



ACTS:

A HISTORY BOOK

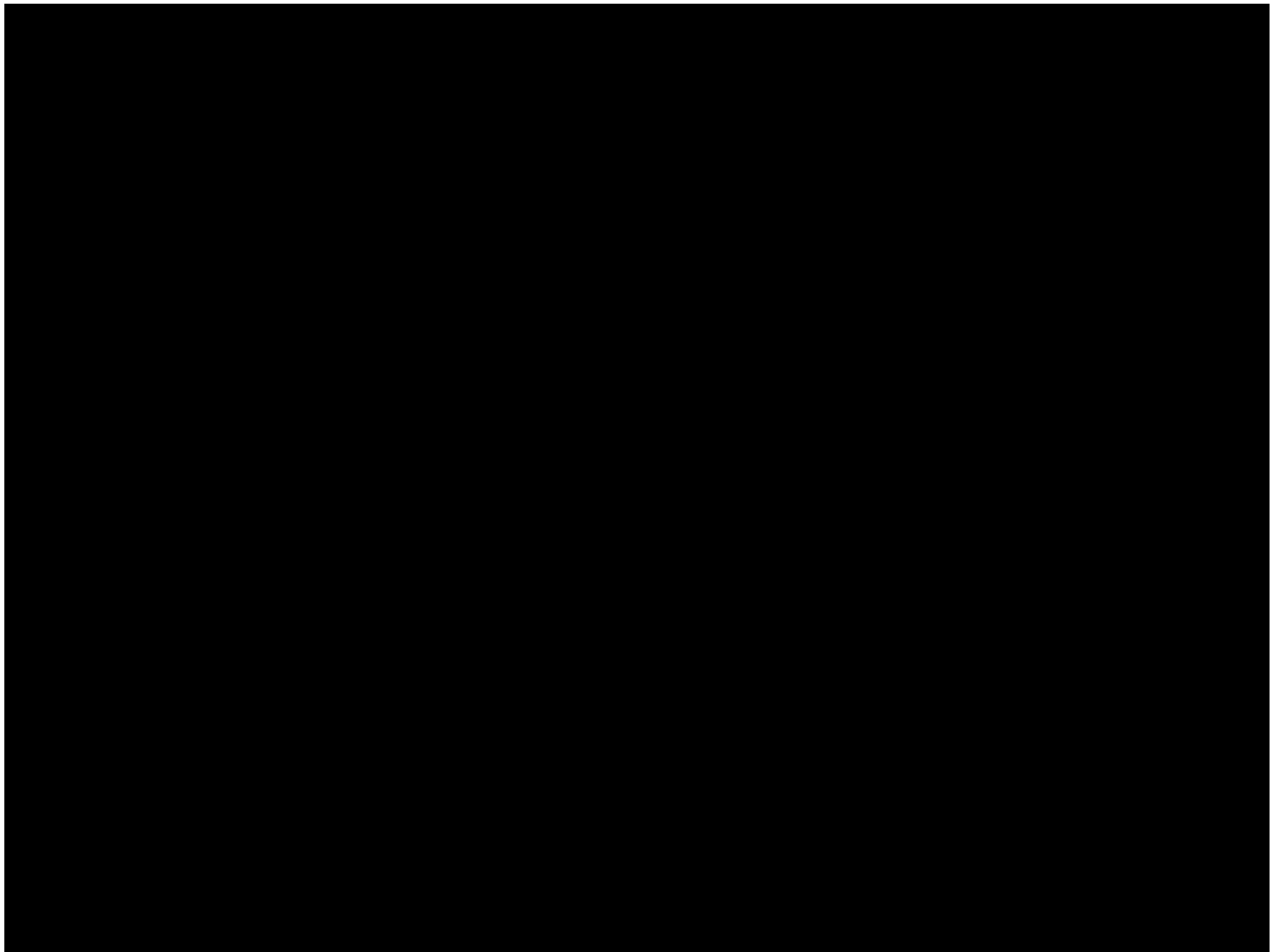
Living **IN YOU.**

VINTAGE IDEAS FOR LIVING TODAY

Agrippa interrupted him. “Do you think you can persuade me to become a Christian so quickly? Paul replied, “Whether quickly or not, I pray to God that both you and everyone here in this audience might become the same as I am, except for these chains.”

Acts 26:28,29





(Religious conversion), was not a matter of argument alone. It involves the whole person. Therefore I was drawn, over and over again, to the disconcerting recognition that so very many of the people I had most admired and loved, either in life or in books, had been believers.

