

when God comes

A silhouette of a person standing on a dark, rocky cliff edge, looking down. The background is a sunset or sunrise sky with a gradient from blue at the top to orange and red at the bottom. The sun is visible as a bright, glowing orb near the horizon. The word "CLOSE" is written in large, white, outlined letters across the middle of the image, partially overlapping the person's silhouette.

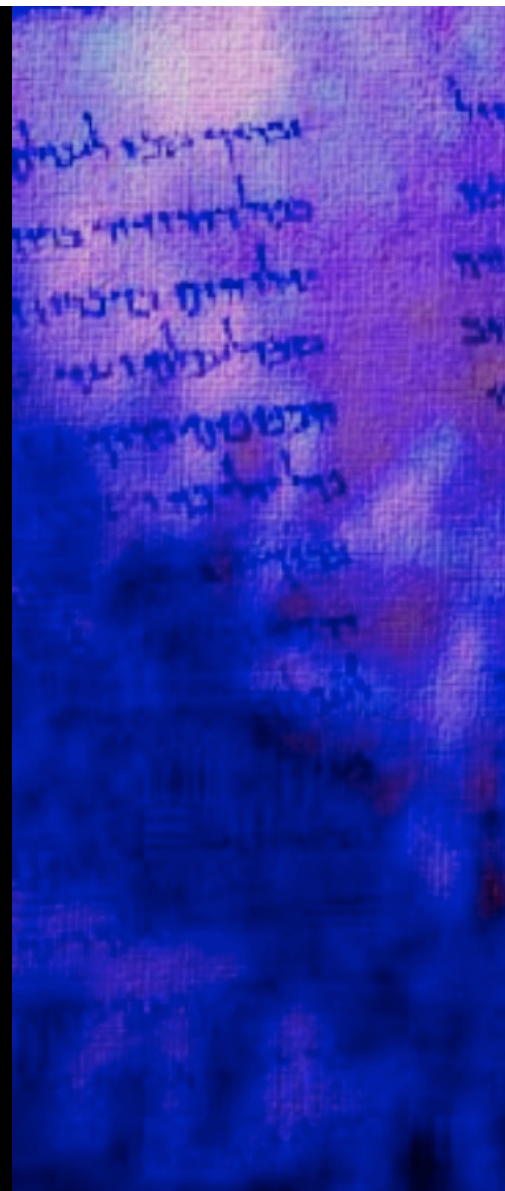
CLOSE

when God comes

A silhouette of a person stands on a dark, rocky cliff edge, looking towards the right. The background is a vibrant sunset or sunrise sky with a gradient from blue at the top to orange and red at the bottom. A bright sun is visible near the horizon. The word "CLOSE" is written in large, white, outlined, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image, partially overlapping the person's silhouette.

