**Deism**

Deism differs from most non-provident beliefs in that God is acknowledged to exist. Deism lies somewhere between atheism and the biblical view of Divine Providence. It became popular during the European age of enlightenment and was seen as the religion of reason. Deism admits a supreme being because reason demands that the universe is the product of an intelligent creator. However, the creator never intervenes in human affairs or suspends the natural laws of the universe. Deism rejects all reports of miracles, prophecies and religious mysteries. Although Deism has many positive elements, it must be rejected as a true religion because it denies that God is involved in the lives of His people.

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hallucination; 5) have a worthy motive; 6) have credible witnesses (even hostile observers); 7) produce instantaneous effects; and 8) occur independent of secondary causes. All of these conditions were involved when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (Jn. 11:1-44) and walked on the water (Matt. 14:22-33).

Biblically speaking, miracles no longer occur. 1) Miracles ceased with complete revelation (1 Cor. 13:8-9). 2) The method of transfer of miraculous power ceased (the laying on of apostles’ hands). 3) The purpose of NT miracles ceased (to confirm the Word). 4) The classification of miracles shows they have ceased.

* Raising the dead. (Who does this now?)
* Casting out demons. (Do they now exist?)
* Power over nature. (Who walks on water?)

The ultimate miracle (and culmination of God’s providence) will be our redemption, transformation, and eternal citizenship in heaven. David knew that he would “…dwell in the house of the Lord forever” (Ps. 23:6). Paul gives us the assurance that “…the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1 Cor. 15:52). These words of Jesus comfort all believers: “I go to prepare a place for you…” (Jn. 14:2).

**Predestination**

The Bible speaks of predestination and foreordination. These terms mean that God knows the results of all events before they occur. Events happen according to God’s *foreknowledge*. Let us make an important distinction. Things do not happen because God *knows* them; rather, God *knows* them because they happen. Here are two Bible examples: 1) “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8:28). 2) “…according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Eph. 3:11).

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