

Anthony Walsh

Miracles and the Concept of Impossibility

The Resurrection and the Shroud of Turin

SERIES IN PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

About the author

Anthony Walsh recently retired after being in academia for 35 years, during which time he has published 44 previous books and over 150 articles/book chapters. These have ranged from multiple sclerosis to psychopathy, hypertension to hermaphrodites, religious freedom to prisons, ideology in criminology, physics, and biology, and the neurobiology and genetics of criminal behavior to the chemistry of love.

Dr. Walsh sets up a convincing argument (with strong evidence) about the miracles of God. On their face, these miracles (resurrection, creation, life, etc.) seem to have an absence of scientific proof, but Dr. Walsh shows the connection points of scientific evidence to the miracles Christians understand. Atheists tend to use science to dismantle the truth of God, but Dr. Walsh uses science as a way to build up the truth of God. [...] The science and layout of the book are solid [...] The readability is inspiring without being too convoluted. I think it has broad appeal. Readers who are atheists or agnostics (and heavy into science) might not approach a book like this, but if they have open minds, I would think they would be interested (much like a Christian with an open mind should read scientific books that argue against these same miracles).

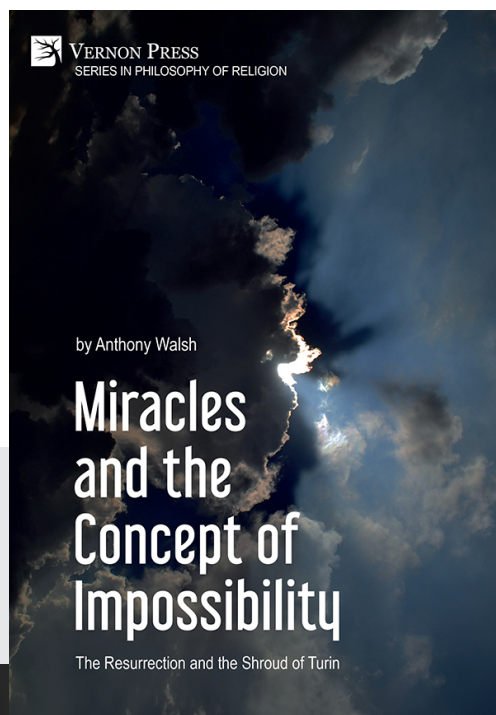
Dr. Jeremy Ball

Director of Business Development & Operations in Gen-D

Summary

'Miracles and the Concept of Impossibility' takes a fresh look at the miracle of the resurrection of Jesus. A miracle is inexplicable by the methods of science and thus deemed impossible. I examine the concept of impossibility with primary reference to David Hume's notion that there is a boundary of probability beyond which the improbable becomes the impossible, calculated at 10^{150} . Physicists have declared that the universe is inevitable and, at the same time, impossible. Its inevitability is obvious, but the mind-boggling improbability that a biocentric universe exists vastly exceeds the probability boundary. If a miracle is defined as an impossibility, the universe is a miracle. The origin of life is just as miraculously impossible because the probability of dead organic molecules evolving into the organic molecules of life is even less than it is for the existence of the universe.

This book also looks at what the Resurrection means in terms of the atonement and the concepts of hell and universal salvation. This is followed by an examination of the evidence for the Resurrection and historical and archaeological reasons for trusting the New Testament. Secular explanations of the Resurrection are examined and pitted against the Christian account in terms of their explanatory scope and power. The last two chapters look at the "silent witness" to the resurrection, the Shroud of Turin bearing the image of a terribly tortured and crucified man. For 125 years, scientists have been unable to discover how the image was imprinted on the cloth; thus, I conclude that it is the "silent witness" to the Resurrection—the authentic Shroud of Jesus Christ.



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