



1. The Biblical Claim of the Miraculous

A.

1)

2)

3)

B.

1)

2)

C.

1)

2)

	<i>STNO</i>	<i>DTNO</i>

2. Miracles & Americans

3. The Logic of the 49% (_____)

A.

B.

4. The Logic of the 15% (_____)

A.

1)

2)

B.

1)

2)

3)

5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.



HOLY
BIBLE

Apologetics

Compass Night 2019

1. The Biblical Claim of the Miraculous

A. There is a God Who...

1) Precedes the Physical Universe

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:3

without him was not any thing made that was made.

Hebrews 3:4

the builder of all things is God.



Apologetics

1. The Biblical Claim of the Miraculous

A. There is a God Who...

2) Actively Upholds Creation

Nehemiah 9:6

You have made the earth... and you preserve all of them

Hebrews 1:3

he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

Acts 17:25

he gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

Apologetics



1. The Biblical Claim of the Miraculous

A. There is a God Who...

3) Can & Has Intervened in Creation

Job 23:13

who can turn him back? What he desires, that he does.

1 Chronicles 16:12

Remember the wondrous works he has done, his miracles

Hebrews 2:4

God bore witness by signs, wonders and various miracles



Apologetics

1. The Biblical Claim of the Miraculous

B. God Created A “Natural” Order

1) Encoded to Work According to Rules

Genesis 1:11

God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so.



1. The Biblical Claim of the Miraculous

B. God Created A “Natural” Order

1) Encoded to Work According to Rules

Job 28:25–27

When he gave to the wind its weight and apportioned the waters by measure, when he made a decree for the rain and a way for the lightning of the thunder, then he saw it and declared it; he established it



Apologetics

1. The Biblical Claim of the Miraculous

B. God Created A “Natural” Order

2) God Says He Empowers It

1 Corinthians 3:6–7

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.



1. The Biblical Claim of the Miraculous

B. God Created A “Natural” Order

2) God Says He Empowers It

Mark 4:27–28

the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.



Apologetics

1. The Biblical Claim of the Miraculous

C. God's Interventions (i.e., "Miracles")

1) Suspending The Natural Order

Psalm 19:4–5

he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.



1. The Biblical Claim of the Miraculous

C. God's Interventions (i.e., "Miracles")

1) Suspending The Natural Order

Joshua 10:12–14

Joshua spoke to the Lord... "Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies... There has been no day like it before or since, when the Lord heeded the voice of a man...



1. The Biblical Claim of the Miraculous

C. God's Interventions (i.e., "Miracles")

2) Directing The Natural Order

James 5:17–18

Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.



STNO (Suspending)

Matthew 1:20

“Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”

DTNO (Directing)

Luke 1:13

“Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.”

STNO (Suspending)

Acts 12:7–10

an angel of the Lord stood next to [Peter], and a light shone in the cell... And the chains fell off his hands. And he said to him, “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.” ...they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out

DTNO (Directing)

Acts 16:25–29

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying... and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s bonds were unfastened... And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear

STNO (Suspending)

2 Kings 19:34–35

For I will defend this city to save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David.” And that night the angel of the Lord went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies.

DTNO (Directing)

1 Samuel 14:12–14

Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, “Come up after me, for the Lord has given them into the hand of Israel.” ...And they fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer killed them after him. And that first strike, which Jonathan and his armor-bearer made, killed about twenty men within as it were half a furrow’s length in an acre of land.

STNO
(Suspending)

DTNO
(Directing)

Pre-Mosaic

9

8

Age of Moses & Joshua

10

33

Age of Elijah & Elisha

21

45

Age of Jesus & Apostles

46

20

2. Miracles & Americans

2015 Barna Research Survey

- Believe the Biblical Miracles as Described**51%**
- Believe Miracles Cannot Happen**15%**
- Believe Miracles are Possible**67%**
 - Boomers**73%**
 - Younger Adults**61%**
 - Republicans**74%**
 - Democrats**61%**



3. The Logic of the 49% (*Don't Believe Bible Miracles*)

A. “What We Have Is Not What Was Written”

- “It is an Evolving Bible”
 - *Small Gap (No Time to Evolve)*
 - *One Translation (No Loss in Multiple Translations)*
- “It is an Agenda-Driven Collection”
 - *OT: Collected in Real Time*
 - *NT: No Earlier Rejected “Gospels”*



3. The Logic of the 49% (*Don't Believe Bible Miracles*)

B. “Can’t Trust Historical Claims”

- “Not Meant to be Taken as True Truth”
 - *Presented as Factual-Historical*
 - *Presented with Miraculous being Miraculous*
- “Needs Collaboration”
 - *OT: Collected in Real Time (in Temple)*
 - *NT: No Earlier Rejected “Gospels”*



4. The Logic of the 15% *(Miracles are Not Possible)*

A. “The Natural Order Cannot Alter”

1) But They Say It Has

- *The Problem of Existence*



THE BIG BANG

INFLATION

“Other laws of physics” existed at the start of the Big Bang which created the conditions for matter to occur.

GALAXY EVOLUTION

CONTINUES...

