

**BEULAH HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY
(ATLANTA, GEORGIA)**

**RESEARCH PAPER
MIRACLES: THE SUPERNATURAL PRECONDITION**

SSUBMITTED BY: TENA MARIE

**SUBMITTED TO:
DR. MICHAEL MCCRUM
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INTRODUCTION

According to Norman L. Geisler, author of *“Systematic Theology,”* Vol 1, there are two definitions of miracles. The first view would be the “weak sense” and the second is the “strong sense.” Both are events that one would believe or not believe. Therefore, the purpose of this research assignment is to provide evidences, discussion and examination of the biblical, natural events and situations concerning miracles, signs, and wonders. The end should elaborate and show that God (Yahweh) created the heaven and the earth. That miracles with signs following with a specific purpose do exist.

MIRACLES, SIGNS AND WONDERS

Merriam-Webster dictionary definition of miracles is: “An extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs like the healing miracles in the Gospels”. In Christian Science it means: “A divinely natural phenomenon experienced humanly as the fulfillment of spiritual law”. Now we will look at the difference between weak and strong senses or views concerning miracles.

WEAK and STRONG SENSE

The weak sense when it pertains to miracles is looked at as not being natural or being a natural event. Some examples would be the weather and bad storms or earthquakes and even the eclipse that we experienced a few months ago around the world, this would be the weak sense of a miracle. It could just be the way someone naturally look at the event and cannot

explain what just happen. But with the strong sense, this is an event that goes beyond what the human mind cannot figure out because it is the supernatural power of God's doing outside of the any human nature to produce. Therefore, only in the strong position can any miracles be proven to be identified supernatural with the actions of the act coming from God Himself.

THE MIRACLES BY GEISLER

Geisler explains miracle to be as a supernatural precondition surrounding orthodox theology. In other words, if Christ had not been born, died and rose again, historical Christianity would have collapsed. The birth of Jesus Christ and everything surrounding His Coming into the earth and leaving us to go back to the Father, is a miracle within its self. Yet there are many theologians that have a hard time believing in miracles.

1. Norman L. Geisler, *Systematic Theology* (Minneapolis, Mi, Bethany House, 2011) 34-35.
2. [www. Merriam-Webster.com/Definition of Miracles.](http://www.Merriam-Webster.com/Definition%20of%20Miracles)

THESIS STATEMENT

The purpose is to provide evidences discussion and examination of the biblical, natural events and situation concerning miracles, signs, and wonders. The end should elaborate show that God (Yahweh) created the heaven and the earth. That miracles with signs following with a specific purpose do exist.

THE BEGINNING OF MIRACLES IN THE BIBLE

1. Throughout the word of God, the Bible is full of miracles. The Scriptures speak in depths of the miracles by the trinity. The whole Bible is a book of supernatural miracles, signs, and wonders, From Genesis, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," to the book of Revelation, speaking about the end times. A book written by Herbert Locker called, *"All The Miracles of the Bible,"* is an awesome reading about the importance of miracles being part of who God is. W.D. Thomson says this about Bible miracles. "The Bible wisely selects its terms from a supreme and sole regard to religious and moral considerations; thus simply remaining silent as to all questions bearing on the relations of the miraculous to the internal arrangements, forces and laws of nature. So the Bible describes extraordinary phenomena showing the deity of Yahweh at work. Some reasons why Jesus perform miracles were to bear witness of Himself and to help validate and bring credibility as the Son of the living God, being sent by God. Also accorded to Geisler the purpose of miracles are the following: To glorify the nature of God (John 2:11;11:40, To accredit certain persons as the spokespeople for God (Acts 2:22, Heb. 2:3-4, and To provide evidence for belief in God (John 6:2, 14:20:30-31.

1. <https://bible.org/seriespage/8-meaning-miracles-mark-435-41>

2. Herbert Locker, *"All the Miracles of the Bible,"* (Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1961) 13

3. Norman L Geisler, *Systematic Theology*, (Minneapolis, Mi, Bethany House, 2011) 38
4. The Holy Bible, King James Version, John 2:11;11:40, Acts 2:22, Heb. 2:3-4, and John 6:2, 4:20:30-31.
5. W.D.Thomson

