

**“JESUS CHRIST - A MAN APPROVED OF GOD ([Acts 2:22](#))”
Miracle #9 – “MAN WITH WITHERED HAND IN SYNAGOGUE”**

[Matthew 12:9-12,13](#); [Mark 3:1-4,5](#); [Luke 6:6-9,10](#)

Dear Reader, as we work through Christ’s 40 specific miracles ... and he must have done thousands ([John 21:25](#)) ... Christ was leading Israel to bring to mind, ‘parallel’ and similar miracles from the Old Testament, that occurred centuries earlier.

In essence Christ says “Oh Israel, call to mind **similar miracles** from your history, and I want you to remember the **context** in which they occurred. Indeed, I AM Jesus Christ ([John 8:28](#); [Exodus 3:14](#)), JEHOVAH ALMIGHTY GOD manifest in the flesh ([1Timothy 3:16](#)) ... and the miracles I do will be a ‘re-enactment’ and reminiscent of the past. In doing so, I will be fulfilling the scriptures, as in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established ([Matthew 18:16](#)) ... that and you will know that I am **Lord** (Jesus Christ) **God**” ([Ezekiel 13:9](#) + 12 other references in Isaiah).

Christ’s thousands of miracles have a ‘hidden’ underlying message for the wise and astute Jewish mind.

The first mention, and indeed following examples of the word ‘**withered**’, is one of **famine, no food, no life, destruction** and **desolation** ([Genesis 41:23](#); [Isaiah 15:6](#); [Lamentations 4:8](#)) because of **self- righteousness, disobedience** and **rebellion**.

Indeed, adding to the meaning of **desolation** and **destruction**, we have king Jeroboam II ending up with **a dried up withered hand**. He was about to burn incense at Bethel, one the two false altars, **erected in self-righteousness, disobedience** and **rebellion** by his ancestor Jeroboam I ... the true altar being at Jerusalem ... when a man of God from Judah appeared, and spoke a prophecy **condemning his altar**. Whereupon, Jeroboam II, in raising his hand against God’s man, it became dried up and withered ... such that he couldn’t bring his arm back ... let alone his hand ([1 Kings 13:4](#)).

So in the synagogue, Christ, in healing the withered hand, is a symbolic act reminiscent of that which occurred with Jeroboam II centuries earlier. The scribes and the Pharisees were to be reminded that they were raising their hand against JEHOVAH God in his flesh, Jesus Christ, with their worship at their condemned altar of **self-righteousness, disobedience** and **rebellion**.

LESSONS:

1. The healing takes place right in the heart of Christ’s opposition in the synagogue. Christ was **not** opposing the laws of the Sabbath ([Matthew 5:17](#)) but simply the misuse of them ([Matthew 12:11-12](#)). Dear Reader as we are reminded, love, not the enforcement of the

letter of the law, is the fulfilment of the law ([Romans 13:8, 10](#); [Galatians 5:14](#); [James 2:8](#)).

Christ said that people are more important than sheep as he "... *said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out?*" ([Matthew 12:11](#)).

2. The hard hearts of the scribes and Pharisees, as well as having no compassion for the withered man, have absolutely no idea, that the withered hand before them represents their condemned altar of **self-righteousness, disobedience** and **rebellion**.

Like the man of God with Jeroboam II, only Christ has the power to break this strong hold if they would repent.

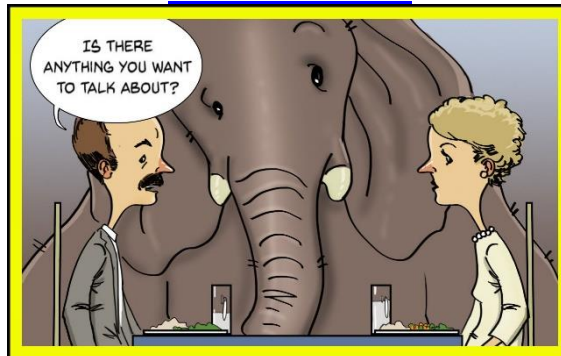
3. Christ asks the man to do the **impossible** ... but not with Christ ([Matthew 19:26](#)) as Christ "... *saith he to the man, **Stretch forth thine hand**. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other.*" ([Matthew 12:13](#)).

To stretch forth his hand would require him moving his arm as well as with Jeroboam II. It was an act of the man's belief and faith in such that obedience to Christ's words manifested the healing.

4. The **accusations** against Christ, by the scribes and the Pharisees, was always around breaking the laws of the Sabbath, but these were merely a smokescreen ... the real issue was Christ's popularity and their loss of power.

Harley Hitchcock
April 2023

"CONTACT US"



Australian Bible Ministries, PO Box 5058 Mt. Gravatt East 4122 Qld, Australia
www.AustralianBibleMinistries.com