

# Are The Miracles Recorded In The Christian Bible True Events?

It is often contended that people who lived during biblical times were more simpleminded and superstitious than modern humans, and could be tricked into believing the miraculous stories contained in the Christian Bible.

Such people claim that as we now live in a scientific age we have outgrown these superstitions, since we have developed the mental capacity to see these miracles as superstitious myths.

A close study of the evidence will show that these accounts are **not** a superstitious reaction to some clever trickster.

The human response to the recorded miraculous acts of God show the same surprise and anxiety that humans today would have if placed in the same situation.

**John 9:32-33** [NIV] *“Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”*

The people living at the time of Jesus certainly knew that a man born blind could not immediately receive his sight.

**John 6:5-14** [NIV] *“When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming towards him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “Eight months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.”*

These people knew that five loaves and a few fishes would not feed 5,000 men and their families.

**Matthew 14:22-32** [NIV] *“Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came towards Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?” And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.”*

We do not see people walking on water every day of the week. These men knew that this was the act of one who was God.

**John 20:19-31** [NIV] *“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.” A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”*

Thomas refused to accept the testimony of this unbelievable event of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, but changed his mind when he came face to face with Jesus.

The people in biblical times were not expected to believe what seemed ridiculous to them, and neither are we today.

People living in the time of Jesus Christ were no less sceptical than we are today.

It was the unavoidable, the inescapable, the irrefutable facts that caused them to believe in the miracles they personally experienced.

The natural order we are so familiar with was interfered with as the miracle occurred.

It is only the ignorant scepticism of modern human beings that causes them to deny that miracles do occur.

The miracle accounts as recorded in the Christian Bible are always for a definite purpose, there is always a logical reason for them.

**Luke 9:12-17** [NIV] *“Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, “Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here.” He replied, “You give them something to eat.” They answered, “We have only five loaves of bread and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all this crowd.” (About five thousand men were there.) But he said to his disciples, “Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each.” The disciples did so, and everybody sat down. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to set before the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.”*

The 5,000 men and their families were in immediate need of food.

**John 2:1-11** [NIV] *“On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.” “Dear woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My time has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.” They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then*

*he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him."*

To run out of wine at a wedding feast would have been a great embarrassment to the host who was a friend of Jesus' family. Also it was to establish who He was in the minds of His disciples.

**Psalms 77:13-15** [NIV] *"Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God? You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. Selah"*

The miracles were intended to be objective signs to the people that He, Jesus, was the promised Messiah, since one of the credentials of the Messiah would be signs and miracles.

When reading the miraculous accounts in the Christian Bible and especially the gospels, we have to note the fact that the miracles of Jesus were **not** denied by His critics.

**Matthew 21:23** [NIV] *"Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?"*

Jesus was never asked if He performed miracles, He was asked how He did them and by what authority.

It was impossible for people to deny that Jesus was doing miraculous things, literally hundreds of people had been cured of their afflictions and there was no other explanation.

**Acts 2:22** [NIV] *"Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know."*

Simon Peter in front of a hostile crowd states that the people were well aware of the miracles that Jesus Christ had performed.

One reason why miracles are rejected is because they do not fit within many people's view of this world.

Such people have never personally witnessed a miracle, so they conclude therefore that miracles cannot happen or that they are impossible.

Instead of investigating the evidence for the miraculous, the whole idea is rejected.

This is **not** the way people deal with other issues, where they do not have personal experience.

Many people have the same attitude of mind as Benjamin Disraeli.

Quote from *"The Infernal Marriage"* by Benjamin Disraeli:

*"I make it a rule to only believe what I understand."*

Unfortunately many people hold this viewpoint an attitude of mind and determine the verdict before examining the evidence.

This attitude is not only unscientific but is also dangerous for the person holding the view.

If there is a God and if He is choosing to reveal Himself through the miraculous, then with this unbelieving viewpoint on miracles that person is cutting themselves off from finding out if God does exist.

In fact I go further, by refusing to accept the possibility of God breaking into human history in a supernatural way, that person is destroying their only hope of understanding what life is all about.

Therefore, it is of the highest importance at least that we look into the possibility of miracles occurring because of the eternal stakes which are involved.

Miracles performed by Jesus Christ were more than supernatural events, they were the beginning of His work of reconciliation and recreation of a fallen humanity.

Almost every miracle Jesus performed were part of this mission He had come to fulfil.

Restoring sight to humanity who have been blinded spiritually to the reason for their existence.

**Genesis 1:26-27** [NIV] *“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”*

The goal God set Himself is to create humans in His image [Hebrew means shadow] and His likeness [meaning character]. All humans are made in God’s image but only through the work of Jesus Christ can we be made in God’s likeness, character.

Such a spiritual creation is a miracle, that is something that can only be formed on the supernatural level.

**John 15:1-8** [NIV] *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”*

This is the only route for this transformation to take place. Through Jesus Christ who revealed who He was through the performing of miracles.

Jesus Christ is our Saviour and our only hope for eternal life, and this is confirmed by the miracle of His resurrection from death.