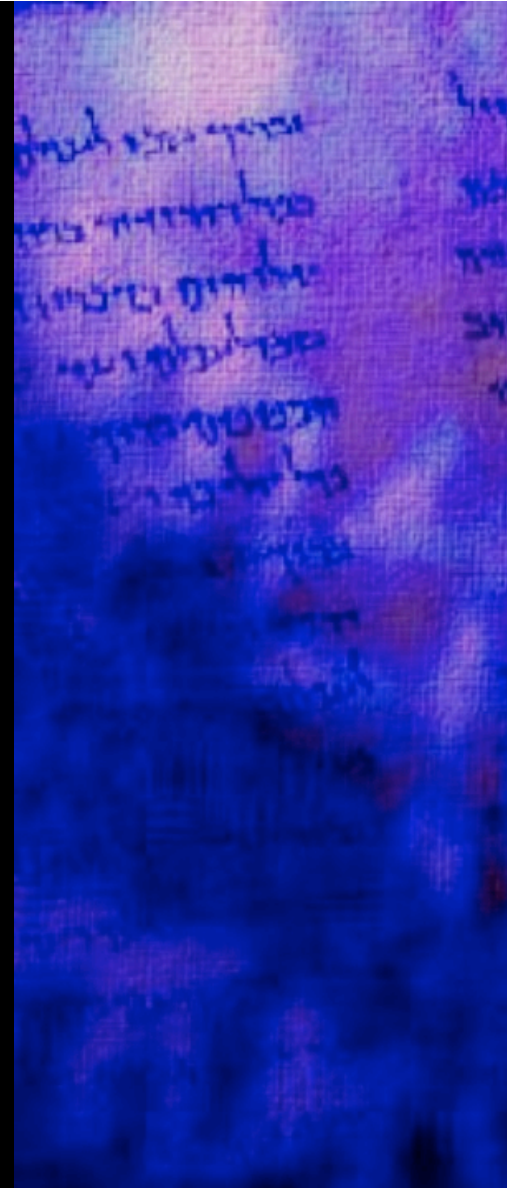
CLOSE

This boasting will do no good, but I must go on. I will reluctantly tell about visions and revelations from the Lord. I was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether I was in my body or out of my body, I don't know—only God knows. Yes, only God knows whether I was in my body or outside my body. But I do know that I was caught up to paradise and heard things so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is allowed to tell. 2 Corinthians 12:1-4



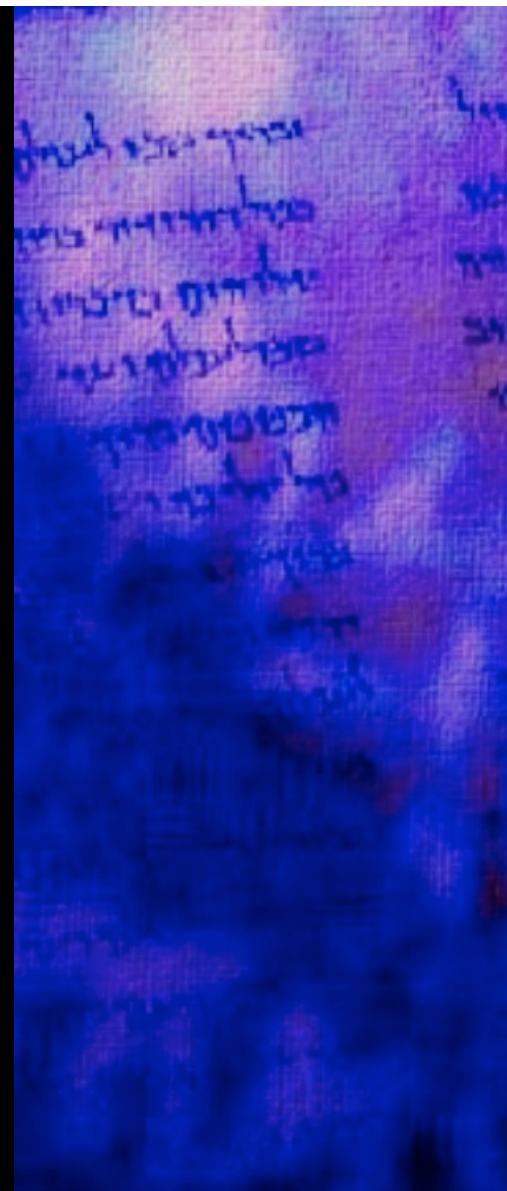
That experience is worth boasting about, but I'm not going to do it. I will boast only about my weaknesses.
⁶ If I wanted to boast, I would be no fool in doing so, because I would be telling the truth. But I won't do it, because I don't want anyone to give me credit beyond what they can see in my life or hear in my message,
⁷ even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.

