

MIRACLE OF MIRACLES

Text: Matthew 25:34

Key Word: Miracle

Key Thought: There Is No Greater Miracle Than the Birth of Jesus

One of the famous Italian artists, Michelangelo, painted the ceiling of the Vatican's Sistine Chapel. The most famous part of the ceiling is "**The Creation of Adam**" which depicts God reaching out His finger to touch the outstretched hand of Adam, imparting to him the gift of life. While the scene conveys many biblical truths, perhaps central is the initiative of God—God reaching out to man.

That was just one of the many examples of God's miracles recorded in the Bible. Just imagine, creating the first completely functioning human being into the world from the dust of the earth. That was sixth day in a row of incredible miracles that our feeble minds will never be able to understand. **Could There Ever Be Anything Else to Match The Mind-boggling Miracles of Creation Which Were Mostly Spoken into Existence?**

I. BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD - Preordained

II. GREATER THAN ANY OTHER MIRACLE - Preeminent

III. A MIRACULOUS GIFT FOR EVERYONE - Panoptic

I. BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD - Preordained

Time as we know it came about in the first day of creation when God separated the light from the darkness (Genesis 1:3-5). Have you ever wondered what took place before God created the heavens and the earth? In other words, did God do anything we know of in eternity past. The Bible is the only book on the face of the earth that can honestly answer that question.

"He (Jesus Christ - 1:13) was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake."

I Peter 1:20

"just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love."

*Ephesians 1:4
NRSV*

I. BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD - Preordained (Contd.)

*“Then the King will say to those on his right,
‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take
your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you
since the creation of the world.”*

Matthew 25:34

Now this is miraculous. God not only chose to send His Son, Jesus Christ, to be the Saviour of the world, He also knew who would follow God and His unchangeable, imperishable, incorruptible Word.

*“For you **have been** born again, not of perishable
seed, but of imperishable (not of corruptible seed,
but of incorruptible - KJV), **through the living and
enduring word of God.**”*

I Peter 1:23

God in His infinite wisdom knew who would choose to be part of His kingdom even before the world began. **Many Vital Decisions Were Made Before this World Was Even Created.**

- 1. The Plan of Salvation**
- 2. The Only One who could die so our sins could be forgiven**
- 3. The Suffering of Jesus was already decided upon**

*“For we which have believed do enter into rest, as
he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall
enter into my rest: **although the works were
finished from the foundation of the world.**”*

Hebrews 4:3

- 4. The Names of Those Who Would Be Redeemed Were Already Written down in the Lamb's Book of Life**

*“The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will
ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition.
And those who dwell on the earth will marvel,
**whose names are not written in the Book of Life
from the foundation (creation) of the world,** when
they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.”*

*Revelation 17:8
NKJV*

II. GREATER THAN ANY OTHER MIRACLE - Preeminent

Perhaps we should begin this 2nd point by defining a miracle.

A miracle can be described as an event that involves the direct and powerful action of God, transcending the ordinary laws of nature and defying common expectations of behaviour.

In theology, it is an event or effect contrary to the established constitution and course of things, or a deviation from the known laws of nature; a supernatural event. Miracles can be wrought only by Almighty power.

Do you know how many miracles are listed in the Bible? **There are 83 listed in the Old Testament (most in the Book of Exodus) and 81 listed in the New Testament (most in the Book of Acts).** Whether we look at the creation of the World, the flood, the 10 plagues; the parting of the Red Sea or Jordan River; the provision of manna; Daniel in the lion's den; Jonah swallowed by a huge fish; the feeding of the multitudes; the healing of the sick (blind, deaf, lame, leprous, and even brought back to life); ascending into heaven; defeating of armies, **NOTHING compares to the Miracle of Miracles in the Bible.**

It was even greater than turning water into wine; catching a net full of fishes; a withered hand restored; winds and waves that stilled; walking on the water; demons cast out; tax money in the mouth of a fish; a fig tree cursed and withered; and earthquake opening prison doors; healing of a viper's bite; the miracles of the 70 disciples and even the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

You're probably wondering by now what can be greater than all these things? **Let me suggest the Spirit of the Living God impregnating the virgin Mary so she could bare the Son of God.** Remember Jesus has always been and will always be the Second Person of the Trinity. Before the world was Created - Jesus was the I AM. He was greater than all His creation including the myriads of angels in heaven.

