

Miracles *of* Jesus



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Signs and Wonders

When the earliest readers of the New Testament studied miracles, they read about *semeia* and *terata*—Greek words that mean “signs” and “wonders.” They understood a miracle to be a *sign* that God had intervened to do the impossible in human affairs and that such an act was an astonishing *wonder*. With that in mind, a simple definition of a miracle for us today would be: *An amazing, observable act of God that is impossible for humans to do.*

By far the person who performed the most *semeia* and *terata* in the New Testament was Jesus himself. In fact, John reports that Jesus did so many amazing things that “if they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written” (John 21:25 NLT).

What Kinds of Miracles Did Jesus Do?

Physical Miracles

These are impossible physical acts that Jesus performed during his three-year ministry. They display God’s complete power (omnipotence) over both the natural and spiritual worlds. Most scholars identify somewhere between thirty-five and fifty acts in the Gospels that make this list—depending on how the acts are counted. These miracles include healings, exorcisms, resurrections, and displays of power over nature.

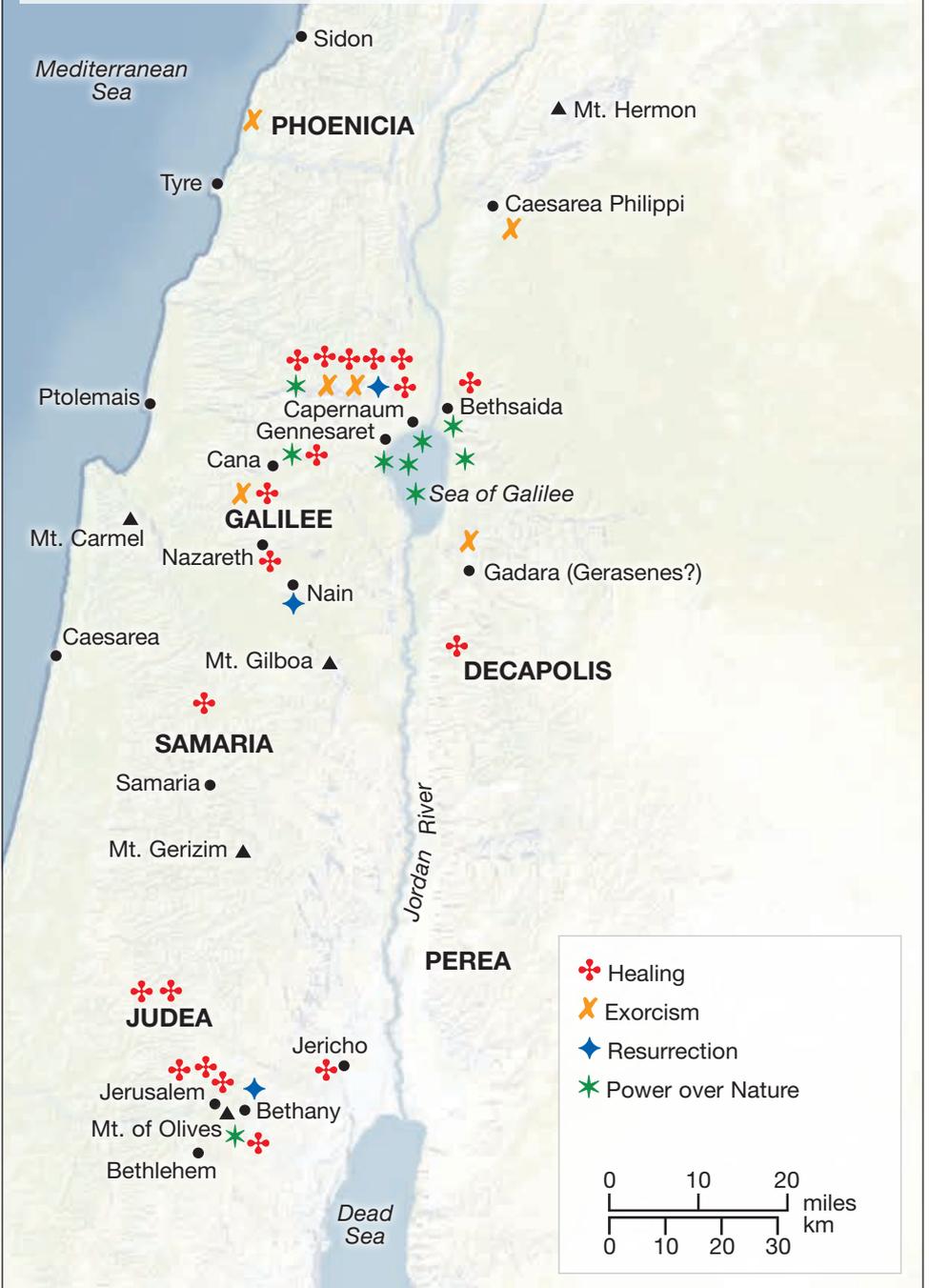
Knowledge Miracles

These are acts in which Jesus displayed his supernatural knowledge (his omniscience). They are not typically included in lists of Christ’s miracles but are still amazingly impossible for humans. That makes them miracles. Knowledge miracles include those in which Jesus exhibits an inexplicable yet accurate understanding of a person’s hidden thoughts, of a person’s private history, or of future events.

Incarnational Miracles

