

MIRACLES AND ISRAEL

WHY MIRACLES HAPPENED

*"We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write,
Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."*

~ John 1:45

1. Introduction

- a. Why God allows bad things to happen, Why God kills people, the issue: intervention
- b. Philosophers say miracles are impossible, skeptics blame God for not doing them now
- c. "Christians" say they are happening everywhere – "double rainbows", "new jobs"
- d. Miracles are recorded in the Bible according to God's dealings with one nation: Israel
 - i. God has not dealt with any other nation - Psa 33:12, 147:19-20

2. What is a Miracle

- a. A miracle is not magic – Exo 7:9-11 - (Disney religion - "Do you believe in magic?")
- b. A miracle is not naturally explained: plagues, flood, flight, medicine, smartphones
 - i. "Miracles are impossible because they break natural laws", but no.
 - ii. There were natural laws we still can't explain, but that doesn't make a miracle
- c. A miracle is not what people can do – doctors, "Miracle on Ice" and Al Michaels
- d. A miracle is not simply against all odds – they were common in - Matt 4:23
- e. A miracle is when the supernatural intervenes to do something otherwise not done

3. Miracles Happen

- a. The Bible miracles were not denied by unbelievers – Deu 11:17; John 11:47; Acts 4:16
- b. When people blame God for intervening or not, they are affirming the miraculous
- c. God is not the only one that can do miracles – Matt 12:22-28; 24:24; 2 Thes 2:9
- d. R. Anderson: the great difficulty is not their occurrence, but their absence.

4. Miracles Provide Proof

- a. Miracles by themselves do not mean a person is Divine, or speaking truth
- b. If a Christian sees a miracle we need to confirm the message with scripture - 2Pet 1:19
- c. Miracles were given to Israel to prove their God – Deu 4:34, Exo 34:10, Isa 35:2
- d. Jesus was suspicious about those who sought signs – John 2:23, 3:2, 6:2, 6:26, 7:31
- e. He calls them evil for... "*We would see a sign from thee!*" - Matt 12:38-39; Matt 16:1-4
- f. Jews require a sign, Greeks seek after wisdom, but we preach... 1 Cor 1:22-23
- g. The miracles only provide proof of truth, only when they align to scripture – John 5:36

5. Miracles Point to Christ

- a. Jesus said search the scriptures, they speak of Him - John 5:39, 6:14, 10:25, 20:31
- b. They knew Jesus was the Christ, because of prophecies about him – John 1:45
- c. When John the Baptist asked if he was the One, Jesus did miracles – Lk 7:18-30
- d. See the prophetic prediction of these signs – Isa 32:3-5, 35:5-6, 42:6-7, 61:1-3
- e. Do you see? Can you hear? Deu 29:2-4 compared to Matt 13:9-16
- f. Christ has come, and gone, Israel is fallen, the miracles have stopped – Acts 28:28