

THE PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S MIRACLES



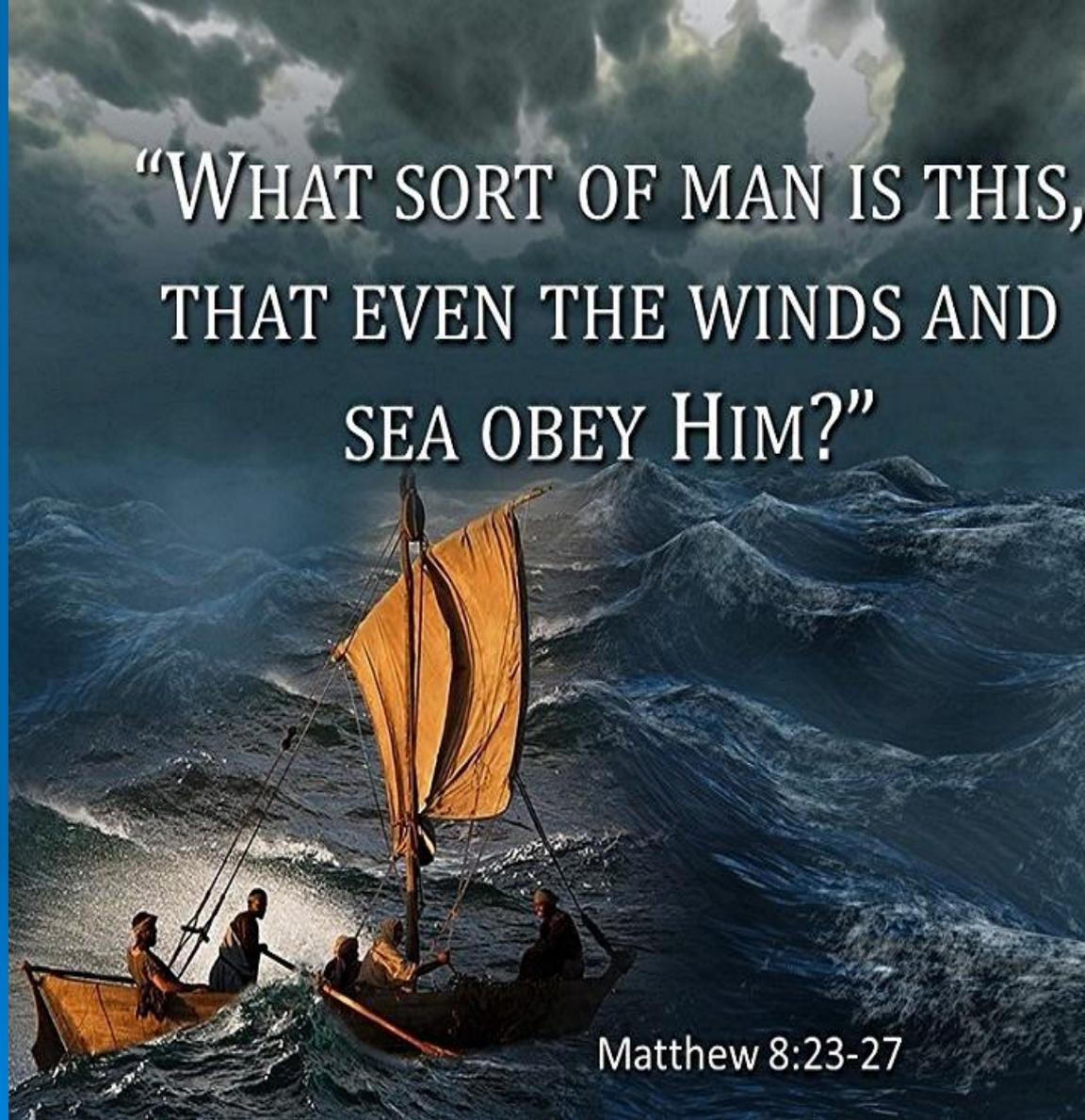
- Miracles generally do not change the minds of staunch un-Believers
- Even at the End of Days we do not read of a world-wide revival
- Matt. 8:17 *“ This was done to fulfill what had been spoken...”*
- Signs and miracles are faith affirming, but not what leads us to faith
- The Disciples were astonished, but the miracle did not lead them to believe that Yeshua was the Messiah

