



## A Gospel of Matthew Sidebar on the New Testament Miracles of Jesus

  
Crossroads Bible Church  
September 18, 2010


## Context of Today's Sidebar

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- ☞ Gospel of Matthew Series
    - ☞ Series began April 19, 2009.
    - ☞ Several of Jesus miracles have been encountered so far (several 15 healings in chapters 4, 8, 9, 12 and calming the sea in chapter 8).
    - ☞ Today I'd like to explore the question of why Jesus performed His miracles?


## A Side-Side Bar on the Question—Why?

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- ☞ Asking “why” usually assumes we have the knowledge and capacity to integrate purpose, timing, desired outcomes etc.
  - ☞ "Why do you complain against Him That He does not give an account of all His doings?—Job 33:13


## Job 38:1-11

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- ☞ Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said, "Who is this that darkens counsel By words without knowledge ? "Now gird up your loins like a man, And I will ask you, and you instruct Me! "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth ? Tell Me, if you have understanding, Who set its measurements ? Since you know, Or who stretched the line on it? "On what were its bases sunk ? Or who laid its cornerstone , When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy ? "Or who enclosed the sea with doors When, bursting forth, it went out from the womb ; When I made a cloud its garment And thick darkness its swaddling band, And I placed boundaries on it And set a bolt and doors, And I said, 'Thus far you shall come, but no farther ; And here shall your proud waves stop ?

## The Why Question

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- ☞ “Why” is not unheard of in the Bible
    - ☞ Moses, David, people of Israel...
    - ☞ Usually asked in situations of doubt or deep despair.
  - ☞ Must be used carefully, judicially, reverentially.
  - ☞ My experience shows a healthier focus in on the questions, “who” (are you Lord) and “what” are you wanting me to learn?

## A Look at Miracles

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- ☞ Questions we won't be exploring today.
    - ☞ Did miracles really occur in history?
    - ☞ Do miracles occur today?
    - ☞ Do Christians participate in miracles?
    - ☞ Does Satan try to counterfeit miracles?

## What Was/Is the Purpose of Jesus' Miracles?



- ☞ Some apparent “non purposes”
- ☞ Retelling the historical story of the universe.
- ☞ Foretelling of the universe to come.

## Retelling the Story



- ☞ “Our Lord took a body like to ours and lived as a man in order that those who had refused to recognize Him in His superintendence and captaincy of the whole universe might come to recognize from the works He did here below in the body that what dwelled in this body was the Word of God.”— St. Athanasius
- ☞ John 5:19

## Retelling the Story



- ☞ Why is it important to “retell the story?”
  - ☞ We attempt to turn a blind eye.
  - ☞ We make fundamental attribution errors.

## Retelling the Story



- ☞ “The miracles in fact are a retelling in small letters of the very same story which is written across the whole world in letters too large for some of us to see.”—C.S. Lewis
  - ☞ Turning water into wine (John 2)
  - ☞ Feeding 5000 (Matthew 14)
  - ☞ Healings (Matthew 4,8,9,...)
  - ☞ Calming the sea (Matthew 8)
  - ☞ Tree withering (Matthew 21)

## Foretelling the Future



- ☞ “For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.”—Romans 8:20-23

## Foretelling the Future



- ☞ Miracles as “first fruits.”
  - ☞ Walking on the water
  - ☞ Healings
  - ☞ Water into wine
  - ☞ Feeding the 5000
  - ☞ Resurrection
  - ☞ Transfiguration

## Implications and Application



- ☞ Retelling
  - ☞ More complete revelation through Christ
  - ☞ Proper attribution
  - ☞ Confidence in life's events
  - ☞ Thankfulness
- ☞ Foretelling
  - ☞ Relieving anxiety
  - ☞ Anticipation/longing for the future

## Go With Joy!



- ☞ “Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”—Jude 1:24-25