

10. Miracles



# Neighborly Apologetics

The Royal Law  
Love your neighbor

God has entrusted the primary work  
of the Kingdom to the common  
Christian family

*with a priestly role in our neighborhoods*

Neighborly Apologetic  
Categories:

*1. Evil and Suffering*

*2. Absolute Truth and Relativism*

*3. “Only One Way” and Religious Pluralism*

*4. Faith and Reason*

*5. Free Will and Sovereignty*

*6. God’s Existence and Troubling Nature*

*7. Goodness of Man, Judgment and Hell*

*8. Hypocrisy and Christian Crimes of the Past*

*9. The Claims of Jesus and the Resurrection*

*today*



*10. Miracles*

*11. Science and Evolution*

*12. The Veracity of the Bible and “Contradictions”*

*Plus: Burning Issues of our Day*

*10. Miracles*





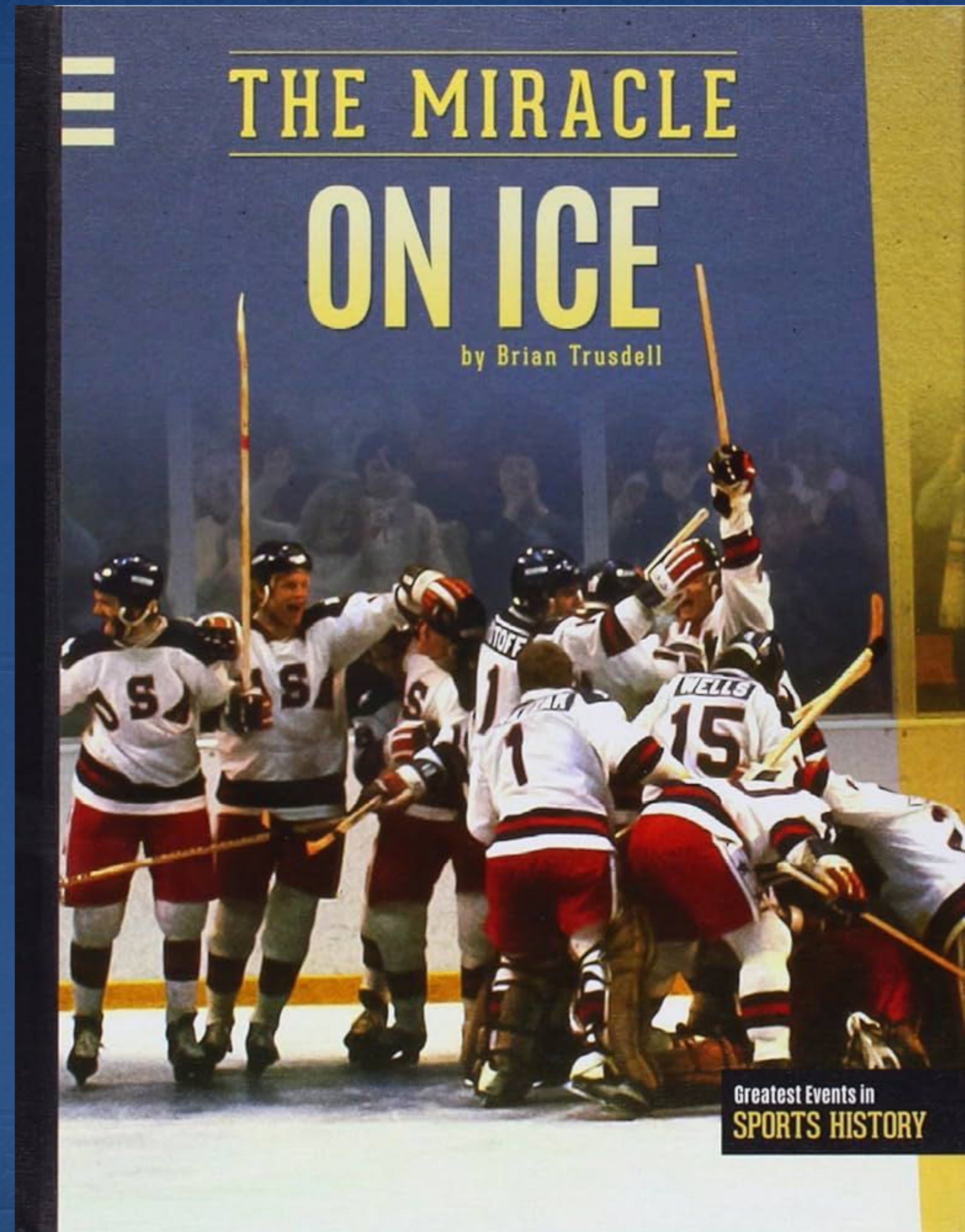




*definition of miracles*

*is it just a “highly improbable event”?*

*“the miracle on ice”*



## *definition of miracles*

*“A miracle is a less common kind of God’s activity in which he arouses people’s awe and wonder and bears witness to himself.”*



*Wayne Grudem*

## *definition of miracles*

*“testimonies to Christ’s divine power”*

*“shining demonstrations of divine power”*

*“Miracles are not isolated events but rather are interwoven with God's ongoing providence and reveal God's glory.”*



*John Calvin*

*a true miracle is an act of God that appears to go counter to natural laws and processes and brings glory to God*



