. It was not until Jesus came and brought the New Testament that miracles were again performed until the New Testament was completed.
 1. I Corinthians 13:10-12 says miracles would continue until the complete revelation of God came.
 - a. The miracles were to confirm all the words they spoke until the completion of the written Scriptures of the New Testament came.
 - b. Once they were completed, they were evidence enough.
 - c. The fact that the completion of the Scriptures matches up with the destruction of Jerusalem is no coincidence.
 - 1) Jesus had prophesied that Jerusalem was to be utterly destroyed (Matthew 24:1-ff).
 - 2) Peter had said that they were living in the last days of the Jewish system (Acts 2:16-ff).
 - 3) With the complete written record of these things, there would have been no doubt that the Scriptures were from God, and there would be no more need for confirmation.
 - E. The Scriptures supply us with everything we need.
 1. II Timothy 3:16 – all Scripture is from God and is profitable for:
 - a. Doctrine – teachings about God’s standards.
 - b. Reproof – rebuking, showing where someone is wrong by God’s standards.
 - c. Correction – how to get back right with God
 - d. Instruction in righteousness – Showing how to live by God’s standards.
 2. II Timothy 3:17 – The Scriptures are there so that we might be perfect, complete, fully furnished for every good work.

- a. Everything possible that we need to live right and fight false doctrine, knowing what God wants us to do, comes from the Scriptures which He gave.
3. II Peter 1:3 – God has given us all things pertaining to life (how to live) and godliness (how to please God).
 - a. This is given in the Scriptures.
4. What do we have need of that is not found in the written word of God?
 - a. Do we need to know the truth? It is in there.
 - b. Do we need to know who Jesus is? It is in there.
 - c. Do we need weapons to fight false doctrine? It is in there.
 - d. Do we need the sword to cut people to the heart about their sins? It is in there.
 - e. Do we want to go to heaven? Everything we need to know and do is in there.

Conclusion:

1. We have no need for miracles, because the word of God is completed.
2. We have no need for miracles, because God confirmed His word already. He has no need to do it again.
3. What does God's word have to say about you today?