

C. Development of the Doctrine

1. Excluded categories of God's activity

Most of the writers on this subject exclude certain categories from their formal definition and treatment of miracle. In the definition proposed in these class notes, the following categories of God's activity are excluded:

- a. Original creation
- b. Ordinary and extraordinary providence, as defined earlier in these Notes
- c. Certain specific modes of special revelation, Including:
 - (1) altered states of consciousness (visions, trances, dreams)
 - (2) audible speech from God
 - (3) prophetic declaration through human Instruments
- d. Inspiration of Scripture
- e. Regeneration
- f. Exorcisms of demons

2. A proposed definition of miracle

- a. Negatively, miracles are not:
 - (1) examples of magic
 - (2) illusory perceptions
 - (3) fideisms produced by strong psychological frames of desire
 - (4) merely highly improbable events
 - (5) merely phenomena that we do not fully understand or cannot completely explain
 - (6) merely marvelous, awe inspiring events
- b. Positively, miracles are:
 - (1) events in the material world that are visible displays of extraordinary divine power, exerted either immediately or mediately
 - (2) signs or pointers that clearly indicate the place of God's extraordinary activity in the world
 - (3) authentications of God's messengers and attestations of their messages as divinely originated