



"The Power of God That Leads to the Building of the Church"

2 Displays of the Power of God that led to the Building of the Church:

I. The Power of God Displayed Through Pointed Preaching led to Evading Widespread Hostility—vv.19c-30

1. In the synagogues of Damascus—vv.19c-25

2. To the Hellenists in Jerusalem—vv.26-30

II. The Power of God Displayed Through Mighty Miracles led to Generating Widespread Salvation—vv.32-43

1. The healing of Aeneas brought about repentance—vv.32-35

2. The resurrection of Tabitha brought about faith—vv.36-43

Therefore, let us learn not to abuse external peace in banqueting and idleness; but the more rest we have from our enemies, we should be encouraged to go forward in godliness while we may. And if at any time the Lord let loose the bridle to the wicked to trouble us, let the inward consolation of the Spirit be sufficient for us...in peace as well as in the thick of battle, let us always joyfully go forward toward him who rewards those who seek him. (1)

[There are] three aspects of sonship implicit in the ascription of the [Son of God] title to Jesus: his perfect obedience to God, his being the ultimate revealer of God, and his being the authorized agent of God. The proclamation of Jesus as the Son of God represents an advance on the way in which his messiahship has been proclaimed thus far in Acts. (2)

[The miracles are] signs [or foretastes] of the kingdom, manifestations of the new creation. Restoring health to the sick or freeing the demonized from oppression signals the onset of the new age, and this is a harbinger of the new creation where sickness is absent and the impact of demons only a memory. Jesus' power over sickness and demons demonstrates that he rules over disease and the demonic...'Each miracle is—at least in part—the actual arrival of salvation.' The miracles also anticipate the new creation where the entirety of the created [realm] reflects the order and justice intended for the world from the beginning...[Along with pointing to God's kingdom] they also testify to Jesus' identity. They demonstrate that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of Man, the Son of God and the Lord of all...As signs [or attesting miracles], they point to something or to someone beyond themselves...[This carries on into Acts as] the signs, wonders, and miracles performed by the apostles played a vital role in the spread of the gospel...The miracles not only opened the door for the word of the gospel, but also were manifestations of the kingdom...[while representing] the continuation of Jesus' teaching and ministry. (3)

¹ <https://ccel.org/ccel/calvin/calcom36/calcom36.xvi.vii.html>. Accessed 12/3/24.

² F. F. Bruce, *The Book of the Acts*, NICNT (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1988), 190.

³ Thomas R. Schreiner, *New Testament Theology*, 66, 67, 68.