



# MIRACLES OF NATURE

“Oh so you are the Christ, the great Jesus Christ.  
Prove to me that you’re no fool, walk across my swimming pool!”

*Herod’s song from Jesus Christ Superstar*

1. Miracles are a feature of the events of the Old Testament as well as New Testament.  
eg The plagues of Egypt Exodus 6-11, the crossing of the Red Sea Exodus 14.  
Elijah and Elisha were famous for their control over nature 2 Kings 2-4.

2. According to the four gospel writers Jesus also exercised some control over nature.  
St Mark records more of these events than any other gospel.

Mark 4:35-41	Jesus calms the storm on the Sea of Galilee.
Mark 6:30-44	Jesus feeds 5000 people near the lakeside.
Mark 6:45-52	Walking on the water.
Mark 8:1-10	Jesus feeds 4000 people.
Mark 11:12-14 & 20-25	Cursing of the fig tree near Jerusalem.

3. The feeding of the five thousand is the only story apart from the crucifixion of Jesus and events surrounding Jesus’ death, that is recorded in all four gospels.

4. At the time of Jesus there were many Jewish wonder-workers and magicians. Stories grew up around them that were similar to these events, but the details were far more fantastic and unbelievable. The gospel stories would have looked quite unimpressive at the time they were written.

5. The two stories of feeding may have some connection with the way in which Christians later celebrated the Eucharist. ie the sharing of bread.

6. Two more stories talk about Jesus’ control over the sea. In the Old Testament it was God who controlled the sea. Joshua 3 and Psalm 107:23-32. The Jews were not great sailors and were suspicious of the sea.