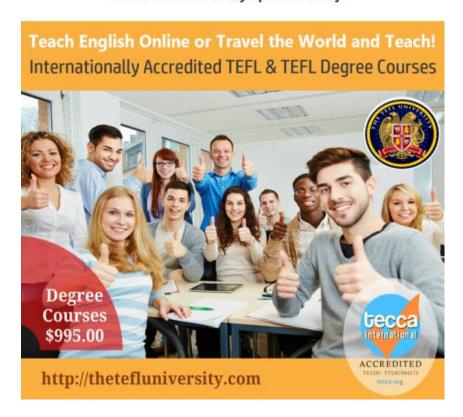


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Foreword

What is a Miracle?

The dictionary defines the word "miracle" as an extraordinary, unusual or supernatural event that manifests divine intervention in the affairs of men. When miracles happen, laws of nature are broken and a higher being is at work. This higher being is what most people usually refer to as God. Some miracles are attributed to miracle workers, saints or even religious leaders because it is believed that God works through them.. Get all the info you need here.

Miracles In Your Life

Chapter 1:

Miracle Basics

Synopsis

Modern Day Miracles

Nowadays, many things are considered miracles such as surviving a big disaster like a tsunami, earthquake, fire or car crash. A mother who was told that she couldn't ever get pregnant will see conceiving a child as a miracle. Surviving stage 4 cancer way beyond the estimated time that one is supposed to live is also a miracle. When there are problems, complications or threats, people pray to God. Surpassing these trials against all odds will then be seen as an answer to their prayers and thus a miracle.

The Basics

Of World Religions and Gods

Different people in different cultures believe in different Gods or "supreme beings". Sometimes certain cultures even have several of them. Christianity is the most widespread religion with 33.32% of the world's population believing in Jesus. Next is Islam with 21.01% of the world's population believing in Allah. Following Islam is Hinduism with 13.26% of the world's population believing in several Gods and Goddesses.

Ganesha, Hanuman, Lakshmi, Shiva, and Durga are some of them. In the fourth spot, you have Buddhism at 5.84%. Unlike the first 3 religions, the Buddhists do not believe in any God but rather adhere to the concept that any man can be enlightened by having a certain code of conduct and undertaking a method of mental discipline.

They believe that "enlightened ones" will save all beings from sufferings. Buddha is an "enlightened one". He is considered by Buddhists as the enlightened father of humanity but not a God because they do not believe in the concept of God. The last 27 or so percent of the world are divided into many smaller religions.

In all these religions, there have been extraordinary events amongst its believers that cannot be explained and whether they attribute it to their Gods, supreme beings or even to nature, all these unexplained events are collectively considered as miracles.

Miracles and Science

Many things here on Earth have scientific explanations. What were considered as miracles before may not be considered as miracles now. In the old days, it was considered a miracle when people came back from the "dead".

Science has explained that these "dead" people were in fact just in a deep meditative state and that their vital signs were not just detected by the primitive medical instruments that they used back then. Now, with all the technology that we have, coming back from the "dead" is usually accompanied with an explanation of why or how.

Fire used to be considered as "magic" or a "gift from the Gods". This was so until friction was explained. However, there are too many things that remain unexplainable despite all the technology that we have and perhaps these things will never be explained because they are actually real miracles.

Chapter 2:

Understanding The Meaning Of Supernatural

Synopsis

The Many Meanings of the Word "Supernatural"

The word "supernatural" can be used as an adjective to describe something. It is also used to describe things and occurrences that are not normal. Of course, it is also used to refer to supreme beings, deities or Gods.

With these definitions, the term supernatural could be used to refer to anything from the great attributes of objects to leprechauns, goblins, ghosts, aliens and Gods. Regardless of how it is used, the word "supernatural" pertains to anything that has gone beyond what is normal and beyond what the laws of nature allow or can explain.

Supernatural

Sometimes, it depends on which period in time the word supernatural is used. Man's trip to the moon was a supernatural event in 1969 but it isn't considered as a supernatural event now that man is sent to space from time to time.

However, there are things that have been referred to as supernatural since the old days. This includes elementals, mythical creatures, other unknown beings and God. All these beings may be considered by most as fictional, made up or imagined unlike God who has withstood time and is truly supernatural.

Can a Person Believe in His God and Religion but Not Believe in the Supernatural?