*biblical occurrences of miracles*

*creation*

*flood & tower of Babel*

*plagues on Egypt*

*parting of the sea*

*water out of rock*

*Elisha raises dead boy*

*Naaman healed*

*Daniel in lion's den*

*Jonah, fish, tree, worm*

*virgin birth*

*water to wine*

*storm stilled*

*hemorrhaging woman*

*man born blind*

*4,000 fed*

*Lazarus raised*

*ten lepers cleansed*

*Jesus rises from the dead*



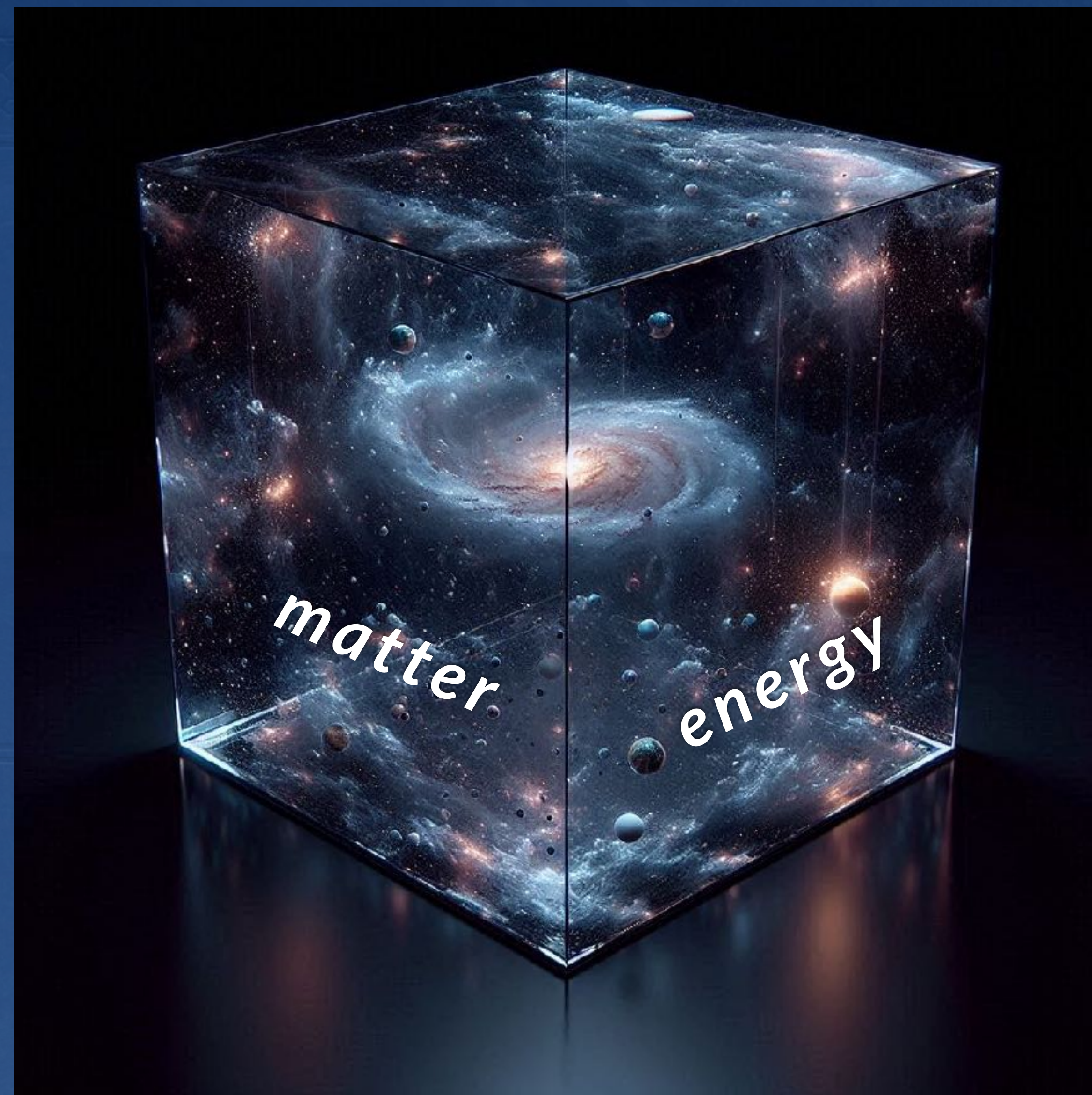


## *miracles and science*

*the current scientific paradigm,  
by definition, eliminates any  
notion of miracles*

*the only thing that exists in the  
cosmic cube is matter and  
energy*

*God or miracles are not allowed  
to be thought of nor observed in  
this paradigm*



*miracles and science*

*spiritual naturalism,  
however, now introduces  
spirit into the box*

*which gives rise to all  
kinds of movies about  
ghosts and vampires and  
dead people running  
around like zombies*



*miracles and science*

*which gives rise to all kinds of movies about ghosts and vampires and dead people running around like zombies*



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## *miracles and science*

*Johannes Keppler: The chief aim of all investigations of the external world should be to discover the rational order and harmony which has been imposed on it by God.*



