

The Authentication of King Messiah

Miracles have been seen throughout biblical history, but their greatest display appeared during the ministry of **Christ**. Those miracles served six strategic purposes:

1. **To introduce a new era.** The first purpose was to introduce the prophesied **Messiah**, who in turn announced **the Kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the Good News** (Mark 1:15). The miracles accompanied **the Kingdom** offer and substantiated that offer (Matthew 12:28).

2. **To authenticate His messiahship.** The second major purpose was to authenticate the messiahship of **Christ**. His works are a witness to His person as **Messiah** and **Son of God** (Yochanan 20:20-31). They are the insignia of His deity and messiahship.

3. **To authenticate His message.** As miracles were used to authenticate **Messiah's** person, they also served to authenticate His message. **Christ** appealed to His miracles in **John 10:38** to substantiate His message concerning His oneness with the Father. His message was certified authentic by the miracles He performed.

4. **To instruct His talmidim.** After the rejection of **the Meshiach** by the Great Sanhedrin (Mattityahu 12:24; Mark 3:22; Luke 11:15-16; John 7:20), His miracles were no longer public and became agents of instruction for the benefit of His apostles (see **En - Four Drastic Changes in Christ's Ministry**). The miracles instructed them concerning **Messiah's** power (Mark 4:39-41, 5:1-20), trust in **Jesus'** provision (John 6:3-6), prayer (Mark 6:46, Luke 5:16), and outreach to **Gentiles** (Matthew 15:21-38).

5. **To reveal conditions in the future Kingdom.** A special purpose for which **Christ** used His miracles was to reveal the conditions of the future messianic Kingdom. The miracles foreshadow in a brief display the removal of sickness (John 5:1-8), death (John 11:17-44), disease (Luke 14:1-6), and hunger (Mattityahu 15:32-38) in the Kingdom. The miracles also point to the joy and prosperity that will characterize **the Kingdom** (John 2:11) and that in the millennial Age, Satan will be restricted (Matthew 8:28-34).

6. **To display mercy.** One final purpose of **Messiah's** miracles was to display mercy on suffering humanity. His mercy and compassion often moved Him to act (Mattityahu 14:14, 15:32; Mark 1:41; Luke 7:3). He often healed in response to pleas for mercy (Matthew 15:25, 17:15; Mark 10:47-48; Luke 17:13). **Christ's** healing miracles outnumber all of His other miracles.

The miracles of **Messiah** had varying results: belief (**John 2:11, 4:50**), conviction (**Luke 5:8**), discipleship (**Mark 10:52**), emotion (**Mattityahu 8:27, 12:23; Mark 7:37**), worship (**Mark 2:12; Yochanan 9:38**), recognition of **Christ's** uniqueness (**Luke 7:16; John 6:14**), and rejection (**Matthew 12:24; John 5:16, 11:53**).