2 Corinthians 12:5-7

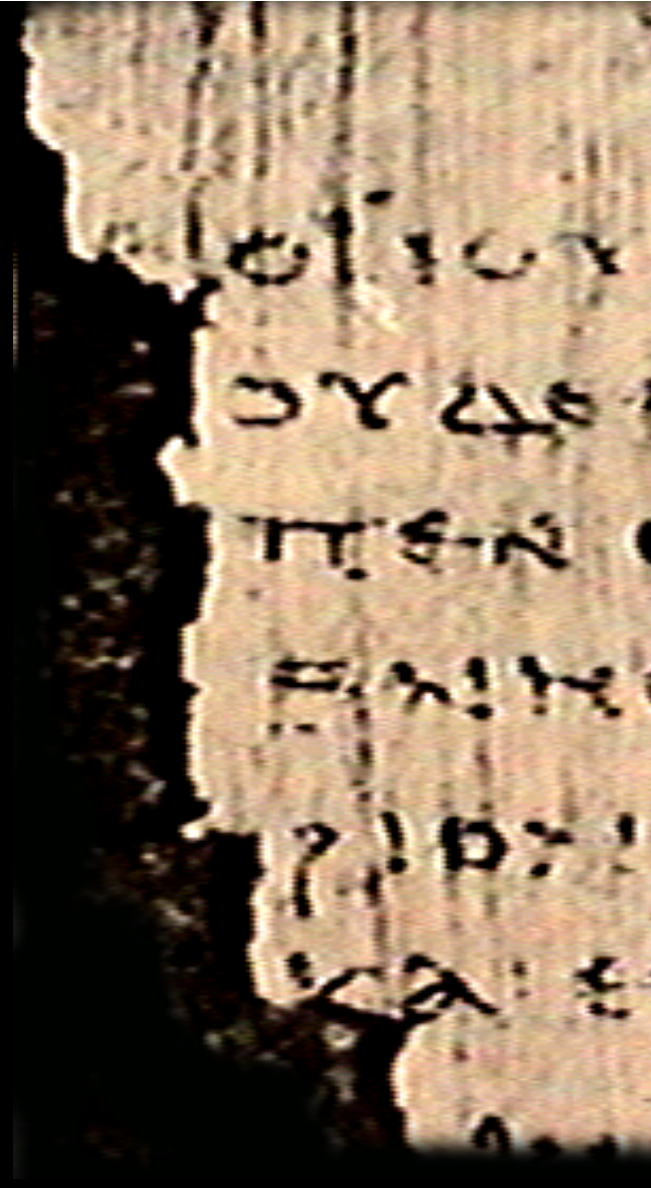


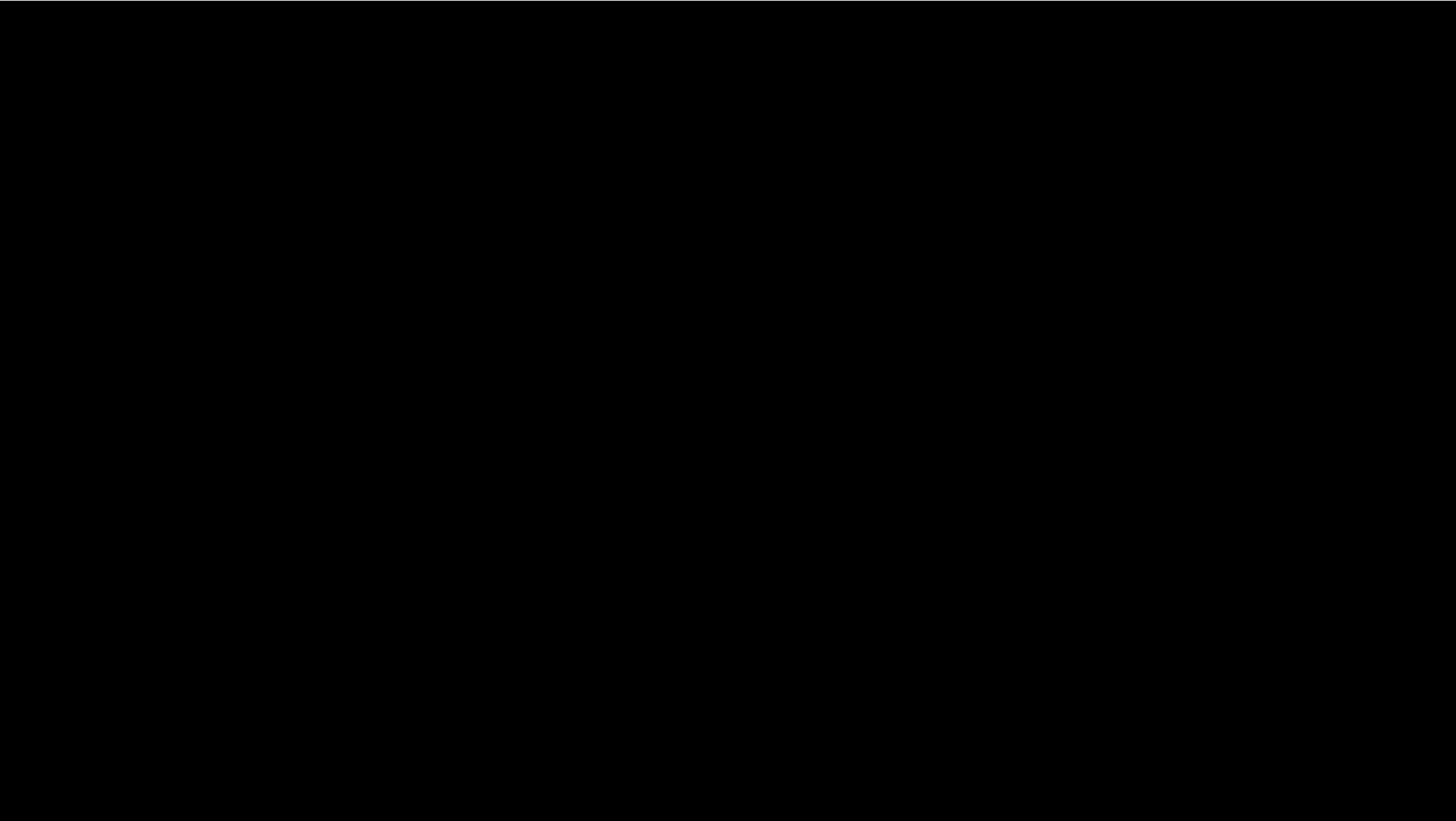
⁸ Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. ⁹ Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. ¹⁰ That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:8-10