FIRST STARS
400,000,000 YEARS
AFTER BIG BANG

DARK ENERGY?

COSMIC MICROWAVE
BACKGROUND

400,000 YEARS AFTER
BIG BANG

FIRST GALAXIES
1,000,000,000 YEARS
AFTER BIG BANG

FORMATION OF
THE SOLAR SYSTEM
8,700,000,000 YEARS
AFTER BIG BANG

NOW
13,700,000,000 YEARS
AFTER BIG BANG

4. The Logic of the 15% *(Miracles are Not Possible)*

A. “The Natural Order Cannot Alter”

2) But It Still Does

- *The Problem of Life*





God

(Genesis 2:7)



***God formed the man of
dust from the ground***

(Genesis 2:7)



***God formed the man of
dust from the ground and
breathed into his nostrils
the breath of life***

(Genesis 2:7)



God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. (Genesis 2:7)

4. The Logic of the 15% *(Miracles are Not Possible)*

A. “The Natural Order Cannot Alter”

2) But It Still Does

- *The Problem of Life*



4. The Logic of the 15% *(Miracles are Not Possible)*

A. “The Natural Order Cannot Alter”

2) But It Still Does

- *The Problem of Life (& Death)*







4. The Logic of the 15% *(Miracles are Not Possible)*

A. “The Natural Order Cannot Alter”

2) But It Still Does

- *The Problem of Life (& Death)*



4. The Logic of the 15% *(Miracles are Not Possible)*

A. “The Natural Order Cannot Alter”

2) But It Still Does

- *The Problem of Life (& Death) (& Consciousness)*





4. The Logic of the 15% *(Miracles are Not Possible)*

B. “All Reports of Miracles are False”

1) How Do They Know?

- *If You Presuppose They Cannot Happen*

2) Conclusions Should Be Based on Facts

- *Facts Have to Be Reported*

3) Existence & Life Make Miracles Feasible

- *If you wrote a book, you can write a sentence!*
- *Created DNA? You can create a Y-chromosome!*



5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

A. The Bible Assumes Skepticism

Luke 1:3–4

it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

John 14:11

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

Apologetics



5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

A. The Bible Assumes Skepticism

1 John 1:1–2

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us



Apologetics

5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

B. Biblical Miracles are Rare

-- And Purposeful

- *Lasting Revelatory Purposes!*



STNO
(Suspending)

DTNO
(Directing)

Creation

9

8

Law is Written

10

33

Prophets are Written

21

45

NT is Written

46

20

5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

B. Biblical Miracles are Rare

-- Miracle = (“sign”)

John 12:37

*Though he had done
so many signs before
them, they still did not
believe in him*

Apologetics



5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

B. Biblical Miracles are Rare

-- Miracle = (“sign”)

Acts 2:22

*Jesus of Nazareth, a man
attested to you by God
with mighty works and
wonders and signs*

Apologetics



5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

B. Biblical Miracles are Rare

-- Miracle = (“sign”)

Luke 16:31

“If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.”



Apologetics



5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

B. Biblical Miracles are Rare

Hebrews 2:3–4

how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Apologetics



5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

C. The Bible Expects God to Keep Natural Laws

1 Timothy 5:23

No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.



5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

C. The Bible Expects God to Keep Natural Laws

Genesis 3:19

By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”



5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

D. God Asks Us to Ask for DTNO

Genesis 1:28

God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”



5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

D. God Asks Us to Ask for DTNO

James 5:16–17

confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

Apologetics



5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

D. God Asks Us to Ask for DTNO

- With the Right Motives

James 4:3

You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.



Apologetics

5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

E. God is Sovereign in Every Second

Proverbs 16:9

The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.



Apologetics

5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

E. God is Sovereign in Every Second

Ephesians 1:11

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will



Apologetics

5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

E. God is Sovereign in Every Second

Romans 8:28

we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.



Apologetics

5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

E. God is Sovereign in Every Second

Amos 3:6

Does disaster come to a city, unless the Lord has done it?



Apologetics

5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

E. God is Sovereign in Every Second

Psalm 94:7–9

they say, “The LORD does not see; the God of Jacob does not perceive.” Understand, O dullest of the people! Fools, when will you be wise? He who planted the ear, does he not hear? He who formed the eye, does he not see?



Apologetics

5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

E. God is Sovereign in Every Second

Micah 6:9

The voice of the LORD cries to the city— and it is sound wisdom to fear your name: “Hear of the rod and of him who appointed it!”



Apologetics

5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

E. God is Sovereign in Every Second

1 Samuel 2:6–7

The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts.



Apologetics

5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

E. God is Sovereign in Every Second

1 Samuel 2:6–7

The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts.



Apologetics

5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

E. God is Sovereign in Every Second

2 Samuel 16:9–10

Then Abishai the son of Zeruah said to the king, “Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and take off his head.” But the king said, “What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruah? If he is cursing because the Lord has said to him, ‘Curse David,’ who then shall say, ‘Why have you done so?’”

Apologetics



5. The Charge of Christian Gullibility

E. God is Sovereign in Every Second

Luke 22:42

“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”



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