Belief in the supernatural is an essential part of believing in a God and religion. Both the religion and the God that they believe in has a history that contains stories with many supernatural events. It follows that people believe in their God because they believe in His history. If Christians did not believe the events in the bible and the Muslims did not believe in the events in the Quran, then why are they paying homage to Jesus and Allah?

In Christianity for instance, if Christians did not believe in the miracles of Jesus, then why is he referred and believed to be the Son of God? If Christians denied that they believed in the supernatural then they must also not believe the miracles of Jesus. There would be

no point in praying to Him and acknowledging the fact that those who believe with Him are saved. Of course, when people believe in a certain God, it follows that all the other supernatural things made known by their God are also real.

In Christianity, Satan is believed to be a fallen angel. If Christians believe in God, then they must believe in Satan too. The same is true with all the other beings mentioned in the bible such as the angels and the saints.

Though only Roman Catholics pray to saints, most Christians only believe in saints as they are mentioned in the bible but they do not pray to them because there is nothing in the bible that mentions that they should do so.

Similarly, Hindus believe in karma and reincarnation. They believe that souls are simply sent back to earth and the quality of life that they will have is dependent on what they did in their past life. Karma and reincarnation pertain to the supernatural journey of a soul so the Hindus cannot say that they do not believe in the supernatural.

Chapter 3:

Miracles In Christianity

Synopsis

The Christian bible is full of miracles from the Old Testament to the New Testament. Below are some of the most famous miracles as well as the verses in which they are found.

Christianity

The Old Testament

- The creation of the universe (Gen. 1-2)
- The story of Noah and the great flood (Gen.7-8)
- The story of the Tower of Babel where people were given different tongues (Gen.11:1-9)
- The story of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:24)
- Lot's wife transformed into a pillar of salt (Gen. 19:26)
- The birth of Isaac to Abraham and Sarah at an old age (Gen. 21:1)
- The story of the burning bush (Ex. 3:3)
- Aaron's rod was transformed into a serpent (Ex. 7:10-12)
- The Ten Plagues of Egypt (Ex. 7:20 to 12:30)
 - The Nile turned into blood
 - Egypt was covered with frogs
 - The dust became lice
 - Swarms of flies were sent to the Egyptians
 - All of Egypt's livestock and cattle died

- Egyptians were filled with boils
- Hail was sent to the land of Egypt
- Locusts covered the whole of Egypt
- Darkness was sent through the land of Egypt
- The death of all first bon sons of Egyptians
- The parting of the Red Sea (Ex. 14:21-31)
- Manna and quail were sent to feed the Israelites (Ex. 16:14-35)
- Water came out of the rock (Ex. 17:5-7)
- The fall of the walls of Jericho (Josh. 6:6-20)
- The story of Samson and Delilah (Judg. 14-16)
- Elijah is fed by ravens (1 Kings 17-18)
- Elijah is carried up to heaven (2 Kings 2:11)
- The story about the widow's oil that never run out (2 Kings 4:2-7)
- The story how David was saved from the lions while his enemies were eaten (Dan. 6:16-23)
- The story of how Jonah survived in the fish belly (Jonah 2:1-10)

The New Testament

Jesus Raises the Dead

- The raising of a widows dead son (Luke 7:11-18)
- Lazarus is raised from the dead (John 11:38-44)
- Jairus' daughter raised from the dead (Matt 9:23; Mark 5:23; Luke 8:41)

• <u>Jesus Multiplies Food</u>

- 5,000 were fed from 7 loaves and a few fish (Matt 15:32; Mark 8:1)
- Water was made into wine (John 2:1-11)

• <u>Jesus Sends Away Demons</u>

- Blind and dumb possessed cured (Matt 12:22; Luke 11:14)
- Possessed is cured in Capernaum (Mark 1:23; Luke 4:33)
- Possessed tempest is stilled (Matt 8:23; Mark 4:37; Luke 8:22)
- Possessed in Gadara cured (Matt 8:28; Mark 5:1; Luke 8:26)
- 2,000 swine drown themselves in a river when Jesus told the demons to enter them (Mark 5:1-20)

- <u>Healings of Jesus</u>
 - Nobleman's son is cured (John 4:46-54)
 - Impotent man is healed (John 5:1-9)
 - Ten lepers are healed (Luke 17:11-19)
 - Blind men are healed (Matt 9:27-31)
 - Deaf and mute man healed (Mark 7:31-37)
 - Man with palsy healed (Matt 9:2; Mark 2:3; Luke 5:18)
- Jesus walks on water (Matt 14:25; Mark 6:48; John 6:15)
- The Immaculate Conception (Luke 1:35)
- Wise men are led to Jesus by a Star (Matt. 2:1-12)
- The Transfiguration (Matt 17:1-8)
- Resurrection of Jesus (John 21:1-14)
- Ascension of Jesus (Luke 2:42-51)
- Assumption of Mary (Matt. 27 52-53)

Chapter 4:

Miracles In Other Religions

Synopsis

Now we will explore miracles in some other religions.

