

## **Miracles in the Bible**

©2020 Mike Whyte

**Copyright Notice:** this document may be used freely for personal study, preaching, and teaching. No part of it may be used under any circumstances for commercial purposes or to attain personal gain or advantage.

### **Objectives of miracles:**

1. Creation / alteration of nature: something new is brought into existence or normal natural processes are interrupted or redirected
2. Alteration of physical properties: a specific object or process has its physical properties altered in order to accomplish some purpose
3. Healing / cleansing / purification: an illness or other obnoxious condition is corrected or eradicated
4. Provisioning: one or more persons are provided with necessities where there was apparently no way to obtain such necessities
5. Punishment: a situation is specifically altered or produced to bring one or more persons into awareness of a sin
6. Calling / teaching: (could include any of the first four types) circumstances or information are directly used to bring a person into contact with God or provide knowledge of God

**Four great periods of miracles:** Creation, Exodus, Ba'al crisis, Christ's ministry

### **Period One - Creation**

1. Clearing the atmosphere: (type 3) Gn1:3-5 first day – atmosphere is cleared to where light is discernable during the day to distinguish day from night; Gn1:6-8 second day – production of an envelope of breathable air around the earth's surface; Gn1:14-19 fourth day – clarification of the upper atmosphere so that sun, moon, and stars are observable
2. Gathering the waters: (type 2) Gn1:9-10 third day – the surface of the earth is rearranged so that seas, lakes, and dry land are distinguished
3. Creation of vegetation: (type 1) Gn1:12-13 third day – the forms of vegetation currently extant on the earth are brought into existence
4. Creation of sea life and birds: (type 1) Gn1:20-23 fifth day – the forms of life currently extant on the earth are brought into existence
5. Creation of land animals: (type 1) Gn1:24-25 sixth day – the forms of life currently extant on the earth are brought into existence
6. Creation of Adam and Eve: (type 6) Gn1:26-31, 2:17-25 sixth day – Adam and Eve are created and are taught by YHWH
7. Creation of Eden: (type 4) Gn2:8-9, 15-16 sixth day – Adam and Eve are provided with the means to live

### **Period Two – the Exodus**

8. Signs for the Israelites: (type 2) Ex4:1-9 Moses' staff becomes a serpent; his hand becomes leprous; Nile water is turned to blood
9. Aaron's staff: (type 2) Ex7:10-12 the Egyptians mimic Aaron's staff's becoming a serpent, but Aaron's eats theirs
10. Water to blood: (type 5) Ex7:14-24 Moses and Aaron turn the water of Egypt to blood
11. Frogs: (type 5) Ex8:1-15 Moses and Aaron bring a plague of frogs, and then terminate the plague
12. Gnats: (type 5) Ex8:16-19 Moses and Aaron turn the dust into a plague of gnats
13. Flies: (type 5) Ex8:20-31 Moses and Aaron bring swarms of flies onto Egypt, but not to Goshen, then terminate the swarms
14. Death of livestock: (type 5) Ex9:1-7 Moses and Aaron bring plague of death to Egyptian livestock, but Israelite livestock not affected
15. Boils: (type 5) Ex9:8-12 Moses throws soot from a kiln into the air, and it infects the Egyptians (man and beast) with boils; Israelites apparently not affected
16. Hail: (type 5) Ex9:18-33 Moses brings killing hail over Egypt; Goshen spared; then terminates the storm

