



Disney

MIRACLE



THE BOOK OF

ACTS

THE STORY CONTINUES

Acts 3:1-10

¹ One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer – at three in the afternoon. ² Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!”

Acts 3:1-10

⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. ⁶ Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.”

⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk.

Acts 3:1-10

Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

IT'S A
MIRACLE!

The Enlightenment



The Age of Reason





A miracle is a violation of the laws of nature (or a transgression of natural law).

David Hume
(1711-1776)





Disney

MIRACLE



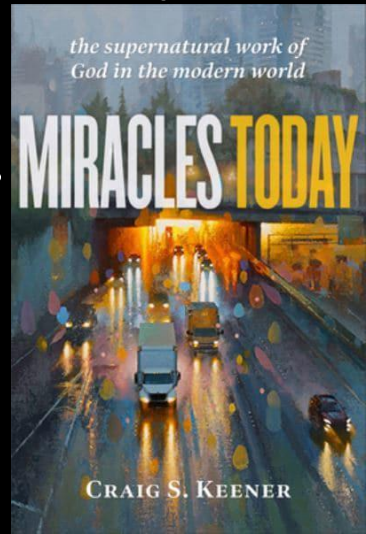


Disney

UNLIKELY SPORTING
EVENT OUTCOME
DURING COLD WAR
TENSIONS

Probably the most common definition of a miracle throughout history, from Augustine to Aquinas, has been a **divine action that transcends the ordinary course of nature and so generates awe.** By “transcending the ordinary course of nature,” these thinkers don’t just mean an unusually awesome sunset. They mean something you would never expect to happen on its own.

Craig S. Keener. *Miracles Today: The Supernatural Work of God in the Modern World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2021.





Acts 3:1-10

³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” ⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. ⁶ Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk.

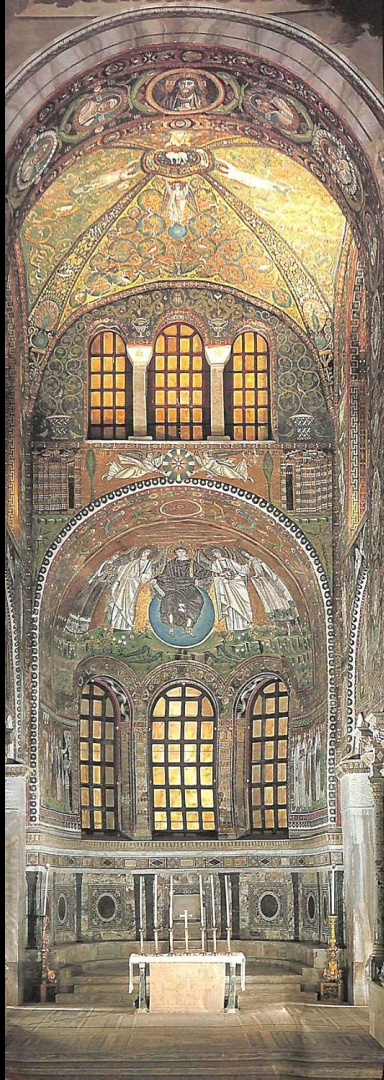
Acts 3:11-26

¹¹ While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. ¹² When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go.

A meme featuring a close-up of Steve Carell as Michael Scott from the TV show 'The Office'. He has a confused and questioning expression, looking slightly to the right. The background consists of white horizontal blinds. The text is overlaid in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a black outline.

BUT WHAT DOES IT

MEAN???



ANCIENT
CHRISTIAN
COMMENTARY
ON SCRIPTURE

NEW TESTAMENT

II

MARK

EDITED BY
THOMAS C. ODEN
& CHRISTOPHER
A. HALL

GENERAL EDITOR
THOMAS C. ODEN

The phrase Tom Oden taught me is "The Holy Spirit has a history." The church does not thrive in the first century, fail in the second, then revive in the sixteenth. The Spirit never deserts the church as it reads the Bible. Tom and I sometimes think of church history as a triangle sitting on an edge, where you have the apostolic period, then the time of the early fathers — then building on that, the medieval, Reformation, Enlightenment, and finally the modern. The weight we want to give to each period decreases as we move up the triangle.

