

The Transition Period of Acts
(appropriate for Mid Schoolers and older)
Michael R. Daily August 2019
(two 30 minute lessons)

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Tonight we are going to look at a book of the Bible titled, "The Acts of the Apostles". There are over 160 miraculous events recorded in the Book of Acts.

These include:

- 1) At least 40 appearances of the resurrected Jesus over a 40 day period.
- 2) At least 4 instances of physical manifestations of the Holy Spirit coming upon people.
- 3) At least 4 instances of the ability to speak in other languages that people did not already know.
- 4) Numerous (100's?) healings of disabled people (i.e. Peter's shadow, Paul's handkerchief)
- 5) At least 2 instances of supernatural shakings of buildings.
- 6) At least 3 instances of angels releasing apostles from prison.
- 7) At least 9 instances of supernatural visions of Jesus or angels including audible verbal communications
- 8) At least 1 instance of a human's face supernaturally shining like an angel's (Stephen's)
- 9) At least 1 instance of instantaneous teleportation over 20 miles (Philip, after baptizing the Ethiopian)
- 10) At least 2 instances of apostles bringing dead people back to life (Peter/Tabitha and Paul/Eutychus)
- 11) At least 3 instances of angels striking people dead instantaneously (Ananias, Sapphira, Herod)
- 12) At least 2 instances of supernaturally induced temporary blindness (Saul and Elymas)
- 13) At least 1 instance where an Apostle exorcised a demon from a fortune-telling woman (Paul)
- 14) At least 7 instances of short term prophesies being made, then fulfilled.
- 15) At least 1 instance of an Apostle being supernaturally saved from the poison of a viper bite (Paul).
- 16) At least 4 general statements of Apostles or their representatives performing many signs and wonders.

Since these things all happened in the New Testament church, after the resurrection of Christ they, of course, continue to occur in our churches to this day, don't they?

When people become Christians in your church the doors of the church fly open, a strong wind rushes through the church, and we see tongues of fire come upon the heads of the new Christians, don't we?

We send our missionaries to non-English speaking countries without spending years in language school because we've found that everyone somehow understands them just fine if they speak English, isn't that right?

The other day I saw Mr. Johnson (one of the adult leaders) walking down the street. It was a sunny day and there was a man sitting by the side of the road begging. The man did not have any legs. He was born without legs and he sat there begging. As Mr. Johnson walked past him Mr. Johnson's shadow passed over the man. The man instantly leaped up, his legs appeared, and he ran down the road praising God! This happens to Mr. Johnson all the time. Its quite a burden for him.

Whenever I teach a particularly good Bible lesson, God supernaturally shakes the building, demonstrating His approval of the lesson I just taught, isn't that right?

When Mrs. Johnson (one of the adult leaders) has spent an extended time in prayer I can always tell because her face shines supernaturally, like the face of an angel, and whenever that happens we save electricity and turn off the lights!

Sometimes, instead of going to funerals, we just raise the people from the dead, don't we?

But I don't have to tell you all this because you see these things happening every day in your churches, don't you?

You do go to New Testament churches, don't you?

Actually, we don't see any of these things happening! Why is that? Is it because the Bible is a book of fairy tales, written by men about things that never actually happened? No. That's not the reason. Is it because Christians today don't have as much faith as the Christians in the Book of Acts? No. That's not the reason.

The Bible is the Word of God and perfectly describes what actually happened at the beginnings of Christianity. So, what is the issue? The issue is, the rules changed. There are different time periods in history when God's rules for interacting with men change. It is important to understand these things otherwise you will misinterpret the scriptures and get into trouble.

So, when exactly did the rules change to the rules we Christians live under today? If you say it was at the resurrection of Christ, then the rules today should be the same as in the Book of Acts, but the evidence does not support that.

The rules changed when the last Apostle died

The last Apostle to die was John and the last book of the Bible he wrote was Revelation. In the last three verses of the Bible, John closes the Bible with this statement:

Revelation 22:18-21

I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book. ²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. ²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

(Jude 1:3)

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

In writing this, John declared that the Bible was completed. God completed special revelation with the writing of the Book of Revelation and the church validated this by closing the canon of God's Word in 95 A.D. with the 66 Books of the Bible that we use today.