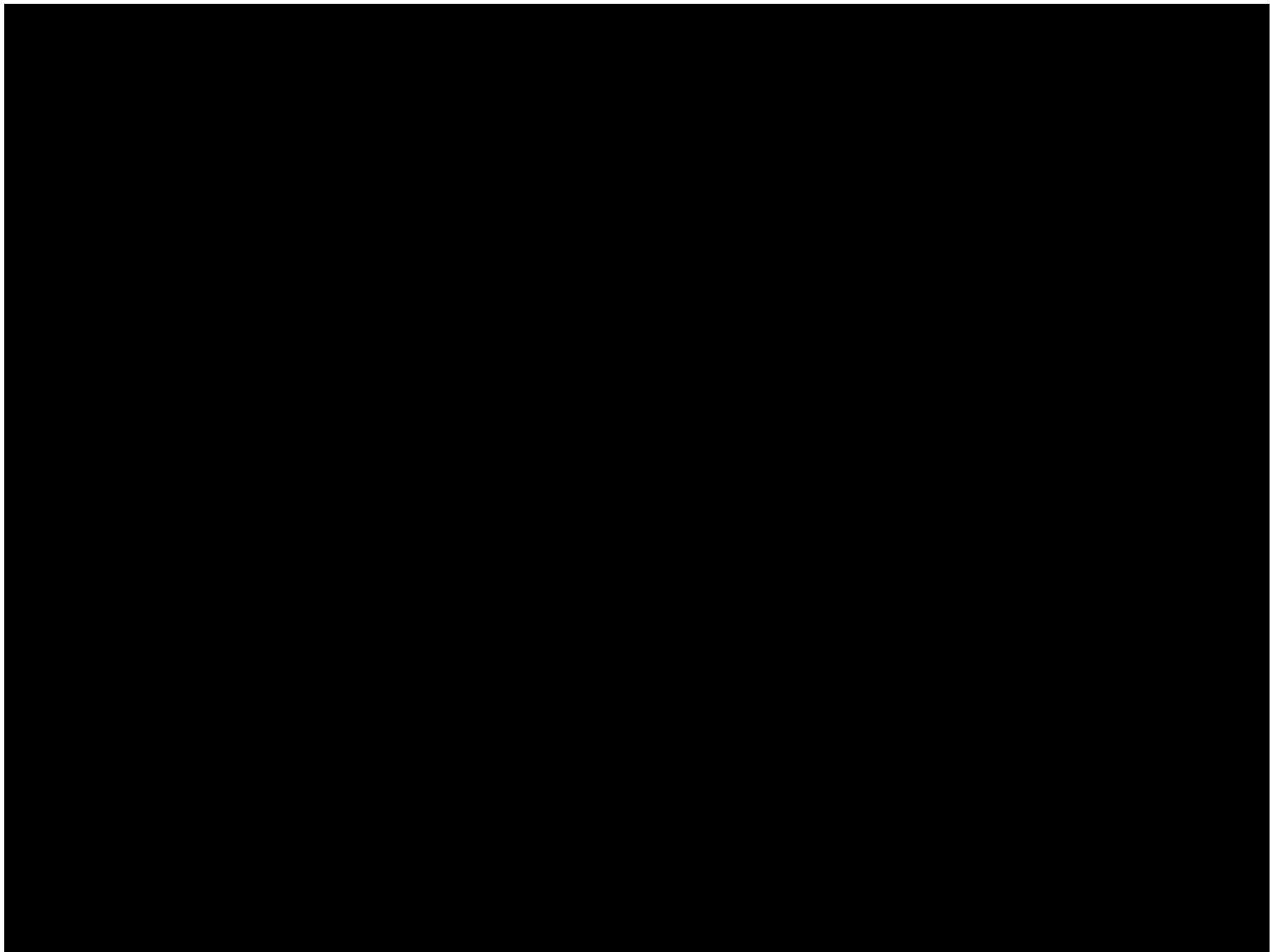


–A.N. Wilson British Writer
“Why I Believe Again”

A materialist Darwinian was having dinner with me a few years ago and we laughingly alluded to how, as years go by, one forgets names. Eager, as committed Darwinians often are, to testify on any occasion, my friend asserted: "It is because when we were simply anthropoid apes, there was no need to distinguish between one another by giving names."



–A.N. Wilson British Writer
“Why I Believe Again”



But one thing that finally put the tin hat on any aspirations to be an unbeliever was writing a book about the Wagner family and Nazi Germany, and realizing how utterly incoherent were Hitler's neo-Darwinian ravings, and how potent was the opposition, much of it from Christians; paid for, not with clear intellectual victory, but in blood.