17. Locusts: (type 5) Ex10:3-20 Moses brings locusts over the whole land, (Goshen spared?), then removes the locusts
18. Darkness: (type 5) Ex10:21-23 Moses brings three days oppressive darkness over Egypt, Israelites have light
19. Death of first born: (type 5) Ex11:4-9, 12:7, 22-23, 29-30 at midnight, YHWH kills first born of each Egyptian household, Israelites are spared by lambs' blood on doors
20. Israelites spoil Egyptians: (type 6) Ex11:1-3, 12:33, 35-36 YHWH gives the Israelites favour from the Egyptians, and they provide them with valuables before leaving
21. Crossing Yam Suph: (type 1) Ex14:21-29 YHWH causes the wind to divide the water and provides dry ground for the Israelites to cross; then, turns the lake bed to muck for the Egyptians and brings the water in on them
22. Water at Marah: (type 2) Ex15:22-25 three days into the wilderness of Shur, the Israelites have no water; they come to Marah, but the water is bitter (poison?) – Moses throws a particular log into the water and it becomes sweet
23. Manna and quail: (type 4) Ex16:2-8, 13-15, Nm11:3-32 YHWH causes 'bread from heaven' (manna) to cover the ground in the morning, and quail to land around the camp in the evening
24. Water at Rephidim: (type 4) Ex17:1-6 the Israelites camped at Rephidim, but there is no water – Moses strikes a rock with his staff and water pours out
25. Miriam's leprosy: (type 5) Nm12:1-15 Aaron and Miriam challenge Moses, Miriam become leprous, Moses prays for her and she is healed
26. Earth consumes Korah et.al.: (type 5) Nm16:1-3, 30-34 Korah, Dathan, and Abiram lead a rebellion against Moses – YHWH causes a sink hole to open under them and swallow them
27. Aaron's staff buds: (type 6) Nm17:1-11 one staff for each tribe is placed overnight in the tent of meeting, Aaron's staff, for the tribe of Levi, sprouts, produces flowers and ripe almonds
28. Water at Meribah: (type 4) Nm20:2-11 at Meribah there was no water, Moses is commanded to speak to a rock, but strikes it with his staff, which produces the needed water

### **Period Three – the Ba'al Crisis (Elijah and Elisha)**

29. Drought for three years: (type 5) 1Kg17:1 Elijah informs Ahab that there will be no rain for three years
30. The flour and oil: (type 4) 1Kg17:8-16 the widow of Zarephath has enough flour and oil for one meal, Elijah informs her that it will last for the duration of the drought, and it does
31. Raising the widow's son: (type 3) 1Kg17:17-23 the widow's son dies, she asks Elijah for help, he prays, and the boy is brought back to life
32. Consumption of the altar: (type 6) 1Kg18:30-38 Elijah repairs the stone altar at Carmel, puts wood and an offering on it, then pours water over it filling a trench around it; he then prays for God to accept the offering and fire consumes the water, stones, and all
33. Elijah provided sustenance: (type 4) 1Kg19:2-8 Elijah flees from Jezebel to Horeb, along the way he prays for death; an angel prepares cakes on hot stones and provides water
34. Fire kills Ahaziah's soldiers: (type 5) 2Kg1:9-12 Elijah waits on a hill near Samaria, Ahaziah twice sends 50 soldiers to bring him to Samaria; Elijah prays, and fire destroys the soldiers
35. Water of the Jordan parted: (type 1) 2Kg2:6-8, 13-14 Elijah and Elisha walk and talk, they come to the Jordan River, Elijah rolls his cloak, strikes the water, it parts, and they cross; after Elijah is transported away, his cloak falls to Elisha, who again uses it to part the river
36. Water purified: (type 2) 2Kg2:18-22 at Jericho, the people inform Elisha of a spring with bad water, Elisha prepares 'salt', and pours it in the water, which is purified
37. Defeat of Moab: (type 6) 2Kg3:16-24 the Israelite army is at the boarder of Moab with no water, Elisha informs them that YHWH will bring water down the dry stream bed and defeat Moab, which happens next morning
38. One jar of oil produces many: (type 2) 2Kg4:1-7 a widow of a prophet is pursued by creditor but has only one jar of oil, Elisha tells her to pour from the one jar into others, and she fills many jars
39. Raising a dead boy: (type 3) 2Kg4:18-37 The Shunammite woman's son dies, she goes to Elisha, he comes, prays, performs symbolic actions, and the boy returns to life

