



Atheism believes that an explosion in the printing press caused the book to appear.

Deism views God as a clockmaker who creates the universe, sets it running, and then lets it operate independently.

Theism holds that God is a personal, caring Being who listens to prayers and intervenes in human life.

"Those today who claim that science or historiography denies the possibility of miracles are repeating not scientific observations but philosophic premises stemming from Hume." Craig Keener (Leading New Testament Scholar)

David Hume (18th-century Scottish philosopher) on miracles:

1. No miracle has been proven true by smart and logical people.
2. People often like to believe in surprising things.
3. Miracle stories often come from less informed or less developed areas.
4. All religions say miracles happen, so it's hard to say one is more true.

"A miracle is a violation of the laws of nature; and as a firm and unalterable experience has established these laws, the proof against a miracle, from the very nature of the fact, is as entire as any argument from experience can possibly be imagined." David Hume

"Science as science involves repeatable events, so it normally cannot as science pronounce judgment on specific unique events in history, such as many define miracles to be."
(Keener, *Miracles*)

Miracles are outside of **scientific investigation**, but it's not outside of **historical research**.

"If there is no God, then the laws of nature are the ultimate determinants of what happens. But if there is a God, then whether and for how long and under what circumstances laws of nature operate depend on God. Any evidence that there is a God, and, in particular, evidence that there is a God of a kind who might be expected to intervene occasionally in the natural order, will be evidence supporting historical evidence that he has done so." Richard Swinburne (Oxford Philosopher)

Miracles are not a **violation** of the laws of nature. They are an **invasion** of God's kingdom.

The Case for Miracles:

1. **Name** - Healer. (Ex 15:26)
2. **Nature** - Compassion. (Mt 14:14)
3. **Cross** - He bore our sin, sickness, and curse. (Is 53:4; Mt 8:17)
4. **Kingdom** - He invaded our realm. (Mt 12:28)



*But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.
Matthew 12:28*

1. Understanding the Kingdom

- The message of Jesus is the Kingdom of God.
- Kingdom is not so much a **realm** as a **reign**.
- Gospel is not the message but a **description** of the message.
- The gospel apostles proclaimed that **Jesus' reign** as Lord ushered in a **new era** of peace and salvation, transforming everything.

And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. Matthew 10:7-8

- God's kingdom doesn't have sickness; therefore, we heal the sick.
- God's kingdom doesn't have demons; therefore, we cast out demons.
- God's kingdom doesn't have death; therefore, we raise the dead.
- The kingdom of God is both **already** and **not yet!**
- Jesus **inaugurated** the kingdom at His first coming, and He will **consummate** it at his return (Mark 13:26–27)
- Satan was defeated in the ministry of Jesus and at the cross, but his final destruction awaits the end.
- Complete salvation and full kingdom inheritance await the future (Eph 1:18; 5:5; Rom 13:11; 1 Cor 6:9–10; 15:50; 2 Tim 4:18).
- The church lives simultaneously in both ages when salvation has been **accomplished** but not **consummated**.

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. Matthew 11:12

1. The Consummation of the Kingdom.

The **Genesis – Revelation**

The Beginning: Gen 1-3

The Ending: Rev 20-22

Creation of **Heavens** and the **Earth**.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Gen 1:1

"I saw a new heaven and a new earth." Rev 21:1



Night and day.

"The darkness He called night." Gen 1:5

"There shall be no night there." Rev 21:25

The **Sun** and the **Moon**

"God made the two great lights (the sun and the moon)." Gen 1:16

"The city has no need of the sun or of the moon." Rev 21:23

Death

"In the day you eat thereof you shall surely die." Gen 2:17

"And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow." Rev 21:4

The **Devil**

Satan appears as the deceiver of mankind. (Gen 3:1)

Satan disappears into the lake of fire forever. (Gen 20:10)

Garden vs City

Shown a garden, into which defilement entered. (Gen 3:6-7)

Shown a city, "There shall in no wise enter into it anything that defiles." (Rev 21:27)

God with Man

The walk of God with man is interrupted. (Gen 3:8-10)

The walk of God with man is resumed. (Rev 21:3)

Victory and Defeat

The initial victory of the serpent. (Gen 3:13)

The ultimate victory of the Lamb. (Rev 20:10; 22:3)

Pain

"I will greatly multiply your pain." Gen 3:16

"Neither shall there be pain anymore." Rev 21:4

Curse

"Cursed is the ground for your sake." Gen 3:17

"There shall be no more curse." Rev 22:3

Dominion

Man's dominion is damaged in the fall of Adam. (Gen 3:17-19)

Man's dominion is restored in the reign of Christ. (Rev 22:5)

Paradise

First paradise was closed. (Gen 3:23)

New paradise is opened. (Rev 21:24-26)

Tree of Life

Access to the Tree of Life is lost in Adam. (Gen 3:24)

Access to the Tree of Life is regained in Christ. (Rev 22:14)



Presence of God

They were driven from God's Presence. (Gen 3:24)

We "shall see His face." (Rev 21:3; 22:4)

1. In-breaking of the Kingdom

Miracles are a foretaste of the coming restoration of creation.

Miracles are a sneak peek into what God's kingdom is like.

Miracles are appetizers for what's to come.

Miracle: Future fact becomes a present preview!

*Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, **if You had been here**, my brother would not have died. John 11:20*

*But even now I know that whatever **You ask of God**, God will give You." John 11:22*

*Jesus said to her, "Your brother **will rise again**." John 11:23*

Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." John 11:24

*Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection** and the life. John 11:25*

Our faith gets nailed between two thieves: the past (if you would have been here) and the future (one day he will rise)

Faith takes us from hoping to having.

*"Now faith is the **substance** (title deed) of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" Hebrews 11:1*

Faith is the title deed of things hoped for.

- Hope is future. Faith is now.
- Hope is a divine possibility. Faith is a personal reality.
- Hope looks to the things promised. Faith looks to the One who promises.

"Faith takes God without any ifs." ~ D.L. Moody (American Evangelist)

"Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible." ~ Corrie Ten Boom (A Dutch Christian who helped many Jews escape the Nazi Holocaust)

Faith allows the future to bust open into the present.



She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that **You are the Christ**, the Son of God, **who is to come** into the world." John 11:27

Disappointment says, "If only You would been here"
Faith says, "If only I may touch His clothes" (Mark 5:28)