

The Finger of God



The Finger of God

Uses in the Scripture

- ◆ The third plague (Exodus 8:16-19)
- ◆ The giving of the law (Exodus 31:18; Deuteronomy 9:10)
- ◆ Jesus casting out demons (Luke 11:20)

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The Third Plague

- ◆ Egyptian Captivity and Oppression
- ◆ God calls Moses to lead His people (Exodus 3:9-10)
- ◆ Pharaoh refuses to let them go (Exodus 8:15)
- ◆ God through Moses and Aaron unleashes the third plague, lice (Exodus 8:16)

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The Third Plague – continued

- ◆ **Exodus 8:19** – “Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the **finger of God**; and Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as Jehovah had spoken.” (ASV)
- ◆ The Egyptian magicians understood the action of God was involved in these events.

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The Tables of Testimony

- ◆ Israel in the wilderness at Horeb
- ◆ Moses goes up on the mount to obtain the tables of testimony (Exodus 24:12)
- ◆ He went up to obtain the Law of God for the people of Israel

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The Tables of Testimony – continued

- ◆ **Exodus 31:18** – “And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him up upon Mount Sinai, the two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the **finger of God**.” (ASV)

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The Tables of Testimony – continued

- ◆ **Deuteronomy 9:10** – “And Jehovah delivered unto me the two tables of stone written with the **finger of God**, and on them was written according to all the words, which Jehovah spake with you in the day of the assembly.” (ASV)

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Jesus casts out Demons (Luke 11:14-20)

- ◆ Jesus is casting out a demon that is dumb
- ◆ Some of the witnesses to this miracle speak against him
- ◆ Jesus points out the absurdity and inconsistency of their claims

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- ◆ **Luke 11:20** – “But if I by the **finger of God** cast out demons, then is the kingdom of God come upon you.” (ASV)
- ◆ **Matthew 12:28** – “But if I by the **Spirit of God** cast out demons, then is the kingdom of God come upon you.” (ASV)

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Conclusions

- ◆ God’s finger exercised power
- ◆ That power was **undeniable** – God is at work
- ◆ His involvement is **unmistakable** – He is behind the events

The Finger of God Today

Not Miraculous

- ◆ Many today believe God’s finger is at work in a miraculous way
- ◆ “Faith healings”, “raisings from the dead”, etc.
- ◆ Some believe there are miraculous signs – Ink on a Bible page, Bible found after a fire, shape of a cloud, etc.

The Finger of God Today

Not Miraculous – continued

- ◆ What is a miracle?
 - Miracle – “*is used of works of a supernatural origin and character, such as could not be produced by natural agents and means ...*” (Vine, III:75)
 - Miracles defy natural law

Miracles in the New Testament

Not Miraculous – continued

Many Performed Miracles and Miraculous Signs

- ◆ The Lord performed miracles (Acts 2:22)
- ◆ The Apostles performed miracles (Acts 2:1-4)
- ◆ Many in the early church did (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

Miracles in the New Testament

They Served a Purpose

- ◆ Confirm the Word of God (Hebrews 2:1-4)
- ◆ Authentication of the message; divine origin
- ◆ In New Testament times the entirety of the New Testament law of Christ had not been completely revealed. It was revealed in part (bits and chunks) over time.
- ◆ To authenticate the word, miracles were exercised

Miracles Today

They have ceased!

- ◆ That which was done in part will be done away (1 Corinthians 13:1-10)
- ◆ The completed revelation is the perfect law of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3-4)
- ◆ We now have the testimony of the apostles and prophets. We have the codified and written word of God to testify for us.

Miracles today

They have ceased!