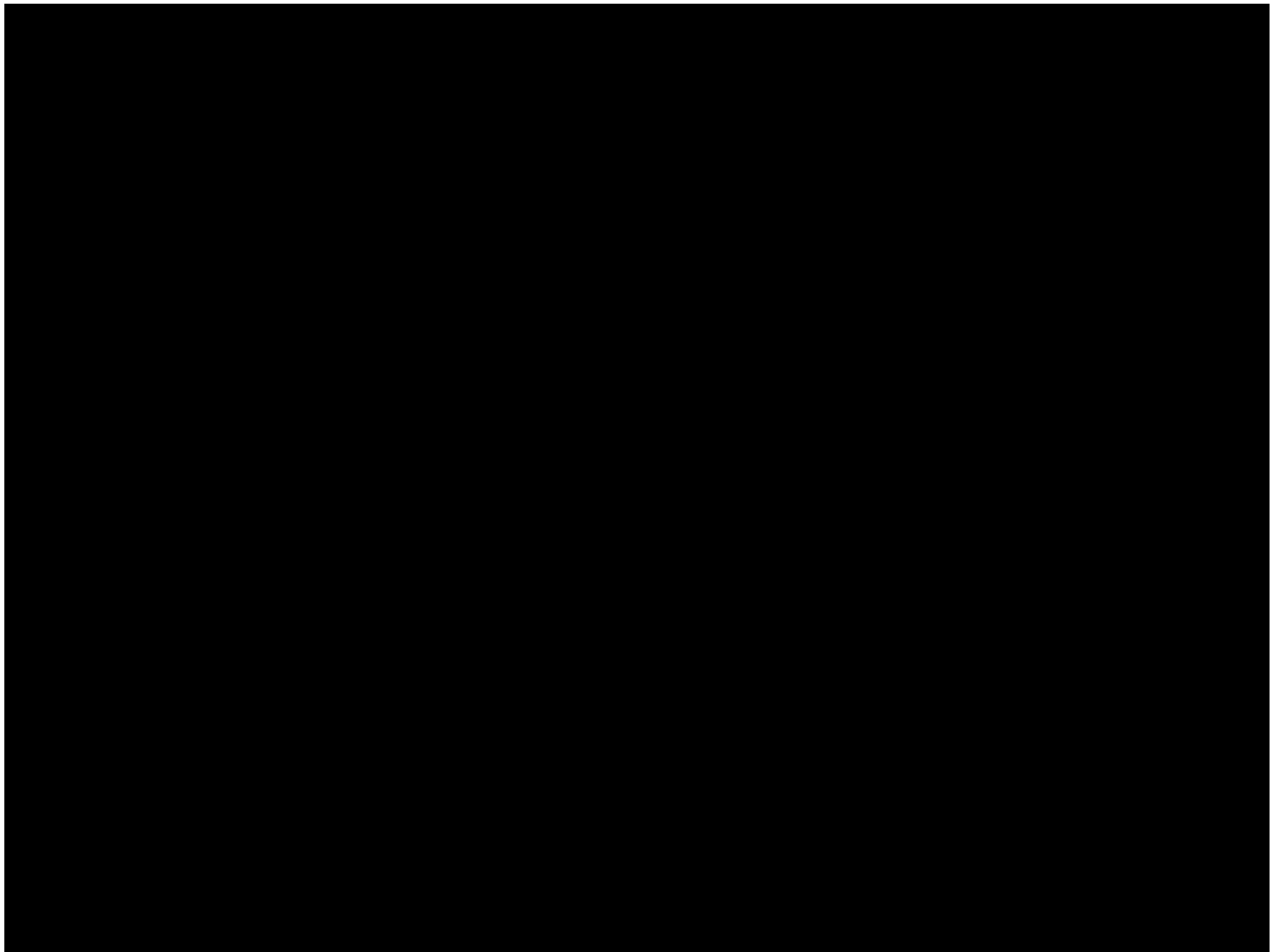


–A.N. Wilson British Writer
“Why I Believe Again”

Read Pastor Bonheoffer's book Ethics, and ask yourself what sort of mad world is created by those who think that ethics are a purely human construct, and then contrast that with Bonheoffer's serenity before he was hanged, even though he was in love and had everything to look forward to.



–A.N. Wilson British Writer
“Why I Believe Again”



Paul demonstrates 3 ways Christianity makes sense

1. The Rational

I teach nothing except what the prophets and Moses said would happen— 23 that the Messiah would suffer and be the first to rise from the dead, and in this way announce God's light to Jews and Gentiles alike.”

Acts 26:23

Persuasion
isn't just
about using
the right
words

Paul demonstrates 3 ways Christianity makes sense

1. The Rational

Festus (*interrupting*): 24 You've gone crazy, Paul! You've read one book too many and have gone insane!

Persuasion
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Paul demonstrates 3 ways Christianity makes sense

1. The Rational

But Paul stood his ground. "With all respect, Festus, Your Honor, I'm not crazy. I'm both accurate and sane in what I'm saying.