Other Religions

Buddha's Miracles

It is believed that Buddha attained his supernatural abilities through deep meditation. He performed miracles to benefit humans and warned people that his being able to do miracles should not be the reason on why people will follow his path. Below are some of his miracles with some short descriptions of them.

- After birth it is said that he stood up, walked seven steps and said, "I am the chief of the world... There is now no more coming to be."
- The "Twin Miracle" Buddha produced flames from the upper part of his body while he produced water from the lower part of his body.
- Buddha went to Brahma's world to explain how everything in the world is temporary and Brahma was persuaded by Buddha.
- An elephant ran down the street towards Buddha to trample him but when Buddha reached up to touch the elephant, it became calm.
- Ananda was able to get water from a dry well at the request of Buddha.
- Buddha commanded flood waters to stand back so he could walk on dry ground.

- Buddha can walk on water.
- Buddha can multiply himself.
- Buddha can travel through space.
- Buddha can make himself as big as a giant.
- Buddha can walk through mountains.
- Buddha can go to the heavens and return to Earth.
- Buddha has super-hearing.
- Buddha can see past lives.

List of Hindu Miracles

- Appar, Ythayanan, and Kanchi were able to control a wild elephant.
- Ramana and Sashta were able to close the mouth of a tiger.
- Goddess Durga and King Bharata were able to ride a lion.
- Hindu Gods have tamed cobras.
- Adi Shankara made it rain gold coins.
- Vidyaranya got gold bars through Hariha and Bukka.
- Appar and Sambandhar made gold coins appear from out of nowhere.

- Krishna multiplied himself to be with Gopikas at the same time.
- Narada appears before devotees by travelling through three different worlds.
- Markendeya was forever 16 years old.
- Padma walked on water when Adi Shankara called him.
- Adi Shankara drank boiling water.

Miracles in the Quran and Miracles by Allah

Muslims claim that the Quran has many predications that could not have been known to man in the days of old. It is known to reveal many mathematical miracles. Some of these miracles are listed below.

- The word "yawm" which means "single day" is mentioned 365 times and the word "shahar" meaning "month" is mentioned 12 times
- The miracle of 19 there are many facts in the Quran that amount to 19 or 19 is the factor by another number is multiplied.
- The sums of the surah numbers, and the sums of the ayats, or verses are odd-even.
- Allah split the Moon as a miracle to the Meccans.
- The Cat's eye nebula was foretold in the Qur'an.

- Natural markings of Allah are found on cows and other farm animals.
- A cloud formed the word Allah.
- A sliced tomato contained the words of the Shahadah in it.
- The word Abdullah and Muhammad Rasoul Allah are written on the side of a fish.
- An eggplant contained the name Allah.
- The back of the human spells out Allah.
- The name Allah is shown on the ear of a child that is lying down.
- Quranic verses appeared on a baby's skin in Dagestan.



Chapter 5:

Asking For Miracles In Christianity

Synopsis

God can do anything and all people can experience miracles both great and small when they believe in Him and He is invited to come into their lives and intervene. Often people neglect to ask God for miracles and settle for their current situation and what they presently have. Anybody who believes, loves and trusts in His Son Jesus can ask for miracles from God.



Believing

Seek God's Presence

Simply seek God's presence in your trials. Do not worry about your prayers not being perfect. Simply invite God and trust him to do what is best for you. In cases when nothing happens, know that it is probably what is best for you. Sometimes unfortunate things happen so there will be room for bigger and better things and only at this point will you realize why God allowed certain things to happen.

Have Enough Faith

Many times we pray to God asking Him for miracles but we do not have enough faith that He will deliver. Though it is true that God will only grant things that will be good for you, sometimes miracles don't happen because of lack of faith. Many pray with hope but not faith. You will know that you have faith when you can "relax" in a dire situation because you truly believe that God will take care of everything.

