



The Tri-Cities Edifier

Volume 12

March 22, 2026

No. 12

Enough to Believe

Joel Shouse

The New Testament records about 37 specific miracles of Jesus:

- He fed thousands with only a few loaves and fish. Matthew 14:17
- He healed the blind, the lame, the deaf, and the sick.

He calmed storms, walked on water, and even raised the dead.

Crowds numbering in the tens of thousands saw these works. No one doubted whether something extraordinary had happened—they simply argued about who He was. And after His resurrection, Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:5-6 that Jesus appeared to Peter, to the twelve, and to more than 500 believers at once—eyewitnesses who could testify that the tomb was empty and that He was alive. That evidence was enough for men and women in the first century to believe. And though kingdoms have risen and fallen, though science, technology, and culture have advanced for two thousand years—the same testimony has been enough for every generation since.

A Walk Through the Centuries

100s

- The Roman Empire rules much of the world.
- Gladiators fight in the Colosseum.
- Roads and aqueducts connect cities.
- Trade thrives across the Mediterranean.
- And some believed in Jesus.

200s

- The Great Wall of China is expanded.
- Paper spreads through Asia.
- Rome battles invasions and plagues.
- New centers of learning emerge.
- And some believed in Jesus.

300s

- Constantine unites the empire.
- Christianity is legalized.
- Constantinople becomes the new capital.
- The Roman Empire begins to divide.
- And some believed in Jesus.

400s

Rome falls to barbarian invasions.
Attila the Hun terrorizes Europe.
Great migrations reshape nations.
Knowledge is preserved in monasteries.
And some believed in Jesus.

500s

- The Byzantine Empire thrives.
- Justinian codifies Roman law.
- Mayan cities rise in the Americas.
- Buddhism spreads further east.
- And some believed in Jesus.

600s

Islam begins and expands rapidly.
The Tang dynasty rules China.
The first windmills are used.
The Qur'an is compiled.
And some believed in Jesus.

700s

- Viking raids spread fear in Europe.
- Charlemagne rises in the West.
- Advances in math and astronomy appear.
- Baghdad becomes a center of learning.
- And some believed in Jesus.

800s

The Holy Roman Empire is founded.
Norse explorers sail to distant lands.
Baghdad leads in medicine and science.
Europe grows in feudal power.
And some believed in Jesus.

900s

- Gunpowder is developed in China.

1000s

The Great Schism divides East and West.

- Vikings reach North America.
- The Islamic Golden Age flourishes.
- Castles dominate Europe.
- And some believed in Jesus.

The Crusades begin.
Knights and castles dominate culture.
Expanding trade reshapes economies.
And some believed in Jesus.

1100s

- Gothic cathedrals tower over Europe.
- The Magna Carta is signed.
- Universities spread knowledge.
- Crossbows change warfare.
- And some believed in Jesus.

1200s

The Mongol Empire stretches across Asia.
Marco Polo travels east.
Cities grow larger and stronger.
Gunpowder weapons spread further.
And some believed in Jesus.

1300s

- The Black Death devastates Europe.
- The Hundred Years' War begins.
- The Ottoman Empire rises.
- The Renaissance sparks in Italy.
- And some believed in Jesus.

1400s

Gutenberg invents the printing press.
Columbus sails to the New World.
Constantinople falls to the Turks.
The Renaissance spreads across Europe.
And some believed in Jesus.

1500s

- Luther sparks the Reformation.
- Copernicus maps the solar system.
- Explorers cross oceans.
- Empires rise in the Americas.
- And some believed in Jesus.

1600s

Shakespeare writes his plays.
Pilgrims sail to America.
Galileo uses the telescope.
Newton explains gravity.
And some believed in Jesus.

1700s

- The American Revolution begins.
- The French Revolution follows.
- Steam engines drive industry.
- Enlightenment thinking spreads.
- And some believed in Jesus.

1800s

Railroads and telegraphs connect the world.
Slavery is abolished in many nations.
Darwin writes on evolution.
Electricity changes daily life.
And some believed in Jesus.

1900s

- Two world wars devastate nations.
- The Great Depression cripples economies.
- Man lands on the moon.
- The internet is invented.
- And some believed in Jesus.

2000s (today)

Technology connects the globe instantly
Space exploration pushes boundaries.
Nations rise and fall.
Cultures shift rapidly.
And some believed in Jesus.

Closing Thought

From the thousands who witnessed Jesus' miracles to the 500 who saw Him risen... through every empire, invention, war, and revolution... the same testimony has stood the test of time. It was enough for them to believe. It is still enough for us to believe. "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." 1 Timothy 1:12