SLEEPING IN THE EYE OF THE STORM



- Yeshua slept as His Disciples panicked
- Little doubt that He was exhausted
- He boarded a boat to escape the crowds
- Mark 4:35 – 41
- Nothing indicates that the Disciples thought Yeshua would calm the storm
- They were devoted to Him, but their trust was little

- “Even now!”
- Christ thought that the things He did would have created more trust
- The Disciples were ordinary men with weaknesses
- The power to control nature is not something the Disciples had seen before

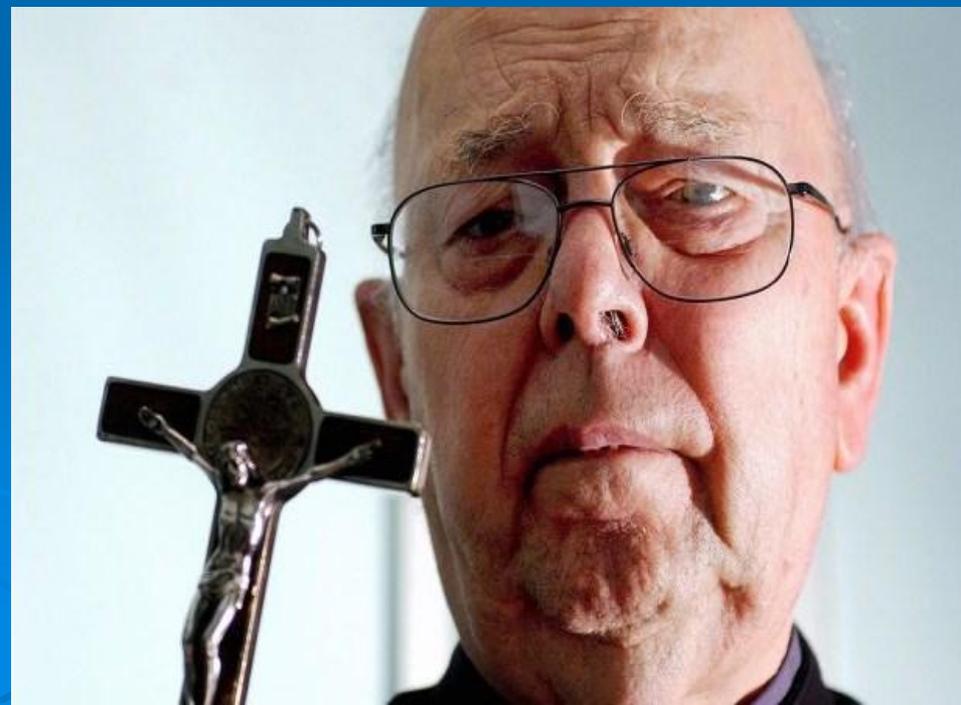


“WHAT SORT OF MAN IS THIS,
THAT EVEN THE WINDS AND
SEA OBEY HIM?”

Matthew 8:23-27

DEMON POSSESSION

- Probably didn't encounter the Gadarenes or Gerasenes, but rather men from Gergesa
- A mix of Jews, gentiles, and Israelites
- In modern times demon possession is often seen as mental illness
- No doubt there were both the mentally ill and demon possessed then and now



