

The Holy Bible

Chapter One: Ways to Study the Holy Bible

Historical View

We can divide the Historical Stories in the Bible into three parts:

1. Miracles
2. Parables
3. Historical events

Miracles:

They call it a miracle because it proves and shows God's incredible ability, as well as it shows the Nature of The Lord Jesus Christ, and it is part of his life and his service.

The Goal of the Miracle:

Even though the miracle shows the Lord Jesus Christ's divinity, it is mainly to fulfill a person or a group of persons need. The Lord never used the miracle to show off his ability and power. He even refused to perform a miracle when he was asked to perform a miracle by the pharisees. He answered them: "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet **Jonas**" **Matthew 12:39**.

Thus the value of the miracle is not in the fact that it is supernatural, but in the fact that it shows how God relates to people, and he is involved and reacts graciously to their private lives and need.

The Miracle is:

- It witnesses to the Love of God to Humanity
 - And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean. (Mark 1:41)
 - God is thus so loving that he changes the law of nature for you and I.
- It's the fulfillment of the old testament prophecies of the coming and life of Christ, who will heal humanity's sickness, both physical and spiritual.
- It guides people to faith and the praise of God's name.

Steps to Studying a Miracle.

There are 4 main pinnacles in studying a miracle:

1. The surrounding Situation

- The location of the miracle; the historical circumstances surrounding the miracle and its relation to the miracle. For example, the miracle of feeding the multitude occurred on a mountain. The miracle of controlling nature (stopping the storm) happened in the middle of the sea.
- The time the miracle occurred and the related events before and after . For example, raising Lazarus from the dead happened 4 days after he has been dead. The paralyzed

man was made well after 38 years of his sickness.

2. The physical and Spiritual need

- It is necessary to be familiar with the need or the problem of the person or persons to whom the Miracle was performed for and its affect on all aspects of their life: Socially, psychologically, practically, economically, spiritually, etc). Thus it is very important to study the situation of the person in need of the miracle.
 - The Leapor, aside from the pains of the disease was rejected and isolated from society. He was viewed as unclean by the jewish society. The Jews also considered this particular disease to be a punishment from God for his sins.

3. God's involvement

- How did people try to solve the problem?
 - Example: the bleeding woman spent all her money on physicians to no value. (Luke 8:42)
- How did God solve the problem or fulfill the need?
 - Note the unique way God solved the problem.
- What are the steps that God took to complete the work?
 - Look at how God healed the deaf who had a speech impediment. (Mark 7:33)
- Did the people expect God to solve the problem in a specific way, and did God use that way?
 - Ex: Marium and Martha expected that God would come early and heal their brother, instead God was late and their brother died and God raised him from the dead (John 11:21)

4. People's reaction to the Miracle

- Note people's reaction through:
 - Improvement in their faith.
 - Ex: The born blind had faith that Jesus was the Son of God and he worshiped him. (John 9:38)
 - A change in their attitude
 - Ex: But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils.(Luke 11:15)
 - Their view of Jesus Christ, and the change in them before after the Miracle.
 - Ex: And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him? (Mark 4:41)

The Spiritual Aspect of the Miracle

- What was people's view of God before and after the miracle.
 - Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea. (John 21:7)
- What and how did the miracle increase the people's knowledge of God and thier relationship with Him?

- And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him. (John 9:38) (The born blind)

The lessons:

- What are the lessons we can learn and practice in our daily lives?
- Did your trust and faith in God increase? Did your fears and worry subside?
- What are the new things we learnt about God from our study of a particular miracle.
- Do you perceive God as the God who's able to overcome everything? Do you see Him as the God who knows all your needs and He only has your need that would satisfy you?
- Do you believe that He will come in the right time? Do you accept his wonderfuls and unexpected ways? Do you accept His ways of solving the problem which might not align with your expectations?
- Did you relate to His personal love for you? He is the one that is upset when you're upset, He is happy when you're happy. He is the one who engraved you on the palm of His hand and whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye. Your name is written in His book of life.

Application:

- The Miracle of casting the Legion in the country of the Gadarenes (Mark 5:1-20, Luke 8:26-39)