

Reasons To Believe In The Miracles Of Jesus

There are at least thirty-seven miracles recorded in the Bible directly attributed to Jesus. Those who were there recognized the extraordinary events and were amazed, astonished, perplexed, or frightened. Yet many modernists try to explain away His miracles by redefining what the word means. In this article I want to define miracle as used in the Bible and give reasons why we should believe those miracles truly happened.

What is a miracle? Is it a beautiful sunset in the western sky, a basketball player hitting 90-foot desperation shot just before the buzzer to win the game, or the birth of a child? While a sunset can be amazing and beautiful it is hardly rare. A desperation basketball shot may be extraordinary but it does not defy the laws of gravity. Even a plane crash where one person survives and all others are killed does not qualify as a "miracle."

For something to be a miracle it must defy the laws of nature. Vine's Greek Dictionary defines the word as it is the use of works of a supernatural origin and character, such as could not be produced by natural agents and means. In the Bible we further have words such as signs, and wonders used to refer to a miraculous event. So, a miracle is an event not possible by any natural means, can only be performed by the power of God, and intended to produce amazement, wonder, and even fear in those present.

When one looks at the miracles of Jesus we find miraculous healings such as in Matthew 8.14-15, "And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them." Notice she did not start merely feeling better and after a period of time got up to serve them but she was better as her fever left her. On other occasions Jesus healed the blind, the lame, and others. In each case those present realized a miracle had been performed.

Twice Jesus fed a great multitude of people with just a few loaves of bread and some fish. Matthew 15 says Jesus served seven loaves of bread and a few fish in verse 34. After feeding everyone they gathered up the leftovers

and had seven large baskets of food. How does one end a meal with more food than they had at its beginning?

Jesus calmed the Sea of Galilee in Matthew 8.23-27. This was not simply riding out the storm or waiting for it to blow over but the wind and waves of the sea stopped. Again, the reaction of those present tells us something about what they saw. "And the men marveled, saying, 'Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?'" Verse 27.

Why should we believe these events are real and not just exaggerations or even lies?

Because God has the power to defy the very laws of nature He set up. "But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible." (Mark 10:27) The God who created the whole universe in six days by simply speaking it into existence can perform miracles! He can even give others, such as the apostles and prophets, the ability to perform miracles.

The Bible itself calls them miracles, signs, and wonders. "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know" (Acts 2:22) The Holy Scriptures, given to us by the Holy Spirit says miracles were performed by Jesus. If one accepts the Bible as the truly inspired word of God, 2 Timothy 3.16, they must accept its miracles.

Miracles are consistent with who Jesus was and claimed to be. "Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." 59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by." (John 8:58-59) "I AM" having a powerful meaning in the original language. Those were the same words used in Exodus 3 when God identified Himself to Moses. It means the eternal one, deity. Jesus was therefore claiming to be deity. Thus, the crowd was ready to stone Him for blasphemy. But Jesus was deity. He had the power to heal the sick, to stop the waves, to raise the dead.

Even the skeptics of Jesus recognized miraculous events took place. No one claimed the man in Mark 2.10,11 was not healed. On the day of Pentecost in

Acts 2.22 no one denied the statement made by Peter that Jesus had performed miracles, wonders and signs in their midst. They did not deny Jesus raised Lazarus from the grave three days after he was buried, John 11.47.

If one accepts the miracles of Jesus they must also accept who He was, what He did, and His teachings. Thus, the importance of His miracles was more than simply healing the sick it was to prove His character, His ability, and His doctrine. – Dennis Tucker.