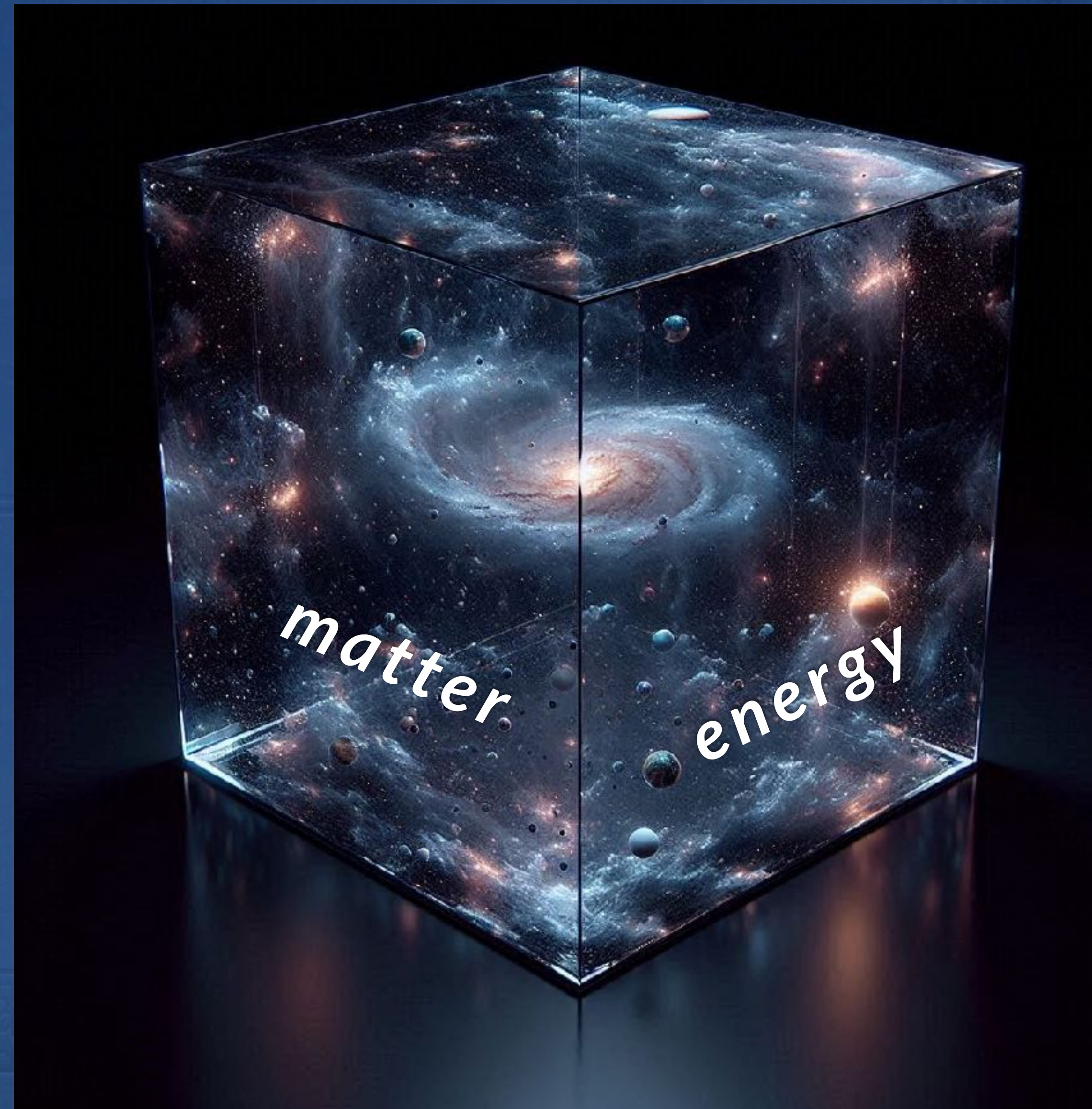


*charges against belief in miracles*

“Every event in nature  
