



C.S. Lewis and Christian Apologetics

with Dr. David Schenk

Lecture 13: Miracles

Outline:

Miracles by C.S. Lewis

- Three main objections miracles:
 - Materialism/anti-supernaturalism, which is a problem of imagination rather than a problem of rationally compelling arguments.
 - Miracles just look sloppy (the more serious objection).
 - If God is unconditionally perfect then God shouldn't need to patch it up.
 - If the miracles served no higher good, the aesthetic objection would be reasonable.
 - But if these miracles have a good, beautiful, redeeming purpose, then the objection falls. Lewis says we can make a case that these miracles do serve a higher purpose (both spiritual and aesthetic).
 - What would be the redeeming point and purpose of miracles in the domain of nature?
 - **Miracles of reminder** remind us of things that we will too easily forget. All of nature itself is a miracle. The laws of nature are miraculous. Miracles enter into the domain of our senses and show up and not fit the standard laws of science. Underneath the laws of science are laws which are personal. Biology doesn't actually govern itself.
 - **Miracles of prophecy** promise to a perpetually incredulous race that something greater is about to happen. Humans are dramatically less impressive than what is going to happen. Miracles of prophecy are there to give us some encouragement.
 - Miracles are supposed to be self-contradictory.
 - Miracles contradict our best current knowledge of the laws of nature on the assumption of nothing every intervening into them.
 - Once you have a supernatural domain, even the concern of miracles violating the laws of nature becomes a less serious objection.



- Logic does not say one word about the laws of nature. People are confusing violation of known laws of nature with violations of the laws of math.