

**Are Miracles a Norm for Today?**

**(John 2:1-11; 11:1-44)**

To begin with, I think we need to understand that there is a tremendous difference between the popular definition of a miracle in our culture and the narrow technical definition of a miracle that we deal with as interpreters of Scripture.

One theologian said, “We can often have serious communication problems when people ask me whether I believe that God is doing miracles today. If by a miracle we mean that God is alive and well and running his world by his providence, affecting the course of human events, then by all means God is doing those things. If the question is asking whether or not God is answering prayers, then I would say emphatically, yes, God is answering prayers. If people are asking whether the providence of God is bringing extraordinary things to pass today, I would say absolutely. Does God heal people in response to prayer? I would say yes to all of those questions because I’m convinced that God is alive and well and doing all of those things. If we define a miracle as a supernatural work of God, then I would say that God certainly does supernatural works today.”

Personally, I would not define the above actions as miracles. But I would define them as God’s divine providence working out His will in the affairs of men. Some people define a miracle so broadly as to say that even the birth of a child is a miracle because it’s a marvelous thing that couldn’t happen apart from the power of God. So they would define a miracle as any wonderful thing that happens by the power of God.

However, when we define a miracle in the technical sense, we see in Scripture that miracles of this magnitude defy the laws of nature that God Himself put in motion.

For example: bringing life out of death or something out of nothing, such as Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead when his body was in a state of decomposition after four days in the tomb; or turning the water into wine in John 2. Those are miracles in the truest sense.

But I don’t think that God is performing those types of miracles today. I certainly believe God could, but I don’t think he is performing those kinds of miracles today. And the chief reason he did those things in biblical days was to certify revelation as divine – to back up what he spoke with evidence of his authority. Since we now have the Bible, other miraculous sources of revelation are no longer necessary.

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