

## Miracles Not a Proof of Divine Mission

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Miracles Not a Proof of Divine Mission (Ex. 7:10-12; Dt. 13:1-3; Lk. 11:19).

The Adversary of Almighty God, and mankind, is a deceiver and part of his deception includes counterfeiting works that are attributed to God, including miracles (Ex. 7:10-12; Rev. 12:9; 18:23). Miracles, by definition, are events that are not easily explained within the limitations of physical knowledge,

'An event that appears unexplainable by the laws of nature and so held to be supernatural in origin or an act of God' (Reader's Digest Encyclopedic Dictionary).

Because Satan will share some of his power with those who follow his sinful way of living (Jn. 8:44; cf. 1Jn. 3:4), miracles can be performed by human beings who have willingly made themselves his subjects,

The coming of the lawless one is according to (associated with) the working (the works) of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders (2Thes. 2:9; Ed. note in parenthesis; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

Through his many deceptions, including miracles, Satan is able to make his evil intentions look good,

And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light (as he did with Eve; cf. Gen. 3:1-5).<sup>15</sup> Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works (2Cor. 11:14-15; Ed. note in parenthesis).

As God clearly performs miracles on behalf of His servants (Ex. 14:31; Mt. 11:2-5; Jn. 3:2), how can anyone distinguish the difference between His miracles and Satan's lying wonders? The answer to this important question is found in correctly understanding the next section of scripture,

If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams (someone who claims to be able to interpret dreams, or has visions from God), and he gives you a sign (SHD 226; miraculous sign) or a wonder (SHD 4259; special display of what appears to be God's power),<sup>2</sup> and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods which you have not known, and let us serve them,'<sup>3</sup> you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul (Dt. 13:1-3; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Therefore, close scrutiny of the individuals involved with performing miracles is required in order to distinguish whether they are true representatives of God, or are under the influence of Satan and the fallen host. The key to correctly identifying the true from the false “miracle workers” is whether it can be proven they live according to God’s law and commandments as the next scripture confirms,

To the law and to the testimony! If they (those who claim to represent Almighty God) do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light (symbol of God’s law; cf. Prov. 6:23; Ps. 119:105) in them (Isa. 8:20; Ed. notes in parentheses).

It is only those who seek to obey God that can claim they love and serve Him. Everyone else is deceived and will not be able to distinguish the difference between a miracle of God and a lying wonder from Satan,

Now by this we know that we know Him (Almighty God), if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup>He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him (cf. Jn. 8:44). <sup>5</sup>But whoever keeps His word (cf. Mt. 4:4), truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him (1Jn. 2:3-5; Ed. notes in parentheses).

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome (1Jn. 5:3).

Christ pointed out to his disciples that many miraculous, but deceiving, events will occur as the time of his return to earth draws near,

Then if anyone says to you (Christ’s true followers), ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. <sup>24</sup>For false christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to deceive, if possible, even the elect (Mt. 24:23-24; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Based on this last scripture, Satan’s deceiving miracles will increase as this world gets closer to Christ’s return, and it will be extremely difficult to know whether these “miracles” are from God, or Satan. Again, whoever is behind these “miraculous signs” needs to be closely scrutinized in order to determine whether they are God’s representatives, or Satan’s.

So miracles can be a proof of “divine mission” depending on who is involved. If those performing miracles are obedient to God, in word and deed, then it is likely the miracles are from Him. However, as most people do not understand the necessity of obeying God’s law and commandments, they are already deceived and will be incapable of distinguishing whether the source of any future miraculous event is from God or Satan. In most cases, people will believe that Satan’s miracles are coming from God, thus making the deception even more effective.

This is why Satan must be bound, or restrained, by Jesus Christ upon his return to rule this planet. Until this occurs, no one is going to be able to understand God’s truth correctly or discern whether a miracle is coming from God, or from Satan (Rev. 20:1-3; cf. Isa. 25:7; Jer. 31:31-34).

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor.11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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