

THE BIBLE SPEAKS
ON MIRACLES
AND
PROVIDENCE



K E V I N T O W N S E N D

Copyright © 2021 Kevin Townsend

This book is not for sale nor should it ever be offered for sale under any circumstances. It is a nonprofit educational endeavor that was written solely for noncommercial uses. This book is intended to help explain and clarify the Bible doctrine of miracles and Divine Providence in a transformative way. It is my earnest hope that the reader of this book will be like the Berean Christians (Acts 17:10-12) and check the Bible to see if the things I have said are so.

All rights reserved. “The Bible Speaks on Miracles and Providence” by Kevin Townsend is licensed under Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0>

This eBook can be freely distributed (without charge only) as long as the book is distributed in its entirety without any changes to the content of the book whatsoever.

<https://knowingyour.bible/>

v 1.0

DEDICATION:

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO BROTHER K. AND BROTHER TERRY HIGHTOWER, BOTH PREACHERS OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST. BROTHER K'S PREACHING FORCED ME TO GO TO THE SCRIPTURES TO DO LIKE THE BEREANS OF OLD AND SEE "*WHETHER THOSE THINGS WERE SO.*" BROTHER HIGHTOWER PATIENTLY HELPED ME GROW IN FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE OVER THE YEARS. WITHOUT THESE TWO MEN THE OUTCOME OF MY LIFE WOULD HAVE BEEN FOR THE WORSE.

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1 The Natural World vs. The Physical World.....	11
Figure 2 The Sea of Galilee.....	24
Figure 3 Results Of Blister Agent On Human Flesh.....	54
Figure 4 Voltage Gradients Radiating Out (Lichtenberg Figures) From A Lightning Strike On A Golf Flagpole. (" <i>...and the fire ran along upon the ground...</i> ").....	55
Figure 5 The 10 Plagues - Jehovah Versus the Gods of Egypt.....	62
Figure 6 Quote From Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society of Pennsylvania " <i>The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived</i> " p. 444...	72
Figure 7 FOOL'S Gold Is Not What It Seems To Be.....	111
Figure 8 REAL Gold Is The Genuine Article.....	111
Figure 9 Vitiligo Depigmentation.....	131
Figure 10 Chalky White Vitiligo Macule.....	131
Figure 11 Close-Up Showing Reflectivity, Shadows, & Surface Pattern Of Diamond-Pattern Knurling Which Provide Visual Cues Of Surface Texture.....	158
Figure 12 Visual Aid Showing Human Taxonomy.....	163
Figure 13 A Simple Tree Of Life Showing Evolution From A Common Ancestor.....	169
Figure 14 Bible Scene Illustration (1 Samuel 28:7-19): King Saul Has The Witch Of Endor Call Up Samuel The Prophet's Spirit; From The Frontispiece Of Sadducismus Triumphatus (1681) By Joseph Glanvill.....	184
Figure 15 Weight Computation For The Gate Of Gaza Carried By Samson.....	223
Figure 16 Sketches Represent Bronze Fetters From Reliefs Discovered At Nineveh.....	226
Figure 17 The Coasts Of Tyre & Sidon.....	234
Figure 18 Map Of Decapolis Showing Location Of Gadara & Gerasa.....	240
Figure 19 The Sea of Galilee Boat On A Metal Frame In The Yigal Alon Museum In Kibbutz Ginosar, Tiberias, Israel.....	243
Figure 20 Severe Impact Damage From Ordinary Hail.....	355
Figure 21 Ice Weighing At Least 50 lbs. Fell From The Sky, Damaging A Car.....	355
Figure 22 Remaining Ice From Megacryometeor Impact.....	356
Figure 23 Lightning Kills 500 Sheep In Patراس Rural Municipality, Nepal On August 23, 2020.....	387
Figure 24 Lightning Kills 173 Sheep In Hoboksar Mongolian Autonomous County, Tacheng Prefecture, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, July 10, 2012.....	387
Figure 25 Lichtenberg Figure Scars From A Lightning Strike.....	391
Figure 26 Ground Current/Step Voltage From A Single Lightning Strike Can Kill Multiple People/Animals.....	392
Figure 27 Wildfires From Lightning Can Burn Up.....	392
Figure 28 Wildfires From Lightning Can Consume.....	393
Figure 29 Nurse Medical Training In Britain, 1942 – Girls In Their Last Year Of School Learn 'The Delicate Art Of Poulting' As Part Of Their Pre-Nursing Training.....	404
Figure 30 Young Girl Getting The Family's Water Supply. They Carry The Jars On Their Head Or Shoulders.....	409
Figure 31 The Areopagus Athens, Greece With Bronze Plaque (Right) Having Paul's Speech From Acts 17 In Greek.....	427
Figure 32 Map Of The Philistine Plain Showing The Cities Of The Five Lords Of The Philistines (Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, & Gath – 1 Samuel 6:16-18).....	440
Figure 33 Map Showing Jonathan In Gibeah Of Benjamin/Saul Relative To The Attack Of The Garrison Of The Philistines In Geba (1 Samuel 13:1-7).....	445
Figure 34 Modern Geba & Michmash-Saul Was In Michmash While Jonathan Attacked The Garrison Of The Philistines In Geba (1 Samuel 13:1-7).....	446
Figure 35 Bonez & Seneh With The Approximate Area Of Jonathan's Climb & Battle (1 Samuel 14:1-14).....	449