THE PHILOSOPHICAL AND ETHICAL CHALLENGES

Going back to the early history of the church, there has always been problems with Christians and non-Christians believing in miracles performed by a higher and supernatural source. In ancient history surrounding miracles, in the Jewish community, Jews did not take the miracles of Jesus serious, but they questioned the power sources of how the miracles were perform. Then you have the Greek who only challenge the interpretation of the miracles. The church prospective of miracles is one that is still going on today. Author, Jim Lynn, wrote a book entitled, *"The Miracle of Healing In Your Church Today."* In reading this book about the healing virtue of God, "God created us to be body, spirit, and soul (Genesis 2:7). God in his word wants us healed and made whole. The church forgot that Jesus saves, but the creation by God and making man in His image, is a miracle. The whole bible demonstrates healing a sinful, perverted, sick, and disobedient people. Many churches have forgotten that God is the God of healing, He is the God of miracles, signs, and wonders. Other theologian opinions from scholars like Spinoza, who believed that miracles could not be possible because of his presuppositions and his "pantheistic view," miracles are contrary to God's

nature.” Hume believed that miracles were incredible due to it contradictory human norm. In other words, miracles cannot be or happen outside of the “normal course of nature.” So in the eyesight of Spinoza and Hume, there was no supernatural God performing supernatural miracles outside of human nature.

1. Herbert Locker, *All the Miracles of the Bible*, (Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1961) 13
2. The Holy Bible, King James Version, Genesis 2:7

DOCUMENTATION OF THE MIRACLES, SIGNS AND WONDERS OF GOD

The book of Genesis starting with the first chapter is a miracle and the manifestation of the existences of God and the power and authority He has in heaven and earth. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the deep. For six days God created everything we enjoy today including forming man out of the dust of the earth to make man in His image. Then He made woman out of the rib of the man. The creation itself is a miracle and Him making us in His likeness. The Bible tells us that the earth was without form and void and it was full of darkness. God was able to create nothing out of nothing just by telling it, “Let there be.” God opened His mouth and spoke heaven and earth into being, by just His word. In John 2:1-11, Jesus was invited to a wedding fest and the wine ran out. So Jesus did His first miracle by turning the water

into wine. Then there is the event concerning the death of Lazarus. Let's look at John 11:23, "Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto Him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. Now after Martha went to get her sister who was at the grave weeping were Lazarus at this time had been dead for four days now stinken and Jesus shows up there, weeping with groaning also. Let's look at the miracle, signs and wonders that happens. John 11: 40, Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? Verse 41, Then they took the stone away from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up His eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. Verse 43, And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus come forth. Verse 44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, loose him, and let him go. Now this miracle that Jesus performed was for the purpose of letting the people know to believe that He was sent by the Father, (Yahweh) who is in heaven. He also did the miracle for the unbeliever to believe in Him and to give His Father glory. This was a true event where God bear witness to Himself that He is. There is much evidence of the many miracles that took place throughout the Bible. But not just the Bible. Begin to think about a time in your life where you experienced a supernatural event where you knew that it had to be God that brought you out of the

situation or that kept you from losing your life or if you cannot think of anything, know that God woke you up this morning. Somebody did not make it to see another day but you did. Amen!

Some other relevant scriptures that speaks of the miracles, signs and wonders in the Bible are: Acts 2:22, "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus of Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles, and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know...and Hebrews 2:4 says, "God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will."

There is a book I read called, *In the Beginning God, Creation, Culture*, by Marva J Dawn. There was a prayer that got my attention because got is the beginning of all things in heaven and earth. And like the children of Israel who rebell against a Holy God, Yahweh still loved us and gave up His Son to redeem the world. Now that's love and the heart of a forgiven God. It is a miracle to know that there is someone who can unconditionally care that much about us, that he will act in the supernatural to heal, set-free and keep us from destruction through miracles, signs and wonders. I have shorten this prayer just to hit points that stuck out for your reading, and it reads:

"We believe and pray that God has from the beginning prepared a way for our rebellions to be overcome; Holy Father, keep us from cultural rebellions that despise your Good News! That the God who so beautifully orchestrated

creation in the first place makes ways for creation to be restored and that the tools and ethos of and persons in our culture can be formed to be agents of that restoration; Holy Jesus, fashion us to be like you to serve as agents of your divine reconciliation. We confess our sins and pray these things until the day when the creator brings to completion the divine purpose; into the worship of the triune God, we worship you now and forever, Amen! This prayer speaks about the rebellion of our culture and yet know matter way, God still wants to save us, to heal us and to help us be all we need to be. To become agents that will serve with our whole heart. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son; that whosoever believe on Him should not perish, but have everlasting live." He's trying to get us to believe that He is God, that He is the Son of the living God, and that He was sent by God.

