

Miracles and Science

1 Kings 13-2 Kings 4

When people learn about the miracles in the Word, they have different responses. Some people accept what happened because they are confident that the Lord can do anything. Other people question the miracles, but accept them because they have faith in the Lord. Still others may have confidence in the Lord, but want a scientific explanation so that they can fully understand them. And some people look at the miracles as just one more reason to reject the Lord and His Word.

The Writings for the New Church tell us that it is all right to question ideas from the Word if we question them from a positive perspective. This positive approach accepts the existence of the Lord, but wants to understand what He does and what He says. This leads us to believe that although miracles cannot be scientifically explained, they did happen and are amazing examples of the Lord's power or omnipotence.

Read the list of miracles below. Describe why each miracle illustrates the Lord's power over natural things.

| Miracles | The Lord's Omnipotence |
|--|-------------------------------|
| The altar built by Jeroboam in Bethel splits apart (1 Kings 13:5) | |
| An angel fed Elijah in the wilderness (1 Kings 19:5) | |
| The widow's jar is continuously filled with oil and her bin with flour (1 Kings 17:16) | |
| Fire from heaven that consumes Elijah's burnt offering (1 Kings 18:38) | |
| The Jordan River is parted first by Elijah and then Elisha (2 Kings 2:8, 14) | |
| Elijah is taken up into heaven (2 Kings 2) | |
| The Shunammite's son is raised from the dead (2 Kings 4:34) | |
| 100 men are fed by twelve loaves of bread (2 Kings 4:42-44) | |