Figure 36 Jonathan & His Armor-Bearer Traveled Down The Wadi Suwenit, Scaled The Cliffs To Battle The Philistines Holding The High Ground..... 452

Figure 37 The Doctrine That “Faith Only” Is All That Is Needed For Salvation (The Book Of Discipline Of The United Methodist Church – The Articles of Religion of The Methodist Church – Article IX—Of the Justification of Man)..... 487

Figure 38 The Doctrine That “Baptism Doth Also NOT Now Save Us” (The Standard Manual For Baptist Churches – Chapter III Church Ordinances – p 21, Note 8)..... 491

TABLE OF TABLES

Table 1 The State, Location, & Number of Spirits Within Human & Animal Bodies..... 171

Table 2 Comparing The Characteristics Of Miracles & Divine Providence..... 298

Table 3 Falling Items Free-Fall Velocity & Impact Energy.....353

Table 4 All 11 Conversions Recorded In The Bible Book “Acts Of The Apostles” – A Clear Guide For You To Follow..... 496

SECTION ONE – MIRACLES

Chapter 1 – Overview

The Roots Of This Book

While a member of the United States Air Force stationed in Georgia in 1995 I heard a sermon given by brother K, a preacher in a local congregation of the “*churches of Christ.*” In this sermon he made the statement that Satan and his agents (brother K also specifically mentioned the Egyptian magicians¹) could, in times past, do genuine miracles. Although at that time I was much younger in the faith, I knew some Bible facts that told me that his statement was, without question, a false one.

2Tim 3:16 KJV All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

*Mark 16:20 KJV And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and **confirming the word with signs following.** Amen.*

During the time of the writing of the New Testament (NT) preaching was going on by those having the spiritual gifts given to men (1Corinthians 12:1-11, more specifically “*the word of knowledge*” in v. 8 and “*to another prophecy*” in v. 10). Since there was no confirmed, written NT word to use as a perfect standard to verify the accuracy of what was preached, there had to be a way during this intertestamental period to ensure that the pure, unadulterated word of God was being preached. Then, as the inspired letters (epistles) were written, there had to be a way to accurately authenticate those epistles which were inspired and identify those which were not inspired. In each case the word of God, oral or written, was confirmed by miracles. Only these divinely authenticated letters were included in the canon of Scripture that resulted in the NT. If Satan or his followers could do a genuine miracle, then they could write their own blasphemous version of scripture and confirm it with a miracle too. I knew this could not be the case because we would then have two versions of scripture, one God-breathed and one Satan-breathed yet both proven to be equally authoritative by the “*signs following.*”

I began a written discussion of this topic with brother K during which I raised these points:

“If we incorrectly apply the wrong definition of a miracle to the question, “Have Satan or his followers been authorized to do miracles in the past?” we may not obtain the correct answer. The Bible does not come with an inspired glossary. In difficult cases like this, we must take the Bible’s entire body of instruction on the subject and extract a definition using the totality of teaching on the issue. Knowing what the Bible teaches on this subject is essential.”²

