

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Continuing Education Session
Springfield, Missouri
March 4-8, 2002

BTHM 632/THEM 639 BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF SIGNS AND WONDERS
(3 Credits)

Benny C. Aker, Ph.D.

March 2002

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An analysis of signs and wonders in the Scripture with reference to the various words which express these phenomena and the cultural context that shaped the particular world views of biblical authors and their opponents. Related issues of contemporary interest and relevance (e.g., their relationship to faith and spiritual warfare) will also be considered and the Scriptural evidence examined.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of this course the student should:

1. Have some biblical and experiential foundations for the ministry of signs and wonders;
2. Be encouraged to engage signs and wonders in personal and corporate life and ministry; and
3. Be able to appropriately evaluate the various types of, and contemporary approaches to, signs & wonders.

TEXTBOOKS

Aker, Benny C. and Gary B. McGee, eds. *Signs & Wonders in Ministry Now*. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1996.

Arnold, Clinton E. *Three Crucial Questions About Spiritual Warfare*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 1997.

Greig, Gary S. and Kevin N. Springer. *The Kingdom and the Power*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1993.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. *Pre-Session*

1. Read the required textbooks in their entirety.
2. Prepare a critical review of each textbook (3 to 4 pages each). Keep in view such things as 1) presuppositions of the authors, 2) adequacy of the content, especially in light of the area of study, i.e., other books/articles on the subject, 3) argumentation, 4) purpose and accomplishment of purpose, 5) application to current world.

B. *Session*

1. Attend class.
2. Bring Bible to class.
3. Review as necessary from the textbooks; we will appeal to them as subject matter dictates.
4. Hand in reviews on first class hand pre-session work.
5. Use library for class as needed and secure materials for post-session requirements.

C. *Post-Session*

Prepare a fifteen to twenty page research paper on some aspect of signs and wonders. If you wish, you may consult with the professor on a topic. Use sound hermeneutics and theological method (classroom methods may be used as a model). The paper should also relate to your interest and ministry, and apply to life.

Please follow Turabian, 6th edition for format of paper: title page, table of contents, footnotes, bibliography, division of paper, etc. The student should consult a good number of journal articles as well as good scholarly books. The material should be well-documented; quotes should be avoided (only to be used if necessary for your argument; do not confuse quotes with footnotes/documentation). Be sure to use good style and organization. Avoid passive verbs; watch redundancy and wordiness. The required number of pages (noted above) includes only the body of the paper itself, not the title page or bibliography, etc.

DUE DATE: All post-session work should be **postmarked** no later than **August 8, 2002.**

Submit all work to:

Dr. Ben Aker
Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
1435 North Glenstone Avenue
Springfield MO 65802
Voice mail: 417/268-1075
E-mail: baker@agseminary.edu

NOTE: The student will be charged a \$15.00 change of grade fee for all late work (even if an extension has been granted by the professor). **Late work will be penalized at the discretion of the professor.**

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction to Signs and Wonders
2. Signs and wonders in theology and ancient history
 - A. In the Old Testament
 - a. Survey of terms
 - b. Interpretation of Exodus language of deliverance
 - B. In the New Testament
 - a. Survey of terms
 - b. Interpretation of 2nd Exodus language
 - C. In the Intertestamental Period:
 - a. Survey of terms
 - b. Analysis and comment
 - D. In the Greco-Roman world
 - a. Survey of terms
 - b. Analysis and comments
3. Signs and wonders in life and ministry
 - A. Signs and wonders, spiritual warfare, and power encounter
 - B. Signs and wonders, conversion, and discipleship

BTHE 632/THEM 639 Biblical Theology of Signs and Wonders

Benny C. Aker, Ph.D.

Page 4

- . C. Signs and wonders and faith
- . D. Signs and wonders and spiritual gifts

GRADING PROCEDURE

1. Written Reports: 35 pts each
2. Research paper: 125 points
3. Total possible points: 160 points

The grade will come from the appropriate percentages of the total possible:

95-100 %	A	80-83 %	B-
90-94 %	A-	77-79 %	C+
87-89 %	B+	74-76 %	C
84-86 %	B	70-73 %	C-

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Achtemeier, Paul J. "Jesus and the Disciples as Miracle Workers in the Apocryphal New Testament." *In Aspects of Religious Propaganda in Judaism and Christianity*. Ed. E.S. Fiorenza. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1976. pp. 149-86.