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1. The Holy Bible, King James Version, Genesis 1:1-3, John 2:1-11, John 11:23, John 11:40.41.43.44, Acts 2:22 and Hebrews 2:4.
 2. Marva J Dawn, *In the Beginning God, Creation, Culture*, (InterVarsity Press, Downers, IL,2009) 121
 3. <http://Bible.knowing-Jesus.com>

SIGNS AND WONDERS

Benny Hinn read a "Newsweek Poll recently that reported 84% of Americans say they believe God performs miracles today, and 48% claim to have experienced or witnessed one or even among skepticism." Another report

from 2010, Pew Research Center, found 79% of Americans, including 78% ages 18-29, believe in miracles. In 2003, National Study of Youth and Religion, 91% of respondents definitely or maybe believe in the possibility of divine miracles from God. Among those with no religious affiliation, the percentages who believe in miracles increased from 32% in 1991 to 42% in 2008. So many people believe signs and wonders were at the time that was called, "the day of miracles," during the time when Jesus walked the earth. People who believe in this way, think that since Jesus is not with us in the flesh now, supernatural it's impossible for miracles to come forth. But the Holy Bible says in St. Matthew 28:20, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Because of the debate that have been argued from the Old and New Testament by many theologians, Benny Hinn makes this statement concerning signs and wonders. "Mankind's opinions have no bearing on God almighty. The Bible is the final authority on healing and miracles, and only through its sacred pages can we discover the true nature and character of God, along with the benefits and blessings that belong to us as His children."

1. Benny Hinn

Ministries-[https://www.bennyhinn.org/do-you-believe-in-the-signs and wonders/](https://www.bennyhinn.org/do-you-believe-in-the-signs-and-wonders/)

- 2.

<https://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-briggs/belief-in-miracles-on-the-r>

ise-in-the-age-of-oprah_b_2039372,html, The Blog 10/30/2012,

updated December 30, 2012.

3. The Holy Bible, King James Version, St. Matthew 28:20.

CONCLUSION

The Thesis Statement purpose is to provide evidences discussion and examination of the biblical, natural events and situation concerning miracles, signs, and wonders. The end should elaborate and show that God (Yahweh) created the heaven and the earth. That miracles with signs following with a specific purpose do exist. From the Old and New Testament Scriptures, God's word is established and miracles do still exist today and that God is still performing miracles, signs, and wonders in the earth. From Genesis 1, In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Throughout the ancient history, God showed Himself to be God and one who operated in the supernatural. The church prospective has not changed. We still have skeptics who question if Jesus still perform miracles because He is not walking the earth, but He lives in us and He is always with us. I can write about miracles, because I am a walking, living, breathing miracle who if it was not for the Lord on my side, I would not be alive today. I know Him to be a healing, a provider and a deliverer in the time of trouble. For God will show Himself strong on your behalf if you can just believe on Him. Every day is a miracle taking place in the life of the believer and even for the ones who don't believe. They may not realize it or not, but it's God's grace that keep us day by day. God keeps us safe from dangers seen and unseen. He gets pleasure out of

performing miracles to show us Himself that He is the GREAT I AM

THAT I AM SENT ME!

KEY POINTS

- The meaning of Miracles.
- There are two definitions of miracles: weak sense and strong sense.
- The whole Bible is full of the miracles, signs, and wonders of the supernatural.
- Jesus perform miracles in order to bear witness of Himself.
- The problem of Christians and Non-Christians believing that God is the God of miracles and He is still performing them today.
- God's love and faithfulness towards us comes through His mercy and grace to save us from our self.
- Pray a repentance prayer that will allow the Father to teach us how to be agents that he can use for His purpose and glory to win others to know Him.
- The Bible is the final authority which cancel out mankind's opinion concerning miracles, signs and wonders. We need to embrace the benefits and blessings of the Lord.

RHETORICAL QUESTION

The rhetorical question I would ask would be, "What would it take for you to believe that God is still performing miracles, with signs and wonders?" Would He have to die and raise up from the dead again? Would He have to be walking the earth in the flesh again today to receive a miracle from Him? What would it take for you to believe God is still performing miracles even when you wake up in your right mind every day, that's God's miracle towards you.

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3. [https://bible.org/seriespage/8-meaning-miracles-mark 435-41](https://bible.org/seriespage/8-meaning-miracles-mark-435-41)

4. Herbert Locker, *"All the Miracles of the Bible,"* (Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1961) 13
- 5 Norman L Geisler, *Systematic Theology*, (Minneapolis, Mi, Bethany House, 2011) 38
6. The Holy Bible, King James Version, John 2:11;11:40, Acts 2:22, Heb. 2:3-4, and John 6:2, 4:20:30-31.
- 7 W.D.Thomson
- 8 The Holy Bible, King James Version, Genesis 2:7
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- 13 https://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-briggs/belief-in-miracles-on-the-rise-in-the-age-of-oprah_b_2039372.html, The Blog 10/30/2012, updated December 30, 2012.
- 14 The Holy Bible, King James Version, St. Matthew 28:20.