His one sermon caused me to begin a study of this topic, a study that has lasted for over 20 years and continues yet today.¹

Questions & Implications

When dealing with the topic of miracles there are many legitimate questions that must be addressed. Some include:

¹ Identified by the Holy Spirit in the New Testament as Jannes and Jambres – 2 Timothy 3:8

² Letter to brother K, dated 11/10/1995

1. What difference does it make if we know the correct definitions for these terms or if we never know (or care) what they mean?
2. What is the Bible definition for a miracle?
3. What is the Bible definition for Divine Providence or a Providential act?
4. Can Satan do any miracle?
5. Are genuine miracles still done today?
6. Does Providence still happen today?

The purpose of this book is to answer these questions and others like them based upon what is written and revealed to us in the God's word, the Bible.

Before we get to the business of answering these questions, we really must focus on the first question first. There are important reasons that anyone serious about serving God or anyone trying to come to a knowledge of absolute truth (as contained in the Bible) will need to know the answer to question 1 (above).

1. Unlike many other religions of our world (e.g., Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Lamaism, Taoism, Confucianism, Shintoism, Daoism, Hinduism, Mahommedanism (archaic terminology for Islam), Paganism, Zoroastrianism, Yazdânism, Uatsdin, Yarsanism, Gnosticism, Paganism, Polytheism, Mormonism), as well as the various "sects of Christianity" e.g., Pentecostalism, and the list goes on...) true Bible Christianity in its purest form is different. The ONE church of Christ (Matthew 16:18, Romans 16:16), was designed, built, and owned by Him. It was confirmed by genuine miracles in the presence of witnesses, often many, many witnesses. These genuine miracles are not just a source of entertainment, they imply certain things:
 - a. about the man performing the miracle,
 - b. about the source of the power behind the miracle, and
 - c. about the religion, doctrine or person connected to the miracle.

A genuine Bible miracle authenticates a religion, doctrine, or person, showing that Jehovah God, the power behind the miracle, approves of that religion, doctrine, or person. A fake, false, or man-made religion has no such authority. In simple terms, one fake, man-made religion is as good as another while the ONE religion authenticated by genuine miracles is different and unique. How do you know which religion is genuine and which is not unless you can correctly and accurately discern a genuine miracle from a humanly produced, counterfeit copy?

2. People can be tricked, confused, and lead astray (2Thessalonians 2:9-11). There are those who practice magic, divination, astrology, witchcraft, numerology, Tarot divination, and even "so called" faith healing, etc. Sadly, some actually believe in the power of these methods while others use these methods to lead astray the gullible for personal fame, power, and/or financial gain. In all cases, these methods are without supernatural power and any associated authority that might be connected to a higher power or being. Yet, those claiming to use these methods can claim that they are miraculous in nature and power. Without knowing what a genuine miracle is, how can you prove otherwise?
3. The Bible presents miracles as true, factual events. If even one of these miracles is not true as written, then all of Scripture falls with it.

The Methodology We Will Employ To Define These Terms

It would be nice if the Holy Spirit, when He inspired the writers of Scripture (2Timothy 3:15-16), would have given us an equally inspired dictionary with the correct definitions of the words used in the Bible. An inspired dictionary does not exist but that does not mean that we cannot come to a correct understanding of Bible words and concepts. In some cases, a Bible word/concept is explicitly defined on the pages of Scripture. One of the best examples of the Bible explicitly defining a word/concept is the definition of “*faith*.”

Heb 11:1 KJV Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Such an explicit definition does not exist in the case “miracles” and “Providence.” But all is not lost. We know that both the Old Testament (OT) (Romans 15:4, Romans 4:23-24) and the NT were written for our learning. This implies that human understanding of Bible words and concepts are knowable and understandable. After all, why would God have given us a book with words, phrases, and concepts that we cannot correctly understand or that are beyond our capability to understand? (emphasis added):

*2Tim 3:15-17 KJV (15) And that **from a child** thou hast known **the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (16) **All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:** (17) That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*

That does not mean it is easy and simple to know some concepts in the Bible. Scripture says exactly that (emphasis added):

*2Pet 3:15-16 KJV (15) And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; (16) As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; **in which are some things hard to be understood**, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest³, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*

Just because something is “*hard to be understood*” does not mean it is impossible to be understood.