Canon: *an authoritative list of books accepted as Holy Scripture; the authentic works of a writer; a sanctioned body of related works*

Key Point: *By closing the canon, the church declared that God has said everything to man He desires to say. God has nothing more He wishes to say to Man.*

God's revelation to man was completed when John finished the Book of Revelation and, as the last of the Apostles, died. As a result, extra-biblical revelation was declared closed from 95 A.D. until the end of the church age (i.e. the rapture).

Ephesians 2:19-21

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,

God is building His church, but what is the foundation that God is building His church on? God used Prophets and Apostles to create the foundation of His church, the Bible. The primary mission of the Prophets and Apostles was to speak the words of God and also to write them down. In this way, the Bible you have today was created. And to validate that they truly spoke the words of God, they were also given miraculous gifts in order to perform signs, wonders, and miracles.

II Corinthians 12:12

The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.

Think about this. The Jewish nation of Israel had interacted with God for thousands of years. They had seen the miracles of Moses, Jericho, Elijah and Elisha, Daniel, and others. Now these new people, Christians, show up claiming that the rules had changed and now God was working through them instead. Would you listen to them? I wouldn't! So God showed Israel that these men could perform the same miracles and more which validated that, along with the Old Testament prophecies of Christ, these men spoke the words of God and that the rules had changed to faith in Christ for salvation.

Hebrews 2:3-4

how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, ⁴God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

(Acts 8:6)

The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing.

(Acts 2:43)

Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

(Mark 16:19-20)

So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.

(Acts 14:3)

Therefore they spent a long time *there* speaking boldly *with reliance* upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands.

The only people who could perform these miracles were the Apostles or people that the Apostles designated as their representatives by the laying on of hands.

(Acts 19:6)

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.

(II Timothy 1:6)

For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

(Romans 1:11)

For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;

(Acts 8:13,18-20)

Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed. 18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." 20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!

For example, Stephen was not an apostle but performed many miracles because the Apostles designated Stephen as their representative. But Stephen was not able to give that ability to anyone else. Only the Apostles could do that.

(Acts 6:8)

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people.

But once the Bible had been completed and the transfer from Israel to the Church had occurred, there was no longer any need for apostles and prophets. From the time of John's death until the future rapture of the church, there will be no prophets or apostles. Therefore, the miraculous gifts are also not in effect during this time period. Instead, we validate that a man speaks the words of God by comparing what he says to what the Bible says. But after the rapture, the spotlight will turn back to Israel and once again the rules will change and prophets performing miracles will again occur. (**Rev 11:1-13** – the two witnesses).

"He sent them forth to work miracles as well as to preach. Now, he hath not given us this power, neither do we desire it; it is more to God's glory that the world should be conquered by the force of truth than by the blaze of miracles. The miracles were the great bell of the universe which was rung in order to call the attention of all men all over the world to the fact that the gospel feast was spread; we do not need the bell now . . . , for the moral and spiritual forces of truth to work by themselves, apart from any physical manifestation, is more to the glory of the truth, and the Christ of the truth, than if we were all miracle workers, and could destroy gainsayers. Yet still, though we work no miracles in the physical world, we work them in the moral and spiritual world."

– Charles H. Spurgeon, Sheep Among Wolves, Sermon 1370, August 19 1877

During the church age that we now live in God is not speaking or giving new revelation today.

Instead He gave Christians the Holy Spirit to illuminate His written Word (the Bible). The Holy Spirit guides us and helps us understand and apply the Bible. This help from the Holy Spirit in understanding the Bible is sufficient to guide us in all matters of life and in the decisions we need to make. There is no need of further revelation.

(John 16:13)

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

(John 14:16-17)

I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

(John 14:26)

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

This truth has deep and profound implications for Christians living today, during the church age.