Love God and Avoid Sin

If you love God, you should avoid sin. Not sinning or at least trying to stop sinning will show God that you are doing your best to follow Him. Following Him is the best way that you can show that you love Him because He will see that it is important for you to please him. Do

not stop committing sins just because you want miracles or just because you want his favor. You should stop committing sins simply because you love God and you should not expect anything in return. You cannot make deals with God. You can't tell Him that you will stop stealing if he cures your sick daughter first. Show him that you love Him first even when you do not need any miracles and the rest will follow.

Be Compassionate and Learn to Forgive

All people are sinners and often people seek God's forgiveness especially when a miracle is needed. If you can freely forgive other people you have hurt you and people who have wronged you, then God will forgive you too. When you are compassionate towards others then God will be compassionate to you to.

Pray to God for help so you may understand His will and love Him whether or not He grants you what you are praying for. Ask for more faith and ask that He helps you fight evil and avoid sin. Ask Him for forgiveness and to help you be forgiving and compassionate to other people. God knows what is in your heart. In all this, remember that God will always do what is best for you because he loves you.

Chapter 6:

Synopsis

Asking for miracles in other religions is more or less the same way as how Christians would ask Jesus or God for miracles. All miracles are asked through prayers and worship. What makes it different is the manner of how each religion worships their Gods.



Asking In Other Religions

Muslim Worship

Muslims pray to Allah five times in each day. Aside from simply telling Allah what your need is, there is a standard formal prayer that should be done to give praise to him. In order to do this, it would be good to have a prayer rug.

While standing, raise your hands and say "God is great" in Arabic. With hands over your chest, recite the first chapter of the Quran in Arabic and then recite any other verse that you like. After this, raise your hands up again and say, "God is great". Bow and recite, "Glory be to my Lord Almighty" in Arabic three times. Rise and recite, "God hears those who call, Praise be to You Lord" in Arabic. Once again, raise your hands saying, "God is great" then kneel to the ground saying, "Glory be to my Lord, the Most High" in Arabic. Sit and say, "God is great". Stand and say, "God is great".

This concludes the first cycle of prayer. To start the second cycle, begin from the second "God is great" including all actions and positions until the end. When the second cycle is done, one sits and recites the Tashahhud in Arabic. Turn right and say "Peace and God's Blessings be with you" in Arabic. Turn to the left and repeat the greeting.

Buddhist Worship

Buddhists worship through chanting, meditation and reading scriptures. They may do this at home or at a temple. Unlike other religions that pray individually and in groups, Buddhists do not have to be together when they worship. Often, there is a statue of Buddha with candles and incense burners below.

Worshipers sit on the floor barefoot while chanting and facing Buddha. If monks are present, Buddhists will listen to monks as they chant from Buddhist texts. Usually this is done while appropriate music is playing.

Hindu Worship

Hindu worship is called Puja. Puja is done before home shrines or in temples. Hindi worships consist of the use of the five senses - sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell. It also involves the 5 elements - light, fire, earth, water and air. They chant prayers to their different Gods and Goddesses. They also pray to animals. The cows and rats are very sacred to them. As in other religions, Hindus have different prayers for each of their Gods. This is similar to Roman Catholics where there are different prayers for the different saints. Each Hindu God has a "specialty". They have a God for Speech and Learning, a God for Science, Art and Music, a God for Peace, a God for Prosperity and many more. They also believe in one supreme God aside from all these special Gods and Goddesses.

Chapter 7:

The Difference Between Miracles And Coincidence

Synopsis

Now let's have a look at the differences between miracles and coincidences.



The Differences

What are Coincidences?

Coincidences are things or events that simply happen and often do not have any relevance in a person's needs, wants or desires. In the dictionary, a coincidence is defined as a collection of events that have close associations with each other because they are somehow related by form, time or space.

Examples of Coincidences

There are many examples of coincidences. An example of a coincidence is when you and somebody else end up saying the same word at the same time. It is also a coincidence when you end up wearing the same color as your blind date. Another example of a coincidence is when a black cat crosses in front of you and you lose your wallet later in the day. Though many believe that black cats are signs of bad luck there is no proof that they actually are. Many people cross paths with black cats everyday but nothing unfortunate happens to most.