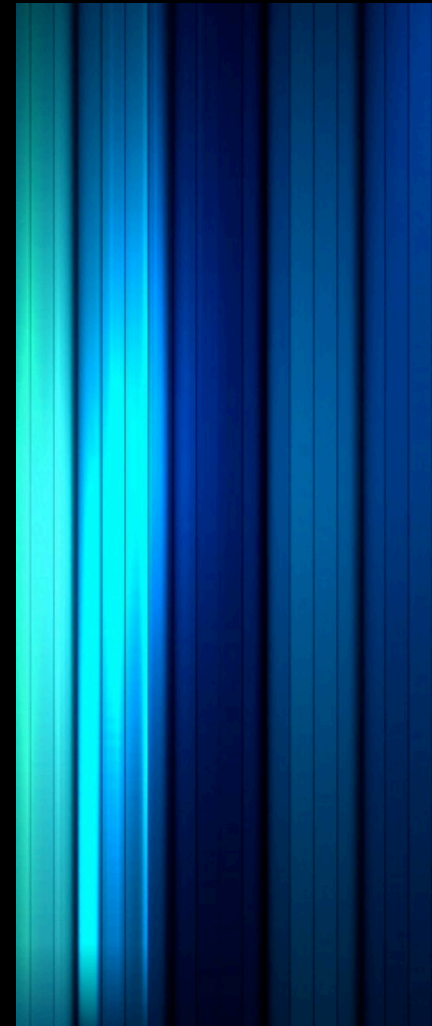
This boasting will do no good,
but I must go on. I will
reluctantly tell about visions
and revelations from the Lord.
Vs. 1