First, the offices of Apostles and Prophets no longer exist. Nevertheless, you will see people on TV today who claim that they are Apostles or Prophets. But if anyone claims to be an Apostle or Prophet today we know its not true. Why? Because in **Revelation 21:14** the Bible tells us that in the city of the New Jerusalem, which will be your home sometime over 1,000 years from now (after the Millennial Kingdom) the names of the Apostles will be engraved on the foundation stones of the city. And it tells us there will be only 12. Since the 12th apostle to die was John, this means that there can never be any more apostles after him.

Revelation 21:14

And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

This is why, today, people are not raised from the dead, tongues of fire do not come upon new Christians, and people are not instantly healed by touching handkerchiefs or the crossing of shadows of special people.

More importantly, because the Bible has been completed, we cannot rely on miracles or supernatural activity to be a reliable indicator that God is providing new revelation – it could just as easily be Satan or his demons. It could also be an illusion of the supernatural done by deceptive men (i.e. similar to what magicians do). Given the evidence, some will admit that most of the miraculous gifts have ended, except, they argue, for speaking in tongues.

Speaking in Tongues

Speaking in tongues in the Bible never meant anything other than supernaturally speaking in another well-known language that you were not familiar with. In other words, if there were students in the room tonight whose primary language was Russian or Chinese, I could speak English, most of you would hear me in English, but they would understand me and hear me in Russian or Chinese – whichever language was easiest for them to understand. This is the Biblical definition of speaking in tongues. As the term is used today it usually refers to something quite different than what is defined in the Bible. Instead of a known language, the speaking in tongues that many talk about today sounds like gibberish.

gibberish: *unintelligible or meaningless language; pretentious or needlessly obscure language*

Speaking in tongues, Biblical or otherwise, did not occur between the death of John the Apostle and the year 1901, except for a few small aberrant groups, like the Quakers, who did something they thought was speaking in tongues. Think about that. For over 1,800 years there was no speaking in tongues, regardless of your definition! That by itself should bother you.

In 1901 a Methodist Holiness minister named Charles F. Parham and his friends were seeking to speak in tongues after reading the book of Acts. Something supernatural appeared to happen (we are not sure exactly what due to conflicting accounts) and Parham interpreted the experience as being that he and his associates had received the miraculous gifts of the apostles. He then started the Apostolic Faith Movement – note the word “Apostolic” meaning “like the apostles”. Parham, to his credit, understood the Biblical meaning of speaking in tongues and realized that if what was happening was the Biblical speaking in tongues that the Apostles did, then missionaries could be sent to any country in the world without any language training! All they had to do was speak English and God would have the native people hear the speech in their own language. 18 missionaries were sent by boat to Japan, China, and India with no language training. Parham told them that when they got to these countries they would teach the Bible in English but the Chinese would hear them speaking Chinese, the Japanese would hear them speaking Japanese and the people of India would hear them in their language also. In every case the experiment was a complete failure. No one understood a word they said. So, they got back on their boats and came home. What Parham should have then done is realize that the apostolic miraculous gifts are not in effect and stopped what he was doing. Unfortunately he was so enamored with the idea of speaking in tongues he decided to redefine what it was. Today when people say they speak in tongues, if you hear them, it sounds like gibberish. They are not speaking an actual language. – **John MacArthur, Strange Fire, 2013, pages 21-28.**

During the church age we live in there is no new revelation from God. The implications of this are:

- 1) If angels speak to us they can only appear in the form of people so that we don't know they are angels.
- 2) If angels appear as supernatural beings they are not allowed to speak (that would be new revelation).
- 3) An exception to #2 is if they quote a verse from the Bible and say nothing else (no new revelation).
- 4) If an angel appears in supernatural form and talks to you, it is a fallen angel (ex: Islam & Mormonism).
- 5) If Jesus or Mary physically appear to you and verbally talk to you, it is a fallen angel (no new revelation)
- 6) If someone claims they died and went to heaven or hell and have now returned, they have been deceived.
- 7) If someone claims God gave them a written or spoken revelation or message, it wasn't from God.

