

The Idea of a Miracle

1. “A miracle is an interference with Nature by supernatural power” (C.S. Lewis, *Miracles*).
2. To appeal to the miraculous as an explanation for events around us is usually to remain in an ignorance of the natural world that is fundamentally disobedient to God’s ancient command to “fill the earth *and subdue it*” (Genesis 1:28).
3. We’ve been taught that Nature—“the universe”—is all there is, and that nothing exists beyond the Nature that we know (philosophical “Naturalism”).
4. Miracles—if they exist—come from something outside our Nature, and Naturalism tells us that there is no such Something.
5. But if Naturalism is really true, then however we may perceive it, we humans actually have no freedom whatsoever, because everything we do is the inescapable result of complex chains of cause and effect reaching back into infinity (“Determinism”).
6. The Determinism required by Naturalism means that we have absolutely no reason to consider our thought processes to be valid: they are totally predetermined. But unless our reasoning is valid, no science, no knowledge can be true.
7. René Descartes’ famous statement, “*I think, therefore I exist,*” is the Achilles heel of Naturalism, though he did not intend it to be so. Our ability to reason, and our persistent conviction that our reasoning has substance and validity, is the key that opens the door to Super-Nature, whether we want it to or not . . . and miracles become possible.

If we wish to accept our own thinking as valid, then sooner or later we must admit a prior Rationality that exists absolutely on its own. This Rationality is the Source of our own thought. **Rationality “is the little telltale rift in Nature which shows that there is something beyond or behind her”** (C.S. Lewis).

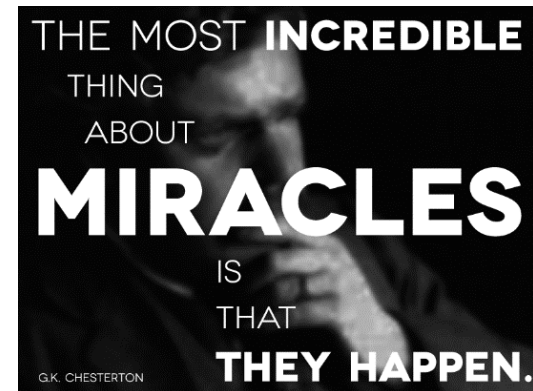
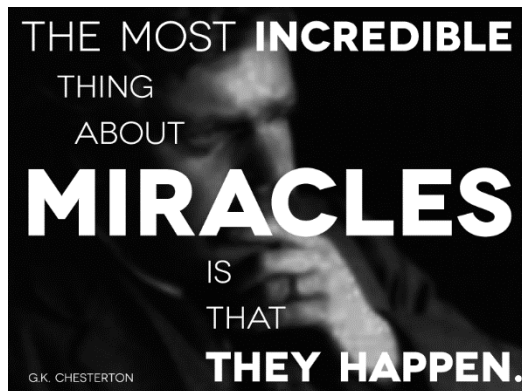
8. The underlying reason why persons hold to Naturalism instead of Supernaturalism really has nothing to do with miracles. The reason why persons refuse to accept the possibility of God’s existence is that if there really is a God, then there really are objective standards for our lives, for which we are—and will be *accountable*. That’s the real reason.
9. A miracle is most emphatically not something that breaks the laws of Nature. Rather, a miracle is “an event which is not producible by the natural causes that are operative at the time and place that the event occurs” (W. L. Craig). Miracles occur when God allows the realm of Super-Nature to intersect with Nature. This intersection adds things to Nature’s chains of cause and effect that weren’t there before.
10. Once we accept the existence of God (the Something beyond Nature that is required in order for our thinking to be valid), then the occurrence of miracles becomes somewhat to be expected rather than surprising.

Categories of Biblical Miracles

1. Miracles of Original Creation
2. Miracles of Propositional Revelation
3. Miracles of Multiplication
4. Miracles of Inorganic Healing
5. Miracles of Organic Healing
6. Miracles of Power over Animals
7. Miracles of Power over Nature
8. Miracles of Power over Spirits
9. Miracles of Power over Death
10. Miracles of Deception

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Major Clusters of Miracles

Cluster	Miracle	Reference(s)	Type of Miracle
God in Creation	Creation	Genesis 1:1-2:4	Creation <i>ex nihilo</i>
God in Creation	Human Free Will	Genesis 2:16	Morality; <i>imago dei</i>
God in Antiquity	Noah's Flood	Genesis 6:1-8:22	Power over Nature
God in Antiquity	Destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah	Genesis 19:24-25	Power over Nature
Moses	Burning Bush	Exodus 3:2	Power over Nature
Moses	Staff/Snake	Exodus 4:2-4	Power over Nature
Moses	Leprous Skin	Exodus 4:6-7	Organic Healing
Moses	Ten Egyptian Plagues	Exodus 7:1-12:33	Power over Nature; Power over Animals; Power over Death
Moses	Parting of the Red Sea	Exodus 14	Power over Nature
Moses	Manna for 40 Years	Exodus 16; Joshua 5:12	Power over Nature
Moses	The Earth Swallowed Korah	Numbers 26:10	Power over Nature
Joshua	Parting of the Jordan River	Joshua 3:14-4:18	Power over Nature
Joshua	Walls of Jericho	Joshua 6	Power over Nature
Joshua	Sun & Moon stood still	Joshua 10:13	Power over Nature
Elijah	<i>See separate handout</i>		
Elisha	<i>See separate handout</i>		
Isaiah	Shadow moves backward on sundial of Ahaz	2 Kings 20:9-11	Power over Nature
Jesus	<i>See separate handout</i>		
Disciples	The 72 cast out Demons	Luke 10:17	Power over Spirits
Disciples	Many Signs & Wonders	Acts 2:43, 5:12, 14:3	Multiple
Disciples	Priests acknowledge Signs & Wonders	Acts 4:16	Multiple
Stephen	Amazing Miracles & Signs	Acts 6:8	Multiple
Peter	Healed Lame Man	Acts 3:1-16	Organic Healing
Peter	Ananias' & Sapphira's Deaths	Acts 5:3-9	Power over Death
Peter	Peter's Shadow heals the Sick	Acts 5:15	Organic Healing
Peter	Tabitha raised to Life	Acts 9:38-40	Power over Death
Paul	Healed Crippled Man	Acts 14:10	Organic Healing
Paul	Signs & Wonders among the Gentiles	Acts 15:12	Multiple
Paul	Exorcised Demon	Acts 16:18-19	Power over Spirits
Paul	Unusual Miracles	Acts 19:11	Multiple
Paul	Eutychas raised to Life	Acts 20:9-11	Power over Death
Paul	Unhurt by Poisonous Snake	Acts 28:5	Organic Healing

