

Messianic Miracles

God had promised Israel, that they would get a sign from Him when He told them something. It was part of the relationship God had with believing Israel. The Gentiles, the Greeks, had no such relationship with God, they had their own “wisdom.” Paul finishes the next passage by stating that today, we have the power of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no better sign for the Jews, and no greater wisdom for the Gentiles. It is the wisdom and power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:22-24

For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

There were signs all through Jesus’ life that He was the promised Savior: at His birth.

Luke 2:10-14

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,

which shall be to all people. **For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

When Joseph and Mary took the baby Jesus to the Temple for circumcision when He was 8 days old, Simeon and Anna both prophesied about Him.

Luke 2:34-38

And **Simeon blessed them**, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, **this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;** (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. **And there was one Anna, a prophetess**, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of

about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And **she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.**

There was a lot of debate about who Jesus was, but knowing that the Jewish leadership (a.k.a. the Jews) was against Him caused everyone to keep quiet about Him.

John 7:12-13

And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people. **Howbeit no man spake openly of him for fear of the Jews.**

Jesus followers knew exactly who He was. Jesus told them that it was because He was the Good Shepherd, and knew His sheep, and they knew Him.

John 10:14

I am the good shepherd, and **know my sheep, and am known of mine.**

The unbelievers continued to demand that He tell them plainly if He was the Christ. Once again, Jesus told them His works would speak for themselves. He also told them that they were not His sheep and so they did not know Him.

John 10:23-26

Then came **the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.** Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: **the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:**

But when Jesus did tell them plainly that His works showed that He was one with His Father, God Almighty, they wanted to stone Him for blasphemy; making Himself God!

John 10:30-33

I and my Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. **Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?** The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but **for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.**

His miracles were undeniable. No one had ever done anything like Jesus. Many believers couldn't understand why their leaders did not know this man was the "very Christ." They wondered why they knew and no one else did!

John 7:25-28

Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to kill? **But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ? Howbeit we know this man whence he is: but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is.** Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know

whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not.

Many people figured out who Jesus was by what He was doing, but Jesus had told them plainly that if He was not doing the work of God, they should not believe Him. He went so far as to say that they didn't have to believe Him, but they should believe from the works He was doing, that He was sent by God.

John 10:37-42

If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him. Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand, And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode. **And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true. And many believed on him there.**

Jesus even had to tell this to His disciples, who had been with Him for many of His miracles! Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father. Jesus told him that by the works that He did, they had seen the Father in all Jesus had said and done. Jesus told them the same thing He had told the crowds. They could believe that He was sent by the Father simply from the works He was doing.

John 14:9-11

Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? **the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.**

The Jewish leadership was always asking Jesus for a sign that He was the one sent from God to save them. Jesus knew they would not believe Him

even if He performed a sign. He prophesied about His death, burial and resurrection, the greatest sign that would ever be given.

Matthew 12:38-40

Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, **Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:** For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

It was not unreasonable that the Jewish leadership would expect a sign from Jesus showing that He was the promised Savior. But Isaiah prophesied about the miracles that Israel's Savior would perform when He was on the earth. Isaiah said He would give sight to the blind, and hearing to the deaf, cause the lame to leap, and the mute to speak. It did not seem to be enough to satisfy the Jewish leaders.

Isaiah 35:4-6

Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, **your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing:** for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

The problem was that the Jewish leaders refused to acknowledge the miracles that Jesus was performing which showed that He was the promised Savior.

Anyone with a passing familiarity with Isaiah would have been able to see his prophecy fulfilled by Jesus. The multitudes knew who Jesus was, because of His miracles. They followed Him, and glorified God because of Him. The following passage in Matthew is very much like Isaiah's passage.

Matthew 15:29-31

And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there. And **great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.**

When John the Baptist sent 2 of his disciples to Jesus to find out if He was the Savior, Jesus didn't come right out and say, "yes." Instead, He told John's disciples to tell John what He was doing. Jesus knew that John would know about Isaiah's prophecies. Jesus added one more miracle to Isaiah's list—He was also raising the dead!

Luke 7:19-22

And **John calling unto him two of his disciples sent them to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?** When the men were come unto him, they said, John

Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another? And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight. Then **Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised,** to the poor the gospel is preached.

Another important sign occurred on a day that we call Palm Sunday. Zechariah prophesied that the promised King would show up in a lowly manner, riding upon the foal of an ass.

Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, **O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.**

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the foal of an ass, as the King of Israel, just like Zechariah prophesied. John cites the prophecy in Isaiah. Large numbers

of people came to accept Jesus as the promised King.

John 12:12-16

On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: **Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.** And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written, **Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt.** These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him.

There were a lot of people there on Palm Sunday to accept Him as their King because of the miracle of Lazarus being raised from the dead.

John 12:17-18

The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record. For this cause

the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle.