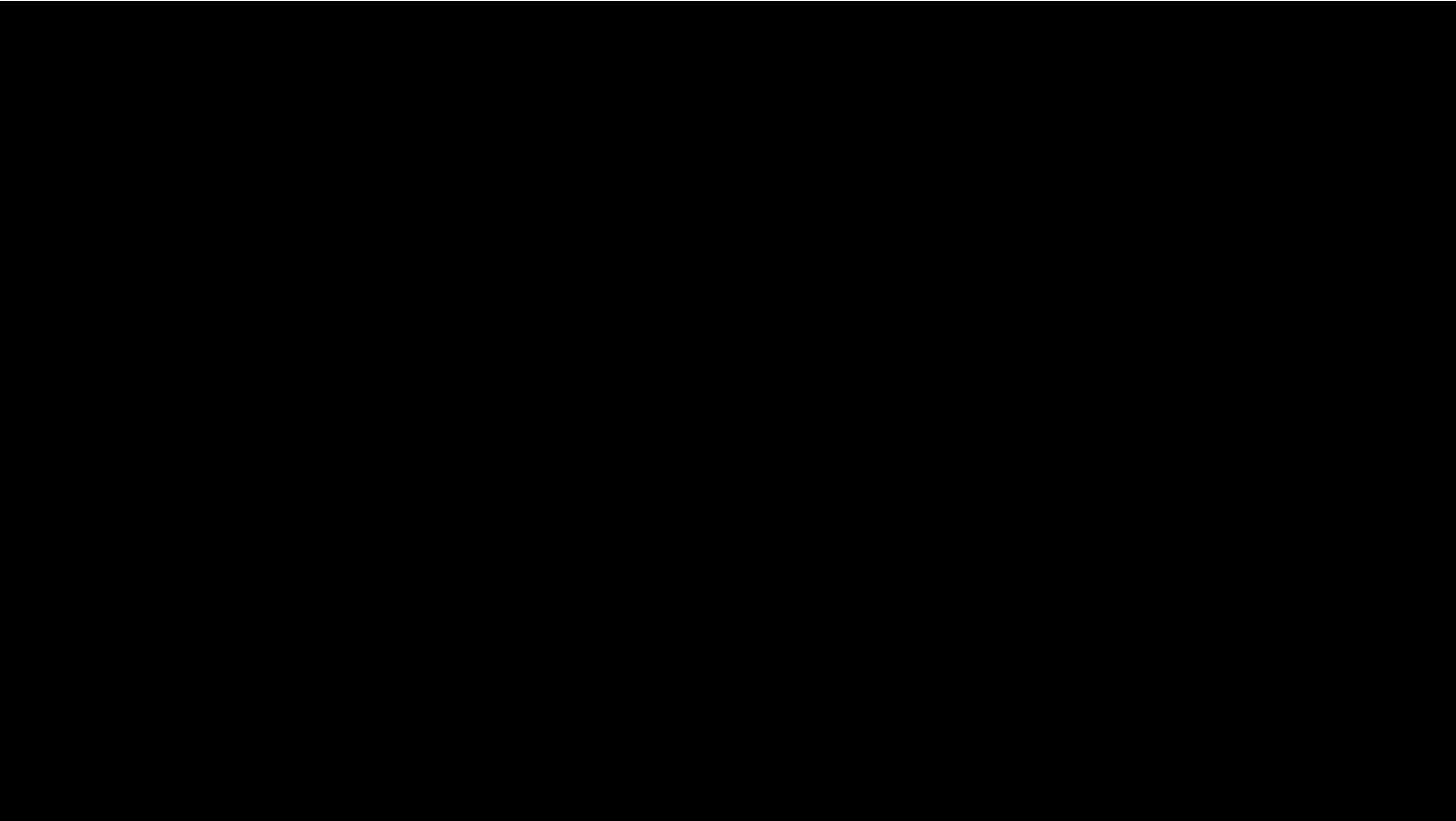


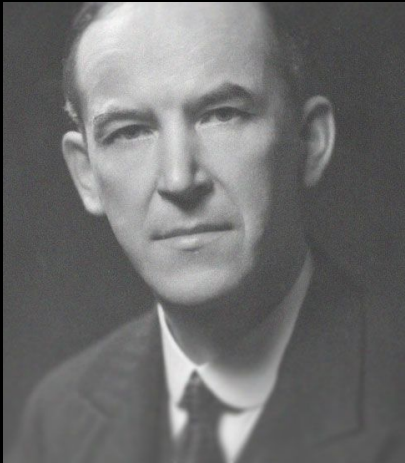


II. The Heaven Experience

I was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether². The Heaven Experience I was in my body or out of my body, I don't know—only God knows. ³ Yes, only God knows whether I was in my body or outside my body. But I do know ⁴ that I was caught up to paradise and heard things so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is allowed to tell. ⁵ That experience is worth boasting about, but I'm not going to do it.

