

“MIRACLES” in the New Testament

There are three primary Greek words translated miracle: wonders (teras), powers (dunamis), and signs (semeion). A wonder appeals to the imagination, a power indicates its source as supernatural, and a sign is intended to appeal to the understanding.

1. Teras – wonders, something strange, causing the beholder to marvel. (Examples: Matt. 24:24, Mk. 13:22, Acts 2:19, 22, 43, Acts 6:8, 2Thess. 2:9)
2. Dunamis – Mighty works or power, inherent ability, is used of works of supernatural origin and character, such as could not be produced by natural agents and means. (Examples: Acts 8:13, Acts 19:11, 1Cor. 12:10, 28, 29, Gal. 3:5, Hebr. 2:4)
3. Semeion – a sign, mark or token, sign of divine authority. (Examples: Matt. 12:38, 39, Lk. 23:8, Jn. 2:12, 23, Jn. 3:2, Jn. 4:54, Jn. 6:2, 14, 26, Jn. 7:31, Jn. 9:16, Jn. 10:41, Jn. 11:47, Jn. 12:18, 37)

Common Denominator of “Miracles” = The Nation of Israel (1Cor. 1:22 – For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; Matt. 12:39 - ...An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, Jn. 20:29 - ...Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed)

1. Occurs at Israel’s crisis points
2. Associated with a leader & those who follow
3. Occurs at a dispensational transition
4. Occurs when spiritual activity (good and bad) is at its highest

“Miracles”, namely signs, are always associated with a message:

1. To gain attention to the messenger
2. To teach the message – Jn. 20:30-31 – Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.
3. The apostles had the ability to perform all signs, wonders and mighty works (2Cor. 12:12 – Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs(semeion) and wonders(teras) and mighty deeds(dunamis).

Many are under the mistaken opinion that Bible history is full of miracles performed by individuals. Nothing could be further from the truth as Moses was born 2,439 years after the creation of Adam and represents the first individual to perform signs, wonders, and mighty works. Signs, wonders, and mighty works have only three short periods of history. They are three crisis periods with approximate dates in history with one in the future:

1. Moses & Joshua (1,500 B.C) – Israel in bondage in Egypt
2. Elijah & Elisha (800 B.C) – Israel divided into northern and southern kingdom
3. Lord Jesus & Apostles (29 A.D.) – Israel rejects the Lord Jesus
4. Two Witnesses (Moses & Elijah) – (2,000 A.D.) Rev. 11:3-6 – The nations gathered against Israel (Armageddon)