

## Opening Words

It is not a question so much about miracles as it is a question about God because if God exists then miracles are no problem. What are the evidences for God? Let's learn some today.

## 222 05 TQ Do Miracles Contradict Science? 2

Welcome to our program today. We are going to finish the message we began in our previous broadcast about miracles – do they contradict science? Many skeptics have attacked Christianity by saying that miracles cannot occur, that the Gospel records are unreliable because they contradict the laws of science. But we have learned that miracles do not contradict any law of science. A miracle is when an outside agent steps into the normal flow of the processes in our world, but that does not mean that the laws of science, or the laws of nature are contradicted.

In Lee Strobel's interview with Dr. William Lane Craig, they discussed the evidences for God. This really is the question. It is not a question so much about miracles as it is a question about God because if God exists then miracles are no problem.

What are the evidences for God? Let me list five for you that Craig and Strobel talked about.

**The first evidence** is that our universe had a beginning. Science is showing this in many ways. The universe has not always existed. The universe is not eternal. There was a time when the universe did not exist but then it came into being. Now, if there was a time when the universe was not and then it came into being, then what caused it to come into being, because something does not come from nothing? Or, to say it another way, nothing cannot cause something to exist.

Some will say, "well, if you believe that God created the universe then who created God?" But this just takes the question back one step. At some point, there must be a first cause which is uncaused. This is what we call God. He never began to exist but he always existed. Psalm 90:2 says, "Before the mountains were born or you gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, you are God." There was no cause for God, but he is the uncaused one. As I mentioned earlier, atheists at one point believed that the universe was eternal, but the evidence disproves that. It had a definite beginning. If they could believe that the universe was uncaused and eternal, why can't they believe in a God who is uncaused and eternal? It sounds like prejudice and bias is at work again!

Many people speak of this beginning as "the big bang." Let me use an illustration which I will call "the little bang." You have just gone to bed and are ready for a good night's sleep when you hear a bang, or a crash in your garage. You are startled and what do you do? Do you say to yourself, "it's nothing because these little bangs come from nothing," or do you get up to investigate because you know that every bang has a cause to it? Well, of course we get up to investigate because we know that "bangs" don't just happen. Something makes them happen. In the same way, the big bang, the bang that started the universe didn't just happen. Something, or someone caused it.

Listen to these verses from Psalm 33:6-9.

<sup>6</sup> By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,  
And by the breath of His mouth all their host.  
<sup>7</sup> He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap;  
He lays up the deeps in storehouses.  
<sup>8</sup> Let all the earth fear the LORD;  
Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.  
<sup>9</sup> For He spoke, and it was done;  
He commanded, and it stood fast.

**The second evidence for God** flows from the first. As we look at the universe we discover amazing complexity to it. Scientists call this the fine tuning of the universe. It is not haphazard. It is finely tuned for life to exist. William Lane Craig explained it this way. He said, “it is far more probable for a life-prohibiting universe to exist than a life sustaining one. Life is balanced on a razor’s edge.” He then gives an example from Stephen Hawking who has calculated that if the rate of the universe’s expansion one second after its beginning had been smaller by one part in a hundred thousand million million, the universe would have collapsed into a fireball.” That is one part in one thousand trillion.

Here’s another example: British physicist P.C. W. Davies has concluded that the odds against the initial conditions being suitable to form stars which are necessary for life on planets is one followed by at least a thousand billion billion zeroes.

Here’s another, if the strength of gravity were changed by only part in a ten followed by a hundred zeroes, life would not be possible.

Now, I have given you three examples. There are about 50 examples like this where the forces of the universe must be lined up so that life is possible. Did this happen by chance? Is that the most probable? Or is it more probable that an intelligent designer engineered it? Science shows that there must have been an intelligence behind all of creation. And if this intelligent one exists, if this creator exists, then miracles are no problem.

**Here is the third evidence** for God – only an eternal moral being allows us to have objective moral values. What do we mean by objective moral values? We mean that there are moral laws above the laws of every person and every nation that governs mankind. If these do not exist, then we have no basis for intervening in any moral situation. In fact, there are no moral situations, there are only situations and we have no basis for saying something is good and something is bad. We would have no basis for saying, for example, that the Nazis were wrong in WWII for what they did to the Jews. The Nazis believed they were doing the right thing. In fact, some of the Nazi defendants in the trials used this as their defense – they were following orders and their superiors believed it was for the good of the world that they did what they did. Who were we to impose our morality upon them? And you know what? If there is no God, they were right. But if there is a good God, an eternal God who created all things and who is holy and moral, then we have the basis for saying “that was wrong.” That is the only basis we have for saying that anything is right or wrong.

This then is the third evidence for God. We must have a God to have objective moral values.

**Here is the fourth evidence for God.** Only the existence of God makes sense of the resurrection of Jesus. This brings us back to the objection to Christianity in the first place, that miracles don't happen. But if God exists, miracles are no problem and the resurrection of Jesus is no problem for God. There are four facts surrounding the resurrection stories that are important to remember. First, is that the earliest evidence is that Jesus was buried in the tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea. This is important because the burial place was known to Jews, Romans, and followers of Jesus, and the records show no embellishment of details or no traces of legend creeping into the story. The story is simply told.

Second, the tomb was found empty three days later by women! The testimony of women was not accepted by Jews in the first century. But the Gospel writers left this detail in showing that they were reporting what really happened for a Jewish man would not normally include such a detail. But reporting information accurately was more important than glossing over embarrassing details.

Third, on many occasions and in different circumstances, Jesus appeared to individuals, to groups, or to large crowds. It's not just that the tomb was empty. It is that hundreds of people saw Jesus, talked with him, ate with him, and reported the same story. He was alive. He had conquered death.

Fourth, the lives of the witnesses were radically changed. We must remember that Peter terribly failed Jesus. All the disciples forsook him. The women were going to the tomb early on Sunday to anoint a dead body. They were wondering who was going to roll away the stone on the tomb so they could anoint him. After they did that they were going back to business as normal. But none of them went back to business as normal. They became mighty agents of change in the world. Their lives were changed and the world has never been the same.

**Here is the final evidence for the existence of God.** God can be immediately experienced and lives continue to be changed. And this is what all of this is about. It is not just about proving that God exists, as if God needed that. We are not here to protect the reputation of God. We are here to change lives. We are here to tell the truth and we are here to proclaim that the greatest miracle of all is not the creation of the universe and not the healing of the sick or the giving of sight to the blind as Jesus did but the greatest miracle today is that God can change you and me.

This is the good news we proclaim on this program and this is the good news that God's people are broadcasting all over the world. Have you embraced this God, this wonder-worker, this miracle worker who created the universe, who caused Jesus to be born of a virgin, who raised him from the dead, who sent his Spirit to the first followers and who sends him today?

William Lane Craig gave a great illustration I want to close with. What if, on your first day of work in a large corporation, you parked your car next to the CEO's car. You know you have done this because the sign says CEO parking only. Then you walk in and ask the secretary if the CEO is in his office and she says, "yes". You ask, "how do you know?" and she replies, "I just talked with him before he walked into his office." You look at the office door and you can see the light shining underneath the closed door and you can hear a voice speaking. Have you seen the CEO? No. But do you believe he is in the office? Yes. You believe because of the evidence. But there is something

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more you must do. You must not only believe that he is in the office. You must go to his door and knock and enter when he beckons you to enter. Then you can meet him and get to know him.

In the same way, God has presented abundant evidence for his existence. He is waiting for you to come to him and to meet him!