

Messengers 5 – do prophets perform miracles?

QUESTION: Do Prophets perform miracles? ¹

ANSWER: Perhaps the first point to discuss is what exactly is a miracle, for this term is used commonly in the media and in everyday conversation.

A miracle, according to Islam, is something which is extraordinary, something which occurs outside the realm of what is normal.

Islam teaches that Allah causes miracles to occur at the hands of a person whom He chooses to be a prophet, to prove the truthfulness of that person and the correctness of the message which that person is trying to convey.

The Arabic word for miracle – ‘mu’jizah’ – has the same root as ‘a’jaza’, which means ‘to render something incapable’ or ‘to incapacitate’. The reason for this is that when a prophet performed a miracle, he rendered his opponents and enemies helpless and unable to respond to his challenge.

So Islam teaches that the Prophets performed miracles. These include:

Musa (Moses) throwing his stick and it turning into a snake.
 ‘Eesaa (Jesus) healing the blind and the lepers, and bringing the dead back to life.
 Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) bringing the Qur’an, an inimitable book which confounded his enemies – as well as his travelling to Jerusalem and then to the heavens and back all in one night, etc.

And there are many more examples that may be brought here.

But it is important to note that these miraculous occurrences happen because Allah allows them to happen. They do not mean – as unfortunately some people seem to think – that the person performing a miracle is Allah or shares some aspect of divinity with Allah.

Rather the ability to perform a miracle is a blessing given by Allah to a person for a specific purpose.

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NEXT TIME: Is the performance of miracles the only proof that someone is a prophet?

¹ Refer to *al irshaad ilaa saheeh il i’tiqaad* of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan p181