SUMMARY OBSERVATIONS ON BIBLICAL MIRACLES

Virgil Warren, PhD

I. Types of Occurrences: divine miracle, demonic miracle, answered prayer, psychological, magic

II. Characteristics of Biblical Miracle
   A. Many: *vs.* occasional
   B. Immediate: *vs*. taking place over a period of hours, days, or months as perhaps in natural healing
   C. Always successful: *vs.* occasional success as perhaps something merely unusual
   D. Varied: *vs*. just certain kinds of things that might be more easily faked or misread
      1. healing all kinds of diseases and deformities: Acts **5**:16
      2. nature miracles: stilling the tempest (Matthew **8**:23-27)
      3. exorcisms of demons
      4. foreknowledge (across time): Luke **22**:7-13
      5. from a distance (across space): Matthew **8**:5-13
      6. special miracles: by way of objects carried from the person (Acts **19**:11)
      7. not dependent on the faith of the one affected: Malchus (John **18**:10-11)
   E. Permanent: *vs*. something that "wore off" as perhaps with psychological effects
   F. Beneficial: not harmful or detrimental to the persons involved
         Note, however, cases where miracles were used to curb evil and opposition.
   G. Positive: not sheer demonstration of supposed supernatural power (levitation, bending objects, swallowing razor blades, eating fire, *etc*.)
            sometimes without contact
   H. Secondary: *vs*. the center of the miracle worker's activity
            secondary to proclamation of a message
   I. Purposeful: *vs*. entertainment
               to prove the claim of the miracle worker;
               to increase faith in the one benefitted
   J. Extreme: obviously not by natural cause
            blind from birth, lame from birth, resurrection, leprosy
   K. Simple: merely with a word, not an elaborate process that involved agonizing to create the effect (as in elaborate exorcisms; Matthew **8**:16; Lk. **7**:7)
   L. Altruistic: free *vs*. done for the benefit of the miracle worker—for money, fame, *etc*.
            Perhaps not even done on Christians: Trophimus (2 Timothy **4**:20) and Epaphroditus (Philippians. **2**:25-27) (?)
   M. Public: *vs*. known by rumor