The miracle stories of the founders and saints of the major world religions have much in common. Written by international experts, this Companion provides an authoritative and comparative study of miracles in not only Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Christianity and Judaism, but also indigenous or traditional religions. The authors promote a discussion of the problems of miracles in our largely secular culture, and of the value of miracles in religious belief. The miracles of Jesus are also contextualized through chapters on the Hebrew Bible, Classical culture to the Romans, Second Temple and early rabbinic Judaism, and early Christianity. This book provides students with a scholarly introduction to miracle, which also covers philosophical, medical and historical issues.

Cambridge Companions to Religion

A series of companions to major topics and key figures in theology and religious studies. Each volume contains specially commissioned chapters by international scholars which provide an accessible and stimulating introduction to the subject for new readers and non-specialists.

Other titles in the series

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE
edited by Colin Gunton (1997)
ISBN 0 521 47118 4 hardback ISBN 0 521 47695 X paperback

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION
edited by John Barton (1998)
ISBN 0 521 48144 9 hardback ISBN 0 521 48593 2 paperback

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO DIETRICH BONHOEFFER
edited by John de Gruchy (1999)
ISBN 0 521 58258 X hardback ISBN 0 521 58781 6 paperback

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO KARL BARTH
edited by John Webster (2000)
ISBN 0 521 58476 0 hardback ISBN 0 521 58560 0 paperback

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO CHRISTIAN ETHICS
edited by Robin Gill (2001)
ISBN 0 521 77070 X hardback ISBN 0 521 77918 9 paperback

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO JESUS
edited by Markus Bockmuehl (2001)
ISBN 0 521 79261 4 hardback ISBN 0 521 79678 4 paperback

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO FEMINIST THEOLOGY
edited by Susan Frank Parsons (2002)
ISBN 0 521 66327 X hardback ISBN 0 521 66380 6 paperback

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO MARTIN LUTHER
ISBN 0 521 81648 3 hardback ISBN 0 521 01673 8 paperback

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO ST PAUL
ISBN 0 521 78155 8 hardback ISBN 0 521 78694 0 paperback

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO POSTMODERN THEOLOGY
ISBN 0 521 79062 X hardback ISBN 0 521 79395 5 paperback

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO JOHN CALVIN
ISBN 0 521 81647 5 hardback ISBN 0 521 01672 X paperback

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO HANS URS VON BALTHASAR
edited by Edward T. Oakes, SJ and David Moss (2004)
ISBN 0 521 81467 7 hardback ISBN 0 521 89147 7 paperback

Continued at the back of the book
THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO

MIRACLES

Edited by Graham H. Twelftree
To Bob Sivigny

and all the other librarians who support our work
Contents

Notes on contributors  page xi
Acknowledgements  xiv

Introduction:
Miracle in an age of diversity  1
GRAHAM H. TWELFTREE

Part I  Fundamental issues  17
1 What is a miracle?  19
DAVID BASINGER
2 The meanings of miracle  36
ROBERT A. LARMER

Part II  Miracles in antiquity and the Middle Ages  55
3 Miracles in the Hebrew Bible  57
R. WALTER L. MOBERLY
4 Miracles in the Greek and Roman world  75
ROBERT GARLAND
5 Miracles in Second Temple and early rabbinc Judaism  95
LIDIIA NOVAKOVIĆ
6 The miracles of Jesus  113
BARRY L. BLACKBURN
7 Miracles in early Christianity  131
JAMES CARLETON PAGET
8 Miracles in the Middle Ages  149
BENEDICTA WARD

Part III  Miracles and major religions  165
9 Miracles in traditional religions  167
FIONA BOWIE
Contents

10 Miracles in Hinduism 184
    GAVIN FLOOD

11 Miracles in Islam 199
    DAVID THOMAS

12 Tales of miraculous teachings: miracles in early Indian Buddhism 216
    RUPERT GETHIN

13 Miracles in Christianity 235
    RALPH DEL COLLE

14 Miracles in Jewish philosophy 254
    KENNETH SEESKIN

Part IV Miracle today 271

15 Issues in the history of the debates on miracles 273
    COLIN BROWN

16 Philosophers on miracles 291
    MICHAEL P. LEVINE

17 Patient belief in miraculous healing: positive or negative coping resource? 309
    NIELS CHRISTIAN HVIDT

Index 330
Notes on contributors

David Basinger is Professor of Philosophy and Ethics and Chair of the Division of Teacher Education at Roberts Wesleyan College. He has edited Religious Tolerance through Humility (with James Kraft, 2008) and has written Religious Diversity: A Philosophical Assessment (2002), The Case For Freewill Theism (1996) and The Openness of God (with Richard Rice, William Hasker, John Sanders and Clark Pinnock, 1994).