Arnold, Clinton E. *Ephesians: Power and Magic: The Concept of Power in Ephesians in Light of Its Historical Setting*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1989, 1992.

Baly, Denis. *God and History In the Old Testament*. New York: Harper & Row, 1976.

Bammel, E. "John Did No Miracle." *In Miracles: Cambridge Studies in Their Philosophy and History*. Ed. C.F.D. Moule. London: A.R. Mowbray, 1965. pp. 179-202.

Becker, J. "Wunder und Christologie: Zum literarkritischer und christologischen Problem der Wunder im Johannesevangelium." *NTS* 16 (1980): 130-48.

Bridge, Donald. *Signs and Wonders Today*. Leicester, England: Inter-Varsity Press, 1985.

Broadhead, Edwin Keith. *Teaching with Authority: Miracles and Christology in the Gospel of Mark*. Sheffield, England: JSOT Press, 1992.

Brown, Peter. *Sorcery, Demons, and the Rise of Christianity*. New York: Harper & Row, 1972.

BTHE 632/THEM 639 Biblical Theology of Signs and Wonders

Benny C. Aker, Ph.D.

Page 5

Cacill, Paul. "Signs and Wonders and the Venerable Bede." *Evangelical Quarterly* (January 1988): 60.

Carson, D.A. "The Purpose of the Fourth Gospel: John 20:31 Reconsidered." *JBL* 106 (December 1987): 639-51.

Choi, Ja Shil. *Korean Miracles*. LaCanada, Canada: Mountain Press, 1981.

_____. "The Challenge of Signs and Wonders In World Missions for the Twentieth Century." In *Azusa Street and Beyond*, 1986.

Deere, Jack. *Surprised by the Power of the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.

Durston, Chris. "Signs and Wonders and the English Civil War." *History Today* 37 (October 1987): 22-28.

Fiorenza, E. S. "Miracles, Mission, and Apologetics: An Introduction." In *Aspects of Religious Propaganda in Judaism and Christianity*. Ed. E.S. Fiorenza. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1976. pp. 1-25.

Fox, George. *Fox's book of Miracles*. Cambridge: University Press, 1948.

Fridrichsen, Anton Johnson. *The Problem of Miracle in Primitive Christianity*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1972.

Fuller, Reginald Horace. *Interpreting the Miracles*. London: SCM Press, 1963.

Gee, Donald. *Is it God?: Tests for Evaluating the Supernatural*. Springfield: Gospel Publishing House, 1972.

Geisler, Norman. *Signs and Wonders*. Wheaton: Tyndale House Publications, 1973.

_____. *Miracles and Modern Thought*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982.

_____. *Miracles and the Modern Mind: A Defense of Biblical Miracles*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992.

Goldin, Judah. "The Magic of Magic and Superstition." In *Aspects of Religious Propaganda in Judaism and Christianity*. Ed. E.S. Fiorenza. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, (1976): pp. 115-47.

BTHE 632/THEM 639 Biblical Theology of Signs and Wonders

Benny C. Aker, Ph.D.

Page 6

Hardon, J.A. "The Miracle Narrative in the Acts of the Apostles." *CBQ* 16 (July 1954): 303-14.

Herbert, Albert J. *Raised From the Dead: True Stories of 400 Resurrection Miracles*. Rockford, IL: Tan Books, 1986.

Hull, J.M. *Hellenistic Magic and the Synoptic Tradition*. London: SCM, 1974.

Hunter, Charles. *Impossible Miracles*. Houston: Hunter Ministries Publishing Company, 1976.

Illingworth, John Richardson. *The Gospel Miracles; An Essay with Two Appendices*. London, Macmillan & Co., 1915.

Johnston, Robert. "The Ministry of the Holy Spirit In the Covenant Today." *Covenant Quarterly* 45 (May 1987): 49-53.

