

## PROVING THE EXISTENCE OF GOD – DO MIRACLES EXIST?

The regular order of nature proves the existence and attributes of God, and miracles prove the interposition of God into the regular order in which he acts, +William Lane Craig. Christianity is a religion of miracles.

### History

Beginning in the 17<sup>th</sup> century philosophers and theologians sought to demythologize the Bible, to remove the superstitious element . miracles. Many attacks on the philosophical basis for miracles in the age of science were rebutted quite skillfully, but the damage had been done and Christians began to retreat. The idea of a violation of Newtonian physics could not be tolerated . scientifically or philosophically. Other views expressed:

- Miracles violate the unchangeable order of nature
- They are insufficient to prove God's existence
- Miracles cannot be proven to have happened

For a more detailed history see *Reasonable Faith* by William Lane Craig.

### Quantum Mechanics

As the nineteenth century wound down, scientists were in a jubilant mood. After two hundred years of pitched battle, the religious worldview was in full retreat. Everywhere that mechanical determinism decided to fight, it triumphed.+ Jeffrey Satinover, *Cracking the Bible Codes* (most of this section is excerpted from his book)

A new field of science has recently emerged that deals with regularly defying the laws of Newtonian physics called quantum physics. In the days of Newtonian physics many scientists dismissed miracles because they defied the laws of nature. There were many arguments to prove that miracles did exist and yes, they did defy natural laws. Today however, those arguments aren't nearly as useful. Quantum mechanics is used to regularly defy those same laws in laboratories.

In 1912 Max Planck, a German physicist, conceived the idea of quantum mechanics: particles of matter don't move from here to there continuously as it would seem that they must. They just jump there.

Household wiring is a good example. It's made of copper, which oxidizes. The electricity (electrons) continues to flow because it *jumps* over the barrier (oxidation).

What's more, we can statistically determine what proportion of electrons will actually jump (across a barrier) and where they will distribute themselves on average, but we can't say anything about whether a *particular electron* will in fact jump, or when, or where . *because there is nothing that determines these outcomes.*

Quantum mechanics basically says that *there is absolutely nothing causing the actual events* . more precisely, *nothing in the physical universe.*

## Quantum Tunneling

This is the official name given to the *jumping* particles. It is as though upon approach to an impassable mountain wall, cars simply reappeared on the far side, instantaneously, unpredictably, yet with amazing usefulness. It is no wonder that quantum mechanics has been a burr under the saddle of anyone who is fixed in his conviction that the world is a machine and God at most an absentee caretaker. Einstein was irritated by quantum mechanics, viewing it as incomplete. He won his Nobel Prize, not for relativity, but for solving atomic decay using the theory he loathed, quantum mechanics. *There is absolutely nothing in the universe that "causes" an atom to decay; it just does.*

For ninety years scientists have been experimenting with quantum mechanics. It is far more proven than any previous theory and the results can and have been duplicated.

- The decision of an experimenter influences the outcome of an *earlier* part of the experiment. The particles seemingly *anticipate* the experimenter's future actions and alter their trajectories accordingly.
- When some particles in one place *decide* to change course, that is associated with a set of other particles *deciding* to change course elsewhere in coordination with the first group. We can't say that one *causes* the other because:
  - a) The changes happen at the same time
  - b) The two clusters of particles are so far apart that light would not have time to reach the other with a signal by the time the second responds
  - c) The *influence* is only probable
- In 1993 scientists came together at IBM to create the initial design for methods of perfect teleportation. Experiments are under way to teleport clusters of atoms. To teleport a complex object (a person) is an enormous obstacle, but according to the lead physicist, it is purely a matter of engineering.

Quantum mechanics provides the very scientific vehicle that has been denied so long which proves, scientifically, that many of the Biblical miracles are not only possible, but may soon be duplicated in a laboratory. It cannot prove all of the miracles, but it opens the door. We may even get some insight into the nature of God by its study.

Miracles are the extraordinary way God interacts with us. He interacts (we feel His presence) daily through nature and the Holy Spirit. Miracles do not prove the existence of God, but they prove the Christian God.