2Thess #79

Satanic power, false signs and wonders

We will be doing the Lord’s Supper at the end of the message today, so please be prepared.

Let us keep a young lady named Agnese from Michigan in our prayers – her parents Jeff and Sara are faithful Christians and this young lady is enduring attacks and lies against her.

This will begin a series into the differences between a true miracle or healing and sign of God and a satanic counterfeit.

I am sure I’ll lose some folks and spark outcries from others, who follow certain denominational nonsense.

That is to be expected with those who love their ears tickled, or rely upon their spiritual life as emotional waves they surf upon to get closer to GOD.

We will open back up in our main study of 2Thessalonians chapter two.

Let me read several verses to get us back on track to where are current study has taken us.

Remember the Apostle Paul had a congregation that was beginning to veer off course of the truth of eschatology.

They were confused about the end time events and the 2nd coming of Christ.

2Thes 2:5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?

Never forget, accepting false teaching even after you have been taught properly will lead to great confusion – if you allow that false teaching to circulate an accumulate in your soul structure.

[2Th 2:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/6/s_1118006) And you know what restrains *him* now, so that he will be revealed in his time.

The Apostle Paul is speaking about the antichrist and the full authority of the beast system.

[2Th 2:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/7/s_1118007) For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now now restrains *will do so* until He is removed.

Satan begin his assault which is still cleverly veiled to most people, right from the original Garden.

Then before the flood in Genesis chapter 6 you get a glimpse of his plan.

God the HS and the remnant of positive Bels act as a restraining agent for the full demonic power of Satan’s army.

The rapture will remove all Believers off the earth and the power of God the Holy Spirit will withdraw from restraining evil.

[2Th 2:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/8/s_1118008) Then that lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will eliminate with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;

/[2Th 2:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/9/s_1118009) *that is,* the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, **with all power and false signs and wonders,\**

The work and false doctrines of Satan can be seen in counterfeits of religion and man-made systems to distract from the truth of scripture.

This is why we did a brief study on replacement theology to make sure we understand that is one of several avenues Satan uses to confuse people.

[2Th 2:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/10/s_1118010) and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not accept the love of the truth so as to be saved.

/2Thes 2:9 - *with all power and false signs and wonders,*

Power – *dynamis,* a miraculous strength or sudden explosion of power.

Signs – *semeion,* a remarkable event, a symbol or sign that appears mystic.

Wonders – *teras,* a visible presence of a miracle or a god-like healing or alteration of time, space or human condition. \

DO-NAH-MIS, where we get our English word dynamite from. It can mean sudden violence or a series of events of incredible power.

SAY-MY-ON, means miracle signs and unexplainable phenomenon.

TARE-US, a unique work or spectacular omen or a change and visible presence of a mystic or god-like power.

Jump back into the OT Exodus chapter four RF.

/The original text is closer to this;

*2Thes 2:9 Even him whose coming is by effectual working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders*.\

The fact is supernatural power, signs, miracles, healings and wonders all fall under a similar category.

It is a category well beyond human abilities and human intelligence.

It is also a category that is truly under the power of GOD – so we have to assume anything that is miraculous in power, healings and miracles is either from GOD or a counterfeit of Satan and his army.

There is no gray area here!

Anyone who dabbles in dark arts, magical powers or what some call witchcraft - is blatantly lying or willfully ignorant, when they claim it is innocent or that there is a black magic and white magic.

 REPEAT

There are dark arts and miraculous power which are satanic counterfeits or GOD is working a miraculous power – it is either one or the other, you would be wise to remember that.

I never put GOD in a box, but we are told the Bible is the very mind of Christ. Therefore, that is what we rely upon to reveal GOD and HIS plan for us.

We live in the CA dispensation the age of the completed canon of scripture.

/Miracles without truth are meaningless, they are deceptive. Healing without Christ is a deception, signs or wonders without true evangelism is trickery. If any type of magical or mystical event occurs at any given moment it is either GOD or Satan. The elevation of man in the realm of miracles is satanic – God uses certain spiritual offices (apostleship, prophet), inanimate objects (staff, rocks, clouds) or situations to display the person and work of Jesus Christ (salvation and the word).\

Anytime the focus falls upon the man – prophets or spiritual leaders, it is not from GOD.

When GOD called Moses to remove HIS people from Egyptian slavery we see the first recorded miracle given to mankind in scripture.

Moses name actually means to be drawn out… to be removed from the water, to be miraculously pulled out. God had to draw Moses out and GOD uses the man not the other way around, mankind using GOD.

Do you realize God used water three times to save Moses?

 REPEAT

/Exo 4:2 The LORD said to him, **“What is that in your hand?”** And he said, “A staff.”

Anytime GOD asks mankind a question in scripture it is for mankind’s benefit not God’s curiosity. GOD is never curious about anything – HE is the author of everything! \

This was about to be a test of faith – and it was later referenced in many biblical stories about the ‘*ROD of God’* in the hand of fallen man.

This Shepherd’s staff or this wooden rod would be used repeatedly to perform miracles beyond human comprehension.

Pointing us to the coming of the GOOD Shepherd Jesus Christ.