Without an explicit definition of a word/concept we are required to deduce the meaning by taking ALL of what Scripture says on the subject (emphasis added):

*Ps 119:151 KJV Thou art near, O LORD; and **all** thy commandments are truth.*

*Ps 139:17 KJV How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the **sum**⁴ of them!*

Here we find an important fact: namely, we must take “*all*” that God says on a subject or the “*sum*” total of all God’s word tells us on a matter before we can be sure we are getting the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. This is easy to illustrate in a practical way. Let us say that I was describing a common house cat to someone who had never seen a cat before. In doing so I state the following true characteristics

³ “Thayer’s Greek Definitions - G4761, Strebloo (‘wrest’ KJV),” n.d. – “metaph. to pervert, of one who wrests or tortures language in a false sense”

⁴ “Definition of Sum | Dictionary.Com,” Dictionary, www.dictionary.com, accessed July 8, 2019, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/sum>. – “...aggregate or total...”

of house cats; two ears, two eyes, a single nose and mouth, runs on four legs, has four paws, a single tail in the back. If a dog ran, by this person could legitimately identify it as a cat based on my description. But I skipped one key differentiating fact: cats have retractable claws. Without a full description identifying ALL relevant characteristics a false identification/conclusion could result.

In like manner, if we are to come to a correct understanding of these terms/concepts we must deduce the meaning from ALL that Scripture has to say on the subject, correctly deducing all relevant identifying characteristics. It is my intention to try to logically move through all the identifying characteristics of miracles first. I also want to show what Scripture says on the purpose and end of miracles. Although there are many parts and pieces to a miracle, we shall see in the coming chapters that Providence is an even more challenging topic, one we shall save for last.

Chapter 2 – A Bible & Existence Without Miracles

To the diligent student of the Bible, it is truly clear that miracles are inseparable from all the other acts recorded there. Over the span of ± 4,000 years we see many varied miracles, recorded in detail by those who witnessed the miracles, in Scripture. The physical results of miracles are shown. The wonder, amazement and awe invoked by miracles is displayed. The fear of the God who worked these miracles is recorded. And finally, to those with the “...*honest and good heart...*” (Luke 8:15), lives were changed for the better by miracles (Acts 13:6-12) as they turned to God and obeyed His commands because of miracles.

As we search for the Bible definition of a miracle, I would first like to look at what a Bible without any miracles. What would this be like? Gerald N. Wright, in his excellent book NOW THAT’S A MIRACLE! shows us how Scripture would almost be an empty shell without miracles. Since I cannot improve on his thought-provoking description, I include his words here as he describes both the OT and the NT without miracles (emphasis and commentary added):

A Bible Without Miracles – Old Testament

“Once upon a time, it all began somehow?...{Omitting the miraculous Creation Account.}... Somehow a lot of people came to live upon the earth, but a flood killed most of them....{Omitting God’s hand in man’s origin and all the Flood Facts.}... Well, some time later, when the number of people had increased again, people began to talk differently and, ho hum, moved around a lot....{Omitting God’s confusion of tongues at the Tower of Babel.} Most of those who moved to Sodom and Gomorrah got all burned up one day!...{Omitting the miraculous fire and brimstone from heaven and Lot’s wife turning to a pillar of salt.}... Things continued as usual for some time. Then one day, the Semitic slaves in Egypt got fed up with their working conditions, and they all ran away to the wilderness....{Omitting the miraculous plagues, the dividing of the sea, the miracles in the wilderness, and giving of the law at Sinai.}... They finally came to dwell in Canaan, where they, though conquered and captured at times, dwell until this day. Yawn....{Omitting all the miracles from Joshua through Daniel and to the end of the Old Testament.}”⁵

Gerald is very conservative as he shows the case of the “Semitic slaves in Egypt ... [who] ran away to the wilderness.” Israel really was an untrained mob of people who, without miracles, somehow overpowered a mechanized, organized, professional army. The Egyptians at that time had chariots, the tanks of their day. This allowed them to move and maneuver faster than foot-borne soldiers. The Egyptians were better armed, better trained and more disciplined than a bunch of rebellious slaves, yet the slaves won. How? Without miracles all we can say is they must have had good luck, I guess?