Acts 26:25

Persuasion
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Paul demonstrates 3 ways Christianity makes sense

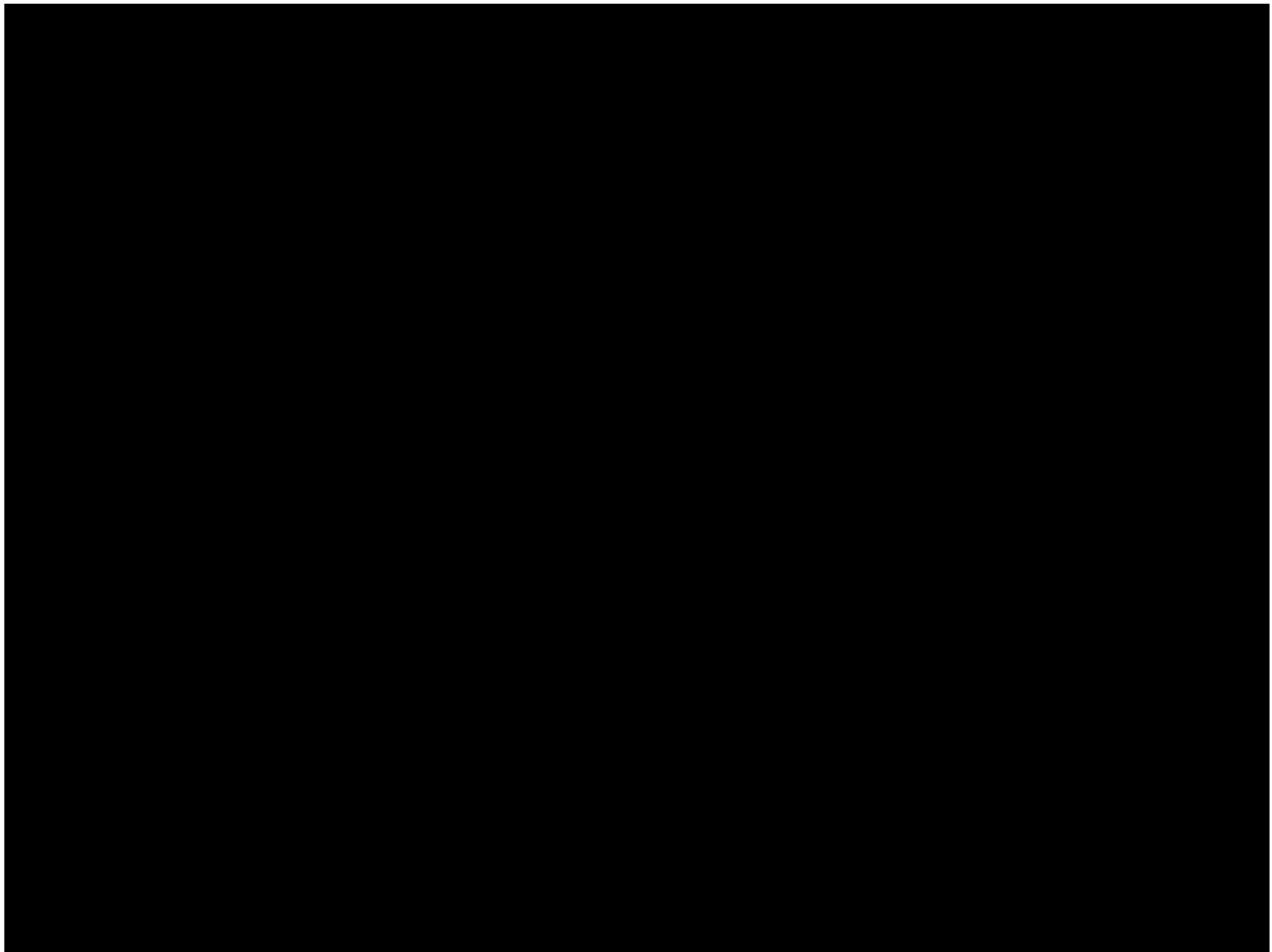
1. The Rational

The king understands what I'm talking about, which is why I could speak so freely to him.

None of these things have been covered up and hidden away in a corner, so I'm sure none of these things have escaped his notice.

Acts 26:26

Persuasion
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Agrippa: Paul, have you so quickly moved on from defending yourself to trying to persuade me to become a Christian?

