

“Magical Myth or Historical Happening?” Matthew 8:23-28

Miracles are extraordinary works of God that produce awe and bears witness of God. In order for us to be amazed though and understand what they reveal, it is crucial that we believe they are real even if we cannot reproduce them, observe them, or experience them first-hand.

What are Miracles?

“An extraordinary work of God in which He arouses peoples’ awe & bears witness of Himself.”

- I. Extraordinary Work of God
 - A. He is ordinarily active in world

“He causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on ...”
—Matthew 5:45

“He causes grass to grow for the cattle and vegetation for the labor of man.”
—Psalm 104:14

“For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible ... all things have been created through Him and for Him ... And in Him all things hold together.”
—Colossians 1:16-17

- B. But extraordinarily ...
 1. Suspends natural order
 2. Controls natural elements
 3. Restores natural order

- II. Arouses Awe

- III. Bears Witness of Himself

Are Miracles True?

“But if there is no resurrection from the dead, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, your faith also is vain ...you are still in your sins.”
—1 Corinthians 15:13-14, 17

How to Determine Truth?

I. Modern Scientific Approach

- A. Goal of Science
- B. Methods of Science

"Scientific method refers to bodies of techniques for investigating phenomena, acquiring new knowledge, or correcting previous knowledge. To be scientific, a method of inquiry must be based on gathering observable, empirical and measurable evidence subject to specific principles of reasoning."

—Wikipedia

C. Jurisdiction of Science

"The scientist must always assume that there is a natural cause ... because natural causes are the only kind its methodology can address. It is another thing to insist that science has proven there can't be any other kind. There would be no experimental model for testing the statement: 'No supernatural cause for any natural phenomenon is possible.' It is therefore a philosophical presupposition and not a scientific finding."

—Timothy Keller

D. Quandary of Science

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God ... but became futile in their speculations."

—Romans 1:20-21

Can you believe what you can not repeat and observe scientifically?

II. Postmodern Approach

- A. Goal of Postmodernism
- B. Method of Postmodernism

"You reject the dogmas and propositions of religion. Very well, reject them. They are not in any case the essence of religion itself. Religion does not need them; it is only **human reflection** on the content of our religious **feelings** or **affection** which requires anything of the kind, or calls it into being ... What is revelation? Every new and original communication of the Universe to man; and every elemental **feeling** is inspiration."

—Schleiermacher

- C. Jurisdiction of Postmodernism
- D. Quandary of Postmodernism

“But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him.”

—John 12:37

Can you believe what you can not experience personally?

III. Apostle’s Approach

A. Goal of Apostle

“Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you.”

—2 Peter 1:12

B. Methods of Apostle

C. Jurisdiction of Apostle

“All Scripture is inspired by God.”

—2 Timothy 3:16

Purpose of Miracles

I. Provoke Awe

II. Bear Witness of God