There are many books for sale that have the message, “I died and went to heaven but then I came back to sell you a book and share the new revelations I was given”. All of these books are deceptions. Don't give your money to these people. Give the money to missionaries. Use the money to build churches. Don't fund false prophets and false apostles who claim to have new revelations from God.

II Corinthians 11:13

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

Oral Roberts

In 1977, Oral Roberts claimed he saw a vision of a 900 foot tall Jesus who instructed him to build the City of Faith, a 60 story hospital in Tulsa, OK. Roberts said God told him He would use the center to unite medical technology with faith healing which would revolutionize health care and enable doctors to finally cure cancer. The building was completed in the early 1980s but went out of business and was sold off by 1989. During these years over 80 percent of the building had never been occupied and the cure for cancer never materialized. – **John MacArthur, Strange Fire, 2013, page 112.**

Christians gave this man tens of millions of dollars. That money should have been given to missionaries and used to build churches but instead it was wasted making this man a millionaire.

Benny Hinn

On his October 19, 1999 television broadcast, *Praise the Lord*, faith healer Benny Hinn prophesied that if TBN viewers would put the caskets of their dead loved ones in front of a television set and touch the dead person's hand to the screen, people would "be raised from the dead by the thousands." – **Benny Hinn, Praise the Lord, TBN, October 19, 1999.**

And what was the result? No one was raised from the dead. This man is still on TV today. And every year Christians send this man millions of dollars so he can buy mansions and private airplanes and white suits. Money that should have been sent to missionaries and church planters.

An Orlando Sentinel reporter investigated Hinn's crusades. He wrote: "despite all the thousands of miracles claimed by Hinn, the church seems hard pressed to come up with any that would convince a serious skeptic. If God cures through Hinn, he does not cure ailments such as permanent paralysis, brain damage, retardation, physical deformities, missing eyes or other obvious ailments". – **M. Thomas, "The Power and the Glory", 12.**

note: if you trace their history you will find that many of the false apostles and prophets currently on Christian television were disciples of Oral Roberts.

Does God Do Miracles During the Church Age?

Yes. God does miracles during the Church Age but there is no special person associated with the miracle. For example, we all know people who have been miraculously healed by God. But there isn't a special person who shows up and does something for the miracle to occur. Instead, we all get together and pray for the person. One day they are gravely ill, the next day they are completely healthy, and the doctors can't explain it. Notice that when God does these miracles in the Church Age, they are not spectacular or dramatic. Instead they are quiet and low key. This is because miracles have a lot of negatives associated with them so God uses miracles only when necessary. God is not a big fan of miracles!

Some Problems with Miracles

If you need to make a change in direction and do it quickly, miracles are a great way to validate that the change is legitimate. However, miracles have some big negatives associated with them which is why God uses miracles sparingly and for the minimal time needed.

For example, men can mimic miracles (i.e. magicians). Also, its easy for fallen angels to actually perform miracles. If miracles are used too long, it creates confusion as satan's miracles and God's miracles become difficult to tell apart. Which miracle is from God and which is from satan?

Another problem with miracles is that they appeal to the flesh. If someone can make food miraculously appear at will and can heal you of your sicknesses and injuries, what do we call that? A retirement plan! Free food and free medical care - that means I don't have to work anymore. I don't care about the person or what He has to say or having a relationship with Him, I just want the freebies. God isn't interested in that! Because of these negatives, God uses miracles as little as possible. He also isn't happy with people who seek for them.

Matthew 7:22

Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'

John 4:48 - "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe."

Luke 11:29

"This Generation is a wicked Generation; it seeks for a sign, and yet no sign shall be given to it but the sign of Jonah."

(Matthew 12:39)

But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet;

John the Baptist

In John 10:41 and Matthew 11:11 God tells us that John the Baptist never performed a sign yet Jesus considered him to be great among men.

John 10:41

Many came to Him and were saying, "While John performed no sign, yet everything John said about this man was true."