It is also important that we remember what it took for Israel to “...*finally came to dwell in Canaan...*” How did they, once again, overcome insurmountable odds to defeat the nations already residing in the promised land/Palestine? Without miracles all we can say is they must have had a huge string of really good luck (emphasis added):

Deut 4:38 KJV To drive out nations from before thee greater and mightier than thou art, to bring thee in, to give thee their land for an inheritance, as it is this day.

A Bible Without Miracles – New Testament

“For why should I be concerned over, or listen to, an illegitimate, uneducated and “do nothing” carpenter? {Omitting his virgin birth and the Holy Spirit’s working in his life.} What’s he have to offer me or anybody? He

⁵ Wright, *Now That’s a Miracle!*, 77–78.

was an imposter and Jewish revolutionist who was put down by Rome. He was a delusional liar who allowed thousands of people to be martyred because they believed he was the Son of God because he worked miracles! (More on this later.) If all that is false now, it was false then. So why follow him or read about him? And all the rest of the New Testament — which was based upon what his duped disciples/martyrs wrote about this powerless person's deeds, sayings and teachings — is just as bad as what they wrote in their glorified "Gospels" (Matthew 28:18-20; I Corinthians 15:19)!⁶

It is important to remember that the "...thousands of people [were] martyred..." includes almost all of Jesus' disciples (except John) as well. These were men who knew Jesus best. They viewed all his miracles "up close and personal." For example, Jesus even healed the Apostle Peter's mother-in-law (Matthew 8:14-15). If what they saw was a lie, Jesus' disciples and the other witnesses would have known. If miracles are not true, why would they devote their lives to a lie? If miracles are not true, why would they write epistles perpetuating a lie? If there were no miracles (and they knew that there were no miracles), why would all these people, especially the Apostles, die horrible deaths in a most gruesome fashion for a lie? Occasionally a person or two might be delusional and do irrational things, but most people are rational and reasonable. If these thousands did not witness miracles what would possess them to give up everything in this world, including their lives, for a lie?

Witnesses Describe "What" They Saw

Although mankind has always learned new things as the years have passed, sometimes we may mistakenly get the impression that men prior to the Scientific Revolution of the "15th, 16th, and 17th centuries"⁷ were ignorant. It is true that they many times lacked the understanding of why things happened and thereby were superstitious in their explanation of the "why." But that does not mean that they did not know what was happening. They understand many things about the world around them. During the raising of Lazarus from the dead we find this account (emphasis added):

*John 11:38-39 KJV (38) Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. (39) Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, **by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.***

Men knew and were familiar with death since many died at a young or younger age due to poor nutrition, poor hygiene, disease, and injury, many things we have overcome in our present time. They were not easily fooled, especially when an illness was present before and the cause of the person's death (John 11:1). Although they had no understanding of the chemical processes that occur during decomposition and why there was a bad odor, they did know from long experience what would happen to a dead body sealed for four days (John 11:17) in a cave in the hot climate of Palestine. Keep in mind, if Lazarus was alive, as some claim, he also was entombed without food or water while still afflicted with whatever illness he had possess prior to these events. Only those with a strong bias against God would fail to admit that one way or another, Lazarus was dead and without life in that grave when Jesus called him forth. In simple terms, the people of that day knew the natural from that which was not natural i.e., supernatural.

⁶ Wright, 78.

⁷ J. Brookes Spencer, Stephen G. Brush and Others, "Scientific Revolution | Definition, History, Scientists, Inventions, & Facts," Ency, Encyclopedia Britannica, May 3, 2019, sec. Scientific Revolution, <https://www.britannica.com/science/Scientific-Revolution>.

