

What is a miracle, sign or wonder?

A miracle is an event that supersedes natural or spiritual law.

In 2009 US Airways Flight 1549 ditched into the Hudson River after a bird strike. The media was quick to call it a miracle—"The Miracle on the Hudson".

In reality pilots Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger and Jeffrey Skiles recalled their training to land the plane in water. Rescuers nearby saved all 155 souls on board.

Bob Enyart wrote:

Turning water into wine supersedes natural law and so is miraculous. Praying does not supersede any spiritual law so it is not miraculous to say a prayer, whereas a person exercising authority over a fallen angelic being, for example in an exorcism, would supersede spiritual law. Sections of the Bible differ in how commonly they record miracles. But there is one thread that runs consistently throughout: Miracles foster unbelief.¹

Christians should not be superstitious (Ac 17:22). Evil and unfaithful people look for miraculous signs (Mt 16:4).

The Lord Jesus predicted false christs and false prophets would rise showing great signs and wonders to deceive (Mt 24:24). They should not be followed (Deut 13:1–3).

A genuine sign in scripture is an outward token which has spiritual significance² to: authenticate a prophecy (Deut. 13:1; 1 Sam. 2:31, 34), strengthen faith (Judg. 6:17; Is. 7:11), recall God's blessings (Josh. 24:15–17), confirm God's Word (2 Kin. 19:28, 29; Heb. 2:4), insure a promise (2 Kin. 20:5, 9–11) and confirm a prophecy (1 Kin. 13:3–5).³

¹ Enyart, Bob. *Miracles and Unbelief (i.e., They Tend to Produce Unbelief)* | KGOV.com. kgov.com/miracles-and-unbelief-they-tend-to-produce-unbelief. Accessed 6 Oct. 2023.

² [e.g. heavenly bodies (Gen. 1:14), rainbow (Gen. 9:12–17), circumcision (Gen. 17:11), bloodshed (Ex. 12:13), God's wonders (Ps. 65:8), covenant (Rom. 4:11), miracles (Deut. 26:8), memorial (Num. 16:38), symbolic act (Is. 8:18), witness (Is. 19:19, 20), outward display (John 4:48).] Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 574). Thomas Nelson Publishers.

³ Ibid, pg. 574.