must be a natural  
event”

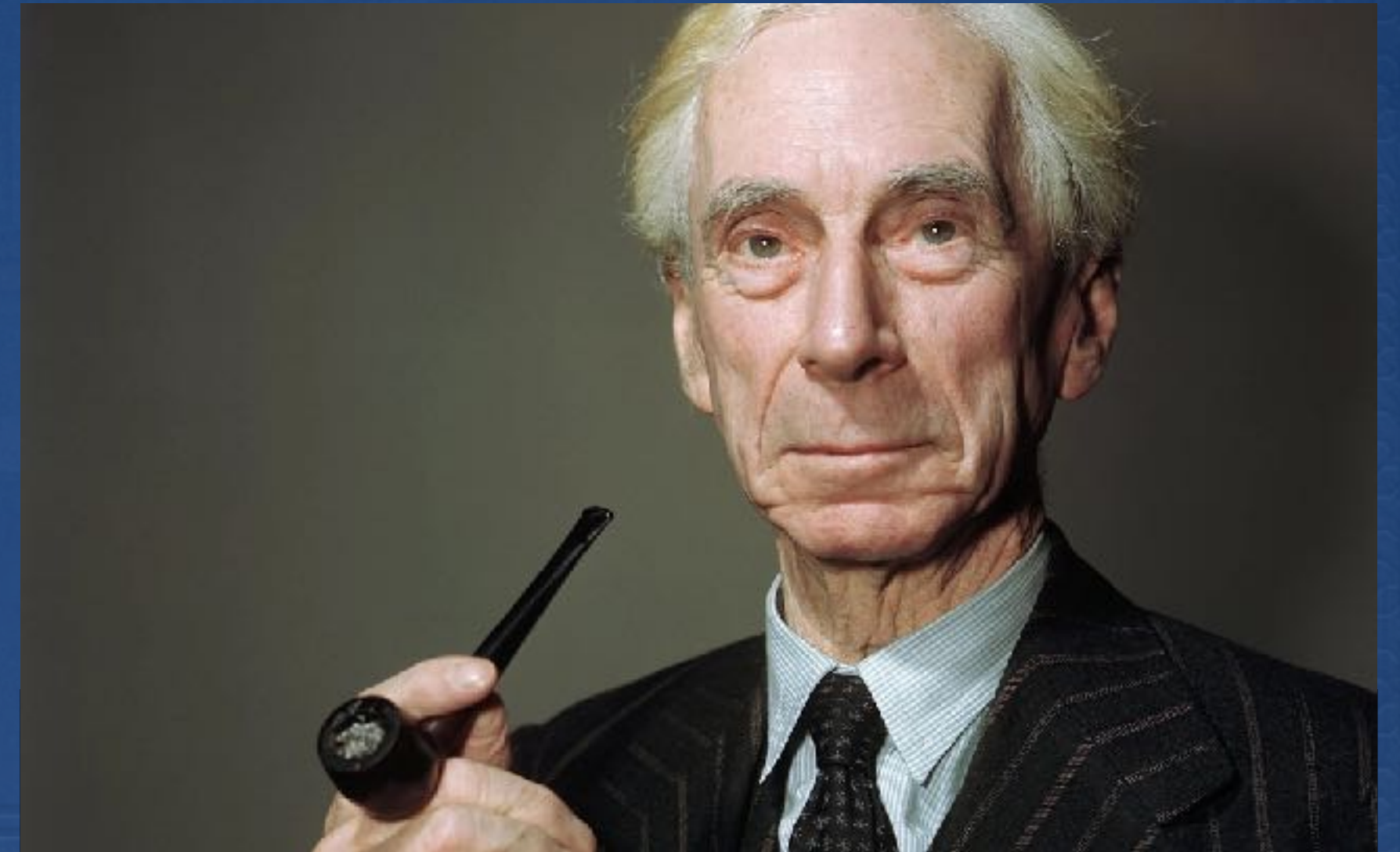
“All miracles have a  
natural explanation”

