

**LESSONS QUARTER**

- 1) 6 December 2015 ..... Matthew 03 .....The Preaching of John the Baptist
- 2) 13 December ..... Matthew 01 ..... The Genealogy of Christ
- 3) 20 December ..... Matthew 02 ..... The Magi
- 4) 27 December ..... Matthew 04 .....The Temptation of Jesus**
- 5) 03 January 2016 ..... Matthew 05a ..... The Sermon on the Mount
- 6) 10 January ..... Matthew 06 ..... Benevolence Giving
- 7) 17 January ..... Matthew 05b ..... Personal Relationships
- 8) 24 January ..... Matthew 07 ..... Judging Others
- 9) 31 January ..... Matthew 08 ..... More Miracles
- 10) 07 February ..... Matthew 09-10 ..... More Miracles
- 11) 14 February ..... Matthew 11 ..... Tough Questions
- 12) 21 February ..... Matthew 12 ..... Time to Pick a Fight
- 13) 28 February ..... Matthew 13 ..... More Parables

**INTRODUCTION**

- Before delving into the rest of Matthew, we need to differentiate between 2 very controversial doctrinal positions – Cessationism vs Continuationism – and Baptists are on both sides of the fence.
  - 1. Cessationists believe that God has ceased working supernatural miracles and is only working providentially today. We won't see supernatural miracles from God till the 2 witnesses show up on the world scene as depicted in Revelations 11.
  - 2. In contrast, Continuationists (e.g., Charismatics and Pentecostals) believe God can and still does work supernaturally today – BUT they acknowledge they are not as depicted in the Gospels and in Acts – instantaneously & 100%
- ♦ As we will see going forward in Matthew, Jesus and His Apostles work every conceivable supernatural miracle possible on large crowds of thousands of people – healing instantaneously every ailment imaginable, including restoration of missing limbs and body parts and resurrections of the dead.
- ♦ These wonders continue in Acts where we see people crossing Peter's shadow for healings, Philip healing multitudes in Samaria, and Paul healing everyone on the island of Malta.
- ♦ HOWEVER, such supernatural healings stopped even before the Apostles died off. This is evident of Paul unable to heal Timothy of his many stomach ailments; he had to leave Trophimus sick in Miletum; and he also couldn't heal Epaphroditus
- ♦ For more on this see my book, "Where are the Miracles"
- **Miraculous Epochs.** By providentially using natural events instead of violating His established physical laws of the universe to work miracles and wonders, God allows skeptics and non-believers to have wiggle room not to be forced to believe in Him. It is not that God doesn't work supernatural healings and miracles, but He limits them to specific periods of history and to specific individuals for specific reasons. This is quite evident in Scripture. There seems to be about five epochs, dispensations, or time periods of supernatural wonders. These epochs are depicted below:

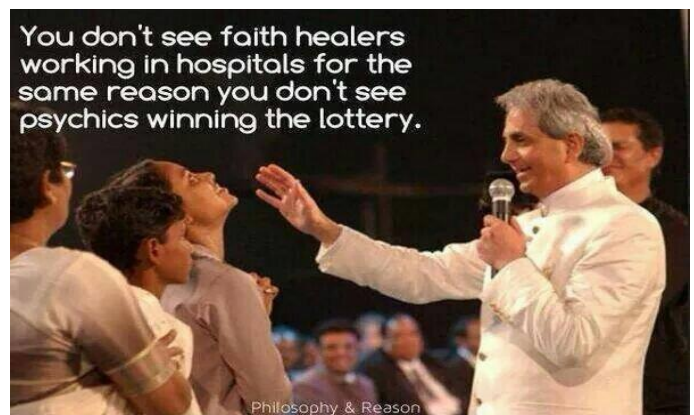
	Event	Time Period	Duration
1	Creation	~4000 B.C.	6 days
2	Moses, Joshua, and the Exodus	~1340-1300 B.C.	~40 years
3	Elijah and Elisha	~880-840 B.C.	~40 years
4	Jesus and His apostles	~30-70 A.D.	~40 years
5	Revelation 11 (2 witnesses)	After 2000 A.D.	~1,260 days

Yes, there were a few notable supernatural wonders worked in between these eras, but they were not normative. These include, for example, Isaiah and Hezekiah witnessing the sun going backwards by a few degrees, and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego not burning up in the fiery furnace.

