

## Miracle or Magical?

“Do You Believe in Miracles? Yes!” Those were the words of broadcaster Al Michaels when the US men’s ice hockey team upset the Soviet Union at the 1980 Lake Placid Olympics. The highly regarded, professional Russian team was expected to win gold, yet the motivated collection of college hockey players from the U.S. prevailed, 4-3. The victory was so improbable that it has been called the “Miracle on Ice.” Forty-six years later, on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, the US clinched the gold medal against the favored Canadian team. Watching the game, the Canadian team outshot the Americans 42-28 and seemed to have the better chance for victory, but the US won in overtime, 2-1. The USA victory provided a great storyline for national pride – the player who lost several teeth in the third period, scored the game-winner in overtime.

The world of sports is full of surprise results and heroic play. While there are countless stories of unexpected sports triumphs, they are different from the miracles recorded in the Bible. There are 265 scripture verses referring to the 120 miracles recorded in the Bible, with nearly a 50-50 split between Old and New Testament miracles.



Some of the Old Testament miracles are:

- the creation
- the flood
- the plagues
- the parting of the Red Sea
- the water turned to blood
- the burning bush
- the provision of manna in the desert

These demonstrate God’s power and signs of what is to come.

New Testament miracles confirm that Jesus is the Son of God and are interwoven with other events that teach us about God’s character and power:

- the miraculous conception
- the appearance of the Star of Bethlehem
- healing of many people
- the raising of Lazarus
- turning water into wine
- feeding the 5,000
- Jesus walking on the sea
- the resurrection
- transfiguration
- the ascension.

The bottom line is that there is no limit to what God can do to accomplish His purposes. They show us God's intervention, revealing His power, authority, and presence.

There is no way these miracles could have happened without God's intervention. They bring people – perhaps you and me – to Jesus. They point to Jesus and are written so that people will believe and bring people to faith (John 6:35.) They authenticate Jesus and God's messengers are sent from God (Acts 2:22). They confirm that salvation is available to us (Hebrews 2:3-4). Performing miracles is central to Jesus' ministry and His identity as the Messiah and as God's son. They demonstrate God's compassion for His people (Matthew 9:36). They prove God's sovereignty over creation, nature, and human affairs. Miracles are not only about meeting human needs but also God's desire to nurture and sustain His covenant relationship with His people.<sup>1</sup>

Even after Jesus performed miracles, many people still did not believe. In their own stubborn way, they may have been impressed by what they saw but did not give their lives over to Jesus Christ. As true believers, we don't need a continual stream of miraculous events to prove that God is God.

It is human nature to look for miracles to solve problems. God's miracles always have a purpose. They pave the way for good to triumph over evil. They bring glory to God, strengthen faith, and confirm His truth. John 11:40 says, *"Then Jesus said, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?'"*<sup>2</sup>

Are there miracles today? The Bible tells us that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). We have no reason to question that God will act in ways that bring Him Glory, and to accomplish His purposes. Jesus answers our prayers, often in ways that aren't consistent with the laws of nature or of science. We pray to God for strength and guidance, and we look forward to the miracle of our salvation.

I have witnessed many magical sporting events in my lifetime. Humans can do magical things, but miracles come from God. Magical Olympic moments build national pride and celebrate human achievement. Miracles build God's Kingdom for eternity.

Do you believe in miracles? Yes!

**Questions:** Do you feel God's presence in your life? Have you experienced something unexplainable in your life that deepened your relationship with God? How is God at work in your life?

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<sup>1</sup> Sources: The Bible Hub, and Dr. Daniel King Ministries International

<sup>2</sup> Biblebloulerd.com