Jongeneel, Jan., ed. *Pentecost, Mission and Ecumenism: Essays on Intellectual Theology: Festschrift In Honor of Professor Walter J. Hollenweger*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 1992.

Kaye, Bruce. *The Supernatural in the New Testament*. Guildford: Lutterworth Press, 1977.

Keathley, Naymond, ed. *With Steadfast Purpose: Essays On Acts In Honor of Henry Jackson Flanders*. Waco: Baylor University, 1990.

Kee, H.C. *Miracle in the Early Christian World*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1983.

_____, *Medicine, Miracle and Magic in New Testament Times*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1986.

Kingswriter, D. "Spiritual Warfare." *Advance* (May, 1994): 27.

Kraft, Charles. *Christianity with Power: Your World View and Your Experience with the Supernatural*. Ann Arbor: Vine Books, 1989.

Kuemmerlin-McLean, Joanne. "Magic (OT)." In *Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 4:464-71.

Kuhlman, Kathryn. *Never too Late*. Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship Inc., 1975.

_____. *Nothing is Impossible with God*. Old Tappan: Fleming H. Revell, 1976.

Ladd, George Eldon. *The Gospel of the Kingdom*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1959.

BTHE 632/THEM 639 Biblical Theology of Signs and Wonders

Benny C. Aker, Ph.D.

Page 7

Larson, Paul. "Signs, Wonders and Covenant Theology." *Covenant Quarterly* 45 (May 1987): 97-103.

La Tourelle, Rene. *The Miracles of Jesus and the Theology of Miracles*. New York: Paulist Press, 1988.

Livingstone, Elizabeth. *Studia Patristica, Vol. 17, Pt. 2 of 3 Pts; Papers Presented at the International Conference of Patristic Studies*. Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1979.

Lockyer, Herbert. *All the Miracles of the Bible; The Supernatural In Scripture, Its Scope and Significance*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1961.

_____. *All the Miracles of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1961.

Matthews, R. Arthur. *Born For Battle, Studies on Spiritual Warfare*. Wheaton: Harold Shaw Publishers, 1978.

McCasland, Selby Vernon. "Signs and Wonders." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 76 (1957): 149-152.

McClung, Grant. *Azusa Street and Beyond: Pentecostal Missions and Church Growth In the 20th Century*. South Plainfield: Bridge Publishing, 1986.

Menzies, Robert P. "A Pentecostal Perspective on 'Signs and Wonders'." *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies* 17:2 (Fall 1995): 265-78.

Monden, Louis. *Signs and Wonder; A Study of the Miraculous Element in Religion*. New York: Desclee Company, 1966.

Morris, Henry Madison. *Miracles and Modern Science*. San Diego: Institution for Creation Research, 1977. (Sound Recording)

Moule, C.F.D. "The Vocabulary of Miracle." In *Miracles: Cambridge Studies in their Philosophy and History*. Ed. C.F.D. Moule. London, 1966. pp. 235-38.

_____. "Miracles: Cambridge Studies in Their Philosophy and History." *Journal of Theological Studies* 17 (1966): 460-463.

_____. "Miracles: Cambridge Studies in Their Philosophy and History." *Church Quarterly Review* 167 (1966): 526-527.

BTHE 632/THEM 639 Biblical Theology of Signs and Wonders

Benny C. Aker, Ph.D.

Page 8

Nicol, W. *The Semeia in the Fourth Gospel*. Nov. Test. Sup. 32. Leiden: E.J. Brill.

O'Reilly, Leo. *Word and Sign in the Acts of the Apostles: A Study in Lucan Theology*. Roma: Editrice Pontificia Universita Gregoriana, 1987.

Oropeza, B. J. *A Time to Laugh*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1995.

O'Toole, Robert. "Activity of the Risen Jesus in Luke-Acts." *Biblica* 62 (1981): 471-498.
Page, Sydney H.T. *Powers of Evil: A Biblical Study of Satan and Demons*. Grand Raids: Baker Books, 1995.

