

From “Glory be to God on high”

Him the angels all adored,
Their maker and their king;
Tidings of their humbled Lord
They now to mortals bring.
Emptied of his majesty,
Of his dazzling glories shorn,
Being's Source begins to be,
And God himself is born!

See the eternal Son of God
A mortal Son of Man;
Dwelling in an earthly clod,
Whom Heav'n cannot contain!
Stand amazed, ye heavens, at this!
See the Lord of earth and skies
Humbled to the dust he is,
And in a manger lies!

by Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Further reading from a Christian perspective:

- C.S Lewis, Miracles, 1947
- Paul Barnett, The Truth about Jesus (The challenge of evidence), 1994
- Tim Keller, The Reason For God, 2008
- Andrew Wilson, If God Then What?, 2012
- Ravi Zacharias International Ministries, rzim.org



How can I view miracles?



For this reason, the question whether miracles occur can never be answered simply by experience. Every event which might claim to be a miracle is, in the last resort, something presented to our senses, something seen, heard, touched, smelled, or tasted. And our senses are not infallible. If anything extraordinary seems to have happened, we can always say that we have been the victims of an illusion. If we hold a philosophy which excludes the supernatural, this is what we always shall say.

C.S Lewis, Miracles, 1947

Is there anything about you that's supernatural?

Where does your ability to think and to reason come from?
Why are your emotions such a significant part of how you process information?
How many of these things can evolution claim?
How can rationality come from non-rational causes?

The "Law of Averages"

Does something having always been the case mean, necessarily, that it always will?

What difference would it make to your worldview if you could accept that the 'coin' was loaded?



The only question is whether, granting the existence of a Power outside Nature, there is any intrinsic absurdity in the idea of its intervening to produce within Nature events which the regular 'going on' of the whole natural system would never have produced.

C.S Lewis, Miracles, 1947

If my mental processes are determined wholly by the motions of atoms in my brain, I have no reason to suppose that my beliefs are true... and hence I have no reason for supposing my brain to be composed of atoms.

Professor J.B.S Haldane, Possible Worlds, 1927

The Incarnation (God becomes man)

What do you make of these strange events recorded in the gospels?

1. Jesus being born into King David's family as promised in the Old Testament
2. Joseph still choosing to take Mary as his wife after she becomes pregnant outside wedlock
3. Mary being a random teenager from backstreet nowhere
4. Isaiah's prophecy of a virgin giving birth, about 700 years earlier
5. Micah's prophecy of an ancient ruler to come from Bethlehem
6. The shepherd's (low social status) being the first on the scene
7. Independent appearance of angels to different people about the birth of Jesus
8. The Magi finding the young Jesus following astronomy
9. The independent recognition of the uniqueness of the child by Elizabeth, Simeon and Anna

We modern people think of miracles as the suspension of the natural order, but Jesus meant them to be the restoration of the natural order. The Bible tells us that God did not originally make the world to have disease, hunger and death in it. Jesus has come to redeem the world where it is wrong and heal where it is broken. His miracles are not just proofs that he has power but also wonderful foretastes of what he is going to do with that power. Jesus' miracles are not just a challenge to our minds, but a promise to our hearts, that the world we all want is coming."

Tim Keller, The Reason For God, 2008