

CHAPTER 3

MESSIAH TO PERFORM SIGNS AND WONDERS

According to the Gospels, Jesus performed miracles of healing, deliverance from evil spirits, raised the dead, calmed the storm, walked on water, turned water into wine, fed 5000 people with supernatural food, as well as rising from the dead after He had been crucified. The New Testament teaches that these miracles were the sign of His divine nature.

The Gospels record great multitudes coming to Jesus to be healed as a result of which His fame spread throughout the whole region. Matthew 4.23-25:

‘And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.’

(See also Matthew 8.16-17; 9.35-38; 15.29-31; Mark 1.32-45; 3.7-11; Luke 7.)

The news of the miracles caused great crowds of people to come to Jesus to be healed.

The miracles are seen as a fulfilment of the prophecies of the Bible. In Matthew 8.16 the miracles of Jesus are seen as a fulfilment of Isaiah 53.4:

‘When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ‘He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.’”

In Luke 4.16-21 Jesus quotes Isaiah 61.1-2:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to

set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.'

He then applies this prophecy to Himself and to His miracles.

In Jesus' day, the Pharisees attributed His miracles to the power of evil.

In Matthew 12.4 we read:

'This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of demons.'

It is interesting that this concept has remained in Jewish writings opposing Yeshua as the Messiah. For example, in the Talmud (Sanhedrin 43a) we read:

*'It was taught On the Eve of the Passover Yeshu was hanged. For forty days before the execution took place a herald went forth and cried, 'He is going forth to be stoned because he has **practised sorcery** and enticed Israel to apostasy.'*

In the Middle Ages 'Toledoth Yeshu' was written. This is a mixture of all kinds of hostile material to Jesus. What is interesting is that it does contain the same accusation that Jesus did miracles by sorcery, claiming that 'Yeshu' caused a lame man to walk after pronouncing over him 'the ineffable name' which he had stolen from the foundation stone of the temple. These miracles caused people to 'worship him as the Messiah, Son of the Highest. Then the Sanhedrin was desirous of Yeshu's apprehension.'

These hostile sources in a reverse way actually testify to the fact that Jesus did perform miracles. They were not done by any evil power, but by the power of God to testify to the fact that Jesus is more than a man, but is the Messiah, God with us, who demonstrated His power over sickness, death, demons and over the world which He had created, by His miracles.

The Biblical prophecies indicate that Messiah will come again, not as a Suffering Servant, but as a reigning King with all the power of His divine nature manifested. At His return He will rule the earth from Jerusalem and His miracle working power will be manifested in the restoration of the earth and the healing of the sick as described in a number of biblical prophecies, in particular Isaiah 35.1-6:

‘The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the excellency of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are fearful-hearted, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; 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 the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.’

The miracles of the Messiah at His first coming will be repeated on a world-wide scale at His second coming as the earth is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea!

(For more on this subject go to our article: Did Jesus perform signs and wonders? <http://messiahfactor.com/page62.html>)

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