

Introduction	
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You will notice that Cleopas Bible Studies are broken down into separate days to help methodically introduce you to a rhythm for your progression in your studies so as not to be or feel overwhelming and just as well, some of the Bible Studies are not broken down. The reason for this is some studies (such as this study of the Virtuous Woman) may be short and can be done in a few days. I try to keep the amount of days around 10, give or take.

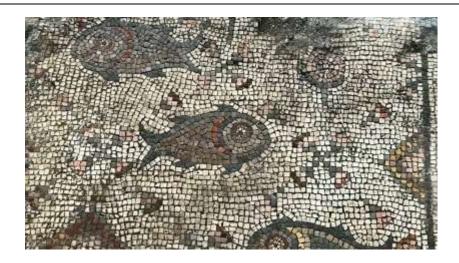
We at Cleopas believe that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God and is its own Authority to

serves as its own commentary. Scripture will always interpret Scripture. Cleopas Bible Study teaches that Scripture ultimately interprets Scripture where "Context is king" and "a text without a context is a pretext". The context of a given passage begins in the immediate context of the phrase or sentence then moves to the paragraph, then the chapter, then the book. The Bible is One Book – not separate books. The New Testament is connected with the Old Testament just as the Book of Genesis is connected to the Book of Revelation – perfectly! There isn't mysticism in the Bible, but when God uses a principle, it is perfect and consistent throughout the Old into the New Testament. The entire Bible is God Breathed, just as God gave Adam "the breath of life" (Genesis 2:7). God breathed out the entire Bible, giving it life. 2 Timothy 3:16: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is valuable for teaching the truth, convicting of sin, correcting faults and training in right living". Hebrews 4:12a Amplified Bible: "For the word of God is living and active and full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]."

Tools for this Study: NASB Bible Version or other Word for Word translation is recommended; Nave's Topical Bible

Key Words

• Keywords: Wonder = Hebrew - mopeth; Wonder, as special display of God's power; Sign = Hebrew - oth: a signal (literally or figuratively), as a flag, beacon; Sign = Greek - semeion - which refers to a miracle that figuratively represents something else; Wonder = Greek - teras - something that causes a person to marvel, a "Wow" momentl; Strengtth/Power/Ability = Greek - dunamis - "mighty deed", this word refers to an act that is supernatural in origin; Work = Greek - dunamis - this word refers to the works of Jesus.

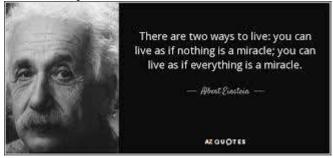


Beginning of Study – Day 1

Why study Miracles? Throughout the entirety of Scripture, we see miracles performed. Miracles are wonderous, but not as wonderous as compared to our Wonderous and Magnificent God who performs them. This study will not place a placard over our God but to study for the sake to help us to be in awe of and build your faith in the One who gives us miracles and wonders and signs to ultimately point to Jesus Christ, to recognize Him as our Lord and Savior.

In our study, we will see if we can answer these questions: What is the purpose of a miracle? What exactly is a miracle? What is the makeup of a miracle? Who performs miracles? Do miracles happen today? Did miracles really happen? Are miracles the same as magic?

¹Miracles are divine solutions to human needs, confirmed by multiple eyewitnesses while still defying human understanding. A miracle is an act of God out of the ordinary and often supersedes known Laws of Nature.



Another quote. ² St. Augustine commented on our tendency to miss the deeper meaning of the miracles, advising believers to "ask the miracles themselves what they tell us about Christ, for they have a tongue of their own if it can only be understood. Because Christ is the Word of God, all the acts of the Word become words to us. The miracle which we admire on the outside also has something inside which must be understood."

There are over 127 miracles recorded in the Bible. In addition to the miracles that are recorded there are even more miracles performed that are not recorded in Scripture. See John 21:25 NIV "Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."

But how to study Miracles. Since miracles suspend the normal rules of physics of the universe, it is not explainable by the normal laws of physics and nature.

³"Nature" refers to the phenomena of the physical world, and also to life in general. It ranges in scale from the subatomic to the cosmic. The term "nature" may refer to living plants and animals, geological processes, weather, and physics, such as matter and energy.

So, for this study, we will break down into categories of nature but please note there are miracles that comprise of several categories. When this occurs, we will study it in one category.

These are the categories of miracles for our study. I'm sure there are many more categories, but we will limit ourselves to these for the purpose of this study. MATTER (CREATION), WATER, FIRE, HUMANKIND/LIFE/DEATH, FLORA/FAUNA, and BEYOND EARTH.

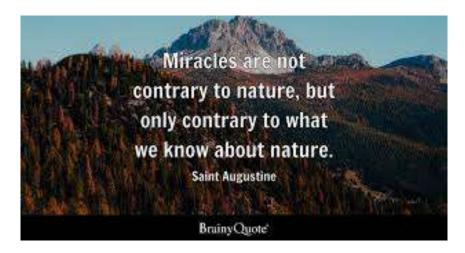
For our study today. We will explore some of the questions posed at the beginning of this study. Starting tomorrow, we will explore the different miracles by category by observing text and using cross references as appropriate.

First question: What is the purpose of a miracle?

God uses His divine power to demonstrate that He is God. To convey to us His message or reveal truth. It is important to recognize that miracles are supernatural events and should be understood to be real and historical events. In the entire authority of Scripture, there are no myths, legends or fairytales. Shadrach, Meschach and Abendego all survived a fiery furnace; Jonah was spit out by a whale

after living in its belly for 3 days; dead were raised to life, and the Red Sea divided and allowed around 2.4 million Israelites to flee Egypt. All miracles listed in Scripture are true. John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.". 2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: "

What is the makeup of a miracle? All miracles are "super" natural events which can be directly attributable to God's character, His power, His plans or His purposes. "Super" natural in that God uses that which we recognize in nature for these explicit purposes to make or direct us to the point of proof of His existence. Psalm 75:1 GW "We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks. You are present, and your miracles confirm that. "



Who performs miracles? A miracle may be performed directly by God or through a human agent. In the Old Testament, we have the prophets and Moses. In the New Testament, we have Jesus and his disciples, including Paul. Miracles were performed to authenticate the work of the one performing them.

Do miracles happen today? God does not need to perform miracles today as He performed in Scripture. Why? Because the greatest miracle of Jesus' resurrection was recorded for our benefit. But do miracles still happen today? God does still perform miracles for us to believe in Jesus. We will probably never see a river divide in two so we can walk on dry ground to the other side, but He can reveal Himself to someone seeking Jesus or to work in the lives of His believers and so on.

Did miracles really happen? As specified before, miracles are recorded in Scripture as actual events. Creation where God spoke the universe into existence, Noah built an ark and the world was flooded with water, and Jesus being raised from the dead to sit at the right hand of God.

Perhaps this may be a new thought to you. Miracles versus explanations. The evidence that Miracles happened and still happen today opposed by those who believe they can explain a miracle away. There are so many miracles listed in Scripture, especially that were witnessed, that defy explaining. God gave us miracles, so we know that there is more than just us. The Miracles are simple to believe, but complicated to explain so much so that you'd have to have unbelievable faith just to believe a skeptic's explanation.

Are miracles the same as magic? Magic is defined as the application of beliefs, rituals or actions employed in the belief that they can manipulate natural or supernatural beings and forces. It is a category into which have been placed various beliefs and practices sometimes considered separate from both religion and science. "Magic" in Scripture was a form of occult which is condemned in Scripture, Deuteronomy 18:10-12 GW "You must never sacrifice your sons or daughters by burning them alive, practice black magic, be a fortuneteller, witch, or sorcerer, cast spells, ask ghosts or spirits for help, or consult the dead. Whoever does these things is disgusting to the Lord. The Lord your God is forcing these nations out of your way because of their disgusting practices.

Miracles and magic are not the same. Most magic is illusionists or sorcery performed by a human being, to trick to give the appearance of a supernatural phenomenon or powers. Miracles are impossible for people to perform on their own ability.

This is a good start to our study. Day 2 we will focus on Water.

God, our Creator, thank You for the miracle of life You created just by speaking into existence. Please allow us to repeat to You John 1:1-3, 14 the Word became flesh and dwelt with us, who is Jesus, who was in the beginning, that all things came into being through Him and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being." We praise you, LORD. Amen.



Study - Day 2 - WATER

A great way to start any topical study is referencing a good bible concordance. I found Nave's Topical Bible an excellent source for references when conducting your own topical study. Also, I recommend, in any bible study, to use a Word for Word Bible version, such as the NASB which is a rendering as close as possible to the sense of the original Greek and Hebrew texts.

Creation itself is a miracle. Who can really understand it? Scientists can pride themselves to what they believe about Creation, but do they really know? God wants us to know about this miracle the best that we can possibly understand it.

Read Genesis 1:1-2. Describe the beginning in Genesis 1:1.

Who is hovering over the "waters"?

Why do you believe the word "waters" is used here? If it was nothing like the adjectives before it in 1:1-2 – formless, emptiness, it wouldn't be another "nothing" word"?

Maybe you're thinking that this water wasn't really water. Well, the word for water here in Genesis 1:2 is the same water that's used in Genesis 1:6, 7, 9, 10, 20, 21, 22 and Genesis 6 about Noah and the Flood and so on throughout the Hebrew text.

It is intriguing that Greek philosophers believed that water to be the original substance and that all things were made from it. Also, in the Koran it states, "From water we have made all things." So, in the story of Creation (Genesis 1:2) water seems to play an elemental part.

This isn't even Day 1 of creation yet. Perhaps can we call it Day 0? This is "precreation" if that's even a word. Even before there was "light" there were "waters". Deep formless and desolate emptiness and darkness but yet there was something - a surface of the waters. Waters, an elemental miracle.