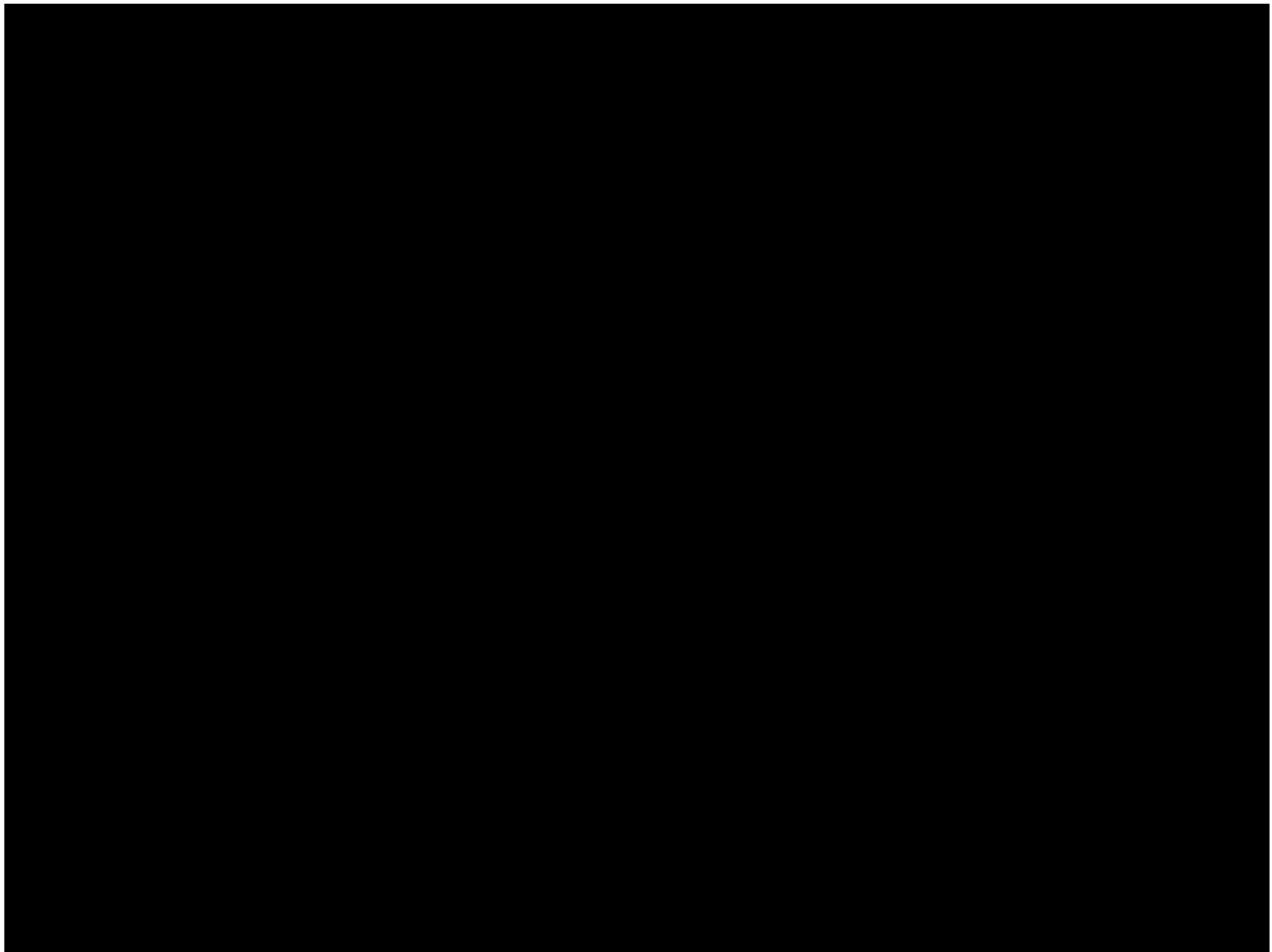
Acts 26:28



“This man isn’t doing anything deserving death—he shouldn’t even be in prison.” Agrippa (*to Festus*):
32 This man could have been released completely if he had not appealed to the emperor.