These are supernatural acts associated with Jesus’s incarnation—that is, God who “became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14). They are signs and wonders that testify that Jesus is who he claimed to be. But unlike most other miracle accounts, the Gospels do not show Jesus acting directly to make these miracles happen. These include miracles like the virgin birth, the transfiguration, Christ’s resurrection, and his appearances afterward.

The miracles of Jesus all took place within about a 120-mile area in the land of ancient Israel. At that time, Israel was under Roman rule, so Christ performed his impossible wonders for populations that included both Jews and gentiles.



Miracles of Jesus

| | Matt. | Mark | Luke | John |
|----|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Turns water into wine at a wedding | | | 2:1–11 |
| 2 | Heals a Roman official's son | | | 4:46–54 |
| 3 | First miraculous catch of fish | | 5:1–11 | |
| 4 | Casts out an evil spirit | 1:21–28 | 4:33–37 | |
| 5 | Heals Peter's mother-in-law who has a high fever | 8:14–15 | 1:29–31 | 4:38–39 |
| 6 | Heals a man with leprosy | 8:1–4 | 1:40–45 | 5:12–14 |
| 7 | Heals (and forgives) a man who is paralyzed | 9:1–8 | 2:1–12 | 5:17–26 |
| 8 | Heals a man who was lame for decades | | | 5:1–15 |
| 9 | Heals a deformed hand on the Sabbath | 12:9–14 | 3:1–6 | 6:6–11 |
| 10 | Heals the paralyzed servant of a centurion | 8:5–13 | | 7:1–10 |
| 11 | Raises a widow's son from the dead | | 7:11–17 | |
| 12 | Heals a demon-possessed man who is blind and mute | 12:22–24 | | 11:14–15 |
| 13 | Calms a storm | 8:23–27 | 4:35–41 | 8:22–25 |
| 14 | Casts a legion of demons out of a man and into a herd of pigs | 8:28–34 | 5:1–20 | 8:26–39 |
| 15 | Heals a woman who has a bleeding problem | 9:20–22 | 5:24–34 | 8:43–48 |
| 16 | Raises Jairus's daughter from the dead | 9:18–19, 23–26 | 5:21–24, 35–43 | 8:40–42, 49–56 |
| 17 | Heals two blind men | 9:27–31 | | |
| 18 | Heals a mute man | 9:32–34 | | |
| 19 | Heals just a few in his hometown | 13:54–58 | 6:1–6 | |