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Dear Associates and Friends,

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Two articles are published this month, both discuss different aspects of future fulfillment of Scripture.

The First Article

The first is a Doctrinal article, with some prophetic component: "[The History and Prophecy of Miracles \(and their Failure\)](#)."¹ Miracles, signs, and wonders done by God Himself, or allowed by God, are found many times in Scripture, but the effectiveness of such grand displays of power and majesty are surprisingly ineffective to turn hearts and minds toward God.

However, when GOD opens the hearts and minds of individuals (and nations) to recognize Him and seek Him out, acknowledging Him as their creator, God does so without great manifestations. He does it quietly within the heart of individuals, and sometimes, many individuals, entire families, and even entire tribes. Such a miracle can change the course of nations.

According to [Dictionary.com](#) the definition of the word *miracle* is: [1] **"an effect or extraordinary event in the physical world that surpasses all known human or natural powers and is ascribed to a supernatural cause; [2] such an effect or event manifesting or considered as a work of God; and [3] a wonder or a marvel."**

Note that the third definition, [3], would include "signs and wonders" that the leaders and people of Israel desired during Christ's ministry. They sometimes are visual events that masses of people witness or experience.

You may be surprised by what you learn by studying the accounts of miracles, including when and where the miracles, signs, and wonders occur as we are told in the Scriptures — as well as when and where they do not occur.

Miracles, Are They for Nonbelievers?

The purpose of miracles is to get our attention and to focus on God. They also make very good stories and illustrations for future generations.

One critic of my July 17, 2024 Commentary "[The Attack on Donald Trump](#)" thought I considered Donald Trump to be an "anointed" individual. Well, in a sense, every leader of every country (and lesser leaders within countries) are indeed "chosen" by God to serve that country. True, the term "anointing" has to do with religious service, but it also has to do with political power of kings.

Every major leader of every country is chosen by God, whether that person is King Herod, Genghis Khan, or Adolf Hitler. All are chosen for whatever reason, God puts them in that position, just as Nebuchadnezzar, the King of the Babylonian Empire, told in a proclamation to all the people in his vast empire, **"that the living may know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it [power to rule] to whomsoever he will, and sets up over it the basest of men"** (Daniel 4:17).

Perhaps God saved Donald Trump from assassination on July 13, 2024, for him to become President of the United States again. Perhaps something else will happen to him before that time. Perhaps God will open

¹ Most signs and wonders seem to be, or are presented to be, miracles. They are intended to be seen by many people, and for those people to tell others.

Donald Trump's heart and mind to acknowledge and to serve God. I do not know. I cannot know.

But I know that what happened to Donald Trump was unusual, and far beyond the realm of probability.

Yes, it was a miracle. God chose to have that bullet hit Trump's right ear, and allowed a man to die who covered his wife and children to protect them. Will Trump be less of a sinner because this happened to him? That is unlikely. Are you less of a sinner now that you are a believer? Hopefully, but if not, you are no less a child of God, a believer. God's Spirit within you is a miraculous gift from God. We are saved NOW. God has given you information to know you are saved NOW, through Christ's actions, as is every other believer.

God has given you knowledge, faith, and God's Holy Spirit in a way that not one of the Old Testament saints ever had. And you have been given knowledge that all humanity will learn what God has taught you. Part of that knowledge is that all human beings will be saved.

The Second Article, Afghanistan

The second article has to do with Prophecy. It is, "[Afghanistan \(Gog and Magog\)](#)." Dr. Martin points out that chapters 38 and 39 in the Book of Ezekiel are the only place in the Old Testament that the terms Gog and Magog appear in a prophetic context.

The name "Gog" occurs one time in 1 Chronicles 5:4 as the name of a descendant of Reuben, one of Jacob's 12 sons. In Ezekiel 38:2 Gog is said to be an individual in the land of Magog. Most think the Gog and Magog of Ezekiel are about events occurring before Christ's return. In the New Testament both occur once in the same passage in the Book of Revelation.

It seems that events in Revelation 20:7–10 definitely occur after the 1,000-year reign of Christ on earth:

"And whenever the thousand years should be FINISHED, Satan will be loosed out of his jail.

And he will be coming out to deceive all the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to be mobilizing them for battle, their number being as the sand of the sea.

And they went up over the breadth of the earth, and surround the citadel of the saints and the beloved city [referring to Jerusalem]. And fire descended from God out of heaven and devoured them."

• *Revelation 20:7–10, Concordant Literal Version*

In that passage, Gog and Magog both seem to be geographical locations known to John who views the vision. The lands are spread around the world, not limited to the area immediately north of Afghanistan. This may refer to a larger area than Ezekiel indicates, yet occupied by the same people Ezekiel refers to.

Thank You

You do not need special miracles. Your next heartbeat and breath are everyday miracles, as are all of the autonomic operations that your body is designed to perform. God operates them within you without your having to think about them. You are a living miracle. And your mind is designed to understand the existence of God, even if human logic denies that fact. God is real and He has revealed Himself to you through creation and through the revelation of His written word, which tells the story of God, Christ, and mankind.

You do not need to worry about Gog and Magog who will come from an area somewhat north of Afghanistan, perhaps in the near future. Be interested in such things if you wish, but God is in control, prayer changes things, and even though we must go through evils in this world, we have hope and expectation that each of us — and all humanity — will be saved.

You know these things because you have read and studied the Scriptures and the ASK information is here to help explain the knowledge of God to you, so you worry less about yourself, and think more about others.

Thank you for supporting the ASK teaching ministry.

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