How many times does waters appear in Genesis 1?

Let's work through the progression of Genesis 1 in the boxes referenced below in regards to "Waters". If you're artistic, draw your version, if not, and you're like me and not a touch of artistic talent, you can write it out:

Genesis 1:1-2	Genesis 1:6-7
Genesis 1:9-10	Genesis 1:20-22

God saw that it was good. Do you notice the first time this is stated? In Genesis 1:10 after the dry land "earth" appears and the gathering of the waters He called "seas". After this, life begins.

Water itself is a miracle. We take water so much for granted that we miss how unique this substance truly is. Take that water can be a liquid, or a gas, or a solid. We can't survive without it. Our bodies need a lot of water to carry out many essential functions, such as balancing the internal temperature and keeping cells alive. As a rule of thumb, a person can survive without water for about 3 days

Water is mentioned a total of 722 times in the Bible, more times than words like faith, hope, or worship. It's a wonder why so many miracles involve life bringing water. Water was in the beginning of Scripture, Genesis 1, and is in the ending of Scripture, Revelation 22:17. Look up Revelation 22:17 and write it below.





Genesis 6:5-8, There was great wickedness of mankind that every intent of the thoughts in their hearts was continually only evil. God saw this and it grieved in His heart. This should grieve us too. How lost mankind spirals into such great wickedness that every thought was only evil, continually. But, there was someone who found favor in the eyes of the Lord. Who is this man and what makes him blameless?

Here in Genesis 6, there wasn't rain on the earth yet (Gen 2:4-6). Nowhere in Genesis 6 does God say anything about rain. This is a controversial topic, but I believe that God has made the Bible as a revelation to His children and that you do not have to have a degree in Theology to get what God is saying. Did it rain between Genesis 1 and Genesis 6, who knows, but God made it a point in Genesis 2:6 to note to us how the earth was watered.

Read Genesis 7. Noah, Noah's family, and animals enter the ark commanded by God for Noah to build to His specifications. The animals had arrived miraculously, pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark (Genesis 7:15).

On a specific day, the second month, on the seventeenth day of that month, Noah, his family, and the animals enter the ark. Who closes the door behind them (see v16)?

This is a symbol of the gift of salvation. The great evangelist, Noah, crying out to people to listen to him. To repent of their evil. To give up their ways and turn to the Living God. His testimony is physically building the ark as God specified and the people jeered and laughed at him and would not take him seriously. But, Beloved of God, there will be a time, when God will close the door behind us, and no one will be able to enter to avoid the destruction that is coming. It will be too late (Matthew 25:1-10). Please believe in the Lord Jesus "That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3: 15 KJV).

(MORE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

A poem by Cindy Wyatt. Contemplate on the words of her poem as we continue our study of Water Miracle: Noah and the Flood:



The only way to be saved is through faith in Christ's shed blood

The kind of faith that Noah had when

he built the ark before the flood

Noah obeyed God's word and built the boat God told him to All the people on earth were destroyed except for just a few The few were Noah and his family because they followed God's way And did not follow the world's crowd no matter what they did say

Even though the crowd mocked Noah and said he was a fool Noah still obeyed God's word even when the people were so cruel

When the ark was finished and the storm clouds gathered dark Noah and his family were safe within the ark

It then began to rain and pour just like God said it would
If only the people would have listened
to Noah when they could

They tried to get into the boat but were too late to enter in They could not stay afloat and perished in their sin

Jesus is our rescue boat so we would not perish like the rest
Jesus is the way to be saved from our sin and enter into heaven and be blest

Please listen to God's plea now before it is too late If you miss heaven's boat then hell will be your fate

Jesus gave his life to save you and rescue you from your sin
Just trust him and ask him to be your savior
and you'll receive your free ticket in

Can you only imagine what it must have been like to be closed up in the ark with wild animals around you for 7 days, waiting for the catastrophe that was to come as stated by God?

After 7 days of sitting and being sealed inside the ark with wild animals, the flood begins. In Genesis 7:10-12, 17-24. Rain was only part of the devastating destruction that commenced this event. Begin with verse 7:10, using the NASB Bible, write what happens when these verbs are used:

Came:

Topical Study: MIRACLES
Burst Open:
Were Opened:
Fell Upon:
Increased and Lifted up:
Rose Above:
Prevailed and Increased:
Floated:
Prevailed:
Were Covered:

Prevailed:

Perished:

Wiped out:

Who was left?

How long did the water prevail on Earth?

I don't believe the ark was gently lifted off the ground and just a pleasure cruise for a considerable amount of time. It must have been an extremely dramatic and almost certainly, a very terrifying experience.

Read Genesis 8 & 9 in its entirety.

The water resided and the ark comes to rest and the family of Noah and the animals come out of the ark onto dry land.

God makes a promise (see also Isaiah 54:9). While the earth remains....He will never again curse the ground on account of man, and never again destroy every living thing as He had done with the flood. While the earth remains seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter and day and night shall not cease. While the earth remains, shall all flesh never again be eliminated by the waters of a flood or a flood to destroy the earth.

What is the sign of the promise with Noah and every living creature that was with Noah and all future generations and how will God remember His covenant that He will not destroy all flesh by a flood?

Water is life as we see in Creation. But Water is also destructive as we see when we reach Genesis 7. Life-giving water, and water- taking life.



What about the supernatural command of water? A miracle points to something that goes against the natural, the normal order of life.

There are 5 times when Water has been divided or parted in the Bible. The first account is dividing the waters at Creation in Genesis 1.

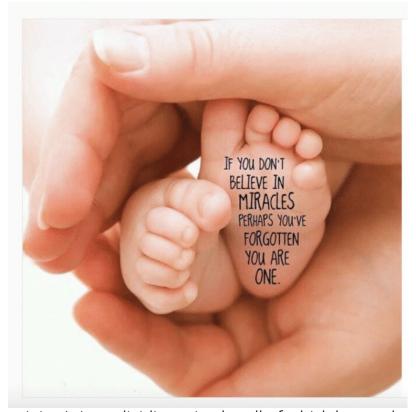
In Exodus, the children of Israel are in bondage to Egypt. God sends Moses and his brother Aaron to free the children of Israel.

The children of Israel were absolutely cornered at the Red Sea with nowhere to turn and Egyptians knew they had them and they couldn't get away. The children of Israel cried out in fear and the LORD told Moses that by His instruction, the children of Israel will walk on dry ground through the midst of the sea and Pharoah's army would follow to their destruction.

What is the purpose for this destruction of Pharoah's army in this way according to God?

Can you imagine, what it had to be like for that first person to step foot on dry ground in the midst of the roaring 2 walls of the Red Sea? Read Hebrews 11:29. What did Israel have that the Egyptians didn't and why is there this difference?

Hebrews 11 is also known as the Hall of Faith. If you have a moment, I recommend reading this chapter to understand the power of FAITH and to ignite our own faith and recognize its power.



There are 3 remaining Water dividing miracles all of which has to do with the Jordan River. At different moments in time in Scripture, both powerful Prophets, Elijah and Elisha each has parted the Jordan River. Both took their mantle and struck the waters of the Jordan which caused the waters to divide this way and that way so they could cross over.

Lastly, the Jordan River, especially at the time of harvest, overflows its banks a lot. Skeptics use the shallowness of the Jordan in times to try to refute these miracles. In Joshua 3, the Israelites will take the city of Jericho which the Jordan River will need to cross when they leave their camp to head to Jericho. It is harvest time and God provides instructions to which the Israelites heeded. Describe how the waters acted in Joshua 3:16-17.

The waters divide again, as God wanted Joshua and twelve appointed men from each tribe to carry a stone and place each stone into the midst of the Jordan to serve as a memorial to the children of Israel forever. The twelve appointed men of Israel obeyed and carried stones from the middle of the river to place where they lodged and laid them there. What is the purpose of this memorial? (Joshua 4:6-7)

What kind of memorial of stones do we have? Do you have something taken from the midst of the impossible and placed as a remembrance to Jesus for what He has done for you? The cross and take up your cross daily (Luke 9:23) and follow Jesus.

We have communion. The Bread = His Body and the Wine = His Blood. "Do this in remembrance of Me" as Jesus presents Himself, the New Covenant.

What was the first recorded miracle Jesus performed in his ministry? (John 2:1-12).

What a major social mistake. These weddings last as long as a week and they run of wine on Day 3! What does Jesus have the servants do?

Does this process happen in nature? Yes, but it takes time. Lots of time. Explain the process of winemaking to the best of your ability.

Without a word, without a gesture, without any laying on of hands, in utter simplicity, the water becomes wine, a product of fermentation, belonging to the realm of life. We can see that He demonstrated His marvelous ability to master the processes of nature.

Who received the first taste? Was it good?

Did this person recognize it was a miracle?

List all you believe knew about this miracle.

Why do you think this was the first of His signs? See John 2:11.



Jesus referred Himself to be Living Water with the Samaritan woman at the well. The miracle of Living Water. In John 4:13-14, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman: "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that he can give her "living water." He also tells her that God is a spirit and that those who worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. He tells her this because the "living water" is the Holy Spirit. This is clear from the passage below. John 4:21-24

John 7:37-3, the Last day of the great of the Feast of Tabernacle, Jesus stood up and cried, saying "If anyone is thirsty, come to Me and drink. The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water." But this He said in reference to the Spirit, whom those who

believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Drink. you who are thirsty.....

For deeper study of Water Miracles: The Opening of Hagar's eyes (Gen 21:19) Sweetening bitter waters (Exodus 15:25 & 2 Kings 2:19-22) Water from rock (Exodus 17:5,7; Numbers 30:8-11; Judges 15:19) The "floating" axe (2 Kings 2:19-22) Sea was calmed when Jonah was tossed in (Jonah 1:15); Jesus walking on Galilee (Mat 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52 and John 6:16-21)



Study - Day 3 - MATTER & ENERGY (CREATION)

A great magicians trick. Make something out of nothing. With slight of hand and trickery, a magician can make a rabbit come out of a hat, or a sweet dove fly out an egg he smashes in his two hands.



But to really....make....something.....out of nothing.

Let's look to Creation. Genesis 1 again. You have read and we studied in Day 2 water miracles beginning with Creation.

Creation. We have only 2 possibilities on how we came to be.

- Everything was created into being by a supernatural being
 Or
- 2. Everything was created out of nothing

Can you see any other possibility?

Nothing creating something. Can you think of any example of that happening in all the time we have had on earth?

Something creating something. Okay. Where did the first something come from? Can you say something was just there?

Write Hebrews 11:3:

Chaos. Let's look into chaos. Can chaos ever make order on its own? If I throw 100 marbles up in the air and on the ground, will they ever, on their own, line up in a perfect line? Or make a perfect circle? Or even more complex, gather into perfect groups of 5? If I give it a span of millions or trillions of years, will this happen on its own? But, in a second, much less than millions of years, I can just reach down and do any one of those examples and gather them however I will it.

Let's not belabor. Genesis shows us that our Creator spoke into existence. God said "Let there be light..". God said "Let there be an expanse and separate the waters". God said, "Let the waters gather into one place...". God said "Let the earth sprout vegetation...". God said "Let there be lights in the expanse of heavens...". God said "Let the waters team will life....". God said "Let the earth team with life...". God said "Let us make mankind in Our image...".

The First Verse in The Bible Reveals a God of Miracles. God said "Let's make something out of nothing according to My Will". Paraphrase.

Who has the ability to make something out nothing? Even if it is something, who has the ability to change it.

As in our study on Day 2, we touched on Jesus turning ordinary water into wine (John 2). BTW, it is estimated that he made about 150 gallons as each jar held 20-30 gallons which is about 2 pallets of wine. Below, a picture of 2 pallets of wine. No small miracle!



This is what it would take to change water to wine. Wine has sugar. It has color (whether red, white or rosé/pink). It doesn't (or isn't suppose to (whether red, white or rosé/pink). It doesn't suppose to (whether red, white or rosé/pink). It doesn't suppose to (whether red, white or rosé/pink). It doesn't suppose to (whether red, white or rosé/pink). It doesn't suppose to (whether red, white or rosé/pink). It doesn't suppose to (whether red, white or rosé/pink). It doesn't suppose to (whether red, white or rosé/pink). It doesn't suppose to (whether red, white or rosé/pink). It doesn't suppose to (whether red, white or rosé/pink) taste like water. Wine smells like wine – water doesn't smell like wine. Water doesn't have the "feel" of wine. Wine has a certain je ne sais quoi, pardon my French, that water does not have.

Wine itself comes from a lengthy process. You must harvest grapes. Crush & press them. Ferment them by converting sugar into alcohol. And it needs to be aged, at least more than 1 day. As Paul Masson puts it, I will sell no wine before its time – except in Cana!"

AND it was good wine! The best wine! The Master of Ceremonies put his seal of approval on this wine. Let's just say that the Master of Ceremonies would know if it was only water!



In the book of Exodus. God has a servant Moses has a staff. Read Exodus 4:1-5. What happens to the staff?

what happens to the stan?
Did Moses fall for a trick? Some illusion? What else happens to Moses (Exodus 4:6-9)
What is the objective for Moses and these signs? Write Exodus 4:8 & 9.
From our Study on Day 2 from the Red Sea, that Pharoah and all Egypt were hard hearted. God has heard their suffering and it is time to free His people through signs and miracles.
List all the miracles of the Staff of Moses/Aaron:
Exodus 7:8-12, 15:
Exodus 7:17, 19-20:
Exodus 8:5:

Exodus 9:23:

Exodus 10:13:

The Red Sea: Exodus 14:16:

Read Exodus 15 1-20, the Song of Moses and Israel.

The staff was used to convince Pharoah to release the Israelites and to aid in their departure.



What about a long dead piece of wood producing almond buds and actual almonds? Read Numbers 17.

A competition? What were the contestants to do according to the LORD (Numbers 17:1-4)?

Whose name is to be written on the staff of Levi?

What will the winning staff do according to the LORD?

Why, according to the LORD? For more reference, you can read Numbers 16.

The competition is for the priesthood. The winner is?

Go to Exodus 25:31. The Golden Lampstand. One piece of pure gold. Made into cups – like bulbs – shaped like almond blossoms on each branch. A symbol of priestly service. In Numbers 18, the duty of priesthood goes to the Levites. They were the only authorized tribe to perform the duties of the priesthood for God.



Ever heard of manna (Exodus 16)? This is the miracle of a miraculous edible substance that fell each day from heaven during the 40 years in Exodus – which provided the Israelites with sustenance throughout their travels in the desert.

What is it? Well, that's exactly what the Israelites asked. The word "mon" is Egpytian for "what". "What in the world is THAT?".

Exodus 16:14 - "When the dew evaporated, a flaky substance as fine as frost blanketed the ground."

Exodus 16:31 - "The Israelites called the food manna. It was white like coriander seed, and it tasted like honey wafers."

Numbers 11:7 - "The manna looked like small coriander seeds, and it was pale yellow like gum resin."

Moses instructed the people to gather an omer, or about two quarts' worth, for each person each day. When some of the people tried to save extra, it became wormy and spoiled.

Manna appeared for six days in a row. On Fridays, the Israelites were to gather a double portion, because it did not appear the next day, the Sabbath. And yet, the portion they saved for the Sabbath miraculously did not spoil.

After the people gathered the manna, they made it into flour by grinding it with hand mills or crushing it with mortars. Then they boiled the manna in pots and made it into flat cakes. These cakes tasted like pastries baked with olive oil. (Numbers 11:8)

The Israelites ate the manna every day for 40 years. This ceased when Joshua and the people came to the border of Canaan and ate the food of the Promised Land – the manna stopped the next day and was never seen again.

Hebrews 9:4: What did the ark of the covenant contain?

Out of the 3 contents, 2 of them are from today's study





2 Kings 4 is a treasure trove of miracles. The prophet Elisha is performing miracles left and right. For the study of Matter/Creation miracles, we will focus for now on 2 King 4:1-7, a Provision for a widow.

A poor widow is about to lose her sons to be slaves. She had nothing to save her sons and she cried out to Elisha to help her.

What was the only thing in her home?

What did Flisha want her to do?

What happened?

Don't you think she wished she borrowed more vessels? The oil stopped because there were no more jars. She had enough to pay off her debts and still more left for her and for her children.

Compare this story with 1 Kings 17. Here is the great prophet, Elijah with a very similar miracle. Of course, in time order, Elijah comes before Elisha but these are both very alike.

Elisha's widow was about to lose her children to slavery and the oil kept pouring until all the borrowed vessels were full – then the oil stopped flowing. Here a widow is preparing her last meal with her son and preparing themselves to die. She shared this meal with the great Prophet. Elijah's widow's oil and flour jugs never became empty, they were always full just as the Prophet had said until the LORD sends rain on the land.

How are the two stories the same?

How are the two stories different?

We see evidence of God's heart for widows and children.

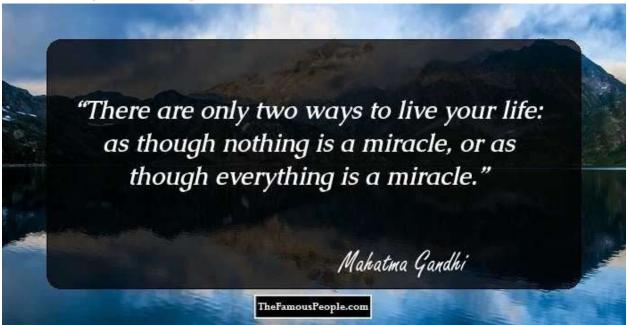
Exodus 22:22-24: You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child....

Psalm 68:5: Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

Psalm 146:9: The Lord....upholds the widow and the fatherless

We will see more miracles involving widows in our study.





The Bible has miracles of being able to feed many people with only a small provision – and still have leftovers.

Read 2 Kings 4:42-44.

How many people were served?

Who said "They will eat and have some left over?

Did they have some leftover?

Read Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:33-44; Luke 9:12-17.

Who did they bring the provision to?

What did He do with the provision?

How many people were served?

Were there some left over? How much?

With such a large miracle, feeding 5,000 men, not counting women and children, you would think that nothing is too hard for God? Jesus was able to exercise supernatural authority over the forces of nature. He was able to multiply the provision by using the initial provision. For example, He could have simply had 5,000 loaves of bread and fish appear in the hands of each individual, or loaves of bread and fish appearing in thousands of baskets. But, do you see that it was the same 5 loaves of bread and the same 2 fish – that yields 12 baskets of leftovers?

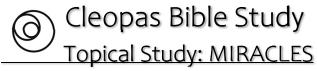
Why does God provide the multitudes with food?

Matthew 15:29-39. A crowd is with Jesus for 3 days and has nothing to eat. He does not want to send them away hungry – they might collapse on the way.

What do the disciples say to Jesus?

Jesus was able to feed the crowds before, right? The disciples were there when it happened, right? A powerful miracle with 12 baskets of leftovers? I think they sort of "checked out" here. In actuality, they are more like us then we care to admit. We're also pretty slow on the uptake when it comes to Who God Is and What He Can Do for us. We see it, hear it, read it, maybe even witness it, but never taking it to heart – now that's where it is. We can't seem to get it out of our head and into our hearts and BELIEVE!

What is the provision?



How many left overs?

How many people ate?

More Matter/Creation Miracles:

2 Commandment Tablets: Exodus 24:12-18; 31:18

The floating axe head: 2 Kings 6:6

The replacement ear of Malchus: Luke 2:1-11

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, thank you for Your provision for us. Please take what little we have and offer it to the Father as an offering and multiply the blessing for so many. Please take what we have to offer and bless us, Lord, so we can be a blessing for others. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Study - Day 4 - HUMANKIND/LIFE/DEATH

The focal point of miracles is for God to shine with pinpoint accuracy the deity of Jesus, that He was fully man and fully God. To show humankind that He is God and that He is the only true God of everything. God of the universe, God of humankind, God of circumstances, God of Knowledge, etc.. He is God. Period.

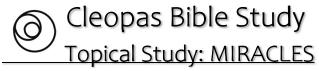
When we look through the looking glass of Genesis and the wonderful relationship with Man & Woman (Adam and Eve) and God. It must have been so wonderful to walk intimately with God and speak with God and there to be no sin to ruin that relationship with Him and with each other.

Miracles start with Creation Genesis 1. Animals, birds, fish were not made in God's own image. Who was? (Genesis 1:26-27)

How were they made in God's own image?

The first two humans to walk on Earth in the Garden of Eden were Adam and Eve (Genesis 2). How did man become a living being?

Eve was created from Adam. For the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." He took one of the man's ribs and made Eve from the rib.



Were female animals created this way?

Why would Eve be created this way?

So, man and woman were formed out of dust of the ground. God breathed into their nostrils the breath of life and they became alive. This reminds me of the children's Christmas story Frosty the Snowman, how the magician's hat would bring Frosty to life and every time he came to life he would say "HAPPY BIRTHDAY". I love that! Though the first man was not from a woman giving birth, it was still the first day of creation, like a birthday.

The miracle of God's breath. Write the entirety Genesis 2:7:

What gives you life (Job 33:4):



What about that which takes away life? Death seems to be fairly final. Hebrews 9:27(TLB) state "... it is destined that men die only once" and Ecclesiastes 3:2 ".A time to give birth and a time to die." All living beings and animals are destined to that end. In Scripture, we have some who were fortunate and was restored to the living. We know this is not the norm. God shows us His power over the finality of death.

Death is most painful for those left behind. We lose a loved one, a close friend or relative. We lose a coworker, a boss, a child. We know it is loss because they will not be coming back. We can't walk with them or laugh with them. We can't kiss them or hold them. It is final.

Who is the first person to be restored to life? Read 1 Kings 17:17-24. The widow was taking care of Elijah when her child becomes sick and dies. What does Elijah do to restore life to the child?

It is interesting that Elijah would do this since there isn't any instances of anyone being brought back to life after they passed on to the great beyond.

Similarly, the Prophet Elisha performs a similar technique for another widow's son. Perhaps it is more detail of what Elijah did in 1 Kings 17. Death was not the final answer for these widows. Praise God.

Even Elisha's bones gave life. Elisha died and was buried in Jewish tradition. Read 2 Kings 13:20-21. What happened? How was the man restored to life?

One dead man touches another dead man's bones? Elisha was a great prophet of God. He asked God for a double portion of the Prophet Elijah's spirit and performed at lease 28 miracles. God used him, even after Elisha himself was a dead man. This power was not the power of a dead prophet, but the power of God himself. If it was the power of Elisha, then wouldn't he resurrect himself? Israel was in desperate need for Elisha because of the Moabite invasion. Circumstances were bad. Really bad. Elisha is dead but God lives. Don't fear your enemy – Your God is still able to deliver you – even though Elisha is just a heap of bones" (www.intekom.com, "The Bones Are Shouting").

Jesus shows Himself as God by performing miracles. A third widow's son is brought to life by Jesus in Luke 7. Jesus travels to a town called Nain with his disciples and a great crowd was with Him. A widow's son had died and was being carried out into the town. Also, a great crowd from the town was with the widow. Jesus had compassion on her. Jesus spoke to the man and the dead man sat up and talked. He was given back to his widow mother.

What is the significance of the crowds? There was a large crowd following Jesus. There was a large crowd following the widow. One crowd was following Life. One

crowd was following Death. Stick the disciples in there for a gooey filling in a crazy sandwich with Jesus performing the first resurrection miracle of power over death. There's more of that where that came from! This is just the beginning of His miracles over death!

Jesus raises the 12-year-old daughter of a ruler of a synagogue named Jairus from the dead. She was his only daughter. This miracle account is in 3 gospels: Matthew 9:18-26, Mark 5:35-43, and Luke 8:41-56.

In Matthew 9:24, how does Jesus describe the girl?

Write 1 Thessalonians 4:14.

Jesus shows His power over death. What is the significance of John 5:21?

John 11:38-44, Jesus raises his friend Lazarus (the brother or Mary and Martha in Bethel after four days of Lazarus' body lying in a tomb. Jewish mysticism teaches that a deceased person's spirit would remain with the body for up to 3 days after death. On the 4th day, the spirit would leave the body and went to Sheol/Hades. Also, after 3 days, the body would be rotting and smelling so bad that I would imagine it would look like the zombie apocalypse. When Jesus called Lazarus to life from the dead and healed his rotted corpse, the people knew that He was the true Messiah and many people believed (John 11:45-47).

For God to manifest this miracle and restore life to a dead body shows us how truly amazing and powerful He is. From Hebrews 11:19, we see Abraham reasoned to himself that God would restore the dead body of his son Isaac after God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his only begotten son. If Isaac died and remained dead, this promise, this covenant would be broken. But, we know, through Scripture, that there

was a substitution. God halted Abraham's hand before he sacrificed his son. Another took his place. This is a type of shadow of the One to Come. Another Only Begotten Son, the ultimate sacrifice.

Write the significance of the type/shadow of Isaac and Jesus:

Genesis 17:16 compared to Isaiah 7:14 and Luke 1:31:

Genesis 17:17; 18:10-15; 21:1-2 compared to Luke 1:30-35:

Genesis 22:2, 12 compared to John 1:14, 18.

Genesis 22:6 compared to John 19:16-17.

Genesis 22:9 compared to Matthew 27:2.

Genesis 22:7-8, 13 compared to John 1:29, 36; Revelation 5:6.

Genesis 22:2 compared to John 19:17. (Note: This is the same location).

God resurrects Jesus from death. "Without the resurrection, the belief in God's saving grace through Jesus is destroyed. When Jesus rose from the dead, he confirmed his identity as the Son of God and his work of atonement, redemption, reconciliation, and salvation. The resurrection was a real, literal, physical raising of Jesus' body from the dead.... Both the Old and the New Testament speak of the truth of Jesus being raised from death - Jesus testified of his resurrection before he died on the cross and his disciples witnessed his body after the resurrection. (Biblestudytools.com).

We have the promise of new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you. (1 Peter 3:1-4). We have such an Awesome God. Thank you, Lord Jesus. Amen.

For deeper study of Death to Life Miracles: Paul raises Eutychus to life: Acts 20:9-12

Virgin Birth: Matthew 1:22–23



Study - Day 5 – HUMANKIND/RESTORING & DESTROYING

There are more miracles about Humankind. Of course, nothing can be better than coming back to life after death, but we want to proceed with our study with more miracles in humankind. Today's study is Restoration or Destruction of the Body.

If you would like, read Exodus 7-12. The Israelites were enslaved in Egypt for 400 years which was prophesied to Abraham by God in Genesis 15:13. God is judging the gods of Egypt by way of the **ten plagues**. After each plague, God hardened Pharoah's heart and the Israelites would be spared but the Egyptians suffered each blow. The distinction in Scripture, God is sparing his people and the judgement is for the Egyptians to experience not His chosen people to experience. Each plague was a judgement to an Egyptian God for God is a Jealous God (Exodus 20:5) and will not tolerate the practice of worshiping other gods. He will not share His praise with another: "I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols" (Isaiah 42:8).

With Covid 19, we have experienced in our lifetime what a plague can do. Can you imagine being struck by 10 plagues in a few short moments in time? Week after week, you're struck with a new plague? One day, water to blood. Next week, a boatload of toads jumping around your house, in your bed, in your cups, cooking pots, flower pot. The following week, you're swiping at swarming and biting gnats or lice which are sucking your blood.... they're in your clothes, in your hair. Then a week goes by and swarming flies, bigger than the gnats and somehow from this invasion, your yard is

laid waste. No cute flowers or vegetables – everything is devastated because of the flies.

But, its not over yet. Now your pets drop dead, but you peek over your friendly Hebrew neighbor's fence and your very nice Hebrew neighbor's pets are running around as happy as can be in their adorable yard with so many vegetables growing they could win a blue ribbon. No signs of gnats, flies, frogs....

How about some boils on that? I've seen a lone itsy, bitsy boil before and what a pain that was. How about your body being covered with boils?

Just when you thought – that that had to be the end, the following week, you go outside and WHAM! You're hit with another plague of heavy hail. If you didn't bring in any remaining pets that happened to survive the livestock plague, then they're going to get it now and so will you if you don't stay inside with heavy hail and fire raining down on you.

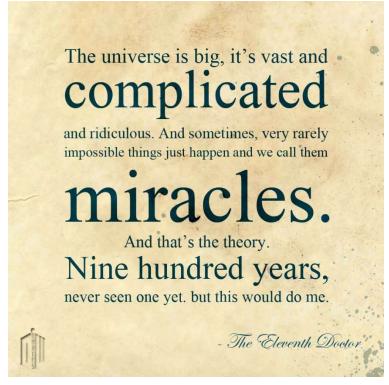
This is too much! I can't imagine anything left after this, but another plague heads your way. Locusts! That word has nothing good associated with it! I never heard any endearing phrase that carries the word LOCUSTS. If anything is left, at all, in your yard – well its covered with Locusts now so dare to say - Nothing is left.

But the "sun comes out....tomorrow....Bet your bottom dollar that, tomorrow.....

THERE'LL BE SUN!" (Tomorrow by Barbra Streisand). Well, not for you because Darkness is there instead. No sun. Just thick, dark, blackness so thick that you couldn't see another person, but you just stand still, where you are, don't dare to move, for 3 days straight.

The last plague. Horrible. Just horrible. The judgement of Egyptian Gods comes to Pharoah because he is god unto himself (as he and the Egyptians believe). This judgment falls on the firstborn.

Exodus 12:30 "And Pharaoh got up in the night, he and all his servants and



all the Egyptians, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no home where there was not someone dead."

This plague could have struck the Hebrews if they did not follow the instructions given to them by God. What were the instructions the Israelites were to follow (paraphrase, please) (Exodus 12:1-28).

To escape God's wrath and judgment, even the Israelites needed to be saved by the blood of the lamb. This is a shadow, a type that in order for us to escape Judgement and the Wrath of God to come, we also need to be saved by the blood the Lamb: 1 Peter 118-19 "knowing that you were not redeemed (ransomed/saved) with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ."

They did as they were commanded and were spared this plague. It's a choice. A decision. If they chose to not believe, their firstborn would not be spared.

There was a great cry in Egypt. The night was not over, and Pharoah called Moses and Aaron to him. The scene in the movie Ten Commandments with Charlton Heston and Yul Brenner plays over in my mind. The scene is so sad. The Pharoah's son, lifeless. In the movie, Pharoah pleads with his god to bring his son back to life. Pharoah himself is a god. He cannot do this miracle, even for his own son.

Numbers 16:41-49. The Israelites are not spared God's judgment against their murmurings which we studied the budding of Aaron's staff. Murmuring and grumbling against the leadership of Moses and Aaron that God sent a plague racing through the people. How did the plague stop and how many people died from the plague?

Satan incited David to count the fighting men of Israel. (2nd Samuel 24:1-14) Even though, through good counsel to not conduct the census, David had the census conducted. Why is God displeased by this "census"? Write Exodus 30:12.

David became conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men and begs the Lord to take away his guilt for he confesses to s God that what he did was foolish.

God had Gad the prophet, David's seer, tell David in a "Let's Make a Deal" format that he must choose one out of three options (doors, if you will) to carry out against David.

What's behind Door #1? What's behind Door #2?

What's behind Door #3?

David has a difficult undertaking to choose. Of course, in the TV Game Show "Let's Make A Deal", behind 1 door is something, hopefully, pleasant. Behind these doors, is only misery, death, fear and devastation. There are consequences to his decision to conduct this census as we see in Exodus 30:12.

What Door did he choose and what is his reasoning?

I know there isn't a "right door to choose" but David shirked his responsibility by not choosing Door #2. His wrongdoing that he caused by commissioning the census, especially since he did not listen to loyal advisors. This door would be punishment to him and him alone and his people would be free from harm. Behind Door #2 had "no possibility of death". Extreme discomfort and inconvenience, but God didn't add a punctuation at the end saying "and then you or your family may die".

Behind Door #1 causes misery to people and animals alike with the possibilities of death.

David does, finally, end up taking responsibility. As King, David is supposed to be the people's Shepard, but acts like a hired hand. What does he confess to the Angel of the Lord in 2 Samuel 24:17?

David, the Hired Hand compared to the Great Shepherd, Jesus. In John 10:11-12, compare the hired hand to the Good Shepherd, what's the difference and what is the result?

There is a plague that affects the Philistines in 1 Samuel 5 but we will study this as part of our Fauna Miracle study.

Perhaps you are lucky that you are healthy without suffering from a body defect, paralysis, blindness, deafness, being mute, missing an arm(s) or leg(s). Just as we face this today, Scripture tells us that God restored those were maimed, mute, blind and lame. (Matthew 15:30-31). Restoring any part that was missing or diseased in any form such as leprosy. Many times, in the New Testament, we see examples of the miracle of Jesus healing the blind:

"(<u>Matthew 9:27-31</u>) Jesus gave sight to "two" blind men.

(Mark 8:22-26) Jesus gave sight to a blind man in Bethsaida by spitting on his eyes. (Matthew 12:22-23) Jesus gave sight to a man who was demon possessed, and blind and mute.

(Luke 18:35-43) Jesus gave sight to a blind man while coming into Jericho.

(<u>Matthew 20:29-34</u>) Jesus gave sight to "two" blind men when leaving Jericho. One was named Bartimaeus (<u>Mark 10:46-52</u>)

(John 9:1-41) Jesus gave sight to a blind man by putting clay on his eyes, and then having him wash it off in the Pool of Siloam.

In addition to these, we have two instances where an unknown number of blind people were given sight by Jesus in (Matthew 15:29-31) and (Matthew 21:14).

ONLY Jesus healed the "blind!" to show that healing the blind was one of the signs that was prophesied of the Messiah and caused blindness for His in (<u>Acts 9:3-18</u>), when from Heaven, Jesus blinded Paul, and then restored his sight (through Ananias laying hands on Paul)." (JesusAlive.cc).

Lord Jesus, thank You that we can place our trust in you that we are in Your hands. You are the Great Physician, and we can place our trust in You when we are struck by ailments or damage of our bodies. Help us to believe and receive your healing. A new day is coming soon, LORD, and I praise you that there will be no more pain and no more tears and our brokenness. We will be made whole through Your Perfectness. You will make all things new. We praise You. In Jesus Name. Amen.

Thank you all for staying with our study. It is my hope that you are enjoying this study as much as I am for writing it.

Though there is so much to study of Humankind Miracles, we are switching gears to Fire Miracles, then Flora and Fauna Miracles and finishing up with Beyond Space Miracles.

Below is a handful list of Humankind Miracles if you would like deeper study: Lot's wife turned to pillar of salt: Genesis 19:26 Clothes and sandals never wear out (Deuteronomy 29:5) The transfiguration of the face of Moses (Exodus 34:29-35) Samson's Strength (Judges 13-16)

Healing of Peter's mother-in-law Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-39



Study - Day 6 - FIRE

I would often contemplate If I could actually see God – to have His visible presence walking with me, guiding me, step-by-step in my life, then I wouldn't possibly sin – no idolatry, stealing, lying.....? I mean, God is invisible now and my sins seem to steep like teabags in my life, but what if He was at my side, visibly, day-in and day-out, day-by-day - then His Presence would be a visual clue not to do that which is contrary to His Righteousness. Let's continue with the study to see how others faired who actually had the visible presence of God day-in-day-out, day-by-day.

We will study the Israelites, who for 40 years, had the visible presence of Almighty God since their departing Egypt to their wandering in the wilderness. The massive miracles performed in their mist with Moses and Aaron leading them out of bondage from Egypt, and the actual visual presence of God leading and protecting them throughout their journeys.

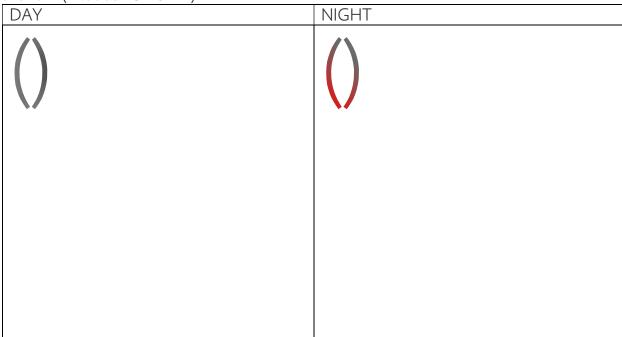
Exodus 13:17-22. God is preparing to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. What kind of formation did the sons of Israel take as they were leaving the land of Egypt and why did God not want to take the shortcut?

"God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near: The coastal route (the *Via Maris*, known as "the way of the sea") was the shortest and most common way to go from Egypt to Canaan. Yet it was also the road where Egypt's military outposts were. God knew the people of Israel were not ready to face this yet

(lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt), so He led them a different way. I find that fascinating." (Enduring Word)

Did the Israelites possess weapons or armory? They plundered the Egyptians by asking them for gold, silver and jewelry – but did they receive weapons and armor? I'm not sure, but the battle formation (Exodus 13:18) can be a way to orderly move 600,000 men out of Egypt with their families and possessions. The word for battle formation can be rendered as to mean "five in a rank," meaning obviously five large divisions, under five presiding officers, according to the usages of all caravans; and a spectacle of such a mighty and motley multitude must have presented an imposing appearance, and its orderly progress could have been affected only by the superintending influence of God. (Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary)

God's presence was never absent from His people as He leads them out of Egypt. In the boxes below, I created 2 Pillars (). Describe what the 2 pillar ()s are and what they are for: (Exodus 13:20-22)



Fire and Cloud is symbolic of God's Presence and His Shekinah Glory. The Shekinah glory is a visible manifestation of God in the natural world such as the Pillar of Cloud and Fire. In the verses below, write what are God's Shekinah appearances and actions if applicable:

Exodus 3:2:
Exodus 19:18:
Exodus 24:17:
Exodus 40:38, Numbers 9:15-16, Nehemiah 9:12, Psalm 78:14:
Deuteronomy 1:33:
Numbers 14:14 – (I really love this one – especially eye-to-eye 😂):
Psalm 105:39:



Isaiah 4:5:

One special night, a Baby came into the world. The Shekinah Glory of God. God again dwelling physically with humanity. Write the entirety of John 1:14:

What can we learn from this? Here we see the beginning steps to Freedom. Freedom is not being free from battle but standing with the LORD, you are guaranteed victory. Slavery is being chained to that which your will is superimposed by another or something. It is time to leave behind that which binds you. Get into battle formation, behind the protective and all seeing (past, present & future) eyes of our Pillar of Cloud and Fire. God knows how to deter you from battles that will turn you back to your slavery. By Deuteronomy 1:33, God goes before you, knowing you need to rest, He seeks out a place for you to make camp – protecting you at night, guiding you in the day. You are saved. Have courage. Look to the Shekinah Glory of God. Look to Jesus and be saved.



An incredible Miracle of FIRE we have 3 Hebrew men who survive being thrown into a fiery furnace by the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar II. These men show an uncompromising faith in the face of death.

This occurred after the people were sent into exile in Babylon because of their sins and their refusal to return to faithful worship, obedience, and service to God in their daily lives. Many, many prophets were sent to warn them to no avail. The city of Jerusalem was conquered in 587 BC by the Babylonians and many Israelites were sent into exile for 70 years. Under Joshua's guidance, the land of Israel followed God for God's promise to the Israelites concerning the land was not unconditional but depended on the obedience of the people to God's law. The people of Israel over 6 centuries backslid and chased after disgusting idols and practices. After so many

warnings by God's prophets the judgment of exile specified in Deuteronomy 28:58-64) was brought about by the Israelites stubbornness and rebellion to not follow God and turn to following idols.

The capital cities of Samaria and Jerusalem were destroyed. The land of Israel ruined and the upper class of society was led as captives to Babylon. Some of those taken from the upper class of the land of Israel, King Nebuchadnezzar ordered them to be taught the language of the King and to serve in his court. Daniel (who we will study in our Miracle study of Fauna) was one and 3 other notable young men were also included in this group. Their names were Hananiah (renamed by the King as Shadrach), Mishael (renamed Meshach) and Azariah (renamed Abed-nego).

The background before we get to this miracle is Daniel recently interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar's dream through God, stating that the statue in his dream was a statue with a head of gold – representing King Nebuchadnezzar's current kingdom, with following body parts representing future kingdoms by different metals (this is an excellent study but a long tangent to the study of miracles – hopefully for us, Nebuchadnezzar's dream will soon be a future study (3).

As we move on in years – King Nebuchadnezzar forgot or perhaps defiantly had built a huge statue built all in gold – defiantly to mean that he believes that his kingdom will last forever not just a certain determined time per his interpreted dream. As the head in his dream was only gold – he made his entire statue all gold.

He had everyone worship this statue. Shadrach, Mishach and Abed-nego did not worship his statue and were basically called out for it. In Daniel 3, The King became super furious with these 3 servants of his court so-much-so that the description of his face says that it contorts so much with his wrath after giving these 3 men a chance to back out even when he threatened their lives by throwing them into the midst of a blazing fire furnace and challenging their God to save them.

What did these 3 men in agreement reply to the king Daniel 3:16-18:

Brave men I have to say. Cleopas Bible Study principal: God will use people and place names to add to His story. Below is the 3 young men's Hebrew names and their meanings:

Hananiah (God protects) Mishael (Who is like God?") Azariah (Helped by God)

So paraphrasing their response by using the meaning of their names – matches Daniel 3:16-18: "God protects us, we are helped by God and who is like God?". Pretty AWESOME! Praise God!

The King commanded the 3 men to be thrown into the midst of the fire of the furnace after giving orders to heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. Daniel 3:19.

What happened to the men who tied up God Protects, Who is like God and Helped by God? (Daniel 19-23).

Read Daniel 3:24-27. The 3 men are walking around a blazingly hot fiery furnace like they're walking around the living room. They are no longer bound. Witnessing this event, this is blowing away the mind of the King! The King is a witness to a fourth man. Who is this man, what description does the King provide?



Who do you think is there with the 3 men in the furnace? Read Isaiah 43:2. Write this verse over the flames: below:



Revelation 1: An image of a description of Jesus in Revelation:



The maybe preincarnate Jesus (a Christophany) "like a son of the gods" walking with God Protects, Who is like God and Helped by God? Food for thought...

Not a single hair is singed or any smell of smoke on them, and their clothes are undamaged. A non-consuming fire? What an awesome miracle!

Help us, Lord Jesus, to freedom. Help us to recognize our slavery and move into battle formation for you to lead us to freedom. We acknowledge, through Your Word, that You will guide us away from that which encourages us to go back to what enslaves us. To trust in You as You lead us to safety. We can put our trust in You. Your Word is truth in its entirety so in that, we honor You with all that we are. Thank you, Lord Jesus. In Your Name, we pray. Amen.

More Fire Miracles for deeper study:

Fire consuming sacrifices: Genesis 15:17, Leviticus 9:24, Judges 6:21, 13:19, 20; 2

Chronicles 7:1, 1 Kings 18:38

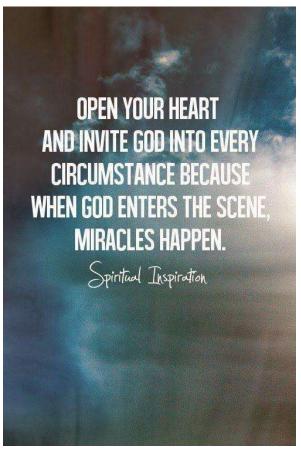
Judgment by fire: Numbers 11:1-3

Fire upon Ahaziah's army: 2 Kings 1:10-12



Study - Day 7 - FLORA & FAUNA

For today's study, we will study how God uses animals and plants to demonstrate His authority over nature/physics.



There are more than 125 plants, trees and herbs that noted in the scriptures. The most fantastical combination would be the Garden of Eden which God Himself planted. A different action here then Genesis 1. God actually planted His Garden. He didn't speak it into existence.

He refers to the garden in a very personal way – referencing it as "the garden of God" or "the garden of the Lord" (Isaiah 51:3).

There He took man and placed him there to tend.

On the 3rd Day of Creation (Genesis 1:9-13), God said "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit – according to their kind....The earth did so God saw that it was good.

"According to their kind." This is a key phrase in Genesis 1. What do you think this means?



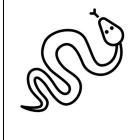
Every living creature and fish and birds, crawling things, livestock, everything was created "According to their kind".

So a strawberry plant cannot become a Sequoia tree. A frog cannot become a bird. A monkey become a man? Not according to their kind.

There are 2 special trees in the Garden of Eden. Let's focus on the first tree. God commanded the man about a certain tree. Write all of Genesis 2:16 & 17:

Read Genesis 3 in its entirety.

Below are the major characters in Genesis 3. List their characteristics, if available and what they say and do:





Cleopas Bible Study

Topical Study: MIRACLES

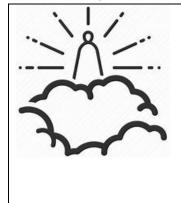






Cleopas Bible Study

Topical Study: MIRACLES



Who is the serpent in the garden? Describe him: Genesis 3:1, Revelation 12:9; 20:2:

More cunning than any animal of the field; the great dragon – the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world – he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

John Calvin argues that Satan chose the serpent as his mouthpiece because he knew that he couldn't appear to Adam and Eve and speak to them as himself. He needed a mouthpiece that wouldn't raise their immediate suspicions, one with which they would have been familiar. Calvin then goes on to say that Satan chose the most suitable animal possible to carry out his plans. He chose the one animal in all of God's creation that was most cunning or crafty (Gen. 3:1), the one that was the most shrewd or wise (Matt.

<u>10:16</u>). He took the serpent's natural gifts and perverted them for his own nefarious purposes. Thegospelcoalition.org

By Adam and Eve's decision to disobey God and instead follow Satan, sin enters the Garden which means suffering, pain, misery and even death entered the physical world. Man is cursed, every seed of man will now be born with a sin nature. The Loving Relationship with God and man is now alienation from God, hostile to God and enemies of God. Instead of being children of God, we became children of wrath, disobedience, and the devil. Death exists now. Humanity now has the capacity to do great good and great evil. We are fearful and blaming – not accepting personal liability. Strained relationship & discord between husband and wife exists now. Painful childbirth. Toilsome work as the ground is cursed. The ground will yield thorns and thistles and by the sweat of man will he work to eat the plants of the field.

Game of thorns. Insects, droughts, frosts, hailstorms, flooding, tornados, plant diseases, animals. We will eat the plants of the field, but it will require hard work. It will require 'sweat', and be permeated with obstacles—'thorns and thistles'. Write out Genesis 3:22.

God wants to protect fallen man and fallen woman from living eternally in this sad condition without any chance of salvation. He drives man out of the Garden of Eden and protects the tree of life. What does God station in the Garden to prevent man from entering back in the garden?

It's interesting to note that Satan, before his fall, was a guardian cherub to God until wickedness was found in him (Ezekiel 28:12-15 & Isaiah 14). What are Cherubim? The short answer is Cherubim are angelic beings associated with the worship and praise of God. The angels of God would be a great future study.

Let's compare the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the tree of life. Write out the following verses in the columns below: (Genesis 2:8-9, 17; 3:6 & 7; 17; 24; Revelation 2:7, 22:1-5, 14-15) (continued on next page)

TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD & EVIL	TREE OF LIFE
- TRANS	THE STATE OF THE S

So, do you believe that God created something evil and placed it in the garden? Was the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil bad? There was nothing wicked about the tree for everything, including this certain tree, that God made, He said was "very good" (Genesis 1:31). The tree is not the source of sin – man's decision to disobey and believing in what the serpent said and not believing God. God's command to Adam was a very clear command – do not eat of this tree for in the day you eat of it you shall surely die." We know Adam didn't die as if the fruit was poison but began to die so when he ate and he would die and return to dust (Genesis 3:19). The fruit of this tree – "opened" Adam and Eve's eyes – they knew they were naked, dead to innocence replaced with shame. The seeds of sin are sown in mankind.

replaced with shame. The seeds of sin are sown in mankind.
Write about evil and sin in the verses below:
Genesis 4:7:
1 John 3:4:
Mark 7:21-23:
1 Corinthians 6:9-10:
James 4:17:
The "fruit of mankind" all stem from disbelief and disobedience to what and who God is. The fruit of mankind is the antonym of the fruit of the Spirit. List what these are (Galatians 5:22-23):

This was just a "taste" of some seeds of fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil There are so many more verses of the seeds reaped throughout Scripture – to many to list here.

If Adam and Eve ate from the tree of life after they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, all mankind would perpetually suffer in their sin. One man's sin plunged all of humanity into a fallen, diseased state of being. But God provided a shortened lifespan, and the perfect Man, Jesus Christ, to give all humanity the hope of eternal life with God, in a perfect state, where no serpent can deceive, and no sin can enter). Romans 5:17: "For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man – the Lord Jesus Christ."



It was a difficult decision which Fauna Miracle to start with. Fish or Lions. Lions are cool – so let's go there.



From our study of Fire, we learned about Daniel's friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Darius the Mede takes over the kingdom at age 62 (Daniel 5:31).

Read Daniel 6. King Darius appoints satraps that were accountable to him so that he might not suffer loss. Daniel distinguishes himself from among the other administrators and satraps which makes them jealous and looking for a way to take him down!

This is an awesome testimony to Daniel, who is already an amazing character in Scripture and worthy of a study of his own \odot , but they couldn't find absolutely anything to pin on him to bring charges against him.

In their jealousy, they conspire to involve King Darius to put an end to Daniel once and for all. They work on the king's pride, suggesting that everyone in the kingdom must worship him for the next 30 days. If anyone worships anyone or any god except him, they'll be thrown into the lion's den. King Darius liked the idea and put it in writing.

What does Daniel do as he always does, everyday – Daniel:10:

The satraps got him. They hightailed to the King straightaway. If I can paraphrase what they say to the king, "O great King Darius, you remember what you decreed, anyone who doesn't worship only you will be thrown into the lion's den – well, your good friend Daniel is a goner."

King Darius is severely distressed. Daniel is thrown into the lion's den. We don't see any record of Daniel saying anything to the King, but the King does speak to Daniel before he is thrown into his doom. What does he say (v16):

The king can't eat or sleep. At first light, he hurries to the lion's den to see how Daniel fared. He calls out to Daniel in an anguished voice "Daniel, you've been eaten by the lions?".

Behold, the voice of his friend answers him. What does Daniel say (v22):

Daniel's name in Hebrew means "God is my Judge". God was Daniel's judge. He was innocent before God and did not worship a false idol, such as King Darius' decree, that he served God "continually" as witnessed by King Darius himself!

King Darius writes a new decree (v26-27) "....For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

The men who falsely accused Daniel were thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. If you believe the lions weren't hungry while Daniel was in there with them, V24 informs us they, the lions, crushed them before they reached the floor of the lions' den.

God had sent his angel to close the mouth of the lions, who, through Daniel's faith, stopped the mouths of lions (Hebrews 11:33). Daniel did not stop his daily prayers to God in the fear of discovery that could lead to his demise. He trusted in His God. He was not a man-pleaser. He knew that obeying God was the safest thing to do. The amazing power of true faith!

If you were faced with the circumstance today of reprisal like Daniel because of your faith, would you trust in God? Would you be found, like Daniel, praying and making supplication before God?



Read the book of Jonah, comprised of 4 short action-packed chapters.

A fish big enough to swallow a man? The great prophet Jonah has orders from God to go preach repentance to the people of Nineveh, a wicked people. Nineveh was not a city of Israel. It was a pagan city located in the Assyrian Empire. Jonah's response. Heck no, though God was not asking him.



Jonah jumps ship and heads as far from Nineveh as he possibly can by joining the ship heading to Tarshish, believing he can hide from the presence of the LORD. Nahum 3:1-4 paints a "pretty" picture of the wickedness of Nineveh – not a nice place, believe me.

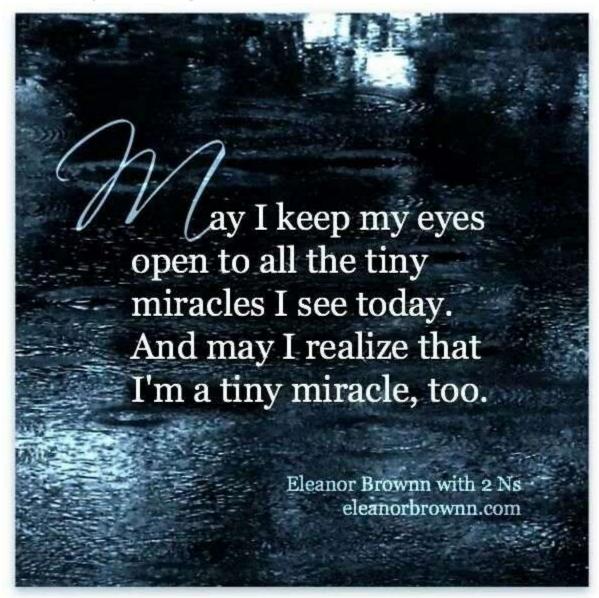
God wanted Jonah to preach to nonbelievers - those who do not follow God's precepts. Lost people. We can try to judge Jonah's reaction to God's direction but aren't we the same? That nasty neighbor - no way. That coworker that's having

an affair with the boss – no way. A friend that plainly states they just don't believe in God – no way?! Lost people who don't know God. But it is in God's heart He wants to call all unto Himself that no one should perish but come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9) – namely that nasty neighbor, or the coworker and the atheist – "All".

Jonah gets onboard the Tarshish ship and the journey begins. As the ship is sailing, God sends out a great wind on the sea so that there was a huge tempest, which causes the ship to about to break apart (Jonah 1:4). The sailors only recourse is to pray to their gods, but no god comes to their rescue. They discover Jonah asleep and awake him from his slumber. How could he sleep through such a devastating storm, but if Scripture says he was sleeping – then he was sleeping! The superstitious sailors throw lots to see who is the one responsible for this dilemma and discover its Jonah. The jig is up. Jonah confesses that the trouble is because of his disobedience.

Jonah's disobedience - He did not want to preach to the Gentiles of Ninevah – but as he recognizes that he cannot hide from God and realizes that this predicament was caused by him – he preaches to these Gentiles of the ship to Tarshish. Write his witness to these Gentiles (v9):

Jonah asks to be thrown into the sea and the sailors reluctantly agree. They tried to do what they could, but the sea became even more tempestuous.



From Jonah's witness, these Gentiles pray to the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land". They prayed and took vows to the LORD. Do you think they became believers?

They throw Jonah into the sea. What happens next? Jonah 1:17:

The LORD "designated" a great fish to swallow Jonah. Was it whale, a big fish? We really don't know what it was, only that this fish was "designated", it is God's creation and this fish was "design" ed for this occasion and was designated/had an appointment

to meet up with Jonah at this specific time and place. God can see ahead of time, or perhaps, time is seen differently by God. We are very limited to time, we do not have any opportunity to alter it. We cannot get a minute back or get a minute in the future. We are in the current, present time. God reveals Himself in characteristics so we can know Him better. For this example, look up Genesis 16:13 & 14. God reveals Himself to Hagar, a fleeing Egyptian slave from Abraham and Sarah. She calls Him El Roi – Roi means "looking, seeing, sight." We have a God who sees us for Hagar said, "You are a God of Seeing – Truly, here I have seen Him who looks after me". With this, believe that God already knows your past minute, your current minute and your future minute. He encompasses all time and He knows and He sees.

Jonah 2 is Jonah's prayer to God which he prays from the stomach of the fish. He puts his salvation in the LORD. What an experience for Jonah. Isn't this amazing. He had hope! For 3 days, he was surrounded by the stomach of a fish....dark....smelly.....and gastric digestive juices covering him....really not a good situation to be in. Yet, Jonah had faith in God!

Jonah 2:10, the LORD commands the fish and it vomits Jonah up onto the dry land. Jonah 3, the LORD commands Jonah again to go to Ninevah. From his drop off point, Ninevah was a 3 day walk. This time Jonah obeys. No more hiding. (Plus, maybe he wouldn't want to chance what else God could get to swallow him on dry land!)



Just for fun – if Ninevah had a "Daily Herald Newspaper", write a "catchy" headline based on what happened to Jonah and/or what he proclaims to the Ninevites? 40 more days, and Ninevah will be overthrown.



They believe God. Let's zoom in here and magnify this. Why would they believe Him? A man walking around their city crying repentance or Nineveh would be overthrown. This city was a corrupt city of blood. They were very cruel to their enemies, they were deceitful, violent and lots of bloodshed. They practiced religious prostitution and witchcraft all of which the Prophet Nahum expounds on in Nahum 2. The city of Nineveh was strong, self-confident but was also recognized for its splendor by the surrounding nations. With Jonah prophesying about their doom – what would make them believe?

Perhaps a man that showed signs of being partly digested by a fish - bleached? It's just my guess. The people of Nineveh believed in God. They repent and God sees how they turned from their evil ways and relented the disaster for this time through Jonah. If you want to read more, later Nineveh goes returns to their old ways and the

book of Nahuam – the Prophet Nahum prophesized their destruction which does come to pass.

Let's end our study of Miracles of Flora and Fauna by praying Jonah's prayer of thanksgiving for deliverance together: Jonah 2 (MSG)

"In trouble, deep trouble, I prayed to GOD. He answered me. From the belly of the grave I cried, 'Help!' You heard my cry. You threw me into ocean's depths, into a watery grave, With ocean waves, ocean breakers crashing over me. I said, 'I've been thrown away, thrown out, out of your sight. I'll never again lay eyes on your Holy Temple.' Ocean gripped me by the throat. The ancient Abyss grabbed me and held tight. My head was all tangled in seaweed at the bottom of the sea where the mountains take root. I was as far down as a body can go, and the gates were slamming shut behind me forever— Yet you pulled me up from that grave alive, O GOD, my God! When my life was slipping away, I remembered God, And my prayer got through to you, made it all the way to your Holy Temple. Those who worship hollow gods, god-frauds, walk away from their only true love. But I'm worshiping you, GOD, calling out in thanksgiving! And I'll do what I promised I'd do! Salvation belongs to GoD!"

Deeper Flora and Fauna Miracles:

2 by 2 pairs of animals come to the ark (Genesis 6)
Balaam's donkey protects and speaks (Numbers 22:21-35)
Prophet killed by lion & his donkey was spared (1 Kings 13:1-26)
Ravens' food delivery (1 Kings 17-18)
Swine suicide (Mark 5:1-20)
Fiery serpents (Numbers 21:6)

Brass serpent (Numbers 21:8-9)
Boatload of fish (Luke 5:4-11); (John 21:1-14)
Cursed Fig tree (Matt 21:18; Mark 11:12)
Snake (Exodus 7:10-12)
Cows (1 Samuel 6)
Death by bears (2 Kings 2:24)

Money in a randomly caught fish's mouth, as promised by Jesus Christ (Matt 17:24-27)



Study - Day 8 - BEYOND EARTH

Psalm 33:4-9: The Lord's word is correct, and everything he does is trustworthy.

5 The Lord loves righteousness and justice.
His mercy fills the earth.

6 The heavens were made by the Lord's word and all the stars by the breath of his mouth.

7 He gathers the water in the sea like a dam and puts the oceans in his storehouses.

8 Let all the earth fear the Lord.

Let all who live in the world stand in awe of him.

9 He spoke, and it came into being.
He gave the order, and there it stood.

Psalm 33 affirms creation in Genesis 1. God created the heavens and all the stars by the breath of His mouth. He spoke, and it came into being. He gave the order, and there it stood. I found this to be very interesting and I'd like to share this with you. From David Guzik commentary on Genesis 1:

God created: Inherent in the idea of God is that He is an *intelligent designer*. Only an intelligent designer could create a just-right universe, not "chance." Our universe is a just-right universe.

- i. The universe has a just-right gravitational force.
- · If it were larger, the stars would be too hot and would burn up too quickly and too unevenly to support life
- · If it were smaller, the stars would remain so cool, nuclear fusion would never ignite, and there would be no heat and light

- ii. The universe has a just-right speed of light.
- · If it were larger, stars would send out too much light
- · If it were smaller, stars would not send out enough light
- iii. The universe has a just-right average distance between the stars.
- · If it were larger, the heavy element density would be too thin for rocky planets to form, and there would only be gaseous planets
- \cdot If it were smaller, planetary orbits would become destabilized because of the gravitational pull from other stars
- iv. The universe has a just-right polarity of the water molecule.
- · If it were greater, the heat of fusion and vaporization would be too great for life to exist
- · If it were smaller, the heat of fusion and vaporization would be too small for life's existence, liquid water would become too inferior a solvent for life chemistry to proceed, ice would not float, leading to a runaway freeze-up
- v. We could conclude that there is *no chance* that such a universe could create itself, apart from an intelligent designer.

Miracles that go beyond earth. Miracles that involve our sun and moon and stars. What an amazing display of God's power over nature and physics and cannot be explained away.

Read Joshua 10. In the book of Joshua, Joshua is the leader of the Israelites and they take possession of the land of Canaan. The people of the city of Gibeon made a treaty with Israel and had become their allies. The 5 kings of the Amorites didn't like this very much – and they plan to go against the city of Gibeon and attack it.

The Gibeonites asked Joshua for help against the Amorite kings. What did the LORD say to Joshua: (Joshua 10:8):

What did the LORD do on behalf of Joshua and the Israelites, please list all? (Joshua 10:9-15):

How did the day get extended? Just one word! Miracle! Well, however it was done, the result is the sun seemed to stay still in the sky and Israel was able to avenge themselves on their enemies.

This is not the only time the Sun was used in a Beyond Earth Miracle. Read Isaiah 38 where King Hezekiah of Judah's life is spared.

Hezekiah is sick and near death. The LORD sends Isaiah the prophet to him. What does the LORD say to Hezekiah: (Isaiah 38:1; 2 Kings 20:1)

"Set your house in order for you are going to die and not live?" What terrible news to be dealt such a blow. King Hezekiah prays to the LORD that he walked before Him in truth and with a loyal heart and had done what was good in His sight".

From the end of King Solomon's rule, the Kingdom became divided – the Northern Kingdom – Israel and the Southern Kingdom – Judah. There were a total of 39 good and evil and kings that reigned over Judah and Israel combined. Out of the 39 kings – only 8 were good kings – and they reigned in Judah. All the kings that reigned in Israel were evil. Hezekiah is considered a good king. Hezekiah's name means "Yahweh strengthens or Yahweh is my strength". He was one of the few of the Kings of Judah who was consistently aware of God's miraculous acts in the past and His presence every day. He did "what was good and right and faithful before the Lord his God." (2 Chronicles 31:20) which was in direct contradiction to his father's extreme wickedness (King Ahaz).

God hears King Hezekiah's prayer, and He tells Isaiah to inform King Hezekiah that he will add 15 years to his life and will deliver them from the hand of the king of Assyria.

There will a a sign that the LORD will do as He promised. What is the sign (Isaiah 38:8)

The shadow cast by the sun went back ten steps that it had gone down! Evidently Hezekiah could see it from his sickbed. The passing away of daylight on the stairway symbolized the passing away of Hezekiah's life, and the return of sunlight represented the restoration of life.

This is in strong contrast to a "sign" that was given to King Ahaz (Hezekiah's evil father) which will lead us into our final study. But, before I do, please allow me a little more on King Ahaz.

Write the differences King Ahaz "Sign" and King Hezekiah's "Sign". Below the contrasts, write the "signs" given by God.

King Ahaz	King Hezekiah 2 Kings 18:4; 2 Chronicles 31:1
2 Chronicles 28:2-4:	
2 Chronicles 28:5-8	2 Chronicles 32:10, 20-23

Topical Study, MillyACLES	
King Ahaz	King Hezekiah
2 Kings 16:10-18	2 Chronicles 29 (list key points)
2 Chronicles 28:27	2 Chronicles 32:33

King Ahaz SIGN: Isaiah 7:10-11	King Hezekiah SIGN: 2 Chronicles 32:24
SIGN: Isaiah 7:14	FUTURE SIGN: Isaiah 38:8

"Therefore, the Lord himself with give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

This leads us to our final study of Beyond Space Miracles. The promised sign for the Evil King Ahaz. The birth of our Savior, our Immanuel (which means God is with Us").

What does Matthew 1:23 say?

The sign has come.

Write Isaiah 9:6:

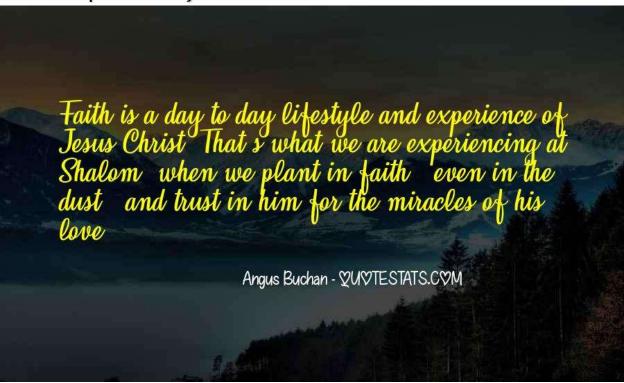
Luke 1:31, 35:

From our study of Fire, we studied that God the Shekinah Flory of God guiding His people by the Pillar of Fire and Pillar of Cloud. To His presence on Mt. Sinai, the tabernacle and the Temple.

What directs the shepherds and the magi to the newborn savior? Luke 2:7-10, 13, Matthew 2:9.

2 Corinthians 4:6, For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

Immanuel will once again dwell among us: Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them



Miracles was God pointing to His Son. He is our Savior and our Redeemer. If you would like to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and invite Him to into your heart, to be LORD of your life, then I invite you to pray the following prayer and welcome you to becoming a true child of God.

INVITATION TO JESUS AND SALVATION PRAYER

Dear God, I know I'm a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe that He died for my sin and that you raised Him to life. I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord, from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do your will. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen

Commit yourself to a relationship with God. https://salvationcall.com

Study the bible daily: The Bible is God's word or God's voice. You only begin to hear God's voice when you begin to read the Bible and you would hear God's voice even more and more as you commit yourself to study the Bible more and more.

Obey the bible: you should obey the teaching of the Bible, which results in leading a holy life like Christ Jesus. Your obedience to the word of God is your only evidence that identifies you with Christ Jesus that you are a proud follower of His. Obedience also verifies your faith. It verifies that you mean to walk with God, that you meant the prayer you prayed to accept Jesus into your life, and that you were not lying to yourself when you confessed Jesus as your Lord and Savior. In short, a life of obedience verifies that you are a Christian.

Build a daily prayer life: Communicate with God, your Father. God, your Father, highly regards your prayer. He loves to hear your voice in prayer so much that He even rewards you for having spent time praying.

Join a Bible-and-Holy Spirit-believing Church. Having believed to receive salvation, you have been grafted, absorbed into the family of God. You now belong with all saved people in one big God-family. Jesus never intended for any Christian to remain an island, isolated. We are to fellowship together, loving and being of service to one another, for no single person is self-sufficient.

I would love if you'd like to share with me your commitment. If you have a moment, let me know all about it on Cleopas face book page! And, welcome to the family of Christ, my brother/sister in Christ!