

Cambridge University Press
0521368189 - Medicine, Miracle and Magic in New Testament Times
Howard Clark Kee
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

SOCIETY FOR NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES

MONOGRAPH SERIES

General Editor: G. N. Stanton

55

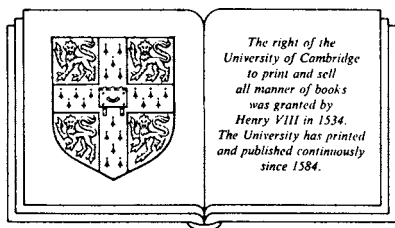
MEDICINE, MIRACLE AND MAGIC IN
NEW TESTAMENT TIMES

Cambridge University Press
0521368189 - Medicine, Miracle and Magic in New Testament Times
Howard Clark Kee
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Medicine, Miracle and Magic in New Testament Times

HOWARD CLARK KEE

William Goodwin Aurelio Professor of Biblical Studies
Boston University



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE

NEW YORK NEW ROCHELLE MELBOURNE SYDNEY

Cambridge University Press
0521368189 - Medicine, Miracle and Magic in New Testament Times
Howard Clark Kee
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521323093

© Cambridge University Press 1986

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1986
Reprinted 1987
First paperback edition 1988
Re-issued in this digitally printed version 2005

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Kee, Howard Clark.
Medicine, miracle and magic in New Testament times.
(Monograph series/Society for New Testament Studies; 55)
Bibliography.
Includes indexes.
1. Medicine in the Bible. 2. Medicine, Greek and Roman. 3. Miracles. 4. Medicine, Magic, mystic, and spagirc. I. Title. II. Series: Monograph series (Society for New Testament Studies); 55.
R135.5.K44 1986 220.8'61 85-31327

ISBN-13 978-0-521-32309-3 hardback
ISBN-10 0-521-32309-6 hardback

ISBN-13 978-0-521-36818-6 paperback
ISBN-10 0-521-36818-9 paperback

Cambridge University Press

0521368189 - Medicine, Miracle and Magic in New Testament Times

Howard Clark Kee

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

For JACOB NEUSNER
Esteemed Colleague and Friend

CONTENTS

Preface	<i>page ix</i>
Introduction: Definitions and contexts for healing	1
1 Healing in the Old Testament and post-biblical traditions	9
2 Medicine in the Greek and Roman traditions	27
3 Miracle	67
4 Magic	95
5 Concluding observations	122
Appendix	128
Notes	135
Bibliography	146
Indexes	152

Cambridge University Press
0521368189 - Medicine, Miracle and Magic in New Testament Times
Howard Clark Kee
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PREFACE

After the completion of my study, *Miracle in the Early Christian World* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1983), my continued interest in the phenomenon of healing in the New Testament led me to an investigation of another mode of healing from this period: medicine. It quickly became clear to me that this aspect of Graeco-Roman culture did not fall into a simple, neat category, but was as subject to change as I had discovered miracle to be. The result of these preliminary explorations was the determination to investigate in their inter-relationships to each other the three approaches to healing from this period: medicine, miracle and magic.

With the encouragement of my colleagues at Boston University, I applied for and was granted a Summer Stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities. My research was carried out in the superbly equipped and staffed library of the Wellcome Institute of the History of Medicine in London in the summer of 1984. Conversations with colleagues at the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas at its annual meeting later that summer in Basel led me to undertake converting my research notes into a monograph on the subject. It was my hope that the assembling of this evidence and the analytical framework in which it was placed might help to enrich our understanding of the context in which the New Testament was written and in which the early Christian movement spread so rapidly.

The preparation of this monograph was aided by friends and colleagues here in the USA, and especially in Boston: the staffs of various libraries in the Boston area (Boston University School of Theology, the Boston Athenaeum, Boston College), colleagues at the New York New Testament Seminar, the staff of the Graduate Division of Religious Studies at Boston University. A special word of thanks is due to the Cambridge University Press for the opportunity to remove some errors from the first edition and to offer in the Appendix translations of some relevant Jewish magical material, some

Cambridge University Press
0521368189 - Medicine, Miracle and Magic in New Testament Times
Howard Clark Kee
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Preface

x

of which is taken from the Scholars Press edition of *Sefer-ha-Razim*,
for which Michael A. Morgan was the translator.

HOWARD CLARK KEE
Boston University