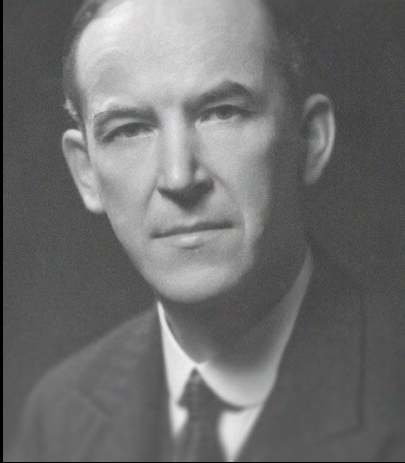






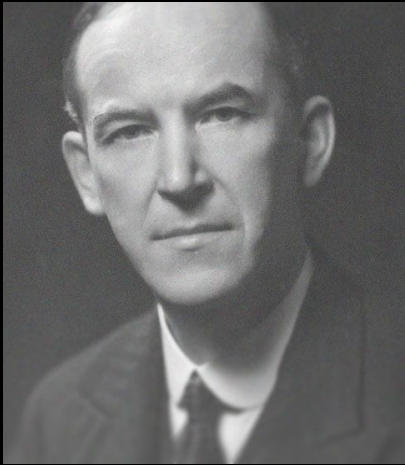
Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones

**After Dr. Jones passed a biographer wrote about his life.
He shared a story that Dr. Jones had never shared publicly.**



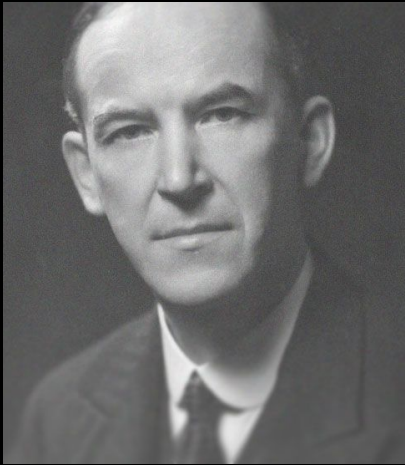
Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones

In the summer of 1949 after feeling so burnt out, and depressed Lloyd-Jones took the entire summer off from his ministry work. He went back to Wales, his homeland, and he just tried to get himself back together. He distanced himself from his family.



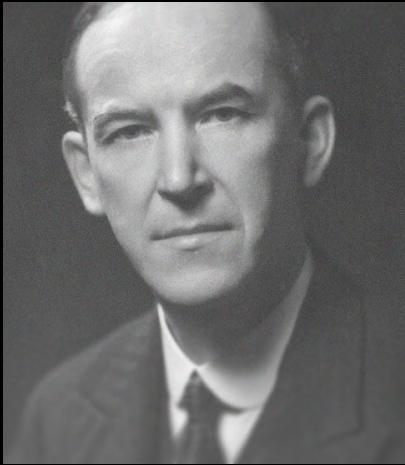
Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones

He tried to study, read scripture, and pray, but it brought little comfort to him. Then he woke up one morning early. Still feeling far from God. And as he started to get dressed, lying on the bed was one his books he had been reading.



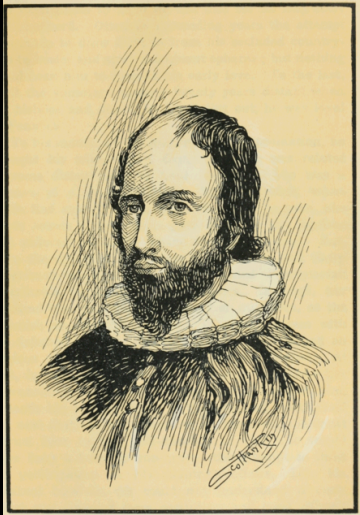
Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones

He just glanced at it, and saw one word on the page: the word glory, instantly, he felt the glory of God surround him. It was both overwhelming and joyful simultaneously. He fell to the ground and wept and he remained like this for several days.