The Supernatural

Supernatural power is connected to a miracle. To begin to accurately define miracles and Providence we must first define “supernatural” power. Some dictionaries properly define the word supernatural based on its component parts i.e., supra (above) natural (in nature) (emphasis added):

*supra- – a prefix meaning “above, over” (supraorbital) or “beyond the limits of, outside of” (supramolecular; suprasegmental).*⁸

*Natural [nach-er-uhl, nach-ruhl] adjective – existing in or formed by nature (opposed to artificial).*⁹

Other dictionaries obviously show their bias against miracles by discounting actual supernatural power. You can see the MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY says that miracles only “appear” to transcend natural law thereby implying that there is no such thing as a real, Bible miracle where there is an actual transcendence of natural law (emphasis added):

*supernatural adjective su•per•nat•u•ral | \ ,sü-pär-'na-chə-rəl, -'nach-rəl\ – ...2a : departing from what is usual or normal especially so as to appear to transcend the laws of nature*¹⁰

All miracles are supernatural events, so it is fitting to see the bias and/or a modern meaning attached to the word miracle in a contemporary dictionary. The COLLINS ENGLISH DICTIONARY goes even further in their use of equivocating speech than what was seen in the previous example involving the word supernatural. It does appear that they try to undercut the meaning and power of the word miracle. Here we see them say that miracles (emphasis added) “**apparently** contradict known scientific laws” and are “**thought to be**” supernatural (emphasis added):

*miracle in American (ˈmɪrəkl̩) 1. an event or action that **apparently** contradicts known scientific laws and is hence **thought to be** due to supernatural causes, esp. to an act of God*¹¹

So, putting bias and modern meanings aside, using the component meaning of the word supernatural we see that a supernatural event is simply defined as an event that is above or outside of natural law. Some would say that a supernatural event = (equals) a miracle but that is not totally correct. **All miracles are supernatural events but all supernatural events are not miracles.** This may seem confusing at this point but as we progress further you will see what this means as it is shown in the Bible.

⁸ “Definition of Supra- | Dictionary.Com,” Dictionary, www.dictionary.com, accessed July 13, 2019, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/supra->.

⁹ “Definition of Natural | Dictionary.Com,” Dictionary, www.dictionary.com, accessed July 13, 2019, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/natural>.

¹⁰ “Definition of SUPERNATURAL | Merriam-Webster.Com,” Dictionary, Merriam-Webster.com, accessed July 13, 2019, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/supernatural>.

¹¹ “Miracle Definition and Meaning | Collins English Dictionary,” Dictionary, Collins English Dictionary, sec. miracle in American 1., accessed August 2, 2019, <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/miracle>.

Some Reason Man Rejects Miracles & The Supernatural

I believe there is a reason that mankind generally discounts and refuses to believe the Bible accounts of miracles. Miracles show supernatural power, a power mankind does have or control. Because of this, there are things implied by miraculous power that man does not want to admit. First, where does this supernatural power come from? It cannot be from nature for it would then be a natural power (e.g., electricity, radiation, gravity, etc.). If it is not from the natural realm (nature) there must be another place/realm where it originates i.e., the spiritual realm. How does this power cross the realms? As we study miracles, we will see that they are not random, irrational acts but rather specific targeted events designed to meet a goal and/or show or prove something. There is planning, precision, and purpose behind miracles. Because miracles are planned, thoughtful acts that means there must be a mind behind those thoughtful actions. This is what really frightens those who reject miracles. A mind in the spirit realm with enough power to cross to the natural realm and then, once there, violate/deviate from natural law equals GOD and they cannot abide the thought that God exists! If God exists, they intuitively know that we (mankind) are beneath Him and subservient to His will (as the Bible plainly tells all who will read and heed its word):

Ps 47:2 KJV For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth.

Ps 95:3 KJV For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

That will not do! Mankind in general and those who reject God specifically want to control their own lives. Admitting God's existence will destroy their perceived sense of self-control and so they reject miracles and, in so doing, they reject the God that has the power to cause these miracles. Some even tamper with Scripture in an attempt to remove or nullify the miracles recorded there.

Others reject miracles because they claim to be men/women of science. Accordingly, since they cannot formulate a scientific theory¹² to test a miracle or use the scientific method¹³ to verify the existence of miracles, they reject them. They also, as people of science, reject anything that would go against any proven scientific law (e.g., laws of physics, electromagnetism, thermodynamics, radiation, quantum mechanics, gravitation and relativity, chemistry, etc.). Of course, when asked to use the scientific method to verify the existence of love (not examples of loving actions but actual, scientifically measurable "love" itself) they scoff and reply, "That's ridiculous. Love is an emotion and not subject to scientific examination." Yet when it is pointed out to them that the spiritual realm, like love, is also not physical and therefor also not being subject to scientific examination, they refuse to see the contradiction.

