

Devotion on the Miracles of Christ (Introduction) - 31 January 2014, Anno Domini (In the Year of our Lord)



*This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him. (John 2:11)*

There are more than thirty-five documented miracles of Jesus in the New Testament, but He has performed far more than a mere thirty-five. You and I are miracles in at least two separate ways: 1) we came by miracle of birth having our life imparted to us by God in the darkness of our mother's womb. That, my friends, is an amazing miracle. 2) The second great miracle is that of our salvation. It is a truly miraculous love that deigns to die in our stead to save us from our sins as Christ did on that rough-hewn cross at Calvary. There was nothing 'good' or 'lovely' about you and me, yet Christ died for us. This is the grandest miracle of all for me. All others are mere secondary to this last miracle.

Our scripture reference text from St. John 2:11 correctly states that the miracle of the water and wine was the "*beginning of miracles*" of Jesus. I fully believe that statement; however, the pre-incarnate Christ is "*the beginning of miracles*" Himself. The Son does nothing apart from the Father, and the Son and Father does nothing apart from the Holy Ghost for all Three are One in Mind and Purpose. Miracles are defined by Easton's Illustrated Dictionary in the following words:

*"An event in the external world brought about by the immediate agency or the simple volition of God, operating without the use of means capable of being discerned by the senses, and designed to authenticate the divine commission of a religious teacher and the truth of his message (John 2:18; Mat 12:38). It is an occurrence at once above nature and above man. It shows the intervention of a power that is not limited by the laws either of matter or of mind, a power interrupting the fixed laws which govern their movements, a supernatural power." —Easton's Illustrated Dictionary*

I must agree with this definition with the one reservation that the laws of nature, themselves, are miraculous. When we consider the precise order of the Universe, the stars in their paths, the precision orbits of the planets about their stars, or suns, is truly miraculous. The constant formation of a baby's body and soul from conception, the DNA programming instantly present from the first moment of that conception, is miraculous. But, for the sake of a simple and uncomplicated discussion of miracles, I will restrain from enlarging upon the multitude of miracles found in nature and dwell upon those that relate to the suspension, by God, of the natural laws of the Universe.

The very first recorded miracle of the pre-Incarnate Christ occurred in the very first verse of Genesis: "*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*" (Gen 1:1) The Hebrew word for God, here, is Elohim. Elohim is a plural singular proper noun which relates to the working of God the Father in concert with God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. All three were present and active at the moment of Creation of this world and all that is in the heavenly cosmos. "*And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*" (Gen 1:2) You see mention of the Presence of the Holy Spirit during this moment of Creation.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, in pre-Incarnate form, was present as well: "*And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.*" (Gen 1:3) That Light has been illuminating our hearts ever since. "*I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*" (John 8:12) God brought His blueprints of Creation to the Table at the beginning. The Holy Spirit supplied the Oil of Action, and Jesus Christ, the Architect of the World proceeded to build according to His Father's plan. "*1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*" (John 1:1-4) A searching discernment is not required to know that this refers to the Lord Jesus Christ who is the Word from all Eternity Past and Future.

Another profound miracle of Christ is no more profound than other miracles of similar character except that it occurred outside the Laws of Nature as set in place by God at the beginning the – that is, the miracle of the Incarnation of Christ as a babe at Bethlehem. There has only been one man previously who lived without having been born of woman: who was that? It was Adam who was created by the direct Hand of God. There has been only One Man born of woman who had no earthly Father – the Lord Jesus Christ. It was to a precious and holy young virgin that the Angel Gabriel appeared with the miraculous news of the Coming Jesus: "*31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. 34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:31-35) In a sense, the first miracle of Jesus was in His very birth of a Virgin. All else is detail.*

Our next devotion will concern itself with the first Ministerial miracle of Christ at Cana of Galilee. You just might read ahead for a preview of that miracle. The account is

found in the Gospel of St. John 2:1-11.