THE DEMONS FEARED CHRIST

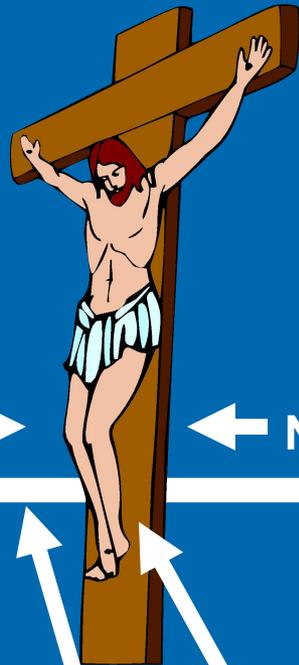


- The issue of impurity in the story is important
- The demoniacs were no doubt gentiles
- Men may not have seen themselves as unclean
- If we don't know the Law, we don't know what uncleanness and sin are
- Demons were surprised to see the Son of God because the timing seemed wrong



1st ADVENT

2nd ADVENT



← OT TIMES →

← NT & MODERN TIMES →

CREATION

DANIEL IN
BABYLON

CHRIST'S
BIRTH

1st LATTER
DAYS

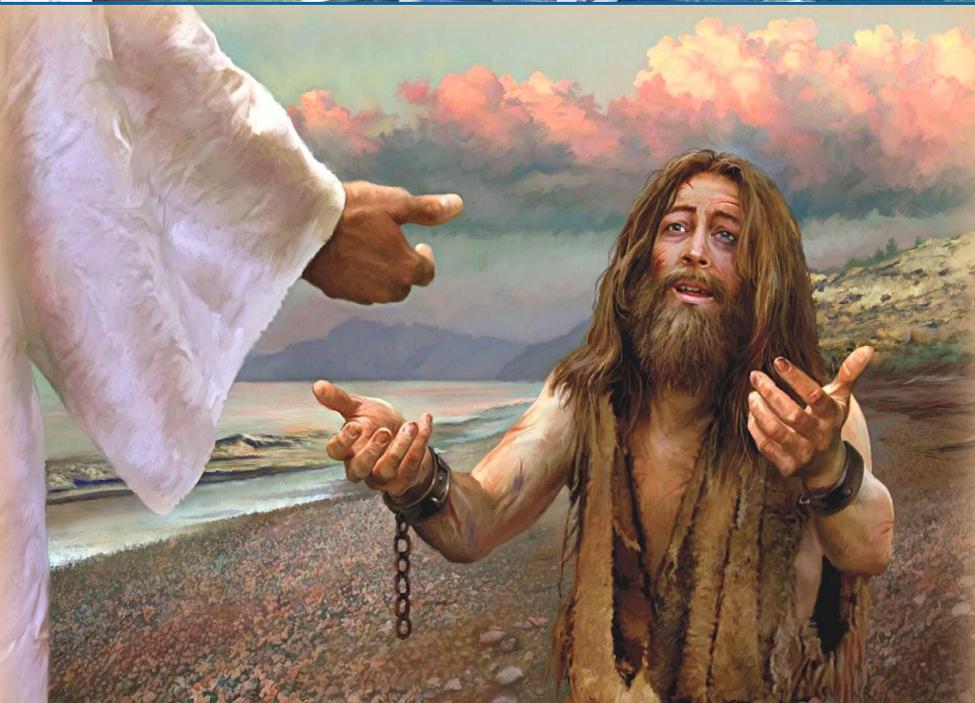
2nd LATTER
DAYS





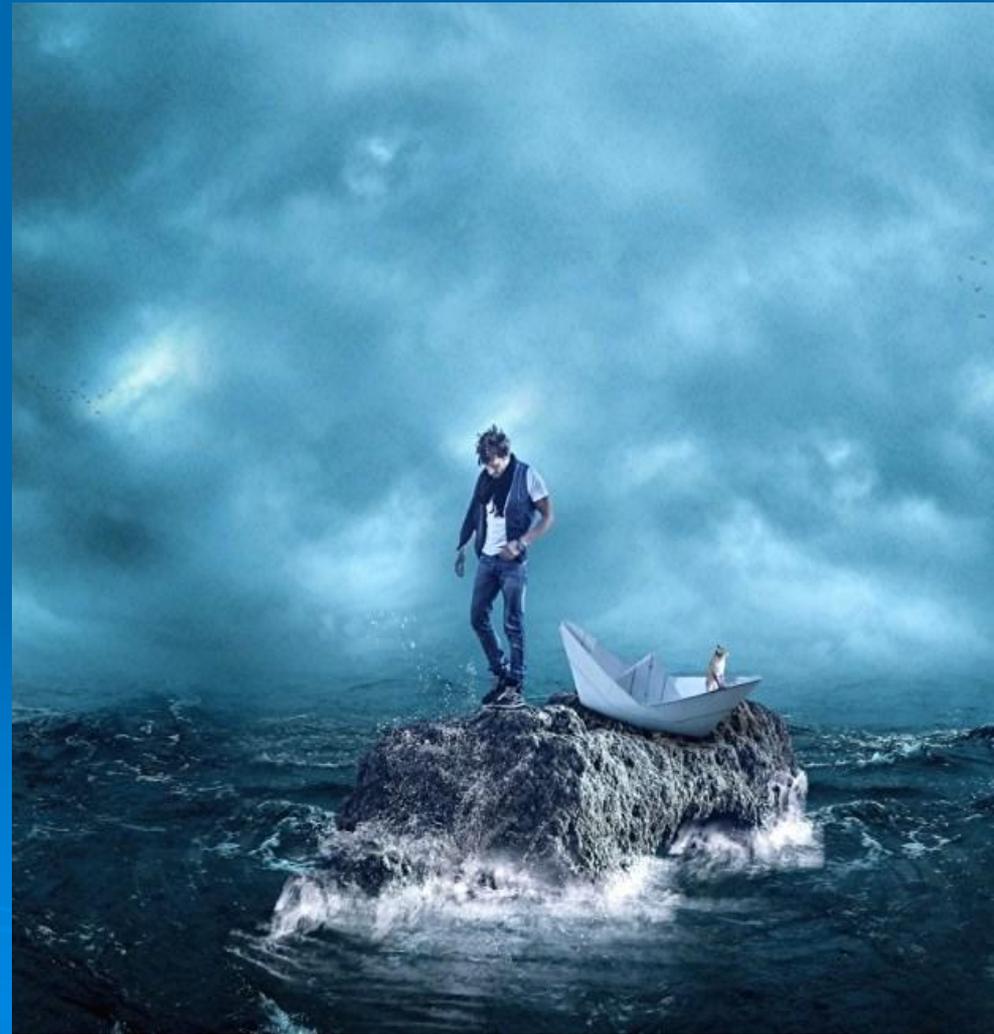
AN IRONY?

- The pigs rush to the Lake and drown
- Water is a purifying element
- Unclean spirits go into unclean pigs that run into cleansing water
- The pigs die, now they are corpses, so the demons are again inhabiting an unclean place!
- The now exorcised men ask to come with Jesus. He says no. They are to go to their own people.



