

Zoom14: Miracles - Why they happen and why they don't

SV by Shmuel Veffter

Do miracles happen to capture our attention? If so, doesn't God just come and make them happen for us once in a while? Rabbi Shmuel Veffter examines both open and hidden miracles in order to understand what open miracles were meant for during the days of prophecy. Learn about God's careful balance to keep our free will intact the ultimate goal for all mankind.

It would be so easy to believe if only a miracle would happen!

We had so many miracles in the past!

Can't God just do a "little" miracle for me?

Types of Miracles

- OPEN Miracle
- HIDDEN Miracle
- NATURE

Miracles in Israel During the Gulf War





Miracles in the Context of The Purpose of Creation

Free Will Must Be Protected

Open Miracles Take Away Free Will

God Wants to Minimize Miracles

Ramban on Genesis 6:19

(1) It is known that the very many creatures and from them very great elephants,... very many bugs that creep on the Earth also birds in the skies and after gathering enough food for a year for all of them, this Ark couldn't contain them... nor ten Arks!

However it was a "miracle" (Nes) that this "small" [ark] could contain such a "huge" amount.

And if you say, since it's a miracle, make the Ark much smaller and depend on the miracle...

Realize that God had the Ark made very large so that the people of the generation would be amazed by it and speak about it and talk about the coming flood and the the ingathering of the animals and birds... and perhaps they would repent (do teshuva).

And another reason for making the Ark so big was to minimize the miracle. Because that is the way of all the miracles in the Torah or in the Prophets. To do as much as possible by the "hands" of man, and the rest by the Hands of Heaven.

רמב"ן על בראשית ו':י"ט

(א) מכל בשר וגו' ידוע כי החיות רבות מאד ומהן גדולות מאד כפילים... והרמש הרומש על הארץ רב מאד גם מעוף השמים ... וכאשר תאסוף לכלם מאכל אשר יאכל לשנה תמימה לא תכיל אותם התיבה הזאת ולא עשר כיוצא בה

אבל הוא נס החזיק מועט את המרובה

ואם תאמר יעשנה קטנה ויסמך על הנס הזה

ראה השם יתברך לעשותה גדולה כדי שיראו אותה בני דורו ויתמהו בה ויספרו עליה וידברו בענין המבול וכנוס הבהמה והחיה והעוף לתוכה אולי יעשו תשובה

ועוד עשו אותה גדולה למעט בנס כי כן הדרך בכל הניסים שבתורה או בנביאים לעשות מה שביד אדם לעשות והשאר יהיה בידי שמים



Ark Encounter / Facebook

Full-Sized Replica of Noah's Ark in Kentucky

Purpose of a Miracle

Nes - (Miracle) -- is a banner - a semaphore

The Nes is there to get your attention... to change direction.

A miracle is not there to prove that there is a God.



British Signalmen training with semaphores in WWI

Conditions for an Open Miracle

1. Period of Prophecy

2. Counterbalance in the Society
3. Via a Prophet or Rasha (totally good, or totally evil)
4. Predicted in advance by a Prophet (Why?)
5. Cabdriver and the Savta and the Snake

Even in the Fourth Century they Asked Our Question.

Berakhot 20a:4-5

Rav Pappa said to Abaye: What is different about the earlier generations, for whom miracles occurred and what is different about us, for whom miracles do not occur? ...

Abaye **said to Rav Pappa: The previous** generations were wholly **dedicated to the sanctification of God's name**, while **we are not as dedicated to the sanctification of God's name.**

ברכות כ' א:ד'-ה'

אמר ליה רב פפא לאביי: מאי שנא ראשונים דאתרחיש להו ניסא, ומאי שנא אנן דלא מתרחיש לן ניסא?

אמר ליה: קמאי הו קא מסרי נפשיהו אקדושת השם, אנן לא מסרינן נפשין אקדושת השם.

Hidden Miracles are Happening All the Time - Are we listening?

- Divine Providence is how God speaks to us.
- The volume is commensurate with the situation to give feedback but not take away free will.
- Providence operates at the INDIVIDUAL and NATIONAL levels at the same time.

Lessons of the Miracles of the Gulf War

Prime Minister Shamir's message 4.5 million

Story of the Bicycle and the Cliff



L-R: Rabbi Uri Zohar, Shmuel Veffar, Rabbi Tom Meyer, PM Photographer, PM Assistant, Prime Minister Shamir

Discussing a plan on how the State of Israel can lead the fight against Jewish assimilation in the Diaspora - which would require a Miracle.

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