Interestingly enough many historians believe this to be in the month of September 1446 B.C. – and some of these same scholars believe the virgin birth of Jesus took place in September.

/Exo 4:3 - a staff - *maṭṭê,*

A branch, a rod, a Shepherd’s staff or a tribe. Jesus Christ is referenced as the BRANCH and we grow off of HIM. 12 Tribes of Israel that would come forth from the true BRANCH or Shepherd’s staff. The ROD of discipline is also referenced in the plan of God. \

The Hebrew noun MAT-AH, means a branch a rod or a tribe, as well as a Shepherd’s staff.

The Shepherd’s staff is used for guidance or discipline.

One end has the hook for guidance the other end is hardened for striking.

By the way, that hardened end was also used to ward off the wolves from attacking the innocent sheep.

Don’t ever assume you have full knowledge of a scripture at first glance – it is multifaceted like a diamond…it is the mind of Christ!

[Exo 4:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/exo/4/3/s_54003) Then He said, “Throw it on the ground.” So he threw it on the ground, and it turned into a serpent; and Moses fled from it.

The first mentioned principle seen here is that any miracle is from the hand and power of GOD, not man and it always points to TLJC.

/[Exo 4:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/exo/4/4/s_54004) But the LORD said to Moses, “**Reach out with your hand and grasp *it* by its tail**”—so he reached out with his hand and caught it, and **it turned into a staff in his hand**—

The fact is GOD created serpents and all creatures and HE controls their very existence. Notice the emphasis on the hand and the right thing done in the right way. \

God can use the hand of man but it is only done for HIS glory and only done in HIS way.

That serpent was real and it was probably deadly – the venom being in the head, the mouth of the snake.

If Moses had not had the faith and obedience to handle this the right way, he may have been bitten.

/[Exo 4:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/exo/4/5/s_54005) “**so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers**, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.”

Miracles, signs, healings and wonders are never performed for entertainment or human glorification. They are always performed to point to the Lord Jesus Christ.\

Whereas miracles, healings and wonders performed outside of the plan of GOD always elevate the man or the cosmic system, pointing away from the truth of Jesus Christ. That is a counterfeit!

/Exo 7:11 Then Pharaoh also called for *the* **wise men and *the* sorcerers**, and they too, *the* **soothsayer priests of Egypt**, **did the same with their secret arts.** 12 For each one threw down his staff, and they turned into serpents. **But Aaron’s staff swallowed their staffs**.\

Just in the past few months I taught you about the dark arts of men like Jannes and Jamborees.

Remember in scripture, the slavery in Egypt always points us to the slavery in the cosmic system.

God likes to use what is in our hand, meaning, GOD will often train you in one area that will be used in a different fashion inside HIS plan.

 REPEAT

GOD wins in the end – always!

/Jud 3:31 Now after him came **Shamgar the son of Anath,** who struck and killed six hundred Philistines with an oxgoad; and **he also saved Israel**.

The 3rd judge of Israel may have been a Canaanite convert into Israel. Showing us GOD can use anyone at anytime to work HIS plan through fallen man.\

/Shamgar may have come from a line of evil and yet he became a Believer. The term “oxgoad” is a biblical ***hapax legomenon***, meaning it appears only once in the entire Bible. The translation into English is based on the Septuagint’s Greek translation. This was a supernatural burst of power, by the hand of GOD using a foreign man and a foreign weapon.\

It is quite possible Shamgar came from a line of Nephilim.

/1Sam 17:49 And **David put his hand into his bag and took from it a stone** and slung *it,* and struck the Philistine on his forehead. And the stone penetrated his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

God used what was in David’s hand and the talent David acquired under GOD’s guidance to kill a giant! \

/God used the jawbone of a donkey in Samson’s hand combined with supernatural strength God gave him;

Jud 15:15 Then he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, so he reached out with his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it.\

/God used five loaves and two fish in the hand of a little boy in a divine circumstance;

Jhn 6:9 “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are these for so many *people?*”\

God is the only one who makes true miracles and real healing occur.

Though we do not see miracles, signs and wonders every day in this Church Age we currently live in – we know HE is always at work.

We can never put GOD in a box – we simply study the WORD and trust in HIS power and HIS plan and that is when HE truly can show HIMSELF to us.

God wants to work through all of us and HE is manifested in our life by how we reflect Jesus Christ in our daily walk.

Everything is Christ-dependent and our union with TLJC is how we can become the miracle…the sign or the wonder in someone else’s life.

Do not get caught up looking for the miracle - allow your life to become the miracle, become the healing power for others.

Let us celebrate the true miracle…the true healer and the true King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Christ.

/Mat 5:14 You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor do *people* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 “Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.\

There is no other name under the heavens that you can obtain eternal life except the name of the one true Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.

That is the beginning of the miracles and the supernatural work in your life!

Let me read from the Apostle Paul as we bring our LORD into remembrance today;

1Cor 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread;

V 24- and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

In remembrance of our Lord let us eat the bread.

[1Co 11:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/11/25/s_1073025) In the same way He also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it,* in remembrance of Me.”

[1Co 11:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/11/26/s_1073026) For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

In remembrance of our LORD let us drink the cup…let us pray. Amen.