40. Poison stew: (type 2) 2Kg4:38-41 Elisha is eating stew at the school of the prophets in Gilgal, one of them unknowingly puts poison gourds into the stew which are recognized, Elisha puts 'flour' into the stew and the poison is antidoted
41. Feeding many with little: (type 4) 2Kg4:42-44 a man brings a small amount of first fruits to Elisha, he instructs the man to serve the small amount of food to about a hundred men of the prophets' school, the man protests how little there is, but all eat and leftovers remain
42. Naaman healed of leprosy: (type3) 2Kg5:5-14 Naaman, commander of the Aramean army, comes to Elisha requesting healing of leprosy; Elisha tells him to wash seven times in the Jordan; Naaman does it, reluctantly, and is healed
43. Greed of Gehazi: (type 5) 2Kg5:15-27 Elisha refuses payment from Naaman, who leaves, but Gehazi, Elisha's servant, goes after Naaman and obtains money and clothing – Elisha is aware of Gehazi's greed and condemns him to perpetual leprosy
44. The floating axe head: (type 2) 2Kg6:1-7 the 'sons of the prophets' are constructing a new building; one loses his axe head into the Jordan river; Elisha 'cuts a stick' and throws it into the water and the iron axe head floats
45. Elisha hears enemy plans: (type 6) 2Kg6:8-12 Elisha is aware of plans made in secret by Arameans and warns the king of Israel (likely Joash)
46. Elisha blinds the Aramean army: (type 6) 2Kg6:15-23 the Aramean army surrounds Elisha to capture him, he prays, and they are blinded; he leads them into the city of Samaria and prays for their sight to be restored; Elisha has them fed and released, and a period of peace results
47. Elisha's dead body restores life: (type 3) 2Kg13:20-21 a dead person is thrown into the grave of Elisha and contact with the body of Elisha restores the person to life

#### **Period Four – Crist's Ministry**

48. The wedding at Cana: (type 4) Jh2:1-11 The wine runs out; Jesus instructs some large pots to be filled with water, and it becomes the best wine
49. Healing the official's son: (type 3) Jh4:46-54 The official (possibly a Roman centurion) comes from Capernaum to Cana requesting Christ to heal his son; Jesus speaks the word that he will live, and the illness leaves the child
50. Purging a demon in the synagogue at Capernaum: (type 3) Mk1:21-28, Lk4:31-47 The demon expresses recognition of Christ; Jesus commands the demon, and it immediately leaves the host
51. Christ heals many: (type 3) Mk1:29-34, Mt8:14-17, Lk4:38-41 Christ is at Peter's house in Capernaum, he heals Peter's mother in law and many other people
52. Christ heals a leper: (type 3) Mk1:40-45, Mt8:2-4, Lk5:12-16 Christ is on tour in Galilee (Mk1:39, Mt4:23-25, Lk4:44), a leper shows faith in requesting healing, Christ does it, and the leper spreads the word of the healing far and wide
53. Christ heals a paralytic: (type 6) Mk2:1-12, Mt9:1-8, Lk5:17-26 Christ is in Peter's house in Capernaum, the crowd is so thick that a group takes the paralytic to the roof and lowers him through; Jesus tells him that his sins are forgiven, and to the consternation of the scribes – the paralytic is healed and carries his bed home
54. Healing at the pool Bethesda: (type 6) Jh5:2-16 a man with an infirmity for 38 years lies by the pool; Jesus asks if he would like to 'made whole'; Jesus heals him and tells him to 'go and sin no more'
55. The man with the withered hand: (type 6) Mk3:1-6, Mt12:9-14, Lk6:6-11 In a synagogue in Galilee, Jesus makes a point of healing on the Sabbath in front of the scribes and Pharisees to demonstrate proper use of the Sabbath
56. The centurion's servant: (type 6) Mt8:5-13, Lk7:1-10 In Capernaum, a centurion sends others to Christ, requesting the healing and does not expect Christ to even come to his house; Jesus recognizes his deep faith and heals the servant
57. The widow's son raised: (type 3) Lk7:11-17 In Nain (SE of Nazareth?), Christ observes a funeral procession, in compassion for the mother, Jesus touches the bier and commands the boy to arise, which he does