The Miracles of Elijah & Elisha

	<i>Reference(s)</i>	<i>Type of Miracle</i>
ELIJAH		
1. No rain for 3 ½ years	1 Kings 17:1; 18:44	Power over Nature
2. Food brought by ravens	1 Kings 17:5-6	Power over Animals
3. Widow's food multiplied	1 Kings 17:12-16	Multiplication
4. Widow's son raised to life	1 Kings 17:17-24	Power over Death
5. Altar and sacrifice consumed	1 Kings 18:16-46	Power over Nature
6. Earthquake, Wind & Fire	1 Kings 19:9-18	Natural disasters; God's Voice
7. Ahaziah's soldiers	2 Kings 1:9-14	Power over Nature
8. Jordan River parted	2 Kings 2:6-8	Power over Nature
9. Transported to heaven	2 Kings 2:11-12	Power over Death
10. Transfiguration	Matthew 17:1-13; Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36	Glorified presence
ELISHA		
1. Jordan River parted	2 Kings 2:13-14	Power over Nature
2. Spring purified at Jericho	2 Kings 2:19-22	Inorganic Healing
3. Widow's oil multiplied	2 Kings 4:1-7	Multiplication
4. Dead boy raised to life	2 Kings 4:18-37	Power over Death
5. Poison in stew purified	2 Kings 4:38-41	Inorganic Healing
6. Prophets' food multiplied	2 Kings 4:42-44	Multiplication
7. Naaman healed of leprosy	2 Kings 5:1-14	Organic Healing
8. Gehazi became leprous	2 Kings 5:15-27	Organic Healing
9. Ax head floated	2 Kings 6:1-7	Power over Nature
10. Aramean army blinded	2 Kings 6:8-23	Power over Nature
11. His bones raised the dead	2 Kings 13:20-21	Power over Death

Jesus' Miracles

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Miracles of Power over Animals

1.	A coin in a fish's mouth	17:24-27			
2.	The first miraculous catch of fish			5:1-11	
3.	The second miraculous catch of fish				21:1-14

Miracles of Power over Death

4.	Jairus's daughter raised	9:18-26	5:22-24, 35-43	8:41-42, 49-56	
5.	A widow's son is raised			7:11-16	
6.	Lazarus is raised from the dead				11:1-45

Miracles of Multiplication

7.	Five thousand people are fed	14:15-21	6:35-44	9:12-17	6:5-14
8.	Four thousand are fed	15:32-38	8:1-9		

Miracles of Power over Nature

9.	Calming the storm	8:23-27	4:35-41	8:22-25	
10.	Jesus walks on the water	14:22-33	6:45-52		6:17-21
11.	Cursing the fig tree	21:18-22	11:12-14, 20-24		
12.	Jesus turns water into wine				2:1-11

Miracles of Organic Healing

13.	A sick woman is healed	9:20-22	5:25-34	8:43-48	
14.	Jesus heals a paralytic	9:1-8	2:1-12	5:17-26	
15.	A leper is healed at Gennesaret	8:1-4	1:40-45	5:12-15	
16.	Peter's mother-in-law healed	8:14-17	1:29-31	4:38-39	
17.	A shriveled hand is restored	12:9-13	3:1-5	6:6-11	
18.	Blind Bartimaeus receives sight	20:29-34	10:46-52	18:35-43	
19.	A centurion's servant is healed	8:5-13		7:1-10	
20.	Two blind men find sight	9:27-31			
21.	Jesus heals the mute man	9:32-33			
22.	A deaf and mute man is healed		7:31-37		
23.	A blind man sees at Bethsaida		8:22-26		
24.	A crippled woman is healed			13:10-17	
25.	Jesus heals a sick man			14:1-6	
26.	Ten lepers are healed			17:11-19	
27.	Jesus restores a man's ear			22:49-51	
28.	An official's son is healed at Cana				4:46-54
29.	A lame man is healed				5:1-16
30.	Jesus heals a man born blind				9:1-7

Miracles of Power over Spirits

31.	Demons sent into the pigs	8:28-34	5:1-20	8:26-39	
32.	A boy with an evil spirit is healed	17:14-21	9:14-29	9:37-42	
33.	A girl is freed from a demon	15:21-28	7:24-30		
34.	An evil spirit is sent out of a man		1:23-27	4:33-36	
35.	A mute demoniac is healed	12:22			

Miracles Occurring in each Category

Miracle Categories	Jesus	All Others
Original Creation	2, God the Creator	--
Propositional Revelation	2 [actually many], God the Creator	--
Multiplication	2	3
Inorganic Healing	--	2
Organic Healing	18	7
Power over Animals	3	5
Power over Nature	2, God the Creator, 4, God the Son	20
Power over Spirits	5	2
Power over Death	3	5
TOTALS	41	44