¹² Wikipedia Community, "Scientific Theory," in *Wikipedia* (Wikimedia Foundation, August 8, 2019), https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Scientific_theory&oldid=909902839.

¹³ Wikipedia Community, "Scientific Method," in *Wikipedia* (Wikimedia Foundation, June 25, 2019), para. 1, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Scientific_method&oldid=903463949. – "The **scientific method** is an empirical method of acquiring knowledge that has characterized the development of science since at least the 17th century. It involves careful observation, applying rigorous skepticism about what is observed, given that cognitive assumptions can distort how one interprets the observation. It involves formulating hypotheses, via induction, based on such observations; experimental and measurement-based testing of deductions drawn from the hypotheses; and refinement (or elimination) of the hypotheses based on the experimental findings. These are *principles* of the scientific method, as distinguished from a definitive series of steps applicable to all scientific enterprises."^{[1][2][3]}"

Evolution And Non-Purposeful Natural Selection

Akin to man's love of science and the scientific method is the man's love and belief that he came to exist through evolution and non-purposeful natural selection. The true nature of this belief may shock the uninformed (emphasis added):

*"Humans have always wondered about the meaning of life...life has no higher purpose than to perpetuate the survival of DNA...**life has no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference.**" -- Richard Dawkins*

*Evolution is 'deceptively simple yet utterly profound in its implications,' the first of which is that living creatures 'differ from one another, and those **variations arise at random, without a plan or purpose.**'³ Evolution **MUST** be **without plan or purpose** because its core tenet is the natural selection of the fittest, produced by **random** copying errors called mutations. Darwin 'was keenly aware that **admitting any purposefulness whatsoever** to the question of the origin of species **would put his theory of natural selection on a very slippery slope.**'⁴ Pulitzer Prize author Edward Humes wrote that the fact of evolution was obvious but 'few could see it, so trapped were they by the human...desire to find design and purpose in the world.'*

*Darwin's brilliance was in seeing beyond the **appearance of design**, and understanding the purposeless, merciless process of natural selection, of life and death in the wild, and how it culled all but the most successful organisms from the tree of life, thereby **creating the illusion that a master intellect had designed the world.** But close inspection of the watchlike 'perfection' of honeybees' combs or ant trails...reveals that they are a product of **random, repetitive, unconscious behaviors, not conscious design.**'⁵*

*The ultimate purposelessness of evolution, and thus of the life that it produces, was eloquently expressed by Professor Lawrence Krauss as follows: '**We're just a bit of pollution.... If you got rid of us...the universe would be largely the same. We're completely irrelevant.**'¹⁴*

Why would anyone say or believe these things? It is the same underlying reason as we have previously discussed, man's desire for self-control in his life. Richard Dawkins' statement show this with crystal clarity. He said, "...life has no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference."

- "no design" means no Designer i.e., no God.
- "no purpose" means man is totally in control (remember, no God) in deciding what man is, what man wants to become, how man will do this, where man wants to go, what acceptable actions man will use to make this happen, etc. According to Dawkins, man is at the top of the evolutionary "food chain" and is a god unto himself.

¹⁴ Jerry Bergman Ph.D., "Darwinism: Survival without Purpose," Religious, Insitute For Creation Research, paras. 1-5 (emphasis added), accessed July 17, 2019, <https://www.icr.org/article/darwinism-survival-without-purpose/>.

- “*no evil and no good*” means there are no inherent, universal standard of good and evil (remember, no God). If a cannibal kills and eats another human being that is not murder, it is just lunch. If a man rapes a woman it really is not rape, after all, we are just an animal like any other wild animal (only smarter and more evolved). Male animals in the wild procreate with any and all females that they can; why shouldn't we? If mankind practices homosexuality, bestiality, or pedophilia, who are we to judge that as wrong? Governments, tribes and peoples may prohibit some things/actions and that is OK for them in their locality but we as *homo sapiens* dare not impose our will universally on mankind because there is “*no [inherent] evil and no [inherent] good.*”

As we proceed in our process to accurately define miracles, we will see their relationship to science, the origin of mankind and the universe.