Parker, J.I., Jeff Niehaus, Wayne Grudem, S.M. Burgess, David Lewis, and John White, eds. *The Kingdom and the Power*. Ventura: Regal Books, 1984.

Pritchard, J.B. "Motifs of Old Testament Miracles." *Crozier Quarterly* 27 (1950): 92-109.

Pytches, David. "Signs and Wonders Today: Charismatic Conference for Clergy and Leaders." *International Review of Mission* 75 (April 1986): 137-142.

Reed, D.G. "Satan, Devil." In *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1993. pp. 862-67.

Reddin, Opal L. ed. *Power Encounter: A Pentecostal Perspective*. Springfield, MO: Central Bible College Press, 1989.

Remus, H. "Does Terminology Distinguish Early Christian from Pagan Miracles?" *JBL* 101 (1982): 531-51.

Arles, Ken L. "An Appraisal of the Signs and Wonders Movements." *Bibliotheca Sacra* 145 (January 1988):57-82

Scherrer, Steven. "Signs and Wonders In the Imperial Cult: A New Look At A Roman Religious Institution In the Light of Revelation 13:13-15." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 103 (December 1984): 599-610.

Schwartz, Ted. *Healing in the Name of God: Faith or Fraud?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993.

Scurlock, J.A. "Magic (ANE)." In *Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 4: 464-71.

Shelton, James B. *Mighty in Word and Deed: The Role of the Holy Spirit in Luke-Acts*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1991.

BTHE 632/THEM 639 Biblical Theology of Signs and Wonders

Benny C. Aker, Ph.D.

Page 9

Silvoso, Ed. *That None Should Perish*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1994.

Smith, Morton. *Jesus the Magician*. New York: Harper & Row, 1978.

Springer, Kevin, ed. *Power Encounters*. New York: Harper and Row, 1988.

Stafford, Tim. "Testing the Wine From John Wimber's Vineyard: California's latest Boom Church; Signs and Wonders Movement." *Christianity Today* 11 (August 8, 1986): 17-22.

Stockwell, Eugene. "Responses to the Holy Spirit; Part 2: Charismatics." *International Review of Mission* 75 (April 1986): 113-157.

Temple, S. "The Two Signs of the Fourth Gospel." *JBL* 81 (1962): 161-74.

Templeman, Louis. "When You Want To Perform: Expecting Signs and Wonders On Demand." *Leadership* 12 (Summer 1991): 31-33.

Tennant, Agnieszka. "In Need of Deliverance." *Christianity Today* (September 3, 2001): 46-63. Also within that article see other brief articles and an interview by her titled: "Exorcism Therapy," "Alter Possession," "Pandor's Box of SRA," and an article by Clinton E. Arnold, "Exorcism 101."

Theissen, Gerd. *The Miracle Stories of the Early Christian Tradition*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1983.

Theron, Jacques. "A Critical Overview of the Church's Ministry of Deliverance from Evil Spirits." *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies* (Spring 1996): 79-92.

Tuck, Robert. *A Handbook of Biblical Difficulties*. New York: Whittaker, 1891.

Twelftree, G.H. "Signs, Wonders, Miracles." In *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1993. pp. 873-77.

Wagner, C. Peter. *Spreading the Fire*. Ventura, CA.: Gospel Light, 1994.

_____, ed. *Signs and Wonders Today*. Altamonte Springs, FL: Creation House, 1987.

Warfield, Benjamin. *Counterfeit Miracles*. London: The Banner of Truth and Trust, 1972.

_____. *Miracles: Yesterday and Today, True and False*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1953.

BTHE 632/THEM 639 Biblical Theology of Signs and Wonders
Benny C. Aker, Ph.D.
Page 10

Warner, Timothy V. "Teaching Power Encounter." *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* 22 (January 1968): 66-70.

Williams, Don. *Signs Wonders and the Kingdom of God: A Biblical Guide for the Reluctant Skeptic*. Ann Arbor: Servant Books, 1989.

Whittaker, M. "Signs and Wonders: The Pagan Background." *Studia Evangelica* 5 (1968): 155-58.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Benny Aker, Ph.D., October 2001.