

PART 1: How To Think About The Past

How Reliable Are The Words Of Moses?

Do you agree or disagree with what Jesus Christ teaches in the Bible? Isn't He the Truth as the verse above states? Aren't all *Treasures of wisdom and knowledge Hidden in Christ*? Would He give us incorrect information?

Since all the information about creation, the Flood and the oldest generations used to support a young earth is found in the old testament book of Genesis written by Moses, wouldn't it be interesting to see what Christ thought about the reliability of the words of Moses? Consider the following verses — all of them the words of Christ (words of Christ in this document will be red whereas other quotes from the Bible will be blue).

*"Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; **the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"**"*¹

*Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?" And He answered and said, "**Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'**?" "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." They said to Him, "Why then did **Moses** command to **GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND her AWAY**?" He said to them, "**Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.**"*²

*So that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous **Abel** to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.*³

*"For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since **the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will.**"*⁴

¹ John 5:45-47, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine.

² Matt. 19:3-8, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine. Here Jesus quotes from **both** Gen. 1 and 2 (in capitols). See also Mark 10:2-8

³ Matt. 23:35, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine. Here Jesus quotes from Gen. 4:8. See also Luke 11:51.

⁴ Mark 13:19, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine. Here Jesus refers to Gen. 1.

*And Jesus *said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go, show yourself to the priest and **present the offering that Moses commanded**, as a testimony to them."*⁵

*But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets , they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'*⁶

*"But that the dead are raised, **even Moses showed, in the passage about the burning bush**, where he calls the Lord THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB.'*⁷

*Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.**"*⁸

*Then **beginning with Moses and with all the prophets**, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.'*⁹

*"As **Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness**, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;'*¹⁰

*"Did not **Moses give you the Law**, and yet none of you carries out the Law? Why do you seek to kill Me?"*¹¹

*And He answered and said to them, "**What did Moses command you?**"*¹²

*"For this reason **Moses has given you circumcision** (not because it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and on the Sabbath you circumcise a man.'*¹³

*"And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. **"It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. "It will be just the***

⁵ Matt. 8:4, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine. See also Luke 5:14

⁶ Luke 16:31, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine.

⁷ Luke 20:37, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine.

⁸ Luke 24:44, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine.

⁹ Luke 24:27, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

¹⁰ John 3:14, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine.

¹¹ John 7:19, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine.

¹² Mark 10:6, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine.

¹³ John 7:22, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine.

same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed. "On that day, the one who is on the housetop and whose goods are in the house must not go down to take them out; and likewise the one who is in the field must not turn back. "Remember Lot's wife. "Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.Ó¹⁴

And what opinion did His disciples have about the truthfulness of Jesus?

*"Now we know that **You know all things, and have no need for anyone to question You; by this we believe that You came from God.**"¹⁵*

And what opinion does Jesus have about those who do not believe His own words?

*"He who rejects Me and **does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak.**Ó¹⁶*

"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?Ó¹⁷

Finally, what does Jesus say about those who belong to Him?

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.Ó¹⁸



Occasionally I will ask you to make a personal decision based upon the preceding evidence. Wherever you see ÓThe ThinkerÓ (Auguste RodinÓ most famous work), I will ask you to answer a few questions. I have been a teacher for so long that the urge to ask questions is unquenchable. So, here is the first of many: Are you willing to accept the words of Moses as true, as Jesus did, even when they contradict what you believe to be true? If you are willing, why are you willing?

¹⁴ Luke 17:26-33, NASÓ5, emphasis mine. See also Matt. 24:37.

¹⁵ John 16:30, NASÓ5, emphasis mine.

¹⁶ John 12:48-49, NASÓ5, emphasis mine.

¹⁷ Luke 6:46, NASÓ5, emphasis mine.

¹⁸ John 10:27-28, NASÓ5, emphasis mine.

Did The Miracles In The Bible Really Happen?

Think back to your last science class. Did the textbook have a chapter dealing with miracles? Did your teacher ever tell you about miracles? Why is the study of miracles absent from science education? When miracles are discussed at all in school, why are they considered more appropriate for a mythology class than for a science class? Here is what a leading evolutionary scientist says about science:

*Science, fundamentally, is a game. It is a game with one overriding and defining rule. Rule No. 1: Let us see how far and to what extent we can explain the behavior of the physical and material universe in terms of purely physical and material causes, **without invoking the supernatural.***¹⁹

I believe most scientists and science teachers would agree that a supernatural explanation for any observation of nature will not be found in leading science journals such as *Science, Nature, Scientific American*, etc. as well as in science textbooks. In fact, there are probably people who believe that the supernatural doesn't exist at all; they would claim that everything can be explained in terms of natural laws.



Do you think it is possible for someone who trusts in Christ to deny the existence of supernatural events in the past? Give an example of a supernatural event that this person couldn't deny.

Everything we hear or read about is filtered through our own personal preconceived biases then our brain files the information into the okay, sounds good to me — believable file or into the you must be kidding - unbelievable file. The Bible is a mixture of very ordinary believable information, such as he went to Jerusalem and very out of the ordinary hard to believe information like the accounts of miracles. Webster defines a miracle as

*An event or effect that apparently contradicts known scientific laws and is hence thought to be due to supernatural causes, especially to an act of God.*²⁰

Our view of Scripture, and therefore our view of God, is very much affected by our belief in the reality of miracles. Many people refuse to believe that the Bible is totally truthful because they don't believe that the accounts of miracles are accounts of real events. Who cares? Since Creation and the Flood were miracles, we should care. In fact, what hope do we have for the future if the miracle of Christ's resurrection didn't really happen? I believe that all of the Bible is true including the accounts of miracles. If anyone chooses the position that miracles could not be actual events, they are accepting the following assumption²¹.

¹⁹ Dickerson, R. E., *The Game of Science, Perspectives on Science and Faith* 44:137, June 1992, emphasis mine

²⁰ New Twentieth Century Dictionary, 1983

²¹ an assumption is something that is taken to be true without being able to be proven as true.

Assumption #1: God is not able to intervene in natural processes or, if He is able to intervene, He chooses not to intervene.

Ever since man began his study of the universe he has observed the effects of a variety of natural laws, both physical and biological. Newton's Universal Law Of Gravitation, for example, can describe the weight of a rock. For thousands of years the observation that life comes from life has been formalized as the Law of Biogenesis. Such laws are not only useful to understand the behavior of things at present but also have usefulness in planning for the future. For example, the placement of a satellite in its proper orbit involves the application of the Law Of Gravitation and predicting that puppies come from dogs instead of from a mixture of chemicals in a test tube is expected from the Law Of Biogenesis. In fact, we are so used to the steadfastness of natural laws that **we are more likely to conclude that we are hallucinating** than to accept the possibility that nature has behaved differently than normal.

In practice, an aerospace engineer, who designs a rocket, will analyze every part and every process according to natural laws. He will not design miraculous intervention into the rocket. Why not? - because miracles are not humanly predictable. I may inherit two billion dollars tomorrow - that would be a miracle - but only a fool would plan today's events on a miracle that has no guarantee of occurring tomorrow. Similarly, when a lawyer argues his case in court, he doesn't presume that his client will receive a presidential pardon if he is found guilty. The pardon, if it comes at all, is similar to a miracle - it is not humanly predictable.

Now let's direct our attention to the past. Scientists who deal with the past commonly **assume** that the same natural laws we observe today were acting in the same way in the past. Scientists who are likely to make this assumption include astronomers who search for the history of stars, planets, and the universe; geologists who search for the origin of rocks and the earth itself; and biologists who search for the history and origin of life, to name but a few. **Doesn't it make good common sense to assume that natural laws we see operating today have done so, without exception, in the past?** This concept is commonly given the name Uniformitarianism or summarized by the phrase that **The present is the key to the past**. The Bible makes a clear statement against this kind of thinking:

*Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.*²²

Would you agree with me that people who die today have a tendency to stay that way? Wouldn't you be quite surprised if someone dead for four days walked out of his tomb at the moment someone says **Come forth**²³? How about witnessing the parting of water in a river²⁴ or a sea²⁵ to allow people to walk on **Dry ground** — wouldn't you be amazed?

²² 2Peter 3:3-7, NASB, emphasis mine

²³ John 11:43

²⁴ by Elijah in 2 Kings 2:8 and Elisha in 2 Kings 2:14

Or seeing someone walk on water²⁶ and an ax head rise to the surface of a river²⁷? Why would you be amazed? Because the good old reliable Law of Gravitation was either violated (not in effect, suspended) **or** some unknown force worked against the force of gravity to allow these events to happen. We have just discovered the very reason why miracles have occurred —**since miracles are unexpected, they get your attention and scream louder than any human voice. How could this be? And, more importantly, who could do this?**

I remember the time I spoke about miracles to the high school group at Valley Bible. A few days earlier I demonstrated a very effective experiment for my physical science class at Antelope Valley College and had some of the reagents left over, so I used them in my presentation on Sunday morning. We all sat in a circle with a clear liquid half-filling the wineglass on a tray placed on the floor in the center of the circle. After introducing the topic, I poured another clear liquid into the wineglass and told them that an example of a miracle would be for me to point to the wineglass and command the water to become wine. I pointed to it and it changed instantly into a deep purple liquid. I had their attention for the rest of the morning! I planned to tell them that it wasn't really water or wine at the end of my presentation, but when a student asked for a taste, I knew that the jig was up.

There are loopholes in assumption #1. If God wants to alter the natural laws that He invented, or supply the force necessary to accomplish the impossible then who or what will keep Him from doing so? **The reality of the miracle does not hinge on my ability or your ability to explain how it could have happened!** It rests solely on the integrity of God's Word. The Bible contains the description of the miracle as well as the source of the credentials of the One who did it. What is the common theme of the following verses?

*"I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted."*²⁸

*When the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying, "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?"*²⁹

*And looking at them Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*³⁰

*"For nothing will be impossible with God."*³¹

*He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted.*³²

*You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.*³³

²⁵ by Moses in Exodus 14:29

²⁶ by Jesus and Peter in Matt. 14:28-31

²⁷ by Elisha in 2 Kings 6:6

²⁸ Job 42:2, NASB, emphasis mine

²⁹ Jer. 32:26-27, NASB, emphasis mine

³⁰ Matt. 19:26, NASB, emphasis mine

³¹ Luke 1:37, NASB, emphasis mine

³² Job 5:9 and 9:10, NIV, emphasis mine

³³ Psalms 77:14, NIV, emphasis mine

*Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?*³⁴

*"See now that I myself am He! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no-one can deliver out of my hand."*³⁵

Let not put God in a box by limiting what He can do. He is able to do anything that He desires to do, regardless of what we think. Not only is God capable of doing miracles, He also plainly tells us why He does them:

*For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD your God did to the Jordan just what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God."*³⁶

Notice that He did the miracle so that **we might know something** ; God is powerful and we should respect Him. This purpose includes **all** peoples of the earth, even the enemies of Israel:

*Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until we had crossed over, their hearts sank [Hebrew melted] and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites."*³⁷

Do you think all peoples include you and me? Of course it does! If Jesus Christ is our Lord, do we have an obligation to believe the miracles that He did really happened? Unless we choose to be hypocrites, I believe we do have this obligation!

Jesus performed nine miracles involving transformation of matter or energy³⁸ and twenty-seven healings and raising from the dead³⁹ including His own. Notice the reactions to

³⁴ Acts 26:8, NIV, emphasis mine

³⁵ Deut. 32:29, NIV, emphasis mine

³⁶ Josh. 4:23-24, NIV, emphasis mine

³⁷ Josh. 5:1, NIV, emphasis mine

³⁸ 5,000 people fed (Matt.14:15-21, Mark 6:35-44, Luke 9:12-17 and John 6:5-14); calming the storm (Matt. 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41, and Luke 8:22-25); walks on water (Matt.14:22-33, and Mark 6:45-52); 4,000 are fed (Matt. 15:32-38 and Mark 8:1-9); cursing the fig tree (Matt. 21:18-22 and Mark 11:12-14, 20-24); a coin in a fish's mouth (Matt. 17:24-27); the first miraculous catch of fish (Luke 5:1-11); turns water into wine (John 2:1-11); and the second miraculous catch of fish (John 21:1-14).

³⁹ Jairus's daughter raised (Matt. 9:18-26, Mark 5:22-24, 35-43, Luke 8:41,42, 49-56); sick woman healed (Matt. 9:20-22, Mark 5:25-34, Luke 8:43-48); paralytic is healed (Matt. 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26); leper is healed at Gennesaret (Matt. 8:1-4, Mark 1:40-45, Luke 5:12-15); Peter's mother-in-law healed (Matt 8:14-17, Mark 1:29-31, Luke 4:38-39); shriveled hand is restored (Matt. 12:9-13, Mark 3:1-5, Luke 6:6-11); boy with an evil spirit is healed (Matt. 17:14-21, Mark 9:14-29, Luke 9:37-42); Bartimaeus receives sight (Matt. 20:29-34, Mark 10:46-52, Luke 18:35-43); girl is freed from a demon (Matt. 15:21-28, Mark 7:24-30); centurion's servant is healed (Matt. 8:5-13, Luke 7:1-10); widow's son is raised from the dead (Luke 7:11-16); evil spirit is sent out of a man (Mark 1:23-27, Luke 4:33-36); mute demonic is healed (Matt. 12:22, Luke 11:14); two blind men find sight (Matt. 9:27-31); mute man is healed (Matt. 9:32-33); deaf and mute man is healed (Mark 7:31-37); blind man sees at Bethsaida (Mark 8:22-26); widow's son is

those people who were **eyewitnesses** to His miracles:

*Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."*⁴⁰

*The men were amazed, and said, "What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"*⁴¹

*When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!"*⁴²

*For amazement had seized him [Simon Peter] and all his companions [James and John] because of the catch of fish which they had taken;*⁴³

*This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.*⁴⁴

*Immediately the girl got up and began to walk, for she was twelve years old. And immediately they were completely astounded.*⁴⁵

*They were all struck with astonishment and began glorifying God; and they were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen remarkable things today."*⁴⁶

*But the news about Him was spreading even farther, and large crowds were gathering to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses.*⁴⁷

*And they were all amazed at the greatness of God. But while everyone was marveling at all that He was doing,*⁴⁸

*Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him, glorifying God; and when all the people saw it, they gave praise to God.*⁴⁹

raised (Luke 7:11-16); crippled woman is healed (Luke 13:10-17); sick man is healed (Luke 14:1-6); ten lepers are healed (Luke 17:11-19); restored a man's ear (Luke 22:49-51); official's son is healed at Cana (John 4:46-54); lame man is healed (John 5:1-16); blind man sees (John 9:1-7); and Lazarus is raised from the dead (John 11:1-45).

⁴⁰ John 6:14, NASB, emphasis mine

⁴¹ Matt. 8:27, NASB, emphasis mine

⁴² Matt. 14:32-33, NASB, emphasis mine

⁴³ Luke 5: 9, NASB, emphasis mine

⁴⁴ John 2:11, NASB, emphasis mine

⁴⁵ Mark 5: 42, NASB, emphasis mine

⁴⁶ Luke 5:26, NASB, emphasis mine

⁴⁷ Luke 5:15, NASB, emphasis mine

⁴⁸ Luke 9:43a, NASB, emphasis mine

⁴⁹ Luke 18:43n NASB, emphasis mine

ÒFear gripped them all, and they began glorifying God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and, "God has visited His people!" This report concerning Him went out all over Judea and in all the surrounding district.Ó⁵⁰

ÒThey were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him." Immediately the news about Him spread everywhere into all the surrounding district of Galilee.Ó⁵¹

ÒAnd He was casting out a demon, and it was mute; when the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed.Ó⁵²

ÒBut they went out and spread the news about Him throughout all that land.Ó⁵³

ÒAfter the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel." ⁵⁴

ÒThey were utterly astonished, saying, "He has done all things well; He makes even the deaf to hear and the mute to speak." ⁵⁵

ÒFear gripped them all, and they began glorifying God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and, "God has visited His people!" This report concerning Him went out all over Judea and in all the surrounding district.Ó⁵⁶

ÒAnd the entire crowd was rejoicing over all the glorious things being done by Him.Ó⁵⁷

ÒAnd he himself believed and his whole household.Ó⁵⁸

ÒTherefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done. Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. "If we let Him go on like this, all

⁵⁰ Luke 7:16-17, NAS^Ö5, emphasis mine

⁵¹ Mark 1:27-28, NAS^Ö5, emphasis mine

⁵² Luke 11:14, NAS^Ö5, emphasis mine

⁵³ Matt. 9:31, NAS^Ö5, emphasis mine

⁵⁴ Matt. 9:33, NAS^Ö5, emphasis min

⁵⁵ Mark 7:37, NAS^Ö5, emphasis mine

⁵⁶ Luke 7:16-17, NAS^Ö5, emphasis mine

⁵⁷ Luke 13:17b, NAS^Ö5, emphasis mine

⁵⁸ John 4:53b, NAS^Ö5, emphasis mine

*men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."*⁵⁹

*“A large crowd followed Him, because they saw the signs which He was performing on those who were sick.”*⁶⁰

Notice they all gained knowledge about Jesus that changed their life. And He did more miracles than those recorded in the Bible.

*“Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”*⁶¹



What is your reaction to the miracles of Jesus? When you read about them, are you amazed, completely astounded, struck with astonishment and filled with fear? Are you ready to worship Him, follow Him, believe in Him, glorify God, praise God and rejoice?

If you call yourself a Christian but you do not believe that the miracles of Jesus were real events that occurred for the purpose of demonstrating that He is the Son of God and all nature is subject to Him, then you are thinking like the natural man, not like the spiritual man.

I urge you to honor God by believing that **the miracles recorded in the Bible are true just as they are written.** Don't dishonor God by thinking thoughts like

He walked on water because He knew where the stones were.
The Red Sea parted because a wind came up and blew the water apart.
He really didn't feed 5,000 people — they all hid food in their baggy clothing.
The person wasn't really dead, he was only sleeping.
He didn't really heal those people, He simply gave them confidence.
The sun and moon didn't really stand still for Gideon, they were just covered by clouds.
He didn't really speak creation into existence over a few days time, instead He used evolution over a very long time.

And there must be many more clever ways that man has explained away the awesome miracles of God. **Statements like these are to be expected from the natural man because miracles are foolishness to him and he cannot understand them. But the believer should thank God for choosing to demonstrate His power so that those who take notice of His miracles might be saved and that God be glorified.**

⁵⁹ John 11:45-48, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁶⁰ John 6:2, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁶¹ John 20:30-31, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

Do you recall how Thomas reacted to hearing of Jesus's resurrection?

*So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he [Thomas] said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."*⁶²

And how did Jesus respond to Thomas's unbelief?

*Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."*⁶³

Jesus makes it clear that believing without seeing is a good thing. I didn't see God create nor did I see the Flood cover the earth, but I believe both events happened. Notice how God defines faith:

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, **the conviction of things not seen**. For by it the men of old gained approval. **By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible**.*⁶⁴

Consider this statement: There is a place in Yosemite National Park where a lot of water once flowed uphill. The evidence in the rocks is clear — water once did this amazing thing! Do you believe me? Water is supposed to flow from high places to low places by the force of gravity. People fall down, not up. Now, if I had the reputation of a joker or liar, you would have no faith in the truthfulness of my statement. However, if you do believe my statement, then you honor me as being worthy of your faith that my statement is true, even though you haven't seen this place. In the same way, **when you believe what God said God did in His Word, you honor Him.**



How much of the Bible do you believe is true? That is, how much of the Bible do you have faith in? If you have faith that only a part is true, then what are your reasons for believing the other part(s) are not true? Can you think of any verses from the Bible that support your position or is your position supported from other sources?

⁶² John 20:25, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁶³ John 20:27-29, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁶⁴ Heb. 11:1-3, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

By the way, the place in Yosemite mentioned previously does exist⁶⁵ and hundreds of thousands of people drive by it every year. It was part of the research done for my masters degree at UCLA and can easily be explained by natural laws. Had I tried to explain the evidence by miraculous intervention, I would still be in school!

Christ Is Much More Than Lord And Savior



Do you think all miracles have equal weight? In other words, is there a miracle that is more important than the others? If so, what was it and who did it? Recall that Jesus, the disciples, Pharaoh's magicians, and others, did miracles recorded in the Bible.

The most important miracle must be creation of the universe because without it, none of the other miracles could occur. There would be no water to part or turn into wine, no people to heal or raise, no sun to stand still or back up in the sky, etc. And who performed this miracle? The answer may seem obvious at first since the famous first verse of the Bible tells us that **God created the heavens and the earth.** But to be more specific, **the creator of the universe is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!** Before He saved us, He created the **atoms** in our bodies and the mechanism to **order** those atoms (DNA). He even created our souls — the spiritual essence that is necessary for our bodies to be alive — the part of us that leaves our body upon death is the same part that will spend eternity in heaven with Jesus or without Him in hell. Look carefully at the following verses.

*Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. **For He [Father] rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son [Jesus], in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him [Jesus] all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him [Jesus] and for Him [Jesus]. He [Jesus] is before all things, and in Him [Jesus] all things hold together. He [Jesus] is also head of the body, the church; and He [Jesus] is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself [Jesus] will come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him [Jesus], and through Him [Jesus] to reconcile all things to Himself [Jesus], having made peace through the blood of His [Jesus] cross; through Him [Jesus], I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.***⁶⁶

On these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He [Father] appointed heir of all things, through whom also He [Jesus] made the world. And He [Jesus] is the radiance of His [Father's] glory and the exact representation of His [Father's] nature, and upholds all things by

⁶⁵ Balogh, R., Where Water Flowed Uphill On Pothole Dome, *California Geology* XXX

⁶⁶ Col. 1:12-20, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

*the word of His [Jesus] power. When He [Jesus] had made purification of sins, He [Jesus] sat down at the right hand of the Majesty [Father] on high.*⁶⁷

*All things came into being through Him [Jesus], and apart from Him [Jesus] nothing came into being that has come into being.*⁶⁸

*And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:*⁶⁹

*The universe was built by the Creator to be his own property; to be the theatre on which he would accomplish his purposes, and display his perfections. Particularly the earth was made by the Son of God to be the place where he would become incarnate, and exhibit the wonders of redeeming love.*⁷⁰

It is the Father's desire to save us through belief in the One who created not just us but everything in the Universe! Awesome thought! The One who created us values us enough to die for us so that we can spend eternity with Him! Jesus is the reason for **everything and everyone**. He owns us, that is why He is our Lord. **He is not just your Lord because He saved you by dying on the cross, He is your Lord because He made you possible by creating all there is!**

*"You alone are the LORD. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You.*⁷¹

And He owns everyone else as well, and that is why He has authority to send everyone's soul to wherever He wants. Those who do not believe are not exempt from the Judgment and its consequences. And who will be the Judge? The only one who is qualified to lay claim to our body and soul — Jesus Christ.

*So solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead,*⁷²

*God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.*⁷³

"Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He [Father] will judge the world in righteousness through a Man [Jesus] whom He [Father] has appointed,

⁶⁷ Heb. 1:2-3, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁶⁸ John 1: 3, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁶⁹ Eph. 3:9, KJV, emphasis mine

⁷⁰ Albert Barnes' NT Commentary on Col. 1:12

⁷¹ Ne. 9:6, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁷² 2Tim. 4:1a, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁷³ Ro. 2:16b, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

*having furnished proof to all men by raising Him [Jesus] from the dead."*⁷⁴

Notice that the proof to all men that Jesus is worthy to be Judge is the miracle of Jesus' resurrection.

*Then the Jews then said to Him, "What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking of the temple of His body. So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.*⁷⁵

But Jesus is not only creator of the universe, savior of souls and judge, but He will also bring to an end the physical universe that He created in the first place.

*"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away."*⁷⁶

*But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.*⁷⁷

*But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.*⁷⁸

Do you recall that *On Him [Jesus] all things hold together* and He *upholds all things by the word of His [Jesus] power*? When He decides to end His creation, it will be done because He has the power and authority to do so. A very awesome thought!

If you don't believe that miracles are true then the credibility of the divine nature of Jesus vanishes into mortality. If He wasn't raised from the dead, according to His own prophecy then our faith has no value. As Paul puts it

*And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.*⁷⁹

Here are some interesting questions to ponder: If God is able to do whatever He desires, then **why did He choose to make Christ**

- v The first born of creation?⁸⁰
- v Creator of everything physical and spiritual?⁸¹
- v Sustainer of all things?⁸²

⁷⁴ Acts 17:30-31, NAS'55, emphasis mine

⁷⁵ John 2:18-22, NAS'55, emphasis mine

⁷⁶ Mark 13:31, NAS'55, emphasis mine

⁷⁷ 2Pet. 3:7, NAS'55, emphasis mine

⁷⁸ 2Pet. 3:10, NAS'55, emphasis mine

⁷⁹ 1Cor. 15:14, NAS'55, emphasis mine

⁸⁰ Col. 1:15, Re.3:14

⁸¹ Col.1:16, John 1:3; 17:5, 1Cor. 8:6, Eph. 3:9(KJV), Heb. 1:2

⁸² Col. 1:17, Heb. 1:3

- ∨ The only one to raise Himself from the dead?⁸³
- ∨ The head of the church?⁸⁴
- ∨ The judge of all creation?⁸⁵
- ∨ The one who will destroy everything physical?⁸⁶

The answer is this

So that He Himself will come to have first place in everything . For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, ⁸⁷

But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ. ⁸⁸



Does Christ have the place in your life that the Father intends Him to have? Do you place Him first, above everything and everybody? Is your relationship with Christ obvious to everyone who knows you?

⁸³ Col 1:18, 1Cor. 15:20, Acts 26:23, Rev. 1:5

⁸⁴ Eph. 5:23

⁸⁵ 2Tim. 4:1a, Ro. 2:16b, Acts 17:30-31

⁸⁶ Mark 13:31, 2Pet. 3:7,10

⁸⁷ Col. 1:18b-19, NAS⁸⁵, emphasis mine

⁸⁸ 1Cor. 11:3, NAS⁸⁵, emphasis mine