Luke records the Pharisees response to being offered the Kingdom by the promised King. They told Jesus to rebuke all of the excited people who were worshipping Him and welcoming Him as the King of Israel!

Luke 19:37-39

And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. **And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.**

Once again, the Pharisees had stepped in to make sure the people did not believe that Jesus was the promised King and Savior. Jesus let them know that this was such a powerful event, that if the people had not recognized it, the earth itself would have acknowledged Jesus as the King!

Luke 19:40

And he answered and said unto them, **I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.**

This was another sign that from God that was ignored! Jesus immediately went over and wept over the city. He held the people responsible for knowing who He was and what He was doing. Now, because they had rejected Him, Jerusalem and the Temple would be destroyed.

John 19:41-44

And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, **If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.** For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And **shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.**

The Miracles that Only Jesus Could Do

Israel had always had prophets that could perform miracles, but some of the miracles that Jesus performed, no one had ever done before. These miracles have come to be known as Messianic Miracles. These miracles were signs that Israel should have seen as proof that Jesus was their King and Redeemer.

One of these miracles that had never been performed by anyone, was to heal a man who had been blind since birth.

John 9:32

Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind.

John 9:1, 6-7

And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

⁶When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of

Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

Many people knew that Jesus had healed the blind man because they were used to seeing the man out begging. Others were unwilling to acknowledge that Jesus had performed a miracle, and said the man claiming to be healed only looked like the man who had been blind.

John 9:8-9

The neighbours therefore, and **they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged?** Some said, This is he: **others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he.**

The unbelievers were always willing to see what the Pharisees could do to deny Jesus' authority and power. They found fault because Jesus had healed the man on the Sabbath.

John 9:13-16

They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind. **And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes.** Then

again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see. Therefore said some of the Pharisees, **This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day.** Others said, **How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles?** And there was a division among them.

The Pharisees were unwilling to believe the miracle had been done, and called upon the man's parents to verify that he had been blind since birth. His parents were afraid of being thrown out of the synagogue for testifying that Jesus had healed their son. They would only refer the Pharisees to their son to get the story.

John 9:20-23

His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself. **These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he**

should be put out of the synagogue. Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him.

The Pharisees were intent on denying Jesus' power. They called upon the healed man to acknowledge that God had performed the miracle, but that it was not Jesus. They claimed that Jesus was a sinner.

John 9:24-25, 29-34

Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, **Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner.** He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.

²⁹We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is. The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that **ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes.** Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. **Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.**

They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out.

The second miracle, never seen by anyone in Israel, was to heal someone from leprosy. There had been the miracle of healing leprosy—by Elisha—of a Gentile, a Syrian general named Namaan. Namaan was told to dip himself 7 times in the Jordan River and he was healed.

2 Kings 5:1

Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper.

2 King 5:8

And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? **let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.**

But no one of Israel was ever cleansed of leprosy.

Luke 4:27

And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.

Jesus healed 10 lepers at one time!

Luke 17:12-14

And as he entered into a certain village, **there met him ten men that were lepers**, which stood afar off: And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. **And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.**

A third miracle never done by anyone was to cast out a devil that possessed a person and made that person unable to speak. When the Pharisees saw Jesus do it, instead of believing that He was the Messiah, they accused Him of doing it by the power of Satan, the prince of devils!

Matthew 9:32-34

As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil. **And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel. But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils.**

When Jesus' followers saw this miracle, they immediately knew what it meant: Jesus Christ was the promised Savior and King of Israel, the son of David.

Matthew 12:22-23

Then was brought unto him **one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?**

But the Pharisees, once again, accused Jesus of using Satan's power to cast out the devil. What Jesus said should have let everyone know that He was showing Himself to be the promised Savior, "the kingdom of God is come unto you."

Matthew 12:24-28

But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. **But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.**

Some people really didn't "get it." While the Pharisees and others acknowledged the miracles, but attributed them to Satan, others didn't even understand that the healing was a sign. They asked for sign from heaven after they had just seen something that had never been done before!

Luke 11:14-16

And he was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone

out, the dumb spake; **and the people wondered.** But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils. **And others, tempting him, sought of him a sign from heaven.**

After Jesus had performed the miracle of feeding 5,000 men with 5 barley loaves and 2 small fishes, the people still asked Him for a sign!

John 6:26-30

Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. **Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?** Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. **They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee?**

The 4th miracle, which had never been done was when Jesus was able to raise Lazarus from the dead after 4 days in the tomb. There was no doubt that Lazarus had been dead for 4 days, because there was the smell of decomposition coming from his tomb! Jesus plainly told His followers that this miracle was set up for them to believe in Him as the promised Savior.

John 11:14-17, 39-46

Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead. **And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.** Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him. **Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.** Jesus said, **Take ye away the stone.** Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, **Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?** Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I

thank thee that thou hast heard me. **And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.** And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go. **Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.** But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done.