

Signs of an Apostle

11 I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for **I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing.** **12** Truly the **signs of an apostle** were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

- Jesus worked a great many miracles. We find approximately 35 specific miracles mentioned in the Bible
- Many of them are mentioned with no real details
- The reason Jesus worked so many miracles was to prove who He was to the Jews **John 7:31** And many of the people believed on him, and said, **When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles** than these which this *man* hath done? **John 10 24-25** Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. **25** Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: **the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.** **Acts 2:22** Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, **a man**

approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

1. Confusion over who really is an apostle **11** I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for **I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing.**
 - a. The early church was told to test those that claimed to be apostles **Revelation 2:2** I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:
 - b. The early church had been infiltrated by false apostles **II Corinthians 11:13** For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.
 - c. Remember that Satan is a liar and the father of liars **John 8:44** Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of *your* father ye will do. He was a murderer from the

beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

d. Paul should not have had to defend himself.

Proverbs 27:2 Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; A stranger, and not thine own lips. The Corinthians should have not only defended Paul but commended him I Corinthians 4:15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.* II Corinthians 12:11 I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing.

e. Paul defends himself and his ministry because he knows that if they follow the wrong people they will get into wrong doctrine.

f. Paul was in no way inferior to the original apostles 11 I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for **I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles,**

though I be nothing.

2. There were signs given to the apostles as credentials as to who they were

- a. Jesus Himself gave special power and authority to the apostles **Matthew 10:1** And when he had called unto *him his twelve disciples*, he gave them power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. **2** Now **the names of the twelve apostles** are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother; **3** Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; **4** Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him. **5 These twelve** Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not: **6** But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. **7** And as ye go,

preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. **8** Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

- i. In the Bible the word apostle is primarily used to describe only 14 men, the original 12, Matthias, and Paul
 - ii. The apostles were the specially trained and sent ones to represent Jesus **John 13:20** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.
 - iii. These men were trained and sent by Christ Jesus
 - iv. The church had other “sent ones,” messengers but they were not sent personally by Jesus and that is a major difference
- b. God chose the apostles **Acts 9:15** But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a **chosen vessel** unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: **16** For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name’s sake. **I Corinthians 12:28** And **God hath set some** in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles,

then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

- c. Jesus personally appointed the apostles [Luke 6:13](#) And when it was day, he called *unto him* his disciples: and of them **he chose twelve**, whom also **he named apostles**;
- i. He chose them to go bear fruit [John 15:16](#) Ye have not chosen me, but **I have chosen you**, and **ordained you**, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.
- ii. He knew who He was choosing [John 6:70-71](#) Jesus answered them, **Have not I chosen you twelve**, and one of you is a devil? [71](#) He spake of Judas Iscariot *the son* of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.
- iii. Paul wasn't sent by men neither were any of the other apostles [Galatians 1:1](#) Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)
- d. There were certain qualifications of the apostles [Acts 1:15](#) **And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the**

disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,) **16** Men *and* brethren, this **scripture must needs have been fulfilled**, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. **17** For he was **numbered with us**, and had obtained part of this ministry. **18** Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. **19** And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, *Aceldama*, that is to say, *The field of blood*. **20** **For it is written in the book of Psalms**, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take. **21** Wherefore of these men which have **companied with us all the time** that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, **22** **Beginning from the baptism of John**, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a **witness with us of his**

resurrection. 23 And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. 24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all *men*, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, 25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. 26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and **he was numbered with the eleven apostles.**

- i. They had seen the resurrection
- ii. They had companied together
- iii. Paul saw the resurrected Lord I Corinthians 9:1 Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? I Corinthians 15:8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.
- iv. They received the gospel by direct revelation Galatians 1:11-12 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is **not after man.** 12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but **by the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

I Corinthians 11:23 For **I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you**, That the Lord Jesus the *same* night in which he was betrayed took bread: I Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

e. The apostles were the foundation of the church

Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;

i. They were given the job of perfecting or maturing the saints Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

ii. The people devoted themselves to studying the apostles teachings Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

f. The apostles were chosen to be with Him and then to go and preach Mark 3:14 And he ordained twelve, that they should **be with him**, and that he might **send them forth to preach**, 15 And to **have power** to heal sicknesses,

and to cast out devils:

3. The signs came with great wonders and mighty deeds 12 Truly the **signs of an apostle** were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds
- a. Miracles are not common occurrences by definition
 - b. The signs of an apostle wouldn't mean much if everyone was doing them
 - c. Miracles are seen in special times of God revealing Himself
 - i. The time of Moses and Joshua Exodus 4:1 And Moses answered and said, But, behold, **they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice:** for they will say, **The Lord hath not appeared unto thee.** 2 And the Lord said unto him, What *is* that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. 3 And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and **it became a serpent;** and Moses fled from before it. 4 And the Lord said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and **it became a rod in his hand:** 5 **That they may believe**

that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee. [Exodus 6:6](#) Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, **I am the Lord**, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and **with great judgments:** [Exodus 34:10](#) And he said, Behold, I make a covenant: before all thy people **I will do marvels**, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which **thou art shall see the work of the Lord: for it is a terrible thing that I will do with thee.**

- ii. The time of Elijah and Elisha [II Kings 1:10](#) And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, **If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven**, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.
- iii. The ministry of Jesus and His apostles [Acts 2:43](#) And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and

signs were done by the apostles. [Acts 4:30](#) By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that **signs and wonders** may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. [Acts 5:12](#) And **by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders** wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. [I Thessalonians 1:5](#) For our gospel came not unto you in word only, **but also in power**, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

- d. The signs of the apostles seem to begin to die out before the end of the book of Acts
 - i. In [Acts 5:16](#) everyone gets healed There came also a multitude *out* of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.
 - ii. By the time Timothy is sick Paul tells him to take some medicine [I Timothy 5:23](#) Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.

- iii. There are no recorded miracles after Stephen is martyred
- iv. By the time the book of Hebrews is written the miracles are spoken of in past tense **Hebrews 2:3** *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was **confirmed** unto us by them that heard *him*;*
- e. Though the apostles did great miracles we do not find that they controlled the elements or made food and by the end of the book Acts they are suggesting medicine and prayer
- f. Very few others did any miracles in the New Testament
 - i. The 70 **Luke 10:17** *And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.*
 - ii. Stephan **Acts 6:8** *And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.*
 - iii. Philip **Acts 8:6** *And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing **the miracles which he did.***
- g. Guess who did no recorded miracles

- i. John the Baptist [John 10:41](#) *And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true.*
- ii. Timothy, Titus, Luke, Silas
- iii. Nobody outside the apostolic era and no one that was connected to the apostles

4. How will Satan deceive people in the last days

- a. [II Thessalonians 2:9](#) *Even him, whose coming is **after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,** [10](#) And with **all deceivableness** of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*
- b. [Revelation 13:3](#) *And I saw one of his heads as it were **wounded to death;** and **his deadly wound was healed:** and all **the world wondered after the beast.** [12](#) And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, **whose deadly wound was healed.***

- c. Revelation 16:14 For they are the **spirits of devils, working miracles**, *which* go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.
- d. Revelation 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the **false prophet that wrought miracles** before him, **with which he deceived them** that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.
- e. You have the Word of God, inspired and preserved. Trust the Bible it is how you know God, His Will, his Work, everything