58. Calming the storm: (type 1) Mk4:35-41, Mt8:18,23-27, Lk8:22-25 Christ and his disciples are in a boat on the Sea of Galilee; a serious storm blows up while Christ sleeps; they awake him – he commands the storm to stop and chides them for lack of faith
59. The Gerasene demoniac: (type 6) Mk5:1-20, Mt8:28-30, Lk8:26-30 On the east side of the Sea of Galilee, Christ is accosted by a man possessed by many demons, who recognize Christ and are afraid he has come to send them ‘to the abyss’; Jesus commands the demons to leave the man who recovers, and the whole area fears
60. Jarius’ daughter: (type 3) Mk5:21-24,35-43, Mt9:18-19,23-26, Lk8:40-42,49-56 In Capernaum, Jarius a ruler of the synagogue requests Jesus to heal his daughter; before they get to his house, the girl dies; Jesus says, ‘fear not, believe’, and tells the girl to arise and she is healed
61. A woman touches Christ’s garment: (type 3) Mk5:25-34, Mt9:20-22, Lk:43-48 In the crowd, a woman who had a discharge of blood for many years touches Christ’s garment and is immediately healed; Christ feels the power going from him and confronts the woman, saying ‘your faith has made you whole’
62. Two blind men and dumb demonic: (type 3) Mt9:27-33 In Capernaum, two blind men request Jesus heal them, he replies ‘according to your faith’; at the same time a man which demon made dumb was brought to him – Jesus casts out the demon
63. Feeding five thousand: (type 4) Mk6:30-44, Mt14:13-21, Lk9:10-17, Jh6:1-13 Christ and the disciples seeking solitude cross the Sea of Galilee to the area near Bethsaida Julias; a crowd precedes them on foot; Christ teaches and heals; near evening they require food – only five loaves and two fishes are available; Jesus blesses the food and all 5000 eat with significant left overs
64. Walking on water: (type 2) Mk6:47-62, Mt14:24-33, Jh6:16-21 The disciples go ahead of Jesus in the boat on the Sea of Galilee; after dispersing the crowd, Jesus walks across the water to the boat – at first the disciples are terrified, but recognizing him Peter attempts to walk to him, but Peter’s faith fails and he begins to sink
65. Healing a Phoenician girl: (type 3) Mk7:24-30, Mt15:21-28 The girl’s mother expresses faith, so Christ removes the demon from the girl
66. The deaf in Decapolis: (type 3) Mk7:31-37 a deaf man with a speech impediment is brought Chris; he is privately healed and proclaims the deed
67. Feeding four thousand: (type 4) Mk8:1-9, Mt15:29-38 Christ and the disciples return to the Sea of Galilee where Christ teaches and heals many, but the people have no food; Christ blesses seven loaves and a few fishes, all eat with much left over
68. The demonic boy: (type 6) Mk9:14-29, Mt17:14-20, Lk9:37-43 Christ and a group disciples come down from a mountain (Hermon?) near Caesarea Philippi to find another group of disciples unable to remove a demon from a young boy; Jesus rebukes their lack of faith, the boy’s father expresses faith and Jesus heals the boy
69. The man born blind: (type 6) Jh9:1-12 At the Pool of Siloam in Jerusalem, Christ sees a blind man born that way through no sin of his own or his parents; Jesus heals him as a sign for the Pharisees
70. A crippled woman: (type 6) Lk13:10-17 In a synagogue (likely in Judea), Christ spots the crippled woman and heals her; the ruler of the synagogue is indignant because of the Pharisees’ teaching; Christ shames them all
71. A man with dropsy (swelling due to excess fluids): (type 6) Lk14:1-6 In a Pharisees’ home (likely in Perea) on the Sabbath, Jesus heals the man specifically to make the point that the Pharisaic teaching is wrong
72. Lazarus: (type 6) Jh11:1-44 Lazarus, brother of Mary and Martha, Jesus’ friends, becomes ill and dies; Jesus is detained in Perea four days before coming to Bethany (near Jerusalem); Lazarus is in the tomb; there is much public mourning for him so Jesus makes a public demonstration of raising Lazarus
73. The ten lepers: (type 3) Lk17:11-19 In a village, in Samaria or Galilee, ten lepers approach Christ and beg for mercy; Jesus tells them to present themselves to the priests (presumably in the temple); along the way all are healed; one returns to thank Jesus
74. Blind Bartimaeus: (type 3) Mk10:46-52, Mt 20:29-34, Lk18:35-43 In Jericho, Bartimaeus and his companion call out to Christ as he passes; he recognizes their faith and heals their blindness