

interpretation; and since they contain indefinite, ambiguous statements or predictions virtually impossible to verify; the question must be asked: should such "prophecies" be invested with belief or acted upon by anyone (including the alleged prophets)? The above considerations would lead us to answer this question in the negative!

2. The gift of miracles/healing

a. A review of the meaning of this gift

Dennis and Rita Bennett (pp. 124-125, 112) write:

Miracles are events that seem to override or contradict the so-called laws of nature. There aren't any "laws of nature", actually. The concept of physical "laws" has been discarded by the modern physicist, who defines natural events in terms of probability." For example, the old Newtonian physics said:

"There is a law that, neglecting air resistance, all objects fall with an acceleration of thirty-two feet per second, per second." Modern science would state it: "It is probable that all falling objects will accelerate at the rate of thirty-two feet per second, per second. This seems to be the way it happens!" And this comes very close to what the Christian says: "The so-called laws of nature codified by human science are simply God's usual way of doing things." He keeps things regular for our convenience. How awkward it would be to live in a universe where nothing happened twice the same way! It would be an Alice-in-Wonderland world, indeed, and very confusing! God, however, for His believing people, will change His accustomed ways of doing things, to meet their needs, and thus, too, show them that He is sovereign, and has all power. The great miracles of the Old and New Testaments were done to meet the needs of people, and to show them that God is real, and in full control of the situation!

It is not always easy to draw a sharp line between the gift of miracles and the gifts of healing. It would seem that "healing" should include those acts of power that involve the curing of a condition in the living human body (or animal body, for healing also can take place in animals by prayer). Other events would come under the heading of miracles.

The gifts of healing are for the supernatural curing of injuries, handicaps, and diseases without the aid of natural means or human skills. They are manifestations of the Holy Spirit working through compassionate human channels to the person in need.

Thomas R. Edgar (pp 86, 105) states:

Although miracles and healing are listed as two separate gifts in the New Testament, they seem to overlap. Not only does an incident of healing comprise a miracle, but most of the incidents