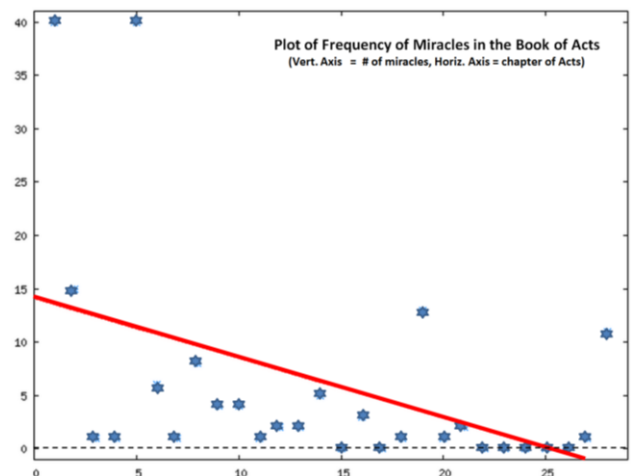
Matthew 11:11

Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen *anyone* greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Plotting the Data – The Trend Line of Miracles

Even before the death of the Apostles, the frequency of miraculous events in the Book of Acts drops off over time.

The graph shows a "least squares" trend line (red) generated from the number of miracles (vertical axis) in each chapter of Acts (horizontal axis) from chapter 1 to 28. This trend line is the line that best fits the data and has the least amount of error between the line and the data points. Note that by chapter 22 reporting of miraculous events has ceased except for the miracles that occurred during Paul's shipwreck as a prisoner on his way to Rome in 58 A.D. From A.D. 58 to 96, when John finished the book of Revelation, no miracle is recorded.



Miracle gifts like tongues and healing are mentioned only in I Corinthians, an early epistle. Two later epistles, Ephesians and Romans, both discuss gifts of the Spirit at length—but with no mention of the miraculous gifts.

note: when studying I Corinthians it is important to remember that it was written early during the Apostolic Age when the miraculous gifts were still quite active and observable to the people Paul wrote this letter to.

Also, note that in Paul's letters he often refers to friends who are sick that he did not heal indicating the miraculous gifts had disappeared even while the Apostles were still alive.

II Timothy 4:20

Erastus remained at Corinth, but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus.

If time is not critical, God prefers to use prophecy to validate His Word rather than miracles.

Unlike the temporary nature of signs and wonders, prophecy is a lasting and reliable way of validating that a man has spoken (and written) the words of God. Prophecy takes precedence over signs and wonders.

I Corinthians 14:22

So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers but to those who believe.

Unlike miracles, prophecy is very difficult for Satan or deceptive men to mimic since the standard is 100% fulfillment and Satan and men are not able to meet that standard. One failed prophecy identifies the prophet as a false prophet.

Also, prophecy does not appeal to the flesh. If Jeremiah prophesies that 150 years from now God will use a man named Cyrus to accomplish something, it has no bearing on the lives of those living either at the time the prophecy is made or at the time it is fulfilled. But it does validate that Jeremiah spoke the words of God and these written words should be kept and studied as God's Word.

The only negative is that prophecy takes time and is not fast-acting the way signs, wonders, and miracles are.

Isaiah 46:9-10

“Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘ My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’

(Isaiah 48:3-5)

“I declared the former things long ago And they went forth from My mouth, and I proclaimed them. Suddenly I acted, and they came to pass. ⁴“Because I know that you are obstinate, And your neck is an iron sinew And your forehead bronze, ⁵Therefore I declared *them* to you long ago, Before they took place I proclaimed *them* to you, So that you would not say, ‘My idol has done them, And my graven image and my molten image have commanded them.’

When originally written about 27% of the Bible consisted of prophecies predicting the future (8,352 out of 31,124 verses). About half of those have been fulfilled with the remaining half yet to occur in our future.

Hundreds of detailed prophecies in the Bible have come true. Not once has the Bible been proven wrong in predicting the future. Compare this to other religious writings. How many of them have over 8,000 verses of detailed predictions of the future with over 4,000 verses having already been fulfilled to a 100% standard?

In fact, God encourages us to use prophecy to evaluate other religions. In the verse below God is “talking” to and about false gods. Notice that God is not neutral about other religions. The person who chooses to worship some other god is an abomination.