- When continuationists proclaim that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and therefore we should see the same and even greater supernatural wonders today as those Jesus performed – because He promised such, they are grossly in error.

- The best “wonders” you see or hear about today are of psychosomatic illnesses getting healed – headaches, back aches, subjective cancers, and unverifiable resurrections in the far corners of the world. We do not see amputated limbs growing back, burn victims, or even one Down Syndrome child being healed instantaneously. Remember, Jesus healed everyone of everything whether they had faith or not, or whether they were even present or not.
  - ♦ Therefore, either God can only heal the easy cases, or He is not doing any supernatural healings and wonders today
- In fact, the types of so-called healings and wonders you see or hear about in Christian circles are the same types experienced in non-Christian circles (voodoo, satanic worship, religious cults, etc.)
- REMEMBER – the best Satan can do is called “Lying Wonders”
- When we look at Scripture, including the healings we will find in Matthew, and compare them to what we see today, we have to acknowledge, God is working differently today
  - Yes, His character is the same yesterday, today and forever, but He changes His ways in different time periods or dispensations.
- When Jesus finished his 40-day fast He was fully prepared to, first & foremost, proclaim the Gospel, then secondarily, to heal anyone and everyone of anything and everything, anytime and every time, anywhere and everywhere He and His disciples went – BUT for what purpose?  To show compassion? |  To confirm His deity? |  To baffle His opponents? |  To demonstrate His authority?
- How large were “large crowds”? Hundreds or Thousands of people? Consider ~4000 families in Mat 15; ~5000 families in Mat 14; and in Luke 12:1 possibly 10,000+, where the term myriads of myriads is used, as in Rev 5:11
- Together Matthew, Mark, and Luke record 13 incidences of large multitudes being healed – With 10 of them recorded in Matthew
- B.B. Warfield in his book Counterfeit Miracles (pg 3) said “The number of the miracles which He wrought may easily be underrated. It has been said that in effect He banished disease and death from Palestine for the three years of His ministry”

	Passage	Healings of Crowds in Matthew
1	Matthew 4:23-24	Jesus healed every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people
2	8:16-17	Jesus cast out demons and healed ALL who were ill
3	9:26, 35	While teaching in the Synagogues, Jesus healed every sickness and every disease among the people
4	10:1-9	Jesus healed every kind of disease and every kind of illness (Mark adds “they were healing everywhere”)
5	12:15-16	Many followed Jesus and He healed them ALL
6	14:14-21	While feeding 5000+, Jesus healed [ALL] their sick
7	14:35-36	[ALL] those who touched His cloak were healed
8	15:30-38	While feeding 4000+ He healed [ALL] their lame and crippled.
9	19:2	Large crowds followed Him & He healed them [ALL]
10	21:14	Many blind and lame came to Jesus in the temple and He healed them [ALL]