People can put as much meaning into coincidences as they want but it does not change the fact that they just happened for no apparent reason. Saying or not saying the same word at the same time will not affect anything. If you are careless to lose your wallet, you will lose it even if you don't see a black cat. Wearing the same color as your blind

date does not mean that he or she is "the one". If God wants you to be together, both of you will end up together even if you never wear the same color.

What are Miracles Again?

Miracles, as described earlier, are extraordinary, unusual or supernatural events that manifest divine intervention in the affairs of men. This is the "big" definition of miracles. When coincidences happen and they affect or become relevant in our lives, perhaps they are not just coincidences but small miracles. Nobody ever said that miracles had to be big. Small miracles happen every day. God can do anything and he can put his hand in the affairs of men anytime.

Examples of Everyday Miracles

It could be a coincidence or a miracle when you bump into the person that you are in love with after dreaming about him or her in your sleep. Unless this person becomes significant in your life, this event is nothing more than a coincidence. But if this meeting becomes the start of a beautiful relationship, God may have had a hand in it.

Similarly, if you are in need of cash and somebody who owes you money pays you early, God may have had a hand in it. Why would it be so hard to believe that God can make things happen? Events such as these examples may not be extraordinary or unusual but who's to say that there wasn't any divine intervention?

Everything that we have comes from God in one way or another. It would be great if people could distinguish between coincidences and miracles to see God's work in our lives. In any case, we should always remember to thank God for whatever comes our way.



Chapter 8:

Real Life Stories of Miracles

Synopsis

Most real life stories of miracles happen to Christians. This is most probably so because Christianity is the biggest religion here on Earth under which there are many sub religions such as Roman Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox Churches.

It may also be possible that Jesus and God the Father is the "Universal God" and that all other God's or even Goddesses are variations of them. It is only man that makes interpretations of what will please their Gods.

This may be the reason why Muslims and Christians always have conflicts even though the first five books of the Quran and the Bible are in essence the same. Below are some miracles that have been witnessed by many and are recorded in Christian books..

Real Life Stories

The Miracle of the Sun

This miracle was witnessed by about 100,000 people on 1917 in Portugal. Three shepherd children claimed that a miracle was going to happen on October 13, 1917 at noon. After a downfall of rain, the sun appeared as a spinning disk. It was less bright than usual and it cast colored lights across the land. It was also reported that the sun went into a zigzag pattern and some of those present thought it was the end of the world. The wet clothes of those who saw this miracle instantly became dry.

The Miracle of Lanciano

As a monk celebrated mass, the bread and wine turned into real human flesh and blood. Various investigations have been conducted and proof of this remains in Lanciano to this very day. Both flesh and blood have the AB blood type. This is the same blood found on the Shroud of Turin and in all other Christian Eucharistic Miracles.

Padre Pio

Padre Pio is famous for his stigmata. His wounds were examined by many people including doctors. Padre Pio manifested several spiritual gifts that include healing, levitation and extraordinary abstinence from sleep and food. He also has the gift of tongues and the gift of conversions. A fragrance emanates from his wounds. Padre Pio's coffin is displayed in San Giovanni Rotondo and remains uncorrupt.

The Lady of Lourdes

A Lady who is believed to be Mary told a child named Bernadette to dig near a rock. Bernadette did so and a large spring appeared. The water is said to be miraculous and so a grotto of the Lady was placed nearby. Many people flock to it each year and there have been many people who were inexplicably cured after drinking or application of the water.

Incorruptible Corpses

A corpse is considered incorruptible if it does not decay even if no embalming process was done. This is believed to be a sign of sainthood. Incorruptible corpses are said to have a sweet aroma and are still flexible. It would appear that the saints are just sleeping.

There have been many corpses discovered to be incorruptible after so many years after their deaths. Examples are the corpses of St. Bernadette of Lourdes, St. John Vianney, St. Teresa Margaret, St. Vincent De Paul, St. Silvan, St. Veronica Guiliani, St. John Bosco, St. Zita, Blessed Pope Pius IX and Pope John XXIII.

Chapter 9:

The Effects Of Expecting Miracles On Mindset

Synopsis

Expecting Miracles to Happen

Having a positive mindset that prayers are answered and miracles do happen is an outcome of one's faith. Similarly, understanding why some things happen and others don't, also have roots in faith.

With this in mind, people who have remained positive while expecting miracles to happen should not feel bad if the miracles that they are expecting don't happen. Nothing good will come out of being negative or depressed.

Though not feeling bad when miracles don't happen are often difficult, it should always be remembered that God only wants the best for us.

