

THE PURPOSE OF MIRACLES

To be found in: www.pastornotes.com

April 2010 – ekb

Firstly.

Jesus performed miracles, which revealed that He was the One, whom God had promised would come.

Following the **“Feeding of the 5000”**, in *John 6:1 – 13*, it says, “Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, “This is truly **the prophet** who is to come into the world.”” *John 6:14*

Throughout the Old Testament there are many references to **the Prophet, the Servant of the Lord, the Messiah, the Anointed One**, that God would send to the earth. *Genesis 3:15, Genesis 49:10, Deuteronomy 18:18,19, 1Samuel 2:10, Psalm 2, Psalm 45, Psalm 72:8 – 11, Isaiah 42:1 – 4, Isaiah 53, Isaiah 61:1 – 3, Daniel 9:25, Zechariah 6:12,13*

When John the Baptist was baptizing people in the River Jordan, the Jews sent their servants to ask John where he fitted into the scheme of things, prophetically. They said to him, **“Are you that prophet?”** And he answered, “No.” *John 1:19 – 21*. The Jews, their servants, and John the Baptist, all knew who **“that Prophet”** was. They all knew they were referring to the passage in *Deuteronomy 18:18,19*.

So after the feeding of the 5000 in *John 6:1 – 13*, when they said, “This is truly **the Prophet** who is to come into the world”, it was perfectly clear to every one, who they were talking about. *John 6:14*. They were referring to **The Prophet of Deuteronomy 18:18,19**

From prison, John the Baptist sent his disciples to ask Jesus if He was **“the Coming One?”** *Matthew 11:2-6*. **And Jesus replied by listing all the miracles He was doing, and the message He was preaching.** *Luke 7:18 - 23*

Jesus said, “If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me.” “But if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.” *John 10:37,38*.

The miraculous works Jesus did, revealed that He was the One God sent into the world as THE MESSIAH. (CHRIST or ANOINTED ONE) *John 14:10, John 5:19,20, John 2:11,11:45*

Secondly.

The miracles that Jesus did, revealed that God was present and at work. No human person, on their own, can do such miracles. Jesus, Himself, did not perform miracles through his Divine Nature as God. (He was true God and true man). Jesus performed the miracles He did by the Anointing and power of the Holy Spirit. *Acts 10:38, Luke 4:18,19*.

Nicodemus said to Jesus, “We know that You are a Teacher sent from God, for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” *John 3:2, John 9:32,33 John 14:10,11, John5:36, John 10:37,38*.

The Centurion of Matthew 8:5-13, knew this. That is why he said to Jesus, “Speak the Word only and my servant shall be healed.” *Matthew 8:8*.

The Centurion, a Roman Commander, in charge of 100 soldiers, was responsible for crowd control, wherever Jesus went. He was at the centre of the multitudes to keep the peace or “Pax Romana”. *Matthew 4:23,24, Matthew 5:1, Matthew 8:1*. The Centurion had seen all the miracles. He knew this was God at work, through Jesus.

Thirdly.

Miracles have a price tag, and the tag says “repent.” *Matthew 11:20*. God does not do miracles for us to enjoy, be benefited by, **and then go on living the way we lived before we received the miracle of God’s love, mercy and power.** To repent means to change the way you think, speak and act. It means to turn from self centred, self serving behaviour to the fear of God and living to please and glorify Him. *Psalm 112:1, 1Corinthians 10:31, Matthew 5:16*

Jesus rebuked the cities where the most of His mighty (dunamis – power) works were done, because they did not repent, humble themselves, turn from their sins, and live to serve and glorify God. *Matthew 11:20-24*.

The cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum, were the places where most of Jesus’ mighty (dunamis – power) works were done. **But they did not honour God as they should have. They took the miracles for themselves and went on living in the same old godless way.** Jesus said, that if the same miracles had been done in Sodom, *Genesis 19*, it would have remained until Jesus’ time, 2000years later. That is, Sodom would have repented of its sinful lifestyle, and turned to the fear of God and those things that please Him. *Psalm 25:12 – 15, Matthew 11:23*

People praise and worship God when they receive a miracle of healing, deliverance or restoration. The blind man received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God. All the people gave praise to God.

Luke 18:43.

When the dumb spoke, the crippled were made whole, the lame walked, the blind saw, the multitude glorified the God of Israel. *Matthew 15:31.*

The paralysed man got up, picked up his bed and walked home glorifying God. Those around were amazed and **they glorified God.** *Luke 5:25,26.*

Jesus said, "Young man, I say unto you arise." Jesus touched the open coffin and the dead boy sat up and began to speak. Jesus presented the boy to his mother. **The people glorified God saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us" and "God has visited his people."** *Luke 7:14-16.*

The lame man healed at the Temple Gate, entered the Temple, walking, leaping and praising God. *Acts 3:8.*

God expects us to praise, thank and worship Him for the miracles of power and grace, He pours out on us. He expects us to change our behaviour so that we are living for His glory and praise. *Luke 17:15-19, 1Corinthians 10:31*

Fourthly.

God in His compassion (*Matthew 14:14*) **does miracles of His power to meet the needs of desperately needy people** who cry to Him for help, *Luke 4:18,19, Matthew 19:2, Matthew 15:30, Matthew 14:35,36* **and to assure them that the message of the Gospel is eternally true.** *Luke 13:10-17, Matthew 4:23,24, Matthew 8:16,17, Matthew 9:35.*

Miracles and the Gospel of the Kingdom are to be inseparable. *Mark 16:20, Matthew 4:23,24, Matthew 9:35*