Individual and Other Unique Healings and Wonders in the Gospels and Acts	Jesus' Healings (27)					Passage	Comments
	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John			
					4:46	Matthew 4:1-2	<b>Jesus Fasted 40 Days</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is interesting He did not become hungry till day 41</li> <li>Most of us become hungry after we miss one meal</li> <li>How can we discipline ourselves for extended fasting?</li> <li>How did 40 days/nights of fasting prepare Him for Ministry that 10 days couldn't do?</li> <li>Since Jesus demonstrated His 100% humanity, this probably was not a supernatural fast as Moses endured (no food or water for 80 days), – but in worst case a food-only fast.</li> </ul>
	1. Nobleman's son						
	2. Peter's mother-in-law healed	8:14	1:31	4:38			
	3. Paralytic	9:2	2:3	5:18			
	4. Impotent man healed				5:5		
	5. Withered hand	12:10	3:1	6:6			
	6. Centurion's servant	8:5		7:2			
	7. A lunatic child	17:14	9:26	9:38			
	8. Issue of blood	9:20	5:25	8:43			
	9. The daughter of a Syro-Phoenician woman	15:22	7:25				
	10. Deaf and dumb healed		7:33				
	11. Cleansing the leper	8:3	1:41	5:13			
	12. Ten lepers			17:12			
	13. Heals the woman with the spirit of infirmity			13:11			
	14. Man with dropsy			14:2			
	15. Malchus healed			22:51			
	16. Blind men	9:27					
	17. Blind men	20:30	10:46				
	18. Blind man		8:23				
	19. Blind man				9:1		
	20. Demoniac in the synagogue		1:26	4:35			
	21. Demoniac	12:22		11:14			
	22. Demoniac	9:32					
	23. Raising Jarius' daughter	9:18	5:42	8:41			
	24. Raising the widow's son			7:11			
	25. Lazarus raised				11:43		
	26. Jesus' own resurrection			24:6	10:18		
	27. Resurrections of countless saints	27:52					
	<b>Jesus' Other Miracles (11)</b>	<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Luke</b>	<b>John</b>	4:3-11	<b>Jesus is Tempted 3x</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus confronted Satan from 3 levels: 1) Authority of God's word vs our comfort; 2) Man's power vs God's promotions; 3) Man's self-worship vs worship of God</li> <li>Why didn't Satan entice Jesus with sex or love? Or were all forms of temptation rolled up into these 3 categories?</li> </ul>
	28. Water changed to wine				2:9		
	29. Drought of fishes			5:6			
	30. Feeding five thousand	14:15	9:41	9:12	6:5		
	31. Feeding four thousand	15:32	8:8				
	32. Tempest stilled	8:26	4:39	8:24			
	33. Walking on the sea	14:25	6:48				
	34. Tribute money	17:24					
	35. Cursing the fig tree	21:19					
	36. Second drought of fish				21:6		
	37. Ascension to heaven		16:19				
	38. Appearing to disciples	Matthew 14:14; 15:29-31					
	<b>Peter's Healings and Miraculous Wonders (5)</b>				<b>Acts</b>		
	1. Lame man cured				3:7		
	2. Peter's shadow healed people				5:15-16		
	3. Aeneas healed from being bedridden (paralyzed) for 8 years				9:34		
	4. Dorcas raised from the dead				9:40		
	5. Ananias and Sapphira's lie revealed to Peter and their demise				5:5, 10		
	<b>Paul's Healings and Miraculous Wonders (10)</b>				<b>Acts</b>		
	6. Lame man cured				14:10		
	7. Damsel with the spirit of divination				16:18		
	8. Eutychus restored to life				20:10		
	9. Father of Publius healed				28:8		
	10. Everyone on the Island of Malta healed				28:9		
	11. Elymas was blinded				13:11		
	12. Viper's bite healed				28:5		
	13. Paul & Barnabas worked signs & wonders together				14:3		
	14. Paul's handkerchief worked miracles				19:11-12		
	15. Paul heals a lame man in Lystra				14:8-10		
	<b>Miracles Performed by Others (5)</b>				<b>Acts</b>		
	16. Apostles worked signs and wonders (including Matthias)				5:12		
	17. Stephen performed "great wonders and signs"				6:8		
	18. Philip performed healings, signs, and miracles				8:6-13		
	19. Ananias healed Paul of his blindness				9:17		
	20. The seventy performed healings and exorcisms (including Judas)				Luke 10:17		
						4:12-17	<b>Jesus Begins His Ministry</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus was meticulous with fulfilling every prophecy written about him</li> <li>v17. <b>REPENT</b> is the primary component of the Gospel</li> </ul>
						4:18-22	<b>Jesus Selects His Core Team</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the significance of selecting brothers?</li> <li>What is the significance of having a small core team?</li> </ul>
						4:23-25	<b>Jesus Begins Healing 100%</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus had a 3-fold ministry: Teaching-Preaching-Healing</li> <li>Why was His priority on Teaching and Preaching and less on Healing?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Consider this.</b> A healing is a temporary comfort, while Teaching and Preaching deliver eternal results</li> </ul> </li> <li>Jesus healed ALL kinds of sicknesses and diseases, torments, and even demon possession                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What would not be included? Down Syndrome? Burn victims? Amputations? Mental Retardation?</li> <li><b>Consider this.</b> If Jesus failed to heal even one individual, He would have been rightly labeled a fraud</li> </ul> </li> <li>...and His reputation grew!</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS**

- Jesus' healings of EVERYONE of EVERYTHING are a stark contrast to what we see happening today where only a few "easy" cases are healed, and many leave a "so-called" healing service without being healed or only partially healed (psychosomatically healed, not "organically" healed)

**NEXT WEEK: Matthew 5a.** We investigate some of the Beatitudes, and we take a look at whether they are meant to be generalities, or absolutes, or more futuristic

**Every Miracle in the Bible started out as a Problem**