

# Seven miraculous truths about Jesus

(columbines on cover, purple star on back cover)

“The morning glory that blooms at dawn, the columbine with its perfect petals, give thanks through their beautiful fragrance...” (from a poem by Mohammed Jameel)

We can recognize the power and skillfulness of God from the natural beauty all around us. But we can know about God even more fully than this, through Jesus. Let's take a look at seven miracles concerning Him.

## The miraculous way Jesus was born.

On the night Jesus was born, there were men at their work in a grassy field, watching over their sheep. Suddenly God sent an angel to them, and the light of the Lord shone brilliantly around them. They saw this and were terrified.

The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good happy news. Because of this news, all people will rejoice. In the town where the prophet David was born, today someone who will be your Savior has been born. He is the special one appointed by God. You will be able to tell who he is by this sign: You will find a baby boy wrapped in cloths lying in a box used to feed grass to livestock.”

Suddenly a great many more angels appeared in front of them, praising God saying, “God in the heavens deserves thanks and praise! May He grant joy and peace to those on the earth with whom He is pleased.”

These shepherds quickly went to that town, found the child lying in the box. They told Mary and Joseph, who were with Jesus, what the angels had said about him. They also told this news to the other people who had come there. Everyone who heard these stories were amazed. [Luke 2.8-14, 16-18]

## The miraculous deeds of Jesus.

After this, Jesus continued to grow. He continued to receive the approval of God and men. When he was about thirty years old, he began teaching people about God. [Lk 2.40, 3.23a]

One day two men came to Jesus and said, “John the prophet sent us to you to ask this question. According to the prophets of old, God is going to send a special person to us. Our question is, are you the special one who was to be sent by God, or should we be expecting someone else?”

At that very time Jesus was curing many who had diseases. He was also healing those with Jinn craziness, and giving sight to many who were blind.

Jesus replied to the messengers, “Go back and report what you have seen and heard: Just as those prophets said concerning the One appointed to be sent by God -- The blind have received sight, the lame have walked, those who have leprosy have been cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised alive, and the most joyful news has been given to the poor. [Luke 7.20-22]

On another day, while Jesus sat in a house teaching the people about God, some men came carrying a

paralytic on a mat. They tried to take him into the house to bring him before Jesus.

When they could not find a way to do this because of the largeness of the crowd gathered there, they carried him up on the roof via the stairs. Then they made a hole in the roof and lowered him on his mat into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the sick man, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

The religious teachers there thought to themselves, “Who does this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

Jesus knew what they were thinking and said, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which of these two phrases does any human have the power to say (as truth), ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or, ‘Get up and walk’? I will prove to you that I have been given authority on earth to forgive sins.”

Then he said to the paralyzed man, “Get up, take your mat and go home.”

Immediately he stood up in front of them, took his mat and went home praising and thanking God.

Everyone in that place was amazed at this and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, “We have seen remarkable things today which we can never forget.” [Luke 5.18-26]

On another day, while Jesus was travelling, he met a blind man on his way. This man had been blind since birth. Jesus’ companions said to him, “Teacher. Was this man blind from birth because of his own sins or because of his parents’ sins?”

Jesus said. “This happened not because of his sins or his parents’ sins. This has happened because God’s power is going to be displayed in his life. While I am in the world I am the light of the world.”

After saying this, he spit on the ground, mixed his spit with some dust, and put the bit of mud on the eyes of the blind man. And said to him, “Go to the well called Siloam, and wash your face in it.”

The man did as Jesus said, went to that well, washed his face, and when he went home, he could see. [John 9.1-3, 5b, 6-7]

## Jesus’ words are the words of God Himself.

One day, while Jesus was on a journey, he became tired, sat down by a well, and asked a woman who had come there to fetch water give him a drink of water.

While she was filling her bucket, he said, “You don’t realize the gift that God wants to give you. And you also don’t understand who is asking you for a drink of water. If you realized these things, you would ask that person for life-giving water.”

Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks water from this well will become thirsty yet again. But whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst again. The water I give him will become in him a gushing spring of water. And from that spring he would receive eternal life.” [John 4.6-7, 10, 13-14]

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Another time, Jesus said to his friends, "I am the truth, the true way and the life. No one can have true faith in God in any way except through me." [John 14.6]

And another time, Jesus said: Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. [Luke 21.33]

And another time, Jesus said, "there is no greater love than that of a person who gives his life for his friends." [John 15.13]

### **The miraculous way that Jesus died.**

One day Jesus took his twelve closest friends far from the crowds and told them, "We must start our journey to Jerusalem. At that town everything that is written by the prophets about me, the Son of Man, will be fulfilled. It is written: I will be handed over to the non-Jewish people. They will mock me, insult me, spit on me, flog me and kill me. But on the third day after I have been murdered I will return again to life." [Luke 18:31-33]

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After this, Jesus went to Jerusalem. And while he was in that town in the middle of the night, the police sought him out and arrested him. At dawn, the religious leaders convened a council and interrogated Jesus. After that, the Jewish leaders ended their council, and took him before the governor of the town. The governor questioned him, and said to the crowds gathered there: "In my opinion he has done nothing illegal."

But the crowds continued yelling without a pause to give Jesus the death penalty. Their yelling grew louder and louder. Finally, because of their insistence, the governor agreed with them, and condemned Jesus to die. [Lk 23.14, 23-24]

The soldiers of that city led Jesus outside of the town to give him the death penalty. Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. The soldiers took Jesus and the two criminals to an empty area. There they put Jesus on the cross. They also put the criminals on crosses —one on his right, the other on his left. At that time Jesus said to God, "Forgive them. They do not realize what they are doing." [Lk 23.32-34a]

One of the criminals who hung there with Jesus hurled insults at him. He said, "Aren't you the Special One sent by God? If so, why don't you save yourself and us from this?" But the other criminal said to him, "Have some fear of God! All three of us have been sentenced to die. You and I deserve to die in this way because of the evil we have done. But this man has done nothing wrong."

Then he said to Jesus, "Jesus, remember me on the day of your kingship." Jesus answered him, "I tell you with certainty, even today you will be with me in heaven." [Luke 23.39-43]

On that day at noon, around twelve o'clock, suddenly the sun's light was interrupted and darkness came over the whole land. It remained completely dark from noon until three o'clock. And at that time the special curtain within the temple tore in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice to God, "Take my spirit." When he had said this, his spirit left his body. [Luke 23:44-46]

### **The miraculous way Jesus returned to life.**

The day Jesus died was just before the day set aside for worship, commanded by God through Moses. Because of this, Jesus' dead body was wrapped in cloth and put in a prepared tomb, and the entrance to the tomb was sealed off with a very large boulder.

Very early on Sunday morning, some women went to the tomb in which Jesus' body had been buried. They went there carrying fragrant spices to put on his corpse. When they reached his tomb, the massive stone which had sealed the tomb's opening had been rolled away. When they entered the tomb and looked, the body of the Lord Jesus was not there.

While they were standing there amazed, wondering what had happened, suddenly two angels appeared, standing beside them. The clothing of the angels gleamed like lightning. Seeing this, the women bowed their heads, not daring to look up out of fright. But the angels said to them, "Why do you look for a living person among the dead? He is not here. He has returned to life after dying."

"Do you not remember what he told you while he was still with you all in Galilee? He said, 'I will be given into the hands of sinful men. They will crucify me. And on the third day I will return to life.'" Then they remembered what Jesus had told them in Galilee. [Luke 24.1-8]

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A bit later on that day, Jesus came and spoke with two of his disciples while they were on their way to a town. Then they returned to Jerusalem and told the other disciples about this. [Lk 24:13, 15, 33]

While the disciples were all still talking about this encounter, they saw Jesus himself, standing among them. He greeted them, saying "May God grant you peace." But they were startled at seeing him, and terribly frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.