Acts 26:31,32





Paul demonstrates 3 ways Christianity makes sense

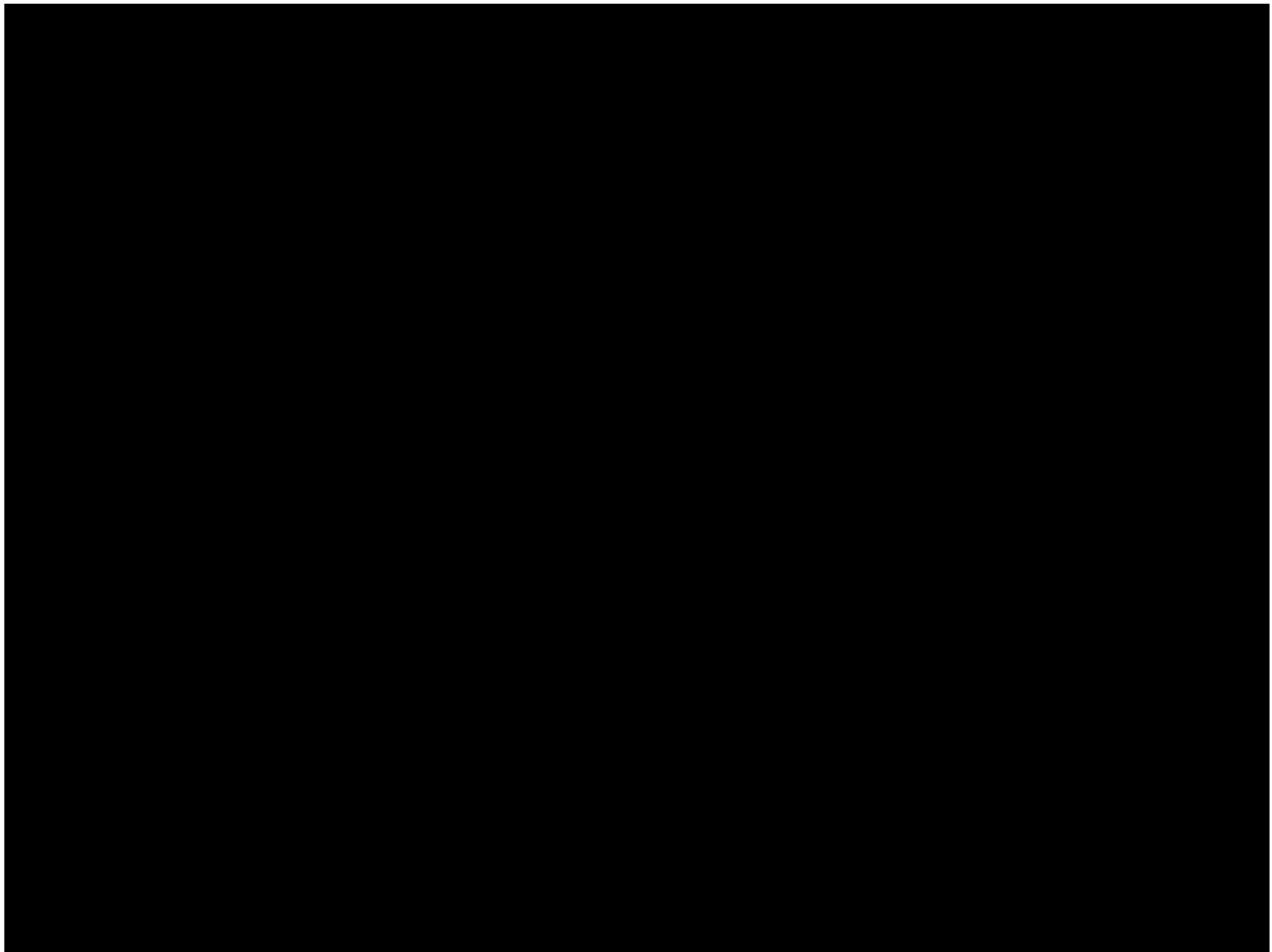
2. The Personal

Your Excellency, when I saw a light from heaven—brighter than the noonday sun—shining around my companions and me. 14 We all fell to the ground *in fear*, and I then heard a voice. The words were in Aramaic: “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? When you kick against the cattle prods, you’re only hurting yourself.” Acts 26:13,14

Persuasion
isn't just
about using
the right
words

Here's an *important* principle I've discovered: regardless of my desire to do the right thing, *it is clear that* evil is never far away. 22 For deep down I am in happy agreement with God's law; 23 **but the rest of me does not concur.** I see a very different principle at work in my bodily members, and it is at war with my mind; I have become a prisoner in this war to the rule of sin in my body. Vs. 21-23

Romans Chapter 7



Paul demonstrates 3 ways Christianity makes sense

3. The Biblical

I teach nothing *except what the prophets and Moses said* would happen— 23 that the Messiah would suffer and be the first to rise from the dead, and in this way announce God's light to Jews and Gentiles alike.”

Acts 26:22,23

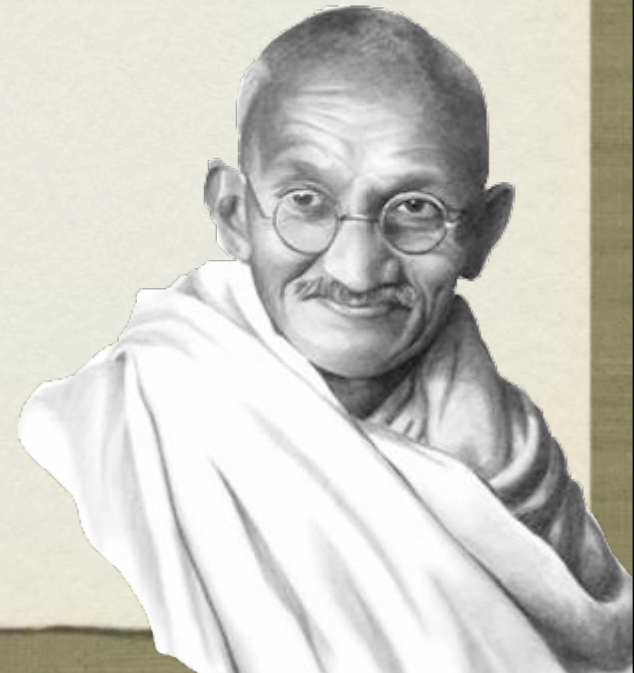
Persuasion
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King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do—” vs 27



"Jesus is ideal and
wonderful, but you
Christians - you are not
like him."

