

# “Where are the Miracles?”

By Rabbi David Wolpe

In the prayer for the new month a phrase is missing. The prayer reads: “May God who worked miracles for our ancestors, redeeming them from slavery to freedom, redeem us soon...” Notice the missing phrase? We say that God worked miracles for our ancestors and redeemed them, but today we ask only for redemption, not for miracles.

Three possibilities: Perhaps God once worked miracles, but does so no longer. A God retired from the miracle business leaves a world bereft, but surely it often appears to be a miracle-less world.

Or perhaps God does work miracles, but in contrast to large public miracles, they are private, hidden miracles. Scattered in time and varying in significance, perhaps there are indeed miracles, but they announce themselves in a whisper, if at all.

Or it may simply be that, as one Rabbi put it, “God speaks the language of human beings.” We may be the ones who work miracles, and God is our silent support. God does not develop new medicine, bring food to a bereaved family, or live heroically in a besieged land; we do all of those things. But it may be that we can do them only because God is speaking through us, and the redemption we find is indeed a miracle of God, the God who embraces us as partners in the sacred enterprise of working everyday miracles.