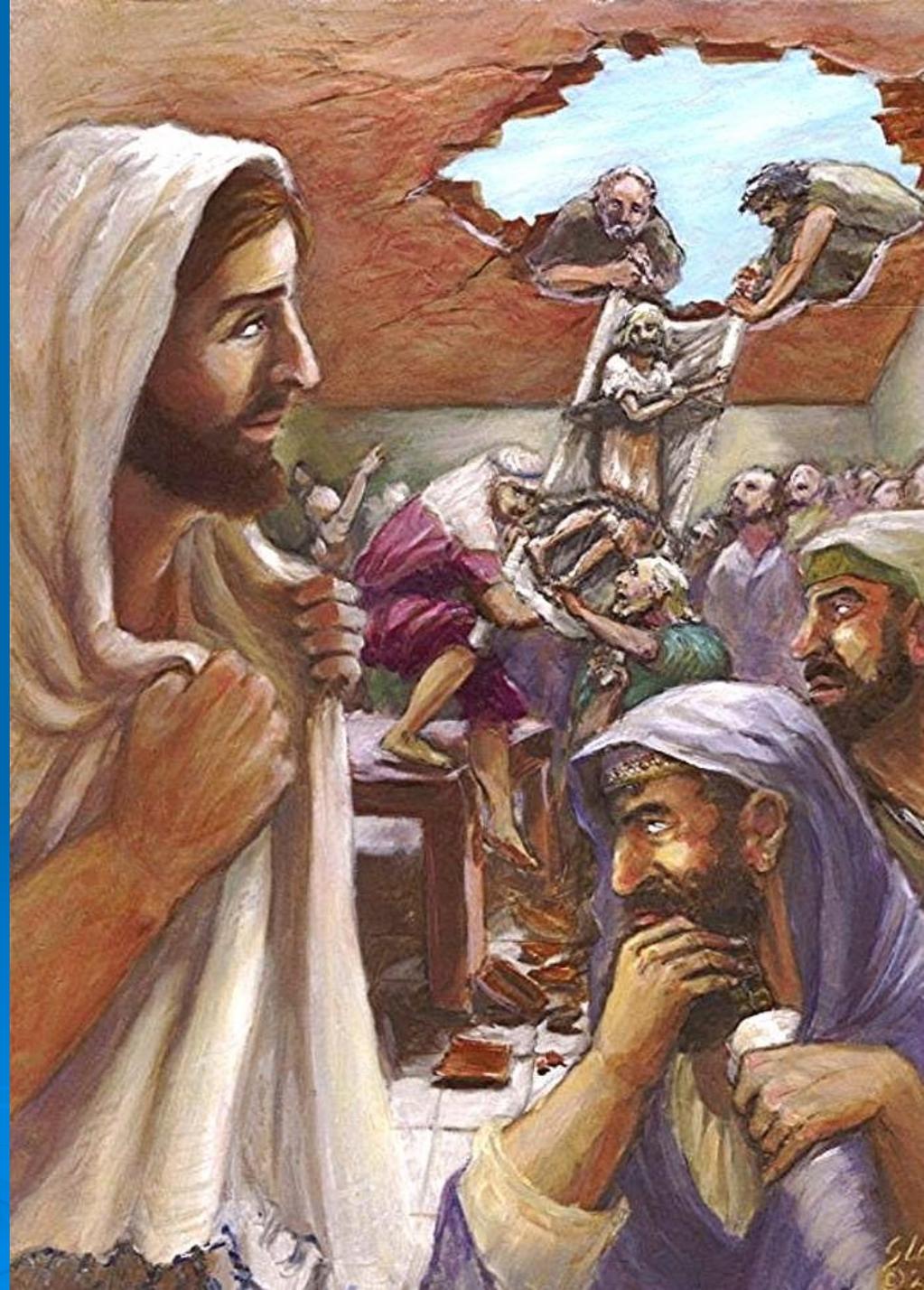
THE WINDS AND WAVES OF LIFE

- The townspeople ask Christ to leave; probably fearing their pigs will die
- Why did Jesus choose that place to go to?
- Probably the location wasn't intentional
- His boat was directed by the wind and waves of the storm
- If we love God, then by His providence we will be blown to right where He wants us

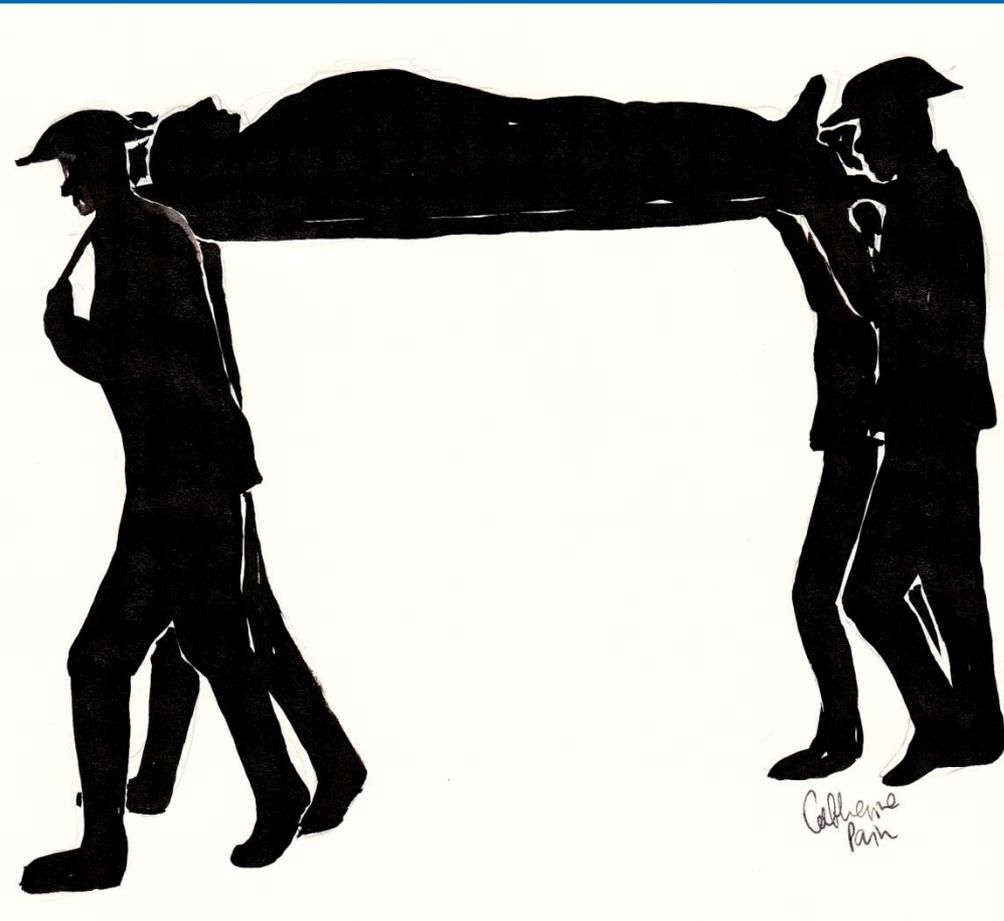


MATTHEW CHAPTER 9

- Another series of miracles, a new disciple, God-principles renewed
- Mark 2:1 – 5
- In Mark we learn that the paralyzed man was carried and then lowered into the house
- 4 men cared enough to not only bring this man to Yeshua, but to tear a hole in the roof to gain access !



THE STRETCHER BEARERS



- It is rewarding to be a stretcher bear
- One has to have good health and strength
- It is easier to carry a corner of a stretcher than to be the one on it
- For men, especially, it hurts our ego, pride, and makes us feel impotent to need to be carried
- Reality: eventually all of us will be on the stretcher
- Being the one who is carried can teach us humility
- Maybe we're on a stretcher to bless one of the bearers!



SIN & SICKNESS: A CONNECTION?

- Yeshua did not say: “be healed”. Instead He said: “...your sins are forgiven”
- Luke 7:44 – 48
- Jesus seemed to treat the paralyzed man’s underlying condition of sin, not the disability
- John 5:5 – 14
- Yeshua has made a firm connection between sin and sickness



Jesus answered, Neither has this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

—John 9:3



- John 9:1 – 3
- On Matt. 9 Hilary said this: *“....in...Christ, all of the sins of Adam are forgiven... We do not believe the paralytic committed any sin that resulted in his illness....”*
- If in Christ we are forgiven, then why do Believers get sick?
- The matter seems to be on a case by case basis, with only God knowing the answer
- Bottom line: we should not try to be the judge of whether a person's illness is due to sin
- James 5:13 - 16