Christopher A. Hall "The Habits of Highly Effective Bible Readers." *Christian History*, October 1, 2003.
<<https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/issues/issue-80/habits-of-highly-effective-bible-readers.html>>

Modern



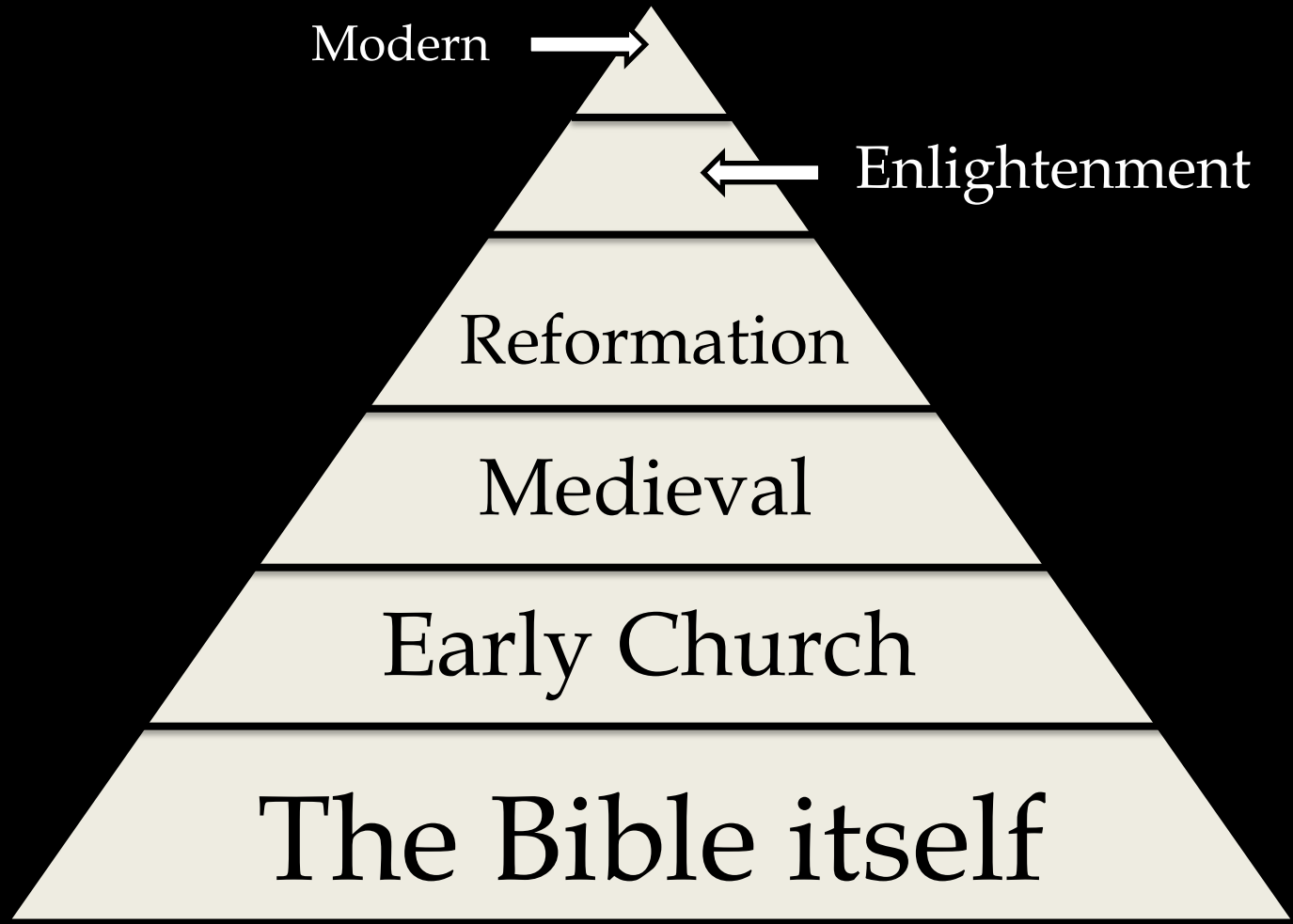
Enlightenment

Reformation

Medieval

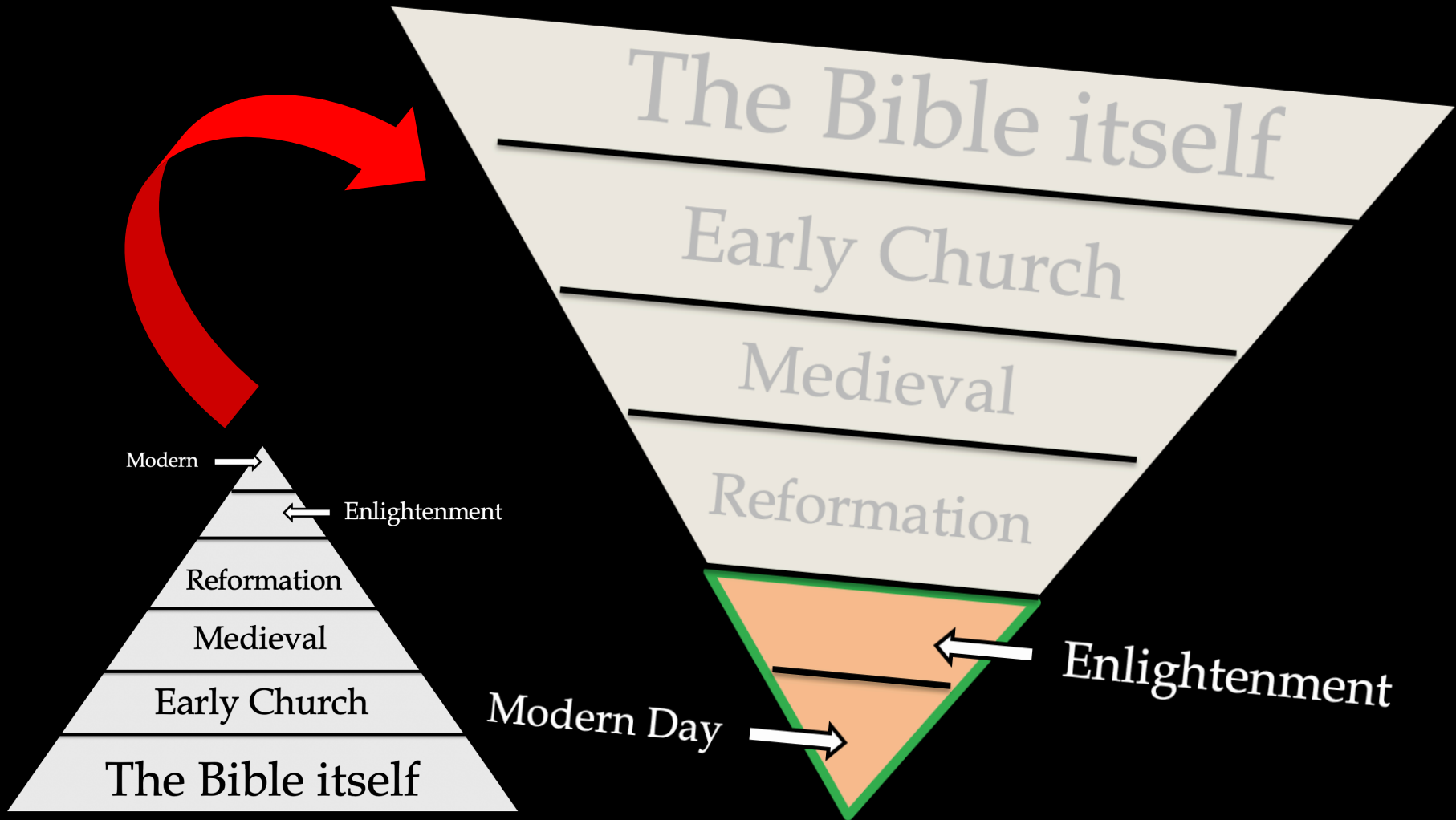
Early Church

The Bible itself



Part of Tom Oden's project is to push people into the early patristic period; it's the most formative time for exegesis (biblical interpretation), theology, and many other facets of the church. Today it is as if the triangle has been inverted. The tendency has been to spend all one's time on modern sources and commentators.

Christopher A. Hall "The Habits of Highly Effective Bible Readers." *Christian History*, October 1, 2003.
<<https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/issues/issue-80/habits-of-highly-effective-bible-readers.html>>