So Jesus said to them, "Why are you so frightened? Why is it so difficult for you to believe it when you see me alive?"

Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself!

Touch me. Then you will be sure that I am not a ghost. A ghost does not have flesh and bones. But then you will be sure that my body is made of flesh and bone."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. They still could not believe it because of joy and amazement. Knowing this, he asked them, "Can you give me something to eat?"

They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence, and said to them, "while I was still with you I told you that everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

Then he gave them the ability to understand the meaning of what was described in the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah, the one specially appointed by God, will suffer and return to life three days after dying.

"And this message will be preached to all nations of the world. The message is that in the name of the Messiah, when people turn to God, their sins will be forgiven. This message will be spread from Jerusalem to the nations of the world. These things have happened

before your eyes. So you all should testify about these things.”

“Wait in this city until God’s mighty power has been given. I myself will send the gift to you all that has promised by God in heaven.”

When Jesus had gone with his disciples out from that town to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. At just that moment, God raised him up into the sky.

The disciples worshiped Jesus and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising and thanking God. [Luke 24.36-53]

### **The miraculous way Jesus will return to the world on the day of the end of the world.**

While Jesus was in the world, he said, “When I return to the world, there will be flashing like lightning. That light will brighten the whole sky, from one end to the other. [Luke 17.24]

Jesus also spoke about what will happen at the end of the world, saying: “When I, the Son of Man, return with all my power, and all my angels with me, I will sit on my throne to judge.”

“The people of the nations of all the world will be gathered before me. And like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, I will divide the people into two groups. I will set one group to my right side and one to my left side.”

“Then I will say to those on my right, I will say, ‘God, my Father, has blessed you all. Come. Enter the world God has prepared for you since the time of Creation.’”

“And to those on my left I will say, ‘Depart from me. God has put His wrath on you all. Go to the eternally burning fire God has prepared for Satan and his helpers.’”

“God will send them away to eternal punishment. But God will give eternal never-ending life to those people who acted in the way He desired.” [Matthew 25.31-34, 41, 46]

### **The miraculous way Jesus continues to work in the world today.**

While he was in the world, Jesus said to his disciples, “After I die,, I will return to life. [Lk 9.22] And after that I will leave you and go to the Father. [Jn 13.33] And after that the Holy Spirit will be sent to you.

The Holy Spirit will become established in your hearts. [Jn 14.23b, 25-26] And he will remind you of all that I have told you. Testify to those things and teach them to other people.” [Jn 15.26-27]

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Three days after Jesus had died, he returned to life again. His disciples saw him and spoke with him. And in front of them all, he rose up to heaven.

Several days after this, many Jewish people from various towns came to Jerusalem to celebrate a special Jewish Eid. The Lord Jesus’ friends also were gathered in a house in that town.

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven. The sound shook the house where they were gathered. They saw lights that looked like flames of fire flying around. These flames touched on the

heads of everyone there. As the Holy Spirit of God began to exert power over all of them, the Holy Spirit caused them to begin speaking in many different languages.

The crowds outside the house heard this sound of them speaking, came near and tried to peer inside. Seeing what was happening, they were amazed and bewildered, and said, “All these men who are speaking are from the country of Galilee! But how is it that we hear them speaking perfectly in our native languages? We are from Rome, Persia, Arabia, and other distant countries. Yet they are declaring in our own languages the mighty things God has done!”

Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What is happening? What does this mean?” [Acts 2.1-12]

Then from among Jesus’ disciples Peter stood up and loudly began speaking directly to the crowd: “Friends and all of you who have come to Jerusalem, please listen carefully to what I say. What you have are seeing and hearing is what God has told us long ago through a prophet. [Acts 2.14, 16]

God said: “‘When the time of the last days has begun, I, the Lord, will send my Spirit to my people. I, the Lord, will give my Spirit to men and women. And on receiving the Spirit, they will speak about the wonderful things I, the Lord, have done. And on that day everyone who calls on my name will be saved.’” [Acts 2.17-18, 21]

“Listen to what I (Peter) have to say about Jesus: God Himself has proven to you that Jesus was the one sent to you by God. The miracles, wonders and signs which he did proved that he was the One who had come from God. Every one of you realizes this.”

“God planned and intended from long ago that he would be handed over to you for you to murder him. So you arrested him, and, with the help of evil men, killed him as the worst type of criminal, by crucifying him. Nevertheless God has brought him back to life. Death can have no power over him.” [Acts 2.22-24]

“God announced that these things would happen hundreds of years ago through the prophet David. Through David, God spoke about the resurrection of the Messiah: ‘after the One I have appointed dies, I, the Lord, won’t allow him to remain long in the grave. I, the Lord, won’t leave His body to decay.’” [Acts 2.27-31]

“You people -- All of us disciples of Jesus here testify concerning this: Almighty God has raised Jesus to life. And has taken him up to heaven to be at His right hand.”

“Just as God promised, He gave him authority to send the Holy Spirit. What you are now seeing and hearing is evidence that the Spirit has been sent among us. The one who has given us the Holy Spirit is Jesus himself.” [Acts 2.32-33]

“This is what everyone here should accept and believe: Believe that, even though you all have murdered Jesus as though he were a criminal, Jesus is the Messiah especially chosen by God, and he is the Lord appointed by God.”

When the people there heard this, they were deeply saddened and asked Peter and the other leading disciples of Jesus, “Friends, what should we do then?”

Peter replied, “Turn from your sin. Turn your hearts to God. In order to have your sins wiped away confess in the presence of the crowds that you have put your faith in

Jesus the Messiah, and be washed with the ritual washing. Then God will give you the Holy Spirit.” [Acts 2:36-38]

In addition to this, Peter he taught them much more about Jesus. He pleaded with them, “Try to be saved from the lies and evil ways of those who murdered Jesus, and be saved from the punishment they will be given.”

On that day from among those who heard his message, about three thousand believed and were baptized. Those believers spent all their time listening and learning about Jesus from his disciples. And they treated one another just as though they were one family. [Acts 2.40-42a, 44]

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During those days there was a zealous religious man named Saul. He intended to kill all those who had their faith in Jesus.

While he was going to Damascus with this intent, to find and arrest the followers of Jesus, suddenly a light like brilliant lightning from heaven flashed around him. He was startled by his light, and fell to the ground from the horse on which he was travelling. Then he heard a voice coming from the light say, “Saul, why are you trying to persecute me?”

“Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

He heard this answer from the midst of the light. “I am Jesus, whom you are trying to persecute. Get up. Go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless. Because they had also heard the voice. But they had not seen anyone. When Saul got up from the ground, he was blind. [Acts 9.1,3-8a]

Three days later, God sent a believer in Jesus named Ananias to Saul. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Jesus appeared to you on that road. He has sent me to you because He has sent me. He sent me (so that He will) to give you back your sight, and to also (He will) give you the Holy Spirit.”

Immediately, Saul could see again. He put his faith in Jesus and was washed with the washing of repentance. And his body recovered and gained strength. [Acts 9:17-19]

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Saul told other people what he had experienced. That is, "God demonstrates His great love for us in this way: Even while we were living as enemies of God, He gave us His love. And because of our sinful disobedient ways, He sent Messiah to die for us. [Romans 5:8]

Jesus bore the punishment we ourselves deserve because of our sin. God forgave the sin of all humankind through Jesus.

From all these things we can understand clearly that Jesus is not a prophet like all the other prophets. Out of the greatness of God’s love for humankind, He has provided a way for us to be saved and not fall into destruction. That way is Jesus.

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