Isaiah 41:21-24

“Present your case,” the Lord says. “Bring forward your strong arguments,” The King of Jacob says. 22 Let them bring forth and declare to us what is going to take place; As for the former events, declare what they were, That we may consider them and know their outcome. Or announce to us what is coming; 23 Declare the things that are going to come afterward, That we may know that you are gods; Indeed, do good or evil, that we may anxiously look about us and fear together. 24 Behold, you are of no account, And your work amounts to nothing; He who chooses you is an abomination.

Peter even states that although he saw Jesus in His supernatural glory it is the prophetic word which is more sure than a miraculous appearance of Jesus.

II Peter 1:16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”— 18 and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Conclusion

The foundation of the church was laid by the apostles and prophets including the writing of the Bible and the validation of their message through miracles and prophecy. With the foundation now laid the Holy Spirit has come to live in each of us and guide us using the power of the completed Word of God – The Bible.

Isaiah 66:2 - “For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being,” declares the LORD. “But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.

Appendix – Promises for Christians During the Tribulation, But Not During The Church Age

The context of **Mark 13**, **Matthew 24**, and **Luke 21** is the 7 year Tribulation which occurs after the rapture of the Church and the rules have, once again, changed. When Jesus refers to "you" He is not speaking to the disciples about themselves, rather He is speaking directly to the Christians living during the future 7 year tribulation period. What He is saying becomes clear in the Amplified version of the Bible:

Mark 13:30 Amplified Bible (AMP)

I assure you and most solemnly say to you, this generation [the people living when these signs and events begin] will not pass away until all these things take place.

These three chapters are often misunderstood. If you don't understand that Jesus is speaking only to Christians living in the future 7 year tribulation you will get into false doctrine fast. For example, people use **Mark 13:11** to justify why they don't study the Bible and memorize scripture or the gospel presentation.

Mark 13:11 (AMP)

When they take you and turn you over [to the court], do not worry beforehand about what to say, but say whatever is given to you [by God] in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit [who will speak through you].

This is incorrect because this promise only applies to Christians living in the Tribulation. That will be a time when every Christian on earth will be immature (less than 7 years as a Christian due to the rapture), there will be no experienced bible teachers or pastors (due to the rapture) and the written Word of God will not be available (the anti-christ will be ruling the world and getting rid of Bibles). During this special time period, the rules will change and God will supernaturally give Christians His Words to speak as they are being put to death. For those of us living in the Church Age **I Peter 3:15** and **II Timothy 2:15** are in effect telling us to prepare, work, and practice.

I Peter 3:15

but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

II Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

Another example is **Mark 13:13**. If you don't understand the context you will falsely conclude that your salvation can be lost.

Mark 13:13 (AMP)

You will be hated by everyone because of [your association with] My name, but the one who [patiently perseveres empowered by the Holy Spirit and] endures to the end, he will be saved.

But the context of the passage means that those who are Christians during the Tribulation period and who physically survive until Christ's Second Coming at the end of the Tribulation will be saved from the physical destruction of Christ's enemies at the Battle of Armageddon. All non-Christians alive at the end of the Tribulation will be killed by Christ and sent to the Lake of Fire but Christians living at the end of the Tribulation will be saved from all of this and will enter the Millennial Kingdom in their fallen flesh.

"The age in general, climaxing with the second coming of Christ, has the promise that those that endure to the end, that is, survive the tribulation and are still alive, will be saved, or delivered, by Christ at His second coming. This is not a reference to salvation from sin, but rather the deliverance of survivors at the end of the age...." - **John F. Walvoord, *Matthew: Thy Kingdom Come* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1974), p. 184**

John F. Walvoord was a Christian theologian, pastor, and president of Dallas Theological Seminary from 1952 to 1986. He was the author of over 30 books, focusing primarily on eschatology and theology.

Appendix – Additional Verses on Apostolic Gifts

Acts 1:22-23

beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.” 23 So they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus), and Matthias.