- ◆ The means of transfer has ceased (Acts 8:14-17)
 - > Samaria heard the word of God
 - > Peter and John sent
 - > Samaria had not received the Holy Spirit yet
 - > Through laying on of hands the Holy Spirit was given (verse 17)
 - > The apostles are dead
 - > The means of transfer has ceased

The Finger of God Today – Creation

The Creation Itself

- ◆ The work of His fingers (Psalms 8:3)
- ◆ Declares the glory of God (Psalms 19:1)
- ◆ Fashioned by His hands and fingers (Psalms 119:73)

Sustained by His Power

- ◆ His fingers created all things and maintain all things (Colossians 1:12-17)

The Finger of God – Creation

We are without excuse (Romans 1:18-20)

- ◆ Invisible things are clearly seen
- ◆ Perceived through the things that are made
- ◆ Unmistakably and undeniably His finger is responsible for creation!

The Finger of God – Providence

- ◆ Providence is how God provides for His people through non-miraculous means
- ◆ Deep subject
- ◆ May leave us with more questions than answers
- ◆ What is labeled as a miracle today should rightfully be called Providence

The Finger of God – Providence

Joseph

- ◆ Sold into slavery by his brothers (Genesis 37:28)
- ◆ Interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh
- ◆ Became number two in command of Egypt (Genesis 41:37-45)
- ◆ Saved his family and ultimately the nation of Israel from death by famine (Genesis 45:5-8)
- ◆ Joseph credits God for this (Genesis 45:5)

The Finger of God – Providence

Esther

- ◆ Queen Vashti refused to display her beauty in front of the King's guests at a feast
- ◆ King Ahasuerus intends to depose her and appoint a new queen
- ◆ Mordecai brought Esther to be shown to the king
- ◆ Replaced Vashti as queen in Medo-Persian empire

The Finger of God – Providence

Esther – continued

- ◆ Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman, the King's servant
- ◆ Haman angered and obtains the King's permission to destroy the Jews by the sword throughout the whole Kingdom

The Finger of God – Providence

Esther – continued

- ◆ Mordecai communicates back and forth by letter with Esther regarding the decree, asking her to approach the King
- ◆ Esther is reluctant to appear without being called
- ◆ Mordecai makes a powerful statement (Esther 4:14)
- ◆ This was an appeal to recognize the providence of God!

The Finger of God – Providence

Not all things are the result of God's Finger

- ◆ Time and chance exist
- ◆ Ecclesiastes 9:11, "I returned and saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favor to men of skill, but **time and chance** happened to them all." (ASV)
- ◆ Luke 10:30-31, "... by **chance** a certain priest" (ASV)
- ◆ Deuteronomy 29:29, "... the secret things belong unto Jehovah our God" (ASV)

The Finger of God – Preservation

The Preservation of the Word

- ◆ It is living and active (Hebrews 4:12-13)
- ◆ More copies of ancient manuscripts than any other text of antiquity
 - Over 4,000 Greek Manuscripts
 - 13,000 copies of portions of the New Testament
 - Compared to secular writings – Caesar’s Gallic Wars has only 10 Greek manuscripts

The Finger of God – Preservation

- ◆ “The evidence for our New Testament writings is ever so much greater than the evidence for many writings of classical authors, the authenticity of which no one dreams of questioning. And if the New Testament were a collection of secular writings, their authenticity would generally be as beyond all doubt.”
 - F. F. Bruce (Biblical scholar from England)
- ◆ **God’s finger preserved His Word!**

The Finger of God – Conclusion

- ◆ God’s finger is alive and well today
- ◆ He does work in the universe and in the affairs of men
- ◆ While it is no longer in a miraculous way, His finger is at work
- ◆ We should take confidence in this!

The Invitation

- ◆ The creation by His finger points to His existence
- ◆ God’s finger preserved the scripture so we may know His will for us
- ◆ The scripture is clear, a day of judgement is coming
- ◆ Are you ready?

The Plan

Not a Christian?

- ◆ Hear (Romans 10:17)
- ◆ Believe (Hebrews 11:6)
- ◆ Repent (Luke 13:3)
- ◆ Confess (Romans 10:9-10)
- ◆ Be Baptized (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:15-16)

The Plan

A Fallen Christian?

- ◆ Repent and pray for forgiveness (Acts 8:22-24)