

BIBLICAL SIGNS AND WONDERS

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God's Specific Purpose for Signs and Wonders

1. They were a normal part of Jesus' ministry

Matthew 4:23 "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people" (see also Matt. 9:35; John 7:31; 20:30).

2. They authenticated Jesus' ministry

Acts 2:22 "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs..." (see also Matt. 11:4, 5; John 5:36; 9:1-3).

3. They accompanied and authenticated the Apostles' ministry

Mark 16:20 "And they went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord confirming the word with signs following" (see also: Acts 4:7, 16; 15:12; 19:11; 2 Cor. 12:12. For Old Testament miracles, see: Exodus 4:3; 13:9; Deut. 26:8; Neh. 9:9, 10).

God's Warnings about False Signs and Wonders

1. Miracles do not necessarily lead to a belief in God

Matthew 11:20 "Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not" (see also: Luke 16:31; John 4:48; 6:30; 9:24-34).

2. Satan counterfeits signs and wonders

Matthew 24:24 "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders" (see also: 2 Thess. 2:8, 9; Rev. 13:13).

3. False signs and wonders are designed to deceive people

1 John 4: 1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (see also: Deut. 13:1-3).

God's True and Sufficient Sign for His People

Matthew 12:38-40 "...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 be no sign given unto 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 nights in the heart of the earth."

The resurrection of Christ is God's only "sign" for us. We have God's complete revelation—the Bible (WCF 1:1, 6).