

BIBLICAL MIRACLES

"Do thyself no harm for we are all here," Acts 16:29.

The creation of the world is the basis of all miracles, of course; for God had to have something in which to do His intervening - to suspend natural laws, modify them or change an event for those He placed on earth, man.

But beyond the creation of the universe, the earth and the masterful area of California, there is the SPIRITUAL world that must grab our hearts.

Here, in the Spiritual world, the Lord God raised Jesus. But, the good news is, He also promises to raise all who place their trust in His Son, as well.

It might serve us if we think of the resurrection as the final act of God's miracles. It's the time that the physical gives way to the Spiritual. Hallelujah!

And, in the spiritual world, while I don't think that miracles are, or will be, uncommon, I do think that physical acts will lose their shock. Miracles then, like the resurrection of Jesus today, will go far beyond anything physical.

The Bible does record many more miracles during the beginning of, and throughout, the thousand year reign of Jesus on the earth. These miracles served as "signs" to demonstrate God's power and move on the heart of man to cause him to believe. And, certainly, any of the miracles were employed to keep God's plan on track and teach of its glory.

SO, WHAT'S THE GREATEST MIRACLE? Which one shows the power of God most? As stated, His creation without any doubt. When we think of how man got here physically, plus the fact that man shall live eternally, places God's power squarely within the heart. We are forced to make a faithful decision. Miracles bring us to the table. They cause us to trust and to believe.

So, those miracles recorded in God's word are wonderfully received by believers. Which one can we deny? While we may like one above another, they are all Biblical.

For example, we might appreciate the sun standing still in the sky, if I were a Joshua and needed a little more time to finish the job.

However, each miracle must teach us spiritual truth. It does! Our amazement grows when we read about the "flood" or "burning bush" that are stated in the Old Testament. Then, to the faithful heart, we understand that the "Ten Plagues," "The Passover Lamb," "crossing the Red Sea" and entering "Canaan," describes to us just how God operates His plan of redeeming mankind.

These miraculous references above show us just how God saves man today. The message is just as it was when they were performed. In the total plan, we see His physical power (plagues) destroy the enemy. Then, man is released from Satan's hold by the death & resurrection of the offered lamb, Jesus.

In the resurrection power of Jesus, the Holy Spirit leads man to the watery grave (Red Sea). Waiting on the other side is His leadership and the Promised Land, just ahead.

Here, I must emphasize the power of God's salvation by once again making the statement that **"not one Israeli returned to Egypt!"**

SO, WHAT MIRACLE AMAZES US? I am moved by all God's miracles. Water changed to wine and Lazarus are perhaps the favorites of most. But take a look at Acts 16.

In this account, Paul and Silas are amid a great earthquake. The ground shook causing the cell doors to open. The prisoners were unchained and free to go. Yet, they stayed!

We think that Acts records the two-fold power of God. First, He releases us from bondage and, at the same time, He places a control over the released ones.

It's like salvation! When we trusted Jesus and were saved, we were set free. But, at the same time, we remained. Satan's bars were destroyed. The shackles fell off and, although we were free to go, we stayed right where we were at the time the release happened.

This shows God's power upon mankind in the highest degree. He releases us and holds us, simultaneously. We stay to serve. Sin is destroyed and freedom begins. **"We are all here"** (V 28).

We see this as it shall be in the resurrection. God saves us, fully! Relative to Adam's sin, we stay. He saves us to the fullest. We not only have life, we stay and fulfill the testimony we were given.

And what a great testimony! We are all here. We're staying with the one that freed us. It's all because of His amazing grace; the kind that we preach about and sing about, daily.

But when I imagine those in the prison, I see criminals, thieves and downright scoundrels. Not good men! Yet, they all stayed in their cells. This is contrary to the attitude of a thug. A prisoner is **"out of here"** at any opportunity. Just open the doors and he's gone, but not these men.

In this prison, there might have been some like Paul & Silas - jailed wrongfully. But, for the most part, the criminals in the cell block were bad hombres, no doubt. Yet, they stayed.

This reality struck mightily on the heart of the jailer. His responsibility was to guard the prisoners. If one escaped, his life would be taken. In this broken, emotional state, he came in to see Paul and Silas, trembling.

His question was directly related to the fact that "we all here." God is in this, and the jailer confessed his need to be released, himself. In his life, nothing had been like this. Trembling, he cried, "What must I do to be saved?"

The answer that Paul and Silas gave was consistent for the time, then; and, for our time today. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31).

Remember, these were thugs. Yet, they all remained in their cells. Wow! My focus is upon the jailer's captivity and his release much more than those prisoners who were unshackled, physically, however.

In this account, I see the spiritual need of the **keeper of the prisoners**. He was bound but received the freedom that totally set him free. Aren't we keepers, too?

In the Jailer's life, I see a lost man. I see me! I realize that this is exactly what happened when I was saved in 1959. Thank you Lord for the jailer's life. He makes my freedom a bit more understandable and much more appreciated.