

A DEFENSE OF MIRACLES

"If we admit God, must we admit miracle? Indeed, indeed, you have no security against it. That is the bargain."

C.S Lewis

When we consider miracles, it is obvious that Jesus performed more public miracles than anybody. People often reject the Bible because it mentions things like God, judgment and miracles. But the Bible has been confirmed time and time again to be historically accurate. The parts that we can look for verification are in fact confirmed. Countless archaeological digs have confirmed much of the history of the Bible. Not only does history confirm the Bible, but details in science provide evidence as well. For example, Job 26:7 tells us that God "hangs the earth on nothing". Space exploration has shown that the earth is indeed suspended in space. Job lived long before space exploration, though; in fact, he lived a few thousand years before Christ. So, how did he know that? Throughout history, critics have attacked the Bible because of its claims and failed to disprove it. Concerning that fact, I would like to share a quote with you

Time Magazine, Dec. 30, 1974: "After more than two centuries of facing the heaviest scientific guns that could be brought to bear, the bible has survived and perhaps better for the siege even on the critics' own terms. Historical fact, the scriptures seem more acceptable now than they did when the rationalist began the attack."

Jesus said that these works or miracles were in fact proof of His claims of who He was.

John 10:24-33:

24. The Jews therefore gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."

25. Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these bear witness of Me.

26. But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep.

27. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;

28. and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand.

29. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

30. I and the Father are one."

31. The Jews took up stones again to stone Him.

32. Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?"

33. The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God."

John 14:9-11:

9. Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

10. Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.

11. Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me; otherwise believe on account of the works themselves.

Here we see that Jesus offered His works, or miracles, as evidence of His identity. Are we to now say that miracles are not possible when Jesus offered them as evidence? Jesus and the New Testament writers taught of good moral values and truth. It would be a huge contradiction if those who taught that we should be moral and not lie were in fact very immoral and spreading lies about miracles themselves.

The Bible is interlaced with history, and miracles that some still question yet has been confirmed true. It is not logical to disbelieve the Bible based on a preconceived notion that "miracles are not possible".

Some argue against miracles because the event in question only happened once and cannot be repeated. They say, "I did not see it happen, and it cannot be repeated, therefore I do not believe it." By that logic we could say the person extending that argument does not exist — Did you see them born? Can that rare event be repeated? No! The same can be said for the formation of the universe — it only happened once and cannot be repeated — yet here we are. There is one point concerning the numerous miracles that were performed publicly by Jesus that should not be overlooked, and that is the Church itself. Think about the location and era of the Church's origin. It was born in the same area and during the same time frame as the miracles that were performed by Jesus. The Gospels and the accounts of the things that Jesus did were being circulated among the same cities that the events and miracles took place. You would think that church growth would be impossible if the incredible stories contained in the Gospels were just fabricated lies!

For example — imagine that someone today started spreading news articles stating that the President was performing public miracles in Los Angeles, California. Furthermore, the articles themselves were spread all over Los Angeles, California. How many people in Los Angeles would believe these stories if there were no eyewitnesses they could talk to? How many of them would be willing to die for this belief? Thousands of people in the geographical area and during the same time when Jesus performed public miracles believed. These same people were persecuted for their beliefs, and many died martyrs for their faith in Christ. No writing from that period dispute the miracles. If reports of miracles were all fabrications, then you would think there would be written documentation of the fabrication. On the contrary, it was only years later (after all the eyewitnesses were dead) that people began to claim that miracles never happened!

What does all of this have to do with us today? First, it shows us that the Bible is true and reliable. The same Jesus who performed miracles is our Lord and Savior. He can, and still does, perform miracles today. Granted, we do not see numerous public miracles today, but at that time, He was offering them as evidence of who He claimed to be. This is evidence that we can still look to ourselves when considering His claims. There are many periods throughout Biblical history when there were not public miracles. Just because we do not see numerous public miracles, does not mean that they do not happen. This is something you may want to remember as you kneel before the Lord in prayer.