I Corinthians 9:1-2

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? ² If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

I Corinthians 4:9

For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

I Corinthians 15:7-9

then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

II Corinthians 11:5

For I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles.

Galatians 2:7-8

But on the contrary, seeing that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter *had been* to the circumcised ⁸ (for He who effectually worked for Peter in *his* apostleship to the circumcised effectually worked for me also to the Gentiles),

I Thessalonians 2:6

nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority.

I Corinthians 13:8

Love never fails; but if *there are gifts* of prophecy, they will be done away; if *there are* tongues, they will cease; if *there is* knowledge, it will be done away.

Ephesians 3:4-6

By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; ⁶ *to be specific*, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

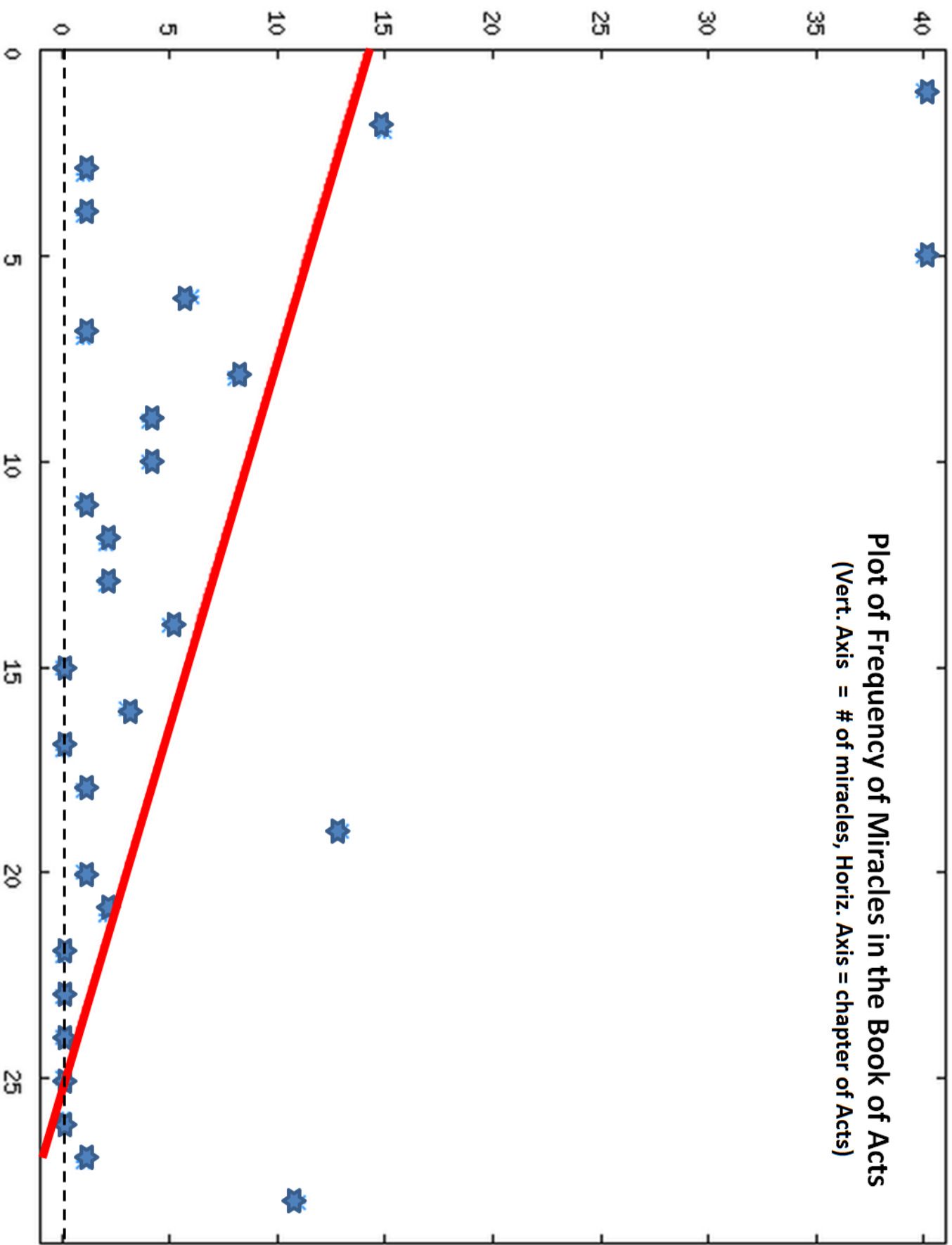
Romans 15:18-19

For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed, ¹⁹ in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

