

These Are Written That You Might Believe

Introduction:

- A. "You can no more understand a miracle torn from its context than you can understand a comet detached from the solar system in which it moves." (A.J. Hoover, **The Case for Christian Theism**. 151)
 - B. Jesus staked His claim to be the Son of God on the reality of His miracles. - John 10:24-25; 14:11
 - C. The inspired writers record His miracles as proof of His claims. - John 20:30-31
 - D. Proposition: The miracles Jesus worked confirm He is the Christ the Son of God.
- I. What is a miracle?
- A. There are four biblical terms for these occurrences.
 - 1. "miracle" (source): power - Acts 2:22
 - 2. "wonders" (effect): that which produces astonishment - Ibid
 - 3. "signs" (purpose): tokens of authority and power - Ibid
 - 4. "works" (encompassing) - John 10:25
 - B. Miracles are:
 - 1. works of supernatural origin and power that are radically different from the regular order of nature. - Matthew 14:15-33
 - 2. the intervention of God's power directly into the realm of the natural. - cf. Luke 5:17
 - C. Miracles are NOT:
 - 1. simply God's day to day rule of the universe (Otherwise, they would neither be signs nor wonders). - Acts 17:24
 - 2. providential answers to prayer (ditto). - 1 John 5:14-15
 - 3. nor, scientifically explainable. - cf. 2 Kings 20:1-11
- II. Should one admit the possibility of miracles?
- A. For one to assert he knows a miracle could never have occurred is to claim he knows everything that has ever happened in every part of the universe. - cf. Job 38:1-4
 - B. For one to assert that God would not disrupt the order of nature to work a miracle is to claim to know perfectly the mind of God. - cf. Job 40:1-8; 42:1-6; Romans 11:33-36; Hebrews 2:3-4
 - C. If one admits the existence of an all-powerful God, he must admit the possibility of miracles. - Romans 1:20
 - D. If one admits that God intervenes in man's behalf to forgive sins, he must admit that miracles are probable. - John 3:16
- III. The miracles of Christ demand an answer.
- A. If Christ worked miracles, as the gospel writers claim, then His claims are true. - John 3:1-2; 10:24-25,37-38; 21:25
 - B. His miracles cannot be dismissed.
 - 1. They were not done secretly. - Acts 26:26
 - 2. They were not psychological healings. - Luke 7:11-15
 - 3. There is adequate testimony.
 - a. the beneficiaries - Mark 1:40-45
 - b. the disciples, who suffered for their testimony - Acts 5:40-42
 - c. the enemies of Christ - John 10:37-39; Matthew 12:22-29

IV. The Gospel of John dramatically demonstrates the true purpose of the miracles of Christ.

A. What is the purpose of John's account of Christ?

1. not biography: one third of the book devoted to Jesus' last 24 hours
2. It presents the conflict between Jesus and Satan. - John 1:5,10
3. Its purpose is to produce faith in Christ. - John 20:30-31

B. The miracles of Jesus were worked for moral purposes.

1. Jesus' claims are couched in the seven great "I am's." - John 4:25-26; 8:58
 - a. bread of life - John 6:35
 - b. light of the world - John 8:12
 - c. door - John 10:7-9
 - d. good shepherd - John 10:11,14
 - e. way, truth, life - John 14:6
 - f. vine - John 15:1
 - g. resurrection and life - John 11:25
2. Seven great signs confirm the seven great claims.
 - a. water to wine - John 2:1-11
 - b. healing the nobleman's son - John 4:46-54
 - c. lame man at Bethesda - John 5:1-19
 - d. feeding of 5000 - John 6:5-14
 - e. walking on water - John 6:16-21
 - f. sight to blind - John 9:1-7
 - g. raising of Lazarus - John 11:38-44

Conclusion:

- A. Jesus truly worked great signs, wonders and miracles in proof of His claims. - Acts 2:22
- B. But He claimed to be the Son of God. - Acts 2:36
- C. Therefore, Jesus is the Christ the Son of God.