Chapter 3 – Miracles & Terminology

The Physical World vs. The Natural World

Before we discuss the meanings of words used in Scripture to designate miracles, I believe it is important to discuss two terms you will repeatedly see used in this book to describe the place where you and I live. You will see me refer to the “natural world” and/or to the “physical world” (or similar phrases like “natural realm” or “physical realm”). In many cases the context may allow these words to be used almost interchangeably, but to be more precise there is a slight difference between them that that will be of importance as we study the spirit world.

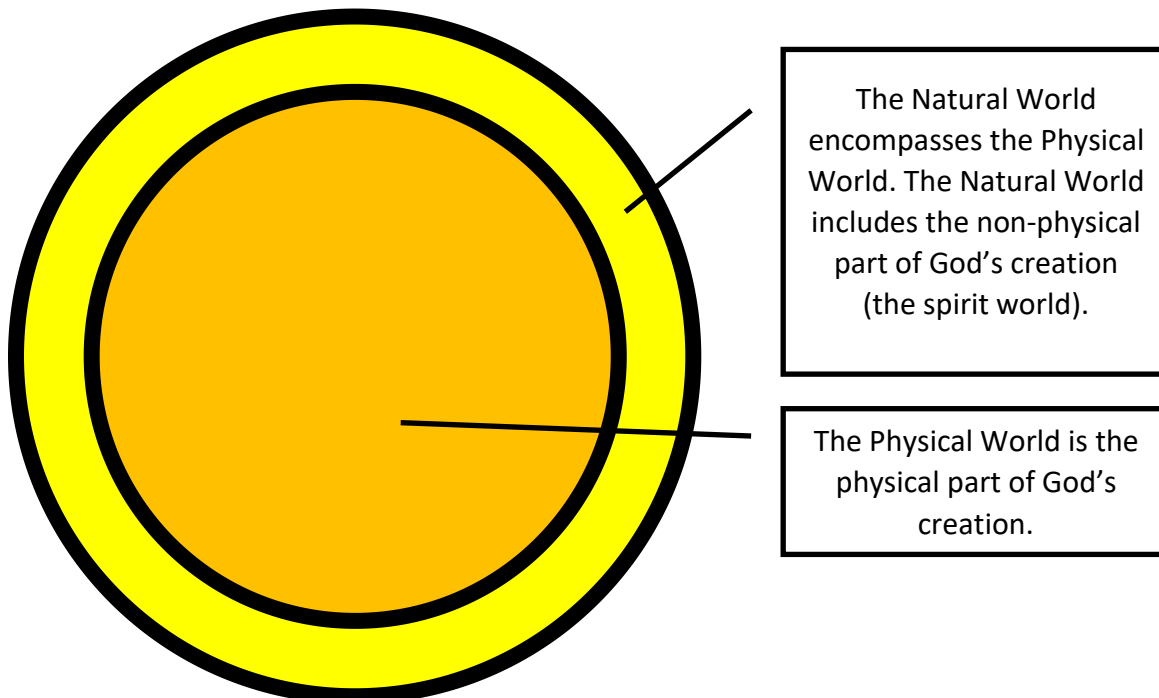


Figure 1 The Natural World vs. The Physical World

Both realms were created by Jehovah. Of course, those who hold fast to the scientific method will likely reject the existence of the natural world because it is not scientifically quantifiable, but there is adequate evidence from non-scientific methods to know it exists.

Changes In Word Meaning

Speech uses words. Mankind defines and changes the definition those words as he sees fit. Words mean different things in different places on earth. In the United Kingdom a bonnet is “the metal cover over the part of a car where the engine is”¹⁵ while in the United States it is “a type of hat that covers the ears and is tied under the chin, worn by babies or, especially in the past, by women.”¹⁶ Word meanings also can change over time. The word “bad” historically has meant something negative e.g., “failing to reach an acceptable

¹⁵ Cambridge University Press, “BONNET | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary,” Dictionary, Cambridge English Dictionary, sec. Metal Cover (UK), accessed July 18, 2019, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/bonnet>.

¹⁶ Cambridge University Press, sec. Hat (US).

Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