“I don't see miracles  
today...”



## *charges against belief in miracles*

*“I think that if I heard a voice from the sky predicting all that was going to happen to me during the next twenty-four hours, including events that would have seemed highly improbable, and if all these events then proceed to happen, then I might perhaps be convinced at least of the existence of some superhuman intelligence. I can imagine other evidence of the same sort which might convince me, but as far as I know no such evidence exists. To the contrary, such evidence does not exist.”*



**Bertrand Russell**

1872-1970



*it is hard to believe in miracles*

John 9



*it is hard to believe in miracles*

Acts 12



*it is hard to believe in miracles*

*“some did not believe”*





## *purpose of miracles*

*true miracles are credited to God alone as the source of the power to perform the miracle*

*true miracles authenticate the claims or position of the one through whom the miracle was performed*

*true miracles reveal the nature of God: from omnipotent, holy and just, to gracious, kind and loving*

*for Jesus, His miracles demonstrated His authority, authenticity and identity*

## *purpose of miracles*

**But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins**—He said to the paralyzed man, “I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet, and go home.” And he got up and immediately picked up the pallet and went out in the sight of everyone, so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

Luke 2:10-12

## *purpose of miracles*

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." When he heard this, Jesus said, "**This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.**"

John 11:1-4

## *purpose of miracles*

*...how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, **while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.***

*Hebrews 3:3-4*

## *purpose of miracles*

*"...the object of the miracles is to reveal more fully the power and authority of our Lord's Word and to let us see by signs following that His teaching has an omnipotent force about it."*



