

Introduction

The dominant purpose of a miracle in the OT was to glorify God and demonstrate His omnipotence, omnipresence and omniscience. Secondary purposes in the OT were to:

- provide deliverance for Israel in the face of imminent calamity
- relieve suffering by providing healing to individuals
- relieve physical deprivation for Israel and individuals by providing food and/or water

The dominant purpose of a miracle in the NT was twofold; to declare and proclaim the Messiahship of Christ (**Matt. 11:1-6; Luke 7:18-23**) and to authenticate the message of the good news (gospel) preached by the Apostles (**Mark 16:20; Acts 14.3**). Secondary purposes in the NT were to:

- provide deliverance from demonic possession
- relieve suffering by providing healing to individuals
- attend to the needs of individuals and groups by providing food and drink
- Affirm His divine nature and relationship with the Father to His disciples

Baalim and his talking donkey (Numbers 22-24)

- Baalim, non-Israelite “prophet” who was in reality a practitioner of divination
- Called by the very frightened King of Moab (Balak) to curse Israel
- Initially instructed by Elohim not to cooperate with Barak
- Later instructed by Elohim to go with Barak’s emissaries and bless Israel
- Stopped along the way three times by an encounter with an angel who only the donkey saw and responded to in fear
- Punished the donkey and then engaged in a conversation with it!
- Three times set up 7 altars to sacrifice a ram and a bullock
- Finally proclaimed a blessing over Israel

OT Miracles

Moses and the ten plagues in Egypt (**Exodus 11&12**)

The parting of the red sea (**Exodus 14**)

Moses strikes the rock and water gushes out (**Numbers 20**)

The crossing of Jordan under Joshua (**Joshua 3**)

Gideon defeats the Midianites (**Judges 7**)

Elijah and the dead woman’s son (**I Kings 17**)

Elijah calling down fire from Heaven (**I Kings 18**)

Elijah then Elisha stopped the Jordan (**II Kings 2.3-9**)

(NB Elisha did exactly twice the miracles of Elijah A double portion of Elijah’s spirit)

Elisha and Naaman (**II Kings 5**)

Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah in Babylonian fire (**Daniel 3**)

Darius condemns Daniel to the lion's den (**Daniel 6**)

Jonah and the great fish (**Jonah 1&2**)

Jesus Miracles Proclaim His Messiahship

He changed water into wine at Cana (**John 2**)

He walked on the water (**Matthew 14; Mark 6; John 6**)

He calmed the storm (**Matthew 8; Mark 4; Luke 8**)

He raised the dead, many times (**Luke 7 & 8; John 11**)

He healed lepers (**Matthew 8; Mark 1; Luke 5**)

He provided food for thousands on at least two occasions (**Matthew 14&16; Luke 9; John 6**)

He rose from the dead Himself (**There are at least 96 scriptures about the resurrection**)

Miracles in the Book of Acts

Tongues at Pentecost (**Acts 2**)

Peter released from jail in Jerusalem (**Acts 12**)

Paul and Silas released from jail in Philippi (**Acts 16**)

The disciples healing people (**Acts 3&20**)

Paul's power over demons (**Acts 16**)

But what about today

A miracle at midnight on Drummond Street

An answer to prayer for an 11-year-old girl

A miraculous gift to a three and half year old girl the Kim Collingsworth story

(See on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rUBqB25g3I> or you can purchase the book 'His Gift My Story' published in November 2020 by Becky Keep & Kim Collingsworth)