

Would A Miracle Strengthen Your Faith In A Creator God?

How would you react to a miracle in your life?

Would the effect be good or bad?

Do you recognise all the miracles God has already performed for you?

Dictionary definition of a miracle:- *“An event or effect in the physical world deviating from the known laws of nature or transcending our knowledge of those laws, an extraordinary, anomalous or abnormal event, brought about by superhuman agency.”*

Certainly any occurrence fitting this definition should strengthen our conviction that there is a Creator God who is able to intervene in the lives of physical human beings!

However, this does **not** happen in the lives of many who have personally experienced a miracle.

They explain it away as mere coincidence or they just forget it actually happened.

A historical record

Surely there have been no people on earth who have witnessed more powerful miracles than Ancient Israel, and these events and their reaction has been recorded and preserved in God’s Word, the Christian Bible, for us to learn from, [**1 Corinthians 10:1-10**].

They actually saw an entire river turned into blood, along with all the water in vessels throughout Egypt, [**Exodus 7:14-25**].

They saw Egypt virtually filled with frogs, [**Exodus 8:1-15**].

They saw the very dust turn into lice at the word of God, [**Exodus 8:16-19**].

There were also plagues of flies, livestock disease, boils, hail and locusts, yet pharaoh and the people still were **not** convinced enough to let the people of God leave Egypt, [**Exodus 8:20-32; Exodus 9:1-35; Exodus 10:1-20**].

God then brought on two more final miraculous plagues on Egypt, darkness and death of all firstborn by animals and humans, [**Exodus 10:21-29; Exodus 11:1-6**].

The additional miracle was that none of these plagues affected the Israelites who lived in the Egyptian province of Goshen, [**Exodus 9:6; Exodus 9:26; Exodus 11:7**].

With amazement the Israelites received gold and silver from the Egyptians as they were finally thrust out of the land of Egypt, [**Exodus 12:35-36**].

However, this was only the beginning of God’s miracles, as He brought His people out of Egypt.

They saw the Red Sea standing like a wall either side of them as they walked dry-shod across the bottom of the sea, [**Exodus 14:1-22**].

They then saw the same waters close upon the Egyptian army, [**Exodus 14:23-31**].

How long did the belief in God last?

God continued to support Israel in the wilderness by great miracles.

A pillar of fire by night and cloud by day leading them in their journey through the wilderness, [Exodus 13:21-22], a constant daily miracle.

The Israelites were fed with special nutritious food that appears from morning, [Exodus 16:4-7] and meat every evening, [Exodus 16:13].

This manna had to be collected on a daily basis and only enough for each day, if left overnight it stank and was filled with worms, except on the sixth day when it stayed fresh so they did **not** have to work on the seventh day, the Sabbath, to collect the manna, [Exodus 16:14-31].

On top of all this God spoke to them giving them the Ten Commandments to guide them in their relationship with Him and each other, [Exodus 19:1-25; Exodus 20:1-21].

Surely, after seeing all these miracles, you would think that they would know and believe in the God who had brought them out of Egypt.

These laws were written on the tablets of stone by God and given to Moses, [Exodus 31:18].

What was the response of the Israelites?

Exodus 32:1-6 [New King James] *“Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, ‘Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ And Aaron said to them, ‘Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.’ So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a moulded calf. Then they said, ‘This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!’ So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, ‘Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD.’ Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.”*

The true God who had brought them out of Egypt with a series of miracles was soon forgotten, they wanted a physical God that they could see.

God led the Israelites to the edge of the Promised Land and sent in spies to survey the land before the intended entrance, [Numbers 13:1-2, 17-33].

How much faith did the people gain from their past experience of how God had performed miracles to protect and feed them?

[Numbers 14:1-10], complete distrust and rebellion against God.

Moses had to intervene to save the people from the wrath of God because of their faithless attitude, [Numbers 14:11-25].

All except for Joshua and Caleb, who had given a true report of the Promised Land and trusted God, would die in the wilderness and **not** enter into the Promised Land, [Numbers 14:26-38].

The Israelites then tried to enter the Promised Land without the supernatural backing of God and failed dramatically, [Numbers 14:39-45].

The miracles of Jesus Christ

We find a similar situation during the ministry of Jesus Christ.

His disciples unquestionably saw first-hand many miracles that He performed.

They were present at the marriage feast when Jesus Christ turned water into wine, [**John 2:1-11**].

We are told the disciples believed in Him, yet did they really mean this?

In **John 6:1-14** the disciples saw and ate what Jesus Christ did to feed about 5,000 families from five barley loaves and two fishes.

Jesus Christ walked on water, [**John 6:15-21**].

Yet many of His disciples forsook Jesus Christ because of what He preached, [John 6:66].

Miracles are not enough

I hope that it is now obvious to you that miracles will **not** necessarily cause a person to believe in and follow God.

But should you follow anyone because of miracles?

Acts 8:9-11 [New King James] *“But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, ‘This man is the great power of God.’ And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time.”*

This is an example of a man who used actual miracles to draw people to follow and be influenced by him.

The people looked on this man called Simon as a god, an interpreter [a “Peter”]. Historical sources show that this man was leading people into idolatry by performing sorcery, demoniacal miracles.

[Please download and study ‘Was The Apostle Peter The First Pope?’ listed under ‘Religion’.]

Matthew 24:23-24 [New King James] *“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”*

Jesus Christ warned that at the end time, [the time between Jesus Christ’s First and Second Coming] there would be many false christs, false prophets, performing miracles.

2 Thessalonians 2:9 [New King James] *“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,”*

Satan uses people to perform miracles to draw many away from the true Creator God and to worship him.

Could you believe and follow such a man?

God gives us very clear instructions showing us how to discern whether or not a man performing miracles is of God.

Deuteronomy 13:1-4 [New King James] *“If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods,’ which you have not known, ‘and let us serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.”*

If such a man is preaching what is **not** based on God’s Word, the Christian Bible, the miracles he is performing are performed by Satan through him.

Isaiah adds to this warning, [**Isaiah 8:19-20**].

1 John 4:1-6 [New King James] *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”*

“The spirit that is in you” is referring to the Holy Spirit Whom God will send to influence our mind and thoughts if we ask for Him to direct our lives, [**Luke 11:13**].

There are certain conditions to our receiving the Holy Spirit to influence our lives.

Given to those who obey, [Acts 5:32].

To those who do not grieve Him, [Ephesians 4:30-32].

To those who do not quench what the Holy Spirit desires to develop within us, [1 Thessalonians 5:19; Galatians 5:22-25].

The Holy Spirit will then guide us into all truth, [John 16:13] and bring God’s Word, the Christian Bible, and its teaching to remembrance when we need it to counter Satan’s deception, [John 14:26].

If we avoid being two-spirited [James 1:5-8 – “double minded”] that is allowing the influence of this world, which is at this time ruled by Satan, [1 John 5:19; 2 Corinthians 4:4] as well as the Holy Spirit, we will be safe from the influence of false prophets, [2 Corinthians 11:13-15] who are instruments of Satan to blind people to the gospel message brought by Jesus Christ from God the Father, [2 Corinthians 4:4].