- Gandhi



I challenge you to read any of the gospels in their entirety and give me an account what kind of person could have said these things done the things that Jesus did and not be who he said he is.



Professor Emile Calliet Princeton Theological

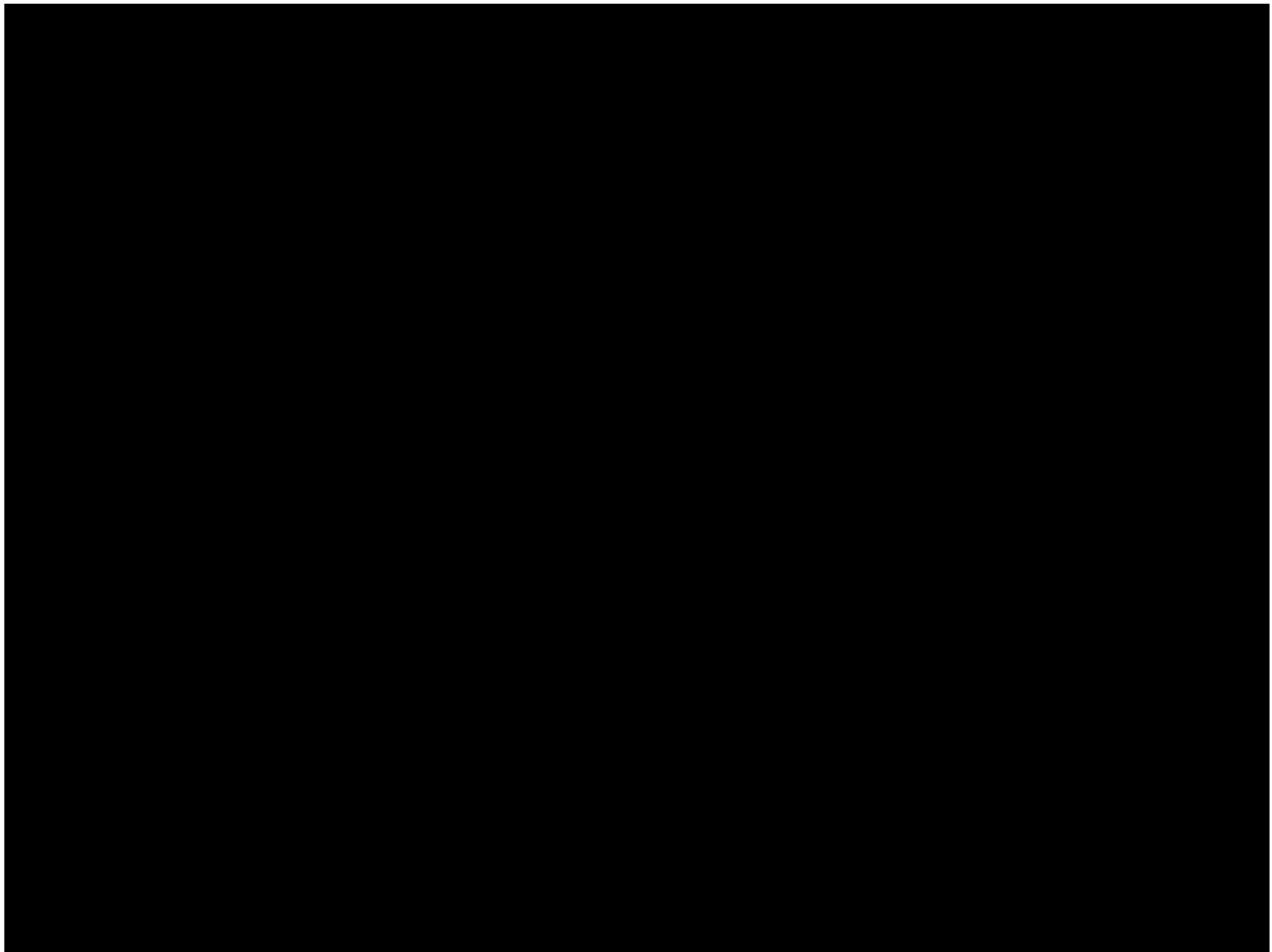
*He asked himself: Where did life come from?
What did it all mean, if anything? What value are
scientific laws or theories in the face of reality?*



Professor Emile Calliet Princeton Theological

Calliet later wrote, “ I felt, not with my reason but with my whole being, that I was destined to perish miserably when the hour came.”

During the long night watches Calliet began to long for what he came to call “a book that would understand me.”





Professor Emile Calliet Princeton Theological

I opened it and “chanced” upon the Beatitudes! I read, and read, and read—now aloud with an indescribable warmth surging within... I could not find words to express my awe and wonder. And suddenly the realization dawned upon me: This was the Book that would understand me!