The Bible itself

Early Church

Medieval

Reformation

Enlightenment

Modern Day

The Bible itself

Early Church

Medieval

Reformation

Enlightenment

Modern



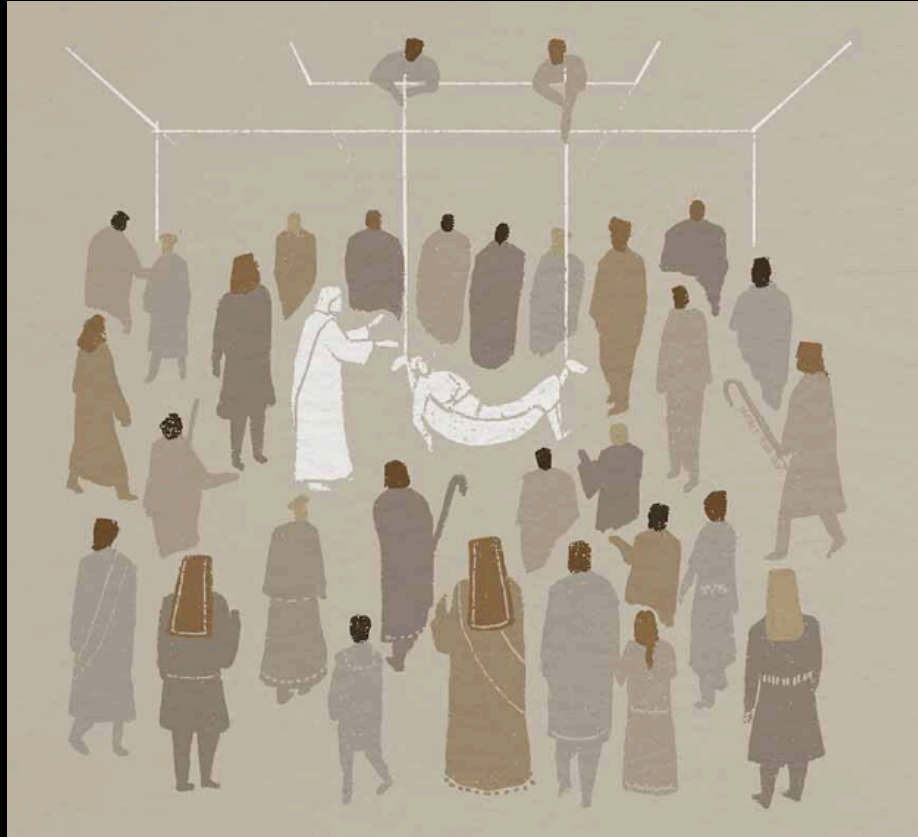
Acts 3:11-26

¹¹ While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. ¹² When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go.

Acts 3:11-26

¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see. ¹⁷ "Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸ But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer.

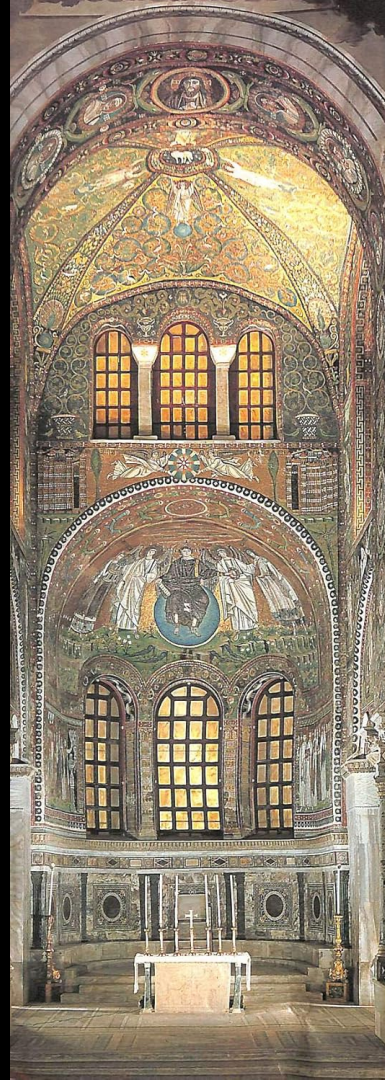
Mark 2 & Luke 5





AUGUSTINE: You have been a paralytic inwardly. You did not take charge of your bed. Your bed took charge of you."

Thomas C. Oden and Christopher A. Hall, eds., *Mark* (Revised), *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998), 27.



ANCIENT
CHRISTIAN
COMMENTARY
ON SCRIPTURE

NEW TESTAMENT

II

MARK

EDITED BY
THOMAS C. ODEN
& CHRISTOPHER
A. HALL

GENERAL EDITOR
THOMAS C. ODEN





John 14:12

¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Acts 3:1-10

³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” ⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. ⁶ Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.”

⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk



LOOK UNTO ME,
AND BE YE SAVED,
ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.

“My dear friends, this is a very simple text indeed. It says, ‘Look.’ Now lookin’ don’t take a deal of pains. It ain’t liftin’ your foot or your finger; it is just, ‘Look.’ Well, a man needn’t go to college to learn to look. You may be the biggest fool, and yet you can look. A man needn’t be worth a thousand a year to be able to look.

Anyone can look; even a child can look. But then the text says, 'Look unto Me.' Ay! many on you are looking to yourselves, but it's no use looking there. You'll never find any comfort in yourselves. Some look to God the Father. No, look to Him by-and-by. Jesus Christ says, 'Look unto Me.' Some of you say, 'We must wait for the Spirit's working.' You have no business with that just now. Look to Christ. The text says, 'Look unto Me.' "



“Young man look to Jesus Christ. Look! Look! Look!
You have nothing to do but to look and live.”





Norman Rockwell (1894–1978),
Lift Up Thine Eyes, 1957, oil on
board, 28 x 22 inches. Brigham
Young University Museum of Art

Gospel Application

Do you recognize your spiritual state?

Gospel Application

Do you recognize your spiritual state?

Where is Jesus inviting you to “LOOK”
and be made new?