*Charles H. Spurgeon*

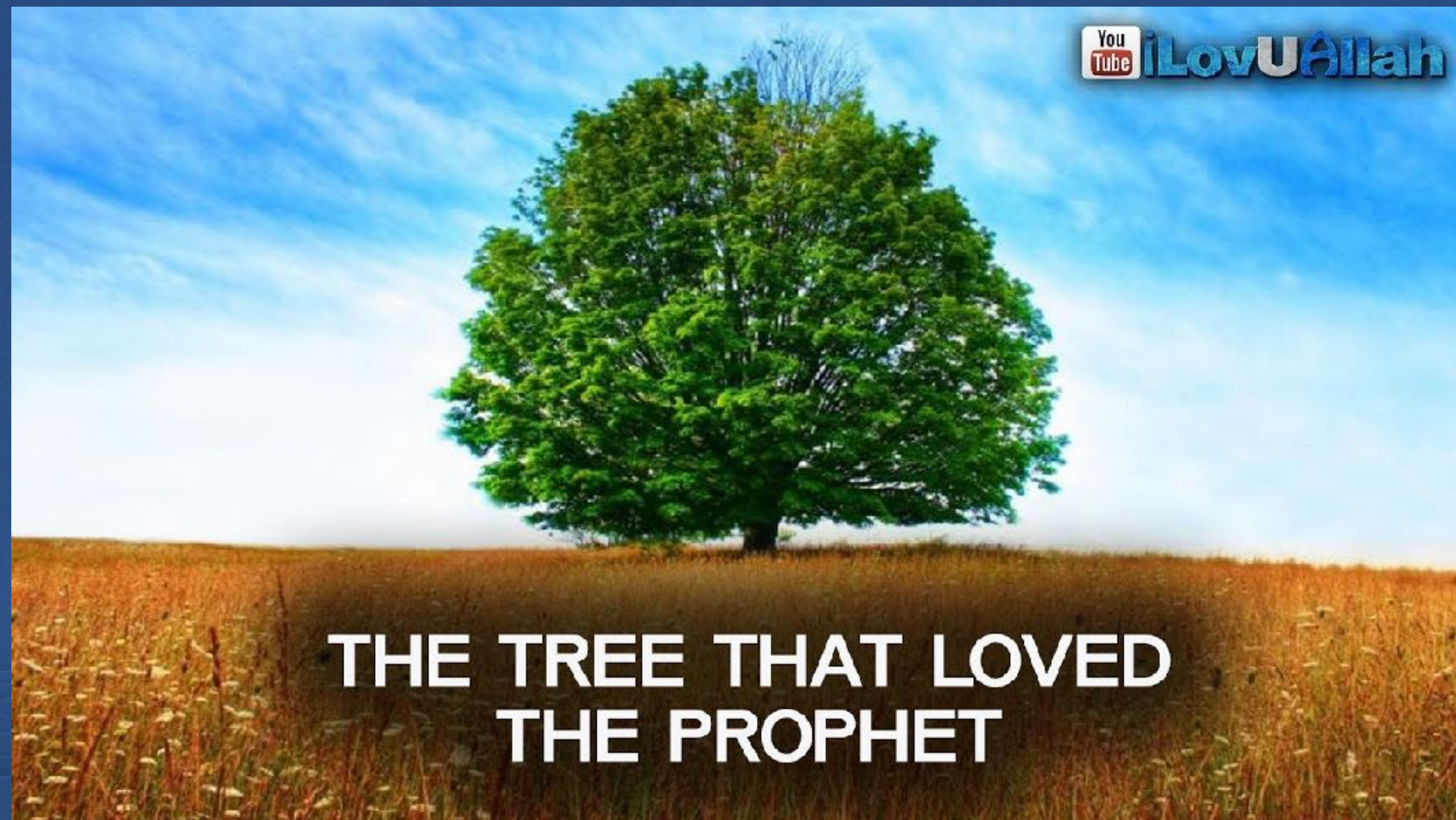


## *miracles in other religions*

“Look, all those miracles in the Bible...they’re no different than all the other religions. Every religion has a bunch of miracles in order to make us believe that their religion is the only right religion. Christianity is no different.”

## *miracles in other religions*

**Islam:** Mohammed used to preach leaning on the trunk of a palm tree. When he used a pulpit instead, the palm tree began to cry in grief. Mohommend rubbed the palm to comfort it and to get it to stop crying.



## *miracles in other religions*

**Hinduism:** milk is offered to a stone statue, which consumes the milk



## *miracles in other religions*

**Buddhism:** Buddha walks and speaks as soon as he is born





## *magic, sorceries, and false miracles*

Satan is a deceiver

He appears as an angel of light

there is a difference between supernatural and supernormal

making a table jump or things move, may be something  
supernormal achieved by unseen spiritual forces

false miracles are often done for profit, for promoting falsehoods,  
for entertainment, for self promotion

*10. Miracles*



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**next**

→ **11. *Science and Evolution***

12. *The Veracity of the Bible and “Contradictions”*
- Plus: Burning Issues of our Day*

*50 Days Contemplating the Resurrection  
from Resurrection Day to Pentecost*

adding 10 days to the original 40



**If Jesus Rose From the Dead...**

Apologetics, Implications and Contemplations  
of the Resurrection of Jesus

for Individuals, Couples, and Small Groups

*2-Year Reading Through the Bible*



**daily email reminder & link**

Chronological and Integrated