

June 18, 2017

The Case for Faith

Part 5: *Since Miracles Contradict Science, They Cannot be True*

Texts: Mark 6:1-6; Luke 16:19-31

“The virgin birth, the Resurrection, the raising of Lazarus, even the Old Testament miracles, all are freely used for religious propaganda, and they are very effective with an audience of unsophisticates and children.” - Richard Dawkins

Dawkins comments, “God’s existence or non-existence is a scientific fact about the universe, discoverable in principle if not in practice. If he existed and chose to reveal it, God himself could clinch the argument, noisily and unequivocally, in his favour.”

Two Objections to Miracles

1. Miracles contradict the laws of nature and science

Science is the concerted human effort to understand, or to understand better, the history of the natural world and how the natural world works, with observable physical evidence as the basis of that understanding.

Science tells us what nature does when left to itself; miracles, if they occur at all, occur precisely because nature is *not* left to itself.

“A miracle is not the suspension of the pattern to which events conform, but the feeding of new events into that pattern. A miracle is not an event without cause or results. Its cause is the activity of God and its results follow according to natural laws.” – C.S. Lewis

God created the universe and everything in it, he owns it and rules over it, and has the freedom and power to alter it in any way he chooses at any time. What we experience as the seemingly unalterable laws of nature are merely the faithful behaviour of the creator and sustainer of the universe.

Science is not the rule that contained God’s creation; science is the byproduct of God’s orderly creative work.

2. The Biblical miracles are mythological

The Gospels are historically reliable because:

1. They are Verified
2. They are Accurate
3. They are Attested
4. They are Timely

The gospel authors were present during the life of Jesus and wrote their accounts early enough to be cross-checked by those who knew Jesus. Their accounts can be sufficiently corroborated and have been accurately delivered to us through the centuries.

The authors lacked motive to lie to us about their observations and died rather than recant their testimony. Is the Bible true? The case for the reliability of the Gospels is strong and substantive. We have good reason to trust what the eyewitnesses told us about Jesus of Nazareth.

God has been shouting at people for several thousand years in the pages of the Bible. If they won’t listen to God there, then miracles won’t help.

God could clinch the argument, says Richard Dawkins, by doing something really spectacular. “If God just appeared in front of me, I’d believe.” God says, “No, you wouldn’t.” In fact, Jesus was God standing in front of the Jewish leaders, and Jesus later did rise from the dead, and yet some of those people still wouldn’t believe.

If you’re looking for evidence of God, don’t look for miracles, read the Bible.