

Every man's search?

Part 10A: Why we believe that Jesus is Christ

Matthew 8: 1-17

Three Miracles done here in a row, why?

Desert – 6160 – Desert, dry land, sterile area, empty and not capable of producing productivity without something added...

Lebanon – Two mountain ranges in Syria and Northern Israel. Joshua conquered Lebanon.

What does Isaiah say about it?

Isaiah 35:

- The desert shall bloom as a rose
- It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice even with joy and singing
- The glory of Lebanon shall be given it, the glory
- This Glory of the Lord and the excellency of God will do this
- This Glory will strengthen the weak hands and confirm the feeble knees
- This Glory will say to the fearful heart, be strong, fear not (vs 4), He will come and save you
- Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened and ears be unstopped
- Then shall the lame man leap and the tongue of the dumb shall sing
- And the parched ground shall become a pool (vs 7)
- And a highway shall be there, a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness,
- The unclean shall not pass over it
- No lion shall be there, nor ravenous beast
- But the redeemed shall walk there

- The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads
- They shall obtain joy and gladness and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

All of this when the Messiah comes! (v 4)

In Matthew 8, Jesus starts his work displaying miracle after miracle for this reason.

Luke 4: Jesus is Baptized / and said that this verse is for now. He then went into the wilderness for 40 days. He goes home and reads Isaiah 61: 1 and the first half of verse 2 – and then put on a display of what only God in the flesh could do, miracle after miracle.

Matthew 8 details these displays of power:

1. Leprosy – This was the most dreaded disease of Jesus' day, a disease with no cure. A disease that no one was even supposed to touch without exposing and defiling one's self. A disease that alienated one from everyone. This disease was declared in Leviticus 13 to picture the product of sin. That is why when Jesus healed the leper, He said, “be thou clean”. Not only was leprosy bad for the one with the disease, it was highly contagious and all who stayed around one with this disease would get it as well and all knew this. This disease had very special powers, it did not just isolate man from his family and friends, it also isolated one from God (Leviticus 13: 46). Even God said in Isaiah 1: 5-6 that the nation of Israel was defiled with leprosy as a picture of their sinful and helpless state. Therefore Jesus started with leprosy, the supposed impossible medical issue. A death sentence and even more so, a horrible death – alone.
2. Palsy (vs 5-13) – A crippling disease that left one dependent on others to carry him from one place to another. Here we have a Gentile coming to Christ for help. There are two cases in Matthew of Gentiles coming to Christ, here and Ch. 15: 21 and it is important to note that in both cases Christ healed at a distance. This is a picture of the distance of the Gentiles from God, the compassion of God to help them, and is also a warning to the Jews that if they did not appreciate His visit He would go visit with them instead. And that is what happened... But Palsy is recorded as the second miracle.
3. Fever was the third miracle (vs 14-17). Here we have moved from a terrible disease of leprosy to a common disease of fever and Jesus was just as involved in this as He was in the others. Note that Matthew quotes Isaiah 53: 4 while Jesus is healing in verse 17 as a declaration as to who this Man is!

Remember however, He did not come to give public displays of power. This was only to declare Who He was, and then He declared His real purpose for being here. And He then purchased salvation for us and set Zion's promises in motion...