The Impact On Your Brain

We Are One with the Universe

Some New Age thinkers believe that we are connected to each other and to the universe and that if we truly want something, the universe will give it to us. There is no limit to what we can ask for. If we want it hard enough we will get it eventually. Though this may go against what people from different religions believe, it is also something that cannot just be pushed aside because it has happened to people who are not exactly so religious.

When we visualize something and we see ourselves enjoying the particular object or circumstance, it is possible that we do get what we want. For example, if you want a sick loved one to get well and you visualize that your loved one is in good health, it can happen. If you want to have a certain car, it is totally possible that you will get that car if you can visualize yourself driving it. Not getting what you want will only mean that you did not want the object or circumstance enough.

The Law of Attraction

The law of attraction states that what we think is what we attract. A person full of positive thoughts will attract positive things and a person full of negative thoughts will only attract negative things. It is

important to remain positive especially when you are undergoing some trials. Negative thoughts may only make things worse. For example, if you keep on thinking that you may lose your job, it may be so that you will lose your job. If you stay positive that your employment will remain stable, your contract may be renewed or you may even be granted permanency.

Putting All These Things Together

It has been said that there is but one God and that He just has many names and faces. If you subscribe to this belief, you believe that when people ask for miracles, all prayers are heard by only one true God regardless of religion. This is what others term as the "Universal God".

People who ask the universe to grant them certain things are in effect, asking from the Universal God. When you are hoping for a miracle and you pray to God, you can choose to visualize that things will be fine and that your prayers will be answered. It would help to have a positive outlook that God will deliver for as long as you are also faithful to Him. When you have the mindset that you can expect miracles from God, they can happen and its effects can be wonderful.

Chapter 10:

What The Critics And Proponents Have To Say

Synopsis

Just what do the critics and proponents have to say?

How People See It

Moses who was born around 1500 BC collected the stories that are now found in Genesis which happened way before his time. Remember that people did not have any form of formal communication at that time. These stories may just have been passed down from generation to generation and may have been altered or exaggerated along the way. Bible critics say that it is also possible that people may have been mistaken, deceived or maybe were deceivers themselves.

What Critics Say Against Islamic Miracles

In the internet you will find may hoaxes that disprove Islamic Miracles. The "Moon Split" where the moon supposedly literally split in two was just an eclipse. Allah's name formed in vegetables, fruits or even the clouds may just be coincidences or may simply have just been altered.

If anyone would look at the clouds for a long time, it will not be surprising to see different figures and with the technology that we have now, it is a very simple task to just manipulate the photos. The Shahada in German trees where the Islam Creed is written in Arabic is another product of photo manipulation.

What Critics Say Against Hindu Miracles

The ever famous Hindu Milk Miracle that happened in 1995 is also said to be a hoax. It is said that the Hindu Deity Genesha sipped milk from spoons and gallons of milk left in front of his statues just disappeared. There are videos of Hindu statues sipping milk but no proof of the disappearing gallons of milk. Later on, a scientist from India explained how statues are able to sip milk although he cannot explain the missing gallons of milk.

Regarding their old miracles such as the one where it is described that the Hindu Gods can tame cobras - well, there are many people who can control cobras now but they it doesn't make them Gods. Riding Lions and taming other ferocious animals may be seen in the circus.

What Critics Say Against Buddhist Miracles

The Buddhists themselves do not believe in the concept of miracles. What they do believe in is that Buddha the enlightened one had supernatural powers. Most texts about Buddha just describe what he supposedly can do unlike other religions where the miracles of their God's were witnessed by people. It is written that Buddha can walk through mountains. The question is - who has seen him do it? Nobody has also seen him travel to heaven and back and nobody has seen him multiply himself. Critics do not understand how these miracles could be taken by other people as real.

Wrapping Up

It's All About Faith

Miracles can be openly disproved by anyone. With a lot of logic and science people can come up with coherent explanations for most miracles. This is where faith comes in. Among all religions, Christianity has the most "proof" that miracles are real because the miracles in the Bible were witnessed by so many.

If the stories in the bible were not true, then why isn't there any text from thousands of years ago saying otherwise? The Shroud of Turin, the Ark of the Covenant and even Noah's ark are some objects that have been lost and found.

Regardless of where they are at the moment, it is proven that they did exist. Critics who do not believe in miracles can go on doing so but those who have faith will continue to believe because that is what faith is all about.