

Thaumazo

- 1) In our time, many say they would like to see a miracle.
- 2) Others claim they have seen a miracle from God.
- 3) When people in Bible times, saw a true miracle, they reacted much differently from people today.
- 4) The reaction that people had to miracles in NT times is described by this verb –
- 5) Slide

- 6) Notice the definition – READ
- 7) This term is found outside of Matthew-John as we see from the other references on slide.
- 8) Today we will look mainly at how this verb is used in Matthew-John –
- 9) Our beginning point will be the book of Revelation –
- 10) Slide

11) The verb we are looking at is found in Rev. 13:3 and it is rendered “wondered” in the ASV.

- 12) In this verse, the “power” is not the power of God – this is the power of the devil & his helpers.

- 13) Imagine something so powerful that EVERYONE is said to be amazed by it.
- 14) This amazement was not like going on vacation and saying: That was spectacular –
- 15) Let me show you a picture of what we saw --

- 16) This amazement was so great the people WORSHIPPED what they saw –
- 17) When this power was encountered, it was LIFE CHANGING.
- 18) We can be awed by all kinds of things in life, but generally they are not life changing.

19) It is possible to talk about God and the devil (good and evil), but lives are never changed –

- 20) People can listen, but not really hear –
- 21) It is possible to read, but not really comprehend.
- 22) The verb we are looking at shows us the type of response people should have to Christ & gospel.

- 23) Slide

24) Imagine seeing a tornado is a quarter a mile away from us –

- 25) We can feel its force and fury; we can see there is no where to hide from its power –
- 26) A person standing beside us and he says to the tornado: **Stop** and the tornado instantly disappears.
- 27) If such were to occur, what would we be thinking?
- 28) Would we not say we have seen power which can only come from God?

- 29) What if we were on a ship which was being battered by 30 foot swells –
- 30) One of the people on board the ship spoke two words: **Be still** and the waves immediately disappeared?
- 31) How would we react if we saw such a thing?
- 32) Some might think they were dreaming -
- 33) Others might think it was some type of trick or magic -
- 34) This is a small sample of power which belongs to and has been used by God.

- 35) Slide

- 36) As we study this word, we find that it is sometimes associated with large numbers of people –

- 37) In Mt. 9:33 we find the word MULTITUDES –

- 38) A great crowd saw Jesus do 2 things: Cast a demon out of a man AND

39) Then this man, who had not been able to speak began to talk.

- 40) The people who witnessed this event said this type of thing had NEVER taken place in Israel –
- 41) These people had surely seen and heard some great things –
- 42) There had been things that had made the news and been big topics of discussion –
- 43) This had NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE!

- 44) False teachers have often given people a false concept and picture of God.
- 45) In today's world, people talk about signs, wonders, and miracles, but there is no real power -
- 46) When people truly saw the power of God, they were beyond amazed.
- 47) The power of God shocked the senses of people.

- 48) The healing in Mt. 9:33 was not some type of isolated case –
- 49) Slide

50) If wanted to put the word we are looking at into our day and time ...

- 51) Imagine Jesus going to a large hospital –
- 52) The Lord visits room after room and sick people start to walk out of hospital completely healthy -
 - a) The man who was waiting to be taken into heart surgery –
 - b) Jesus heals him and the man asks for his discharge papers –
 - c) This fellow says he will put away the wheelchair and then run down the steps because he is fine.

53) The person needing eye surgery says he can now see and surgery is no longer needed.

- 54) The gun shot victim in the ER no longer has any pain or hole from being shot; he goes home.

55) In the first century, people came face to face with the power of God and it was amazingly scary.

- 56) Jesus disciples had this strange mixture of emotions because of a fig tree –
- 57) Slide

58) An estimate average height for a fig tree would be 20 feet.

- a) If we can't imagine how tall 20 feet would be --
- b) Think about a **giraffe**, or the top of a **uhual moving truck**, or **2 kayaks**.

59) Jesus spoke to a tree that was likely about as tall as a giraffe –

60) He cursed this tree and this tree instantly became dry and dead -

61) A live tree turned into something like a lifeless piece of wood which may have been brittle.

62) The disciples of Jesus had seen all kinds of miracles, even the stilling of storms.

63) When these men saw Jesus turn a living tree into withered wood, they “marveled” –

64) Seeing the power of God created a specific and special reaction in their minds.

65) When we talk about the God of the Bible, this is the type of power we are describing.

66) When people heard Jesus speak, their reaction was the same as when they saw His signs –

67) Slide & READ

68) As human beings, we become accustomed to routines.

69) Our work and personal relationships can become routine.

70) What we believe can be a routine.

71) Our prayer lives and our worship can become routine.

72) Life can become so routine that what should cause us to sit up and take notice becomes ho-hum.

73) A few days ago a reporter from USA Today wrote an article with this partial headline:

74) Covering mass shootings has become routine.

