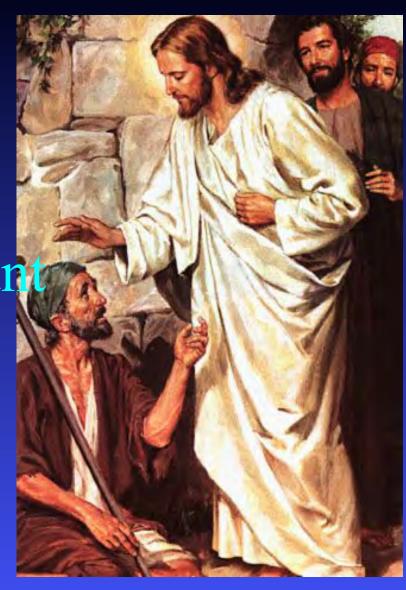
Abstracts of Powerpoint Talks

Exegeting a
Miracle Account

Robert C. Newman



## The Genre "Miracle Story"

- Definition:
  - ◆ A narrative focusing on a miracle as its main feature
- So the genre is a subgenre of narrative:
  - ◆ So use features of narrative analysis.
  - ◆ Recall Ryken's categories of narrative in the Gospels include miracle story (p 40).

### Usual Features of This Genre

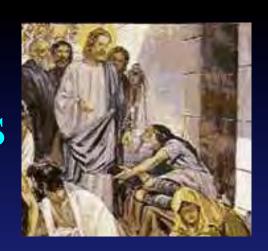
Besides the usual narrative features:

- A problem is narrated.
- A request for help is made.
- The actions of the miracle worker are described.
- The results are noted:
  - ◆ Healing, deliverance, etc.
  - ◆ Response of demon
  - ◆ Response of spectators, etc.

# Function of Miracles in the Gospels

- They display the person of Jesus thru his actions & power (Jn 20:30-31; Jn 5:36).
- They picture God's activity in redemption.
- Sometimes they point:
  - ◆ Forward to the end of the age
    - Resurrections
  - ◆ Backward to creation
    - Water into wine?

# Healings in the Gospels



- Man w/ leprosy
- Centurion's servant
- Peter's m-in-law
- Gadarene demoniacs
- Paralyzed man
- Woman w/ bleeding
- 2 blind men

- Mute possessed
- Shriveled hand
- Blind mute poss
- Canaanite's dau
- Boy w/ demon

# Healings in the Gospels



- Deaf mute
- Man possessed in synagogue
- Blind at Bethsaida
- Crippled woman
- Man w/ dropsy
- Ten lepers

- High priest's servant
- Official's son
- Sick man at Bethesda
- ~22 narrated

### A Healing: Gadarene Demoniac

#### Mark 5:1-20 and parallels

- Problem (vv 2-5): man possessed by spirit; no one could subdue him; lived in tombs, shouting, hurting self
- Request? (6-7): runs to Jesus
- Action (8-13): resist Jesus' commands, reveals size of problem, seeks to negotiate

### A Healing: Gadarene Demoniac

- Results (13-20):
  - ◆ Pigs drown in lake
  - ◆ Keepers run to report
  - ◆ People astonished, fearful, ask Jesus to leave
  - ◆ Fellow sent to tell others

### A Healing: Gadarene Demoniac

- Person of Jesus:
  - ◆ Able to subdue demons by thousands
  - ◆ Has compassion for demoniac
  - ◆ Lets people turn him down
- Redemption:
  - ◆ Saves demoniac
  - ◆ Drives out Satan's forces

# Nature Miracles in the Gospels



- Calming storm
- 5000 fed
- Walking on water
- 4000 fed
- Coin in fish's mouth
- Fig tree withered

- Transfiguration
- Catch of fish
- Water to wine
- Another catch
- ~10 narrated

### Nature Miracle: Calming Storm

#### Mark 4:35-41 and parallels:

- Problem: boat about to go under in storm
- Request: Disciples: "Don't you care?"
- Action: Jesus shouts at wind & waves
- Results:
  - ◆ Immediate calm, both wind & waves
  - ◆ Reaction of disciples: "Who is this?"

### Nature Miracle: Calming Storm

- Person of Jesus: cp Psalm 107
- Redemption:
  - ◆ Rescue from danger
- Pointing forward or backward?
  - ◆ Looking back at creation?
  - ◆ Looking forward to new heavens & earth?

# Resurrections in the Gospels

- Jairus' daughter
- Widow's son
- Lazarus
- (Jesus)
- 4 narrated



### Resurrection: Widow's Son

- Luke 7:11-17:
- Problem: only son of widow has died
- Request: no explicit request
- Actions: Jesus speaks to dead man
- Results:
  - ◆ Comes back to life
  - ◆ People filled with awe, praise God

### Resurrection: Widow's Son

- Person of Jesus: able to raise dead
  - ◆ Contrast with OT prophets re/ method
- Redemption: saved from death
- Looking forward:
  - ◆ Resurrection at the last day

### The End

Try to see what the Gospel writer is teaching as he narrates each miracle.