Our Lord and Saviour became the most preeminent Miracle that ever happened on this earth. He wasn't born from the sperm of Joseph. It came about

The shepherds were amazed. Mary could only ponder everything that had happened. Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms and after praising God and proclaiming the fulfilment of OT prophecy and giving his own prophecy, he left the temple of Jerusalem in peace (Luke 2:22-35).

The prophet Anna who worshipped, fasted and prayed God at the Temple never even leaving the temple gave thanks the "redemption of Jerusalem" had come on the 8th day of this special baby's life.

II. GREATER THAN ANY OTHER MIRACLE - Preeminent (Contd.)

Even Magi from the East travelled with their gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. The star that had risen two years earlier and led the Magi to Jerusalem rose again (Matthew 2:9-11) and led them to the house where Jesus was.

III. A MIRACULOUS GIFT FOR EVERYONE - Panoptic

In case you may wonder what the “**panoptic**” means, just consider a camera taking a panoramic view. The word means “**showing or seeing the whole at one view.**” This is the Miracle of Miracles that took place thousands of years ago. Jesus was NEVER a common child even though He was born through the womb of a commoner. Neither Joseph nor Mary ever became rich but they did become famous BECAUSE of JESUS.

After the birth of Jesus, Joseph took Mary home to be his wife which means he THEN consummated their marriage. Yet Jesus never isolated Himself only to Joseph and Mary and their offspring. He was the firstborn.

*“After this, he went down to Capernaum with his mother **and brothers** and his followers.”*

John 2:12

*“Isn’t this the carpenter? **Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?**’ And they took offense at him.”*

Mark 6:3

He became one to everyone who received him. They understood and believed that He was the Son of God and they could become children of God by believing in Him.

“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

John 1:12

He submitted himself to His Father in heaven while He walked as the Son of Man upon this earth.

“I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.”

John 5:30

III. A MIRACULOUS GIFT FOR EVERYONE - Panoptic (Contd.)

Heaven came down and glory filled **their** souls and is spreading out and filling **our** hearts and minds today.

A gift is not something you have to accept. You can leave an unwrapped gift under your Christmas tree this month. That will not change the love and generosity of the giver. You can even deny it was for you even though it is clear to everyone else that it has your name on it.

Anyone who denies that Jesus was ever born is one who denies the many, many, many proofs that He came to earth.

According to esteemed historian N.T. Wright, "*We have got almost as much good evidence for Jesus as for anyone in the ancient world.*" That means that if we believe that Julius Socrates, Julius Caesar or even Alexander the Great existed we should have no trouble believing that Jesus was born, walked on this earth, died, rose again and ascended back to heaven.

He alone has been able to change our lives from worse to better.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone
and today he is still the central figure
for much of the human race.
All the armies that ever marched,
All the navies that ever sailed
And all the parliaments that ever sat
And all the kings that ever reigned
Put together
have not affected the life of man
Upon this earth
As powerfully as this
One Solitary Life.

Rev. James Allan Francis.
Published in 1926 by Judson Press in Philadelphia

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Date: Dec 4/22

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Hark the Herald Angels Sing - G

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Genesis 1:3-5; I Peter 1:20; Ephesians 1:4 NRSV; Matthew 25:34; I Peter 1:23

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- 2. The Only One who could die so our sins could be forgiven**
- 3. The Suffering of Jesus was already decided upon - Hebrews 4:3**
- 4. The Names of Those Who Would Be Redeemed Were Already Written down in the Lamb's Book of Life - Revelation 17:8 NKJV**

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Luke 2:22-35; Matthew 2:9-11

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John 2:12; Mark 6:3; John 1:12; John 5:30