Barry L. Blackburn is Professor of New Testament, Atlanta Christian College. He has written Theios Anēr and the Markan Miracle Traditions: A Critique of the Theios Anēr Concept as an Interpretative Background of the Miracle Traditions Used by Mark (1991).

Fiona Bowie is Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology at the University of Bristol. Her initial fieldwork looked at the relationship between the Bangwa of Cameroon, West Africa, and the Focolare Movement. Current research interests include the Bangwa diaspora, adoptive parenting and child circulation, and comparative notions of the afterlife. She has edited Cross-Cultural Approaches to Adoption (2004) and written The Anthropology of Religion (2nd edn 2006).


Ralph Del Colle is Associate Professor of Theology, Marquette University. His publications include Christ and the Spirit: Spirit-Christology in Trinitarian Perspective (1994) and he is a co-editor of the International Journal of Systematic Theology.

Gavin Flood is Professor of Hindu Studies and Comparative Religion at the University of Oxford where he is also the academic director for the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies. His publications include An Introduction to Hinduism (1996), The Ascetic Self: Subjectivity, Memory and Tradition (2004) and The Tantric Body: The Secret Tradition of Hindu Religion (2006).


Robert A. Larmer is Professor of Philosophy at the University of New Brunswick and author of *Water into Wine? An Investigation of the Concept of Miracle* [1988] and *Questions of Miracle* (1996). He is a past president of the Canadian Society of Christian Philosophers and has served on the executive boards of the Canadian Philosophical Association and the Evangelical Philosophical Society.

Michael P. Levine is Winthrop Professor of Philosophy in the School of Humanities, University of Western Australia. His publications include *Politics Most Unusual: Violence, Sovereignty and Democracy in the ‘War on Terror’* [with Damian Cox and Saul Newman, 2009], *Integrity and the Fragile Self* [with Damian Cox and Marquerite LaCaze, 2003], *Pantheism: A Non-Theistic Concept of Deity* (1994) and *Hume and the Problem of Miracles: A Solution* (1988).


Lidia Novakovic is Associate Professor of Religion [Biblical Studies/New Testament] in the Department of Religion at Baylor University. Her publications include *Messiah, the Healer of the Sick: A Study of Jesus as the Son of David in the Gospel of Matthew* (2003) and she is a co-editor of *The Dead Sea Scrolls: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek Texts with English Translations*, vols. 3 and 6B.

James Carleton Paget is Senior Lecturer in New Testament Studies at Cambridge University and Fellow and Tutor of Peterhouse. His publications include
The Epistle of Barnabas: Outlook and Background (1994) and he is the co-editor of The New Cambridge History of the Bible, vol. 1.


David Thomas is Professor of Christianity and Islam at the University of Birmingham. Among his recent publications are Early Muslim Anti-Christian Polemic: Abu ’Isa al-Warraq’s ‘Against the Incarnation’ (2002), Christian Doctrines in Islamic Theology (2008) and he is the lead editor for Christian–Muslim Relations, A Bibliographical History, vol. 1 (600–900) (2009).

Graham H. Twelftree is Distinguished Professor of New Testament, School of Divinity, Regent University, Virginia Beach. His previous publications include Jesus the Exorcist: A Contribution to the Study of the Historical Jesus (1993), Jesus the Miracle Worker: A Historical and Theological Study (1999), In the Name of Jesus: Exorcism Among Early Christians (2007) and People of the Spirit: Exploring Luke’s View of the Church (2009). He is also a member of the editorial board of the Journal for the Study of the Historical Jesus (Brill).

Acknowledgements

Special thanks is offered to Jacqueline Duckett and Alicia Eichmann, my research assistants, and to the large cadre of anonymous readers who helped in the development of the following chapters. The editors, Kate Brett and Laura Morris at Cambridge University Press, along with their teams, are also to be thanked for their detailed and long-suffering support of this project. I would also like to thank Ann Lewis, the volume’s copy-editor.

Graham H. Twelftree