

The choice between the sin-offering goat and the scapegoat was made by lot (Leviticus 16:8-22).

In Proverbs 16:33 the writer states: "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord." It should be pointed out that although providentially we can say that the toss of a coin or the roll of dice are under the control of God, yet this use should be taken in the context of the scriptural use of the lot as a supernatural mode of revelation to ascertain the Lord's will.

In the N. T. the word KLEROS (κληρος) is used 13 times. It is used in connection with the soldiers' casting of lots for the dividing of our Lord's garments as He hung on the cross; and it is used in the decision between Joseph Barsabbas and Matthias as a replacement for Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:15-26).

j. Revelation by means of miracles

The miracles recorded in Scripture are not merely great works, manifestations of tremendous power, or awe-inspiring wonders. They are that, but they are also signs, witnesses, and testimonies. They are intended to exhibit the character of God and to teach truths concerning God.

In the strict sense a miracle is an event in the external world, wrought by the immediately power of God, and intended as a sign or attestation of the truth of God's message to man.

The miracles of the Bible are confined almost exclusively to four periods of history. Each of these periods was marked by a life- and-death struggle between the true religion of God and the forces of ungodliness. These four periods are:

- (1) The redemption of God's people from Egypt and their establishment in Canaan under Moses and Joshua
- (2) The struggle of God's true religion with false heathen religions under Elijah and Elisha
- (3) The captivity of God's people during the Exile, and God's demonstration of His supremacy over the heathen idols, under Daniel and his companions
- (4) The earthly ministry of our Lord, when miracles attested His person and message, and the ministry of His apostles through the early apostolic age.

The sign-attestation aspect of miracles may be seen in many Scriptures. Two such references will bear mention: