



**ARE MIRACLES
POSSIBLE?**

Objective: To understand how miracles are possible and distinguish miracles from other rare events.

What do we have so far?

Characteristics of Truth / God:

- Truth / God is unchanging.
- Our emotions do not change truth / God.
- Everyone can know truth / God.
- People can deny truth / God, but it still exists.
- Truth / God can not be invented.

These are all characteristics that describe the God of the **Bible**. These are all characteristics of God (*He is the standard of Truth*).

God's Character Revealed

The Cosmological Argument:

- Immaterial, timeless, and space less
- Extremely powerful (*He created something from nothing*)
- Personal (*only persons can choose to create*)

The Teleological Argument:

- Is extreme intelligent
- Sustains creation and has purpose

The Moral Argument:

- Is absolutely morally perfect
- Is personal (you can sin against Him)

This is the God of **biblical** Christianity (*without reference to the Bible*).



1. Miracles Are God's Seal

Kings used to have seals to indicate **authenticity** of a message.

The seal had two things:

- Only the **king** could have the seal.
- The seal had be **unique** to the King (*hard to forge*).

Where Did Miracles Happen The Most?

They happened most during the time of:

- Moses
- Elijah
- Elisha
- Jesus
- Apostles

There are around **250** miracles in the Bible. Lets say they all happened between Abraham and Jesus (approximately **2,000** years).

That's still only **one** miracle every **eight** years.

We only have 2 Options:

If the universe had a beginning we have two options:

- **No one** created something from nothing.
- **Someone** created something from nothing.

Which is most reasonable?

We need a **miracle worker**. Things do not pop into existence out of nothing. If they did, why don't other things do that?

2. _____

There different types of **unusual** events:

- Anomalies
- Magic
- Psychosomatic
- Satanic signs
- Divine providence
- Miracles

- _____

Description: Freaks of _____

Power: _____

Traits: _____ event with pattern

Example: _____

- _____

Description: _____

Power: _____

Traits: _____ and man controlled

Example: _____ in the hat

- _____

Description: _____ over matter

Power: _____

Traits: _____

Example: _____



3. _____

1. We know that a _____ God exists.
2. We know a lot of character traits that God possess.
3. We see those traits revealed in _____.
4. It seems _____ that some of these elements would be displayed by some of His acts (miracles).

Rules for a miracle

Cosmological:

_____ powerful beginning of an act. Means this event can not be explained by nature.

Teleological:

_____ and purpose. The has to be done with an obvious purpose, to confirm truth or a messenger/message, or to bring glory to God.

Moral:

_____ or right behavior. The sign can not promote error or immorality because this goes against God's nature. He is the standard of good and truth.

4. _____

What is the greatest miracle?

- Noah
- Jonah
- The virgin birth
- The resurrection
- All of Jesus' miracles

The Greatest Miracle: The fact that God _____ everything out of nothing.

All other miracles are _____ for a God who created everything out of nothing.



If the first verse of the Bible is true (Genesis 1:1), here is our train of thought:

1. If the first verse is true then the others are at least _____.
2. If God _____ the universe out of nothing...
3. He can do and create what ever He wants that is not _____ impossible.

5. _____

God can not:

- Create _____ impossible things
 - » Square circle
 - » One ended stick
 - » Married bachelor
 - » God can not lie
- Miracles can not _____ logic



But if we admit God, must we admit miracle? Indeed, you have no security against it. That is the bargin.

C.S. Lewis

We know God _____ because of the cosmological, teleological, and moral arguemnts. These three arguments give us proof for the greatest _____ of all.

If _____ exists, _____ must be possible.



Common Objections:

David Hume

David Hume has the best argument against miracles. It is still used in colleges to this day.

Hume's Argument

Here is his train of thought:

1. Natural law is by definition a description of a _____ occurrence.
2. A miracle is by definition a _____ occurrence.
3. The _____ for the regular is always greater than the evidence for the rare.
4. A wise man always bases his beliefs on the _____ evidence.
5. Therefore a wise man should never believe in _____.

Example: Instant replay in a football game.

We have the instant replay (common).

The refs only have one opportunity to see it live (rare).

What works for a recorded game does not work in creation.

The Problem with Hume's Argument

The evidence for the _____ is **NOT** always greater than the evidence for the _____.

Example: Hole in one in golf (rare)

A hole in one is a rare event.

It is much more common to not get a hole in one (common).

We have multiple witnesses and videotape of hole in one's taking place.

We never say "don't believe in a hole in one," since the evidence for the common is always greater than the rare.

Hume confuses _____ with evidence.

He confuses believability with _____.