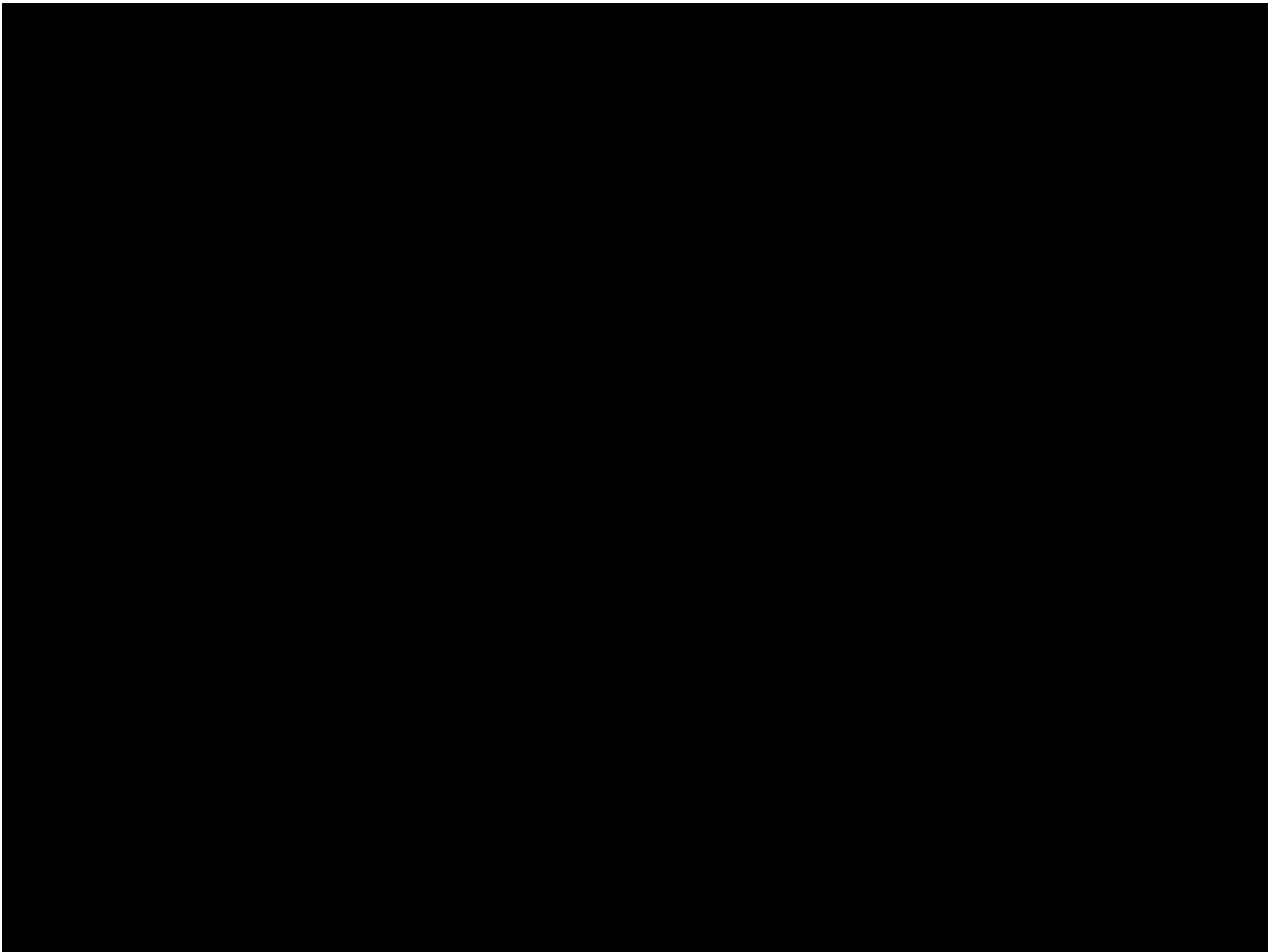
Professor Emile Calliet Princeton Theological

I needed it so much, yet, unaware, I had attempted to write my own—in vain. I continued to read deeply into the night, mostly from the gospels. And lo and behold, as I looked through them, the One of whom they spoke, the One who spoke and acted in them, became alive to me.



Professor Emile Calliet Princeton Theological

The providential circumstances amid which the Book had found me now made it clear that while it seemed absurd to speak of a book understanding a man, this could be said of the Bible because its pages were animated by the Presence of the Living God and the Power of His mighty acts. To this God I prayed that night, and the God who answered was the same God of whom it was spoken in the Book.



Where Did Paul Get The Power?

Yes, (Jesus speaking) I am sending you

Paul knew. That as long as the ultimate king loved him, he didn't care if this king rejected him.

among God's people, who are set apart by faith in me.' Acts 26:17,18