75) Here is a summary of what this reporter wrote -

76) Slide

77) Imagine being exposed to an evil so often that in some ways we become numb to it.

78) If we can do this with what is evil, we can probably also do this with what is good and even God.

79) **Prayer** day after day may become little more than a routine.

80) Worship, as the Corinthians learned, may eventually fail to properly contemplate God.

81) It is possible for faith itself to become little more than part of a thoughtless routine.

82) In Mk. 6:6, we find our word again, only this time the word is being used in a very different way –

83) Slide

84) Jesus encountered some people who REFUSED to believe in Him.

85) In spite of His teaching which caused people to be stunned with amazement ...

86) In spite of being able to cure anyone of anything at anytime ...

87) There were people who would not believe in and on Him.

88) It may seem difficult to comprehend, but deity in the flesh marveled at man's rejection.

89) Recently one very religious man described how he begins his life each day –

90) Slide & READ

91) Hopefully this fellow has a little more excitement in his day as the hours pass.

92) In many ways, life can become a very dull routine.

93) God can and should make life exciting; God can make our lives different; God can make life amazing.

a) Learning about the **will of God** is amazing.

b) Learning **about God** is amazing.

c) Learning **about God's plans** is also beyond amazing.

94) Jesus' parents experienced this as we see from the second chapter of Luke –

95) Slide

96) A man by the name of Simeon made some predictions about young Jesus –

97) What this servant of God said about the Lord caused Mary and Joseph to “marvel” –

98) Mary and Joseph were AMAZED when they heard what Jesus was going to do.

99) God is the only thing in the universe that never gets boring –

100) Those who saw deity in the flesh were repeatedly amazed.

101) We have a book from God which will also continue to amaze people, if they will read & study it.

102) In our world, many want to be amazed and marvel at something other than God.

103) Sometimes people allow themselves to be amazed by the most trivial sights.

104) Slide

105) The verb we are looking at is also used to describe the ceremonial handwashing of the Jews.

106) Many Jews wanted to look good in the sight of others, but they were inwardly wicked.

107) Jesus refused to follow along with the fakery associated with this man ordered ceremonial wash.

108) When a Pharisees saw Jesus neglect the ceremonial handwashing, he “marveled.”

109) We began with a text from Rev. 13 –

110) John said the “whole world marveled” at something from the devil.

- 111) Now we find a man “marveling” at Jesus refusing to follow a man-made religious rule.
- 112) We have a world full of people who “marvel” at the wrong stuff.
- 113) The Bible tells us and shows us the truth when it comes to amazement.
- 114) Peter went to the tomb of Jesus, found it empty, and he “wondered” (Lk. 24:12).
- 115) The word “wondered” is the same verb we have been looking at –
- 116) Peter was amazed.
- 117) The NASB and ESV use the word “marvel” to describe Peter’s reaction.

- 118) If we want to see something amazing, study the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- 119) Jn. 3:7 tells us we can “marvel” about the new birth offered through the gospel of Jesus Christ.**
 - a) Imagine being born again –
 - b) Perhaps we are decades old – maybe even a hundred years old – and we are “born again.”
 - c) Imagine a life being wrecked by sin and it is all “made new” by God.

- 120) The God we serve will one day raise all people from the dead and sentence each one to heaven or hell.
- 121) How can this be? What could be more stunning than this?
- 122) Imagine the famous, the infamous, the richest and poorest on earth all coming before Christ.

- 123) The tongue speaking – speaking in foreign languages which had not ever been studied –
- 124) Is another reason people “marveled” (Acts 2:7).

- 125) The last time we find the verb we are looking at is in Rev. 17:8 –
- 126) Slide
- 127) John said the “whole earth” wondered after (was amazed) by the BEST he described.

- 128) Our world wants us to be amazed and claims it can amaze us.
- 129) Many allow themselves to be amazed by creation vs the Creator or possibly by deceivers.
 - a) We may recall that back in 2018-2019, a man claimed his KJV Bible was producing oil.
 - b) Supposedly this Bible produced 400 gallons of oil.
- 130) Hundreds of people gathered each week for prayer, social contact, and alleged “healing.”
- 131) There were claims of this oil curing skin conditions and even cancer.
- 132) Supposedly the oil changed colors and even formed crystals.
- 133) Some moved so they could be closer to this phenomena – others drove hours every week to see it.
- 134) The so-called miracle was eventually sent to a lab by someone –
- 135) Rather than coming from God, this oil looked a lot like what the local TSC store was selling –
- 136) People at the Tractor Supply Company visually confirmed the pictures of the purchaser.

- 137) Our world often marvels at what is no more amazing than a junk toy in a box of cereal –
- 138) There is One who is great, marvelous, and beyond extraordinary.
- 139) Yesterday I had someone say to Me: I am blessed by the best.
- 140) A man who heard this statement asked who this woman meant.
- 141) She didn’t answer him, but I did.