Acts 2:22

Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know

Plot of Frequency of Miracles in the Book of Acts
(Vert. Axis = # of miracles, Horiz. Axis = chapter of Acts)



Chapter	# of Miracles	Frequency of Miracles in Each Chapter of the Book of Acts
1	40	Jesus appeared each day for 40 days
2	15	tongues of fire, apostles speak in tongues, crowd hears Peter in own language, apostles perform many signs and wonders (say 1 each?)
3	1	Peter heals lame man over 40 years old
4	1	meeting place was shaken
5	40	Ananias dies, Sapphira dies, apostles perform many signs and wonders (say 1 each?), Peter's shadow heals (say 26?), angel lets arrested apostles out of jail
6	6	Stephen performs great signs and wonders (say 5?), Stephen's face shines like an angel
7	1	Stephen sees vision of Jesus in Heaven
8	8	Philip performs many signs (say 5?), Samaritans receive Holy Spirit, an angel directs Philip to Ethiopian official, Philip teleports to Azotus
9	4	Saul has vision of Jesus, Saul healed from blindness, Peter heals Aeneas, Peter brings Tabitha back from the dead
10	4	Cornelius the Centurion has a vision from God, Peter has a vision from God about the gentiles, HS comes on gentiles, they speak in tongues.
11	1	Agabus prophesies of severe famine to come
12	2	Angel releases Peter from prison, angel strikes Herod dead.
13	2	Holy Spirit audibly speaks setting apart Barnabas and Saul, Saul calls down blindness on Elymas
14	5	Paul and Barnabas perform signs and wonders (say 2 each?) at Iconium, Paul heals lame man at Lystra
15	0	
16	3	Paul has Macedonian vision, Paul does exorcism of fortune-telling slave woman, earthquake releases Paul and Silas from prison
17	0	
18	1	Paul has an encouraging vision from God in Corinth
19	13	Holy Spirit comes on Ephesians, they speak in tongues and prophesied, Paul does extraordinary miracles and healing from hankerchiefs and aprons (say 10?)
20	1	Paul raises Eutychus from the dead
21	2	Philip's four daughters prophesied, Agabus prophesies of Paul's imprisonment in Rome
22	0	
23	0	
24	0	
25	0	
26	0	
27	1	Paul has a vision that his ship will be saved from the storm
28	11	Paul saved from the bite of a viper from out of a fire, Paul heals many on the island (say 10?)

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *The Transition Period of Acts*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 22:18-21, Jude 1:3*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ephesians 2:19-21*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Corinthians 12:12, Hebrews 2:3-4*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *The Transition Period of Acts*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John 16:13, John 14:16-17, John 14:26*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 21:14, II Corinthians 11:13, Revelation 2:2*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 11:1-13*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *The Transition Period of Acts*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 7:22*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John 4:48, Luke 11:29, Matthew 12:39*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John 10:41, Matthew 11:11*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *The Transition Period of Acts*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Timothy 4:20*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Isaiah 66:2*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 14:22, Isaiah 46:9-11*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *The Transition Period of Acts*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Isaiah 48:3-5*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Isaiah 41:21-24, II Peter 1:16-21*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Mark chapter 13*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *The Transition Period of Acts*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Peter 3:15*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Acts 1:22-23, I Corinthians 9:1, I Corinthians 15:7-9*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Acts 19:6, II Timothy 1:6, Romans 1:11*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *The Transition Period of Acts*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 13:8*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Acts 2:43, Acts 6:8*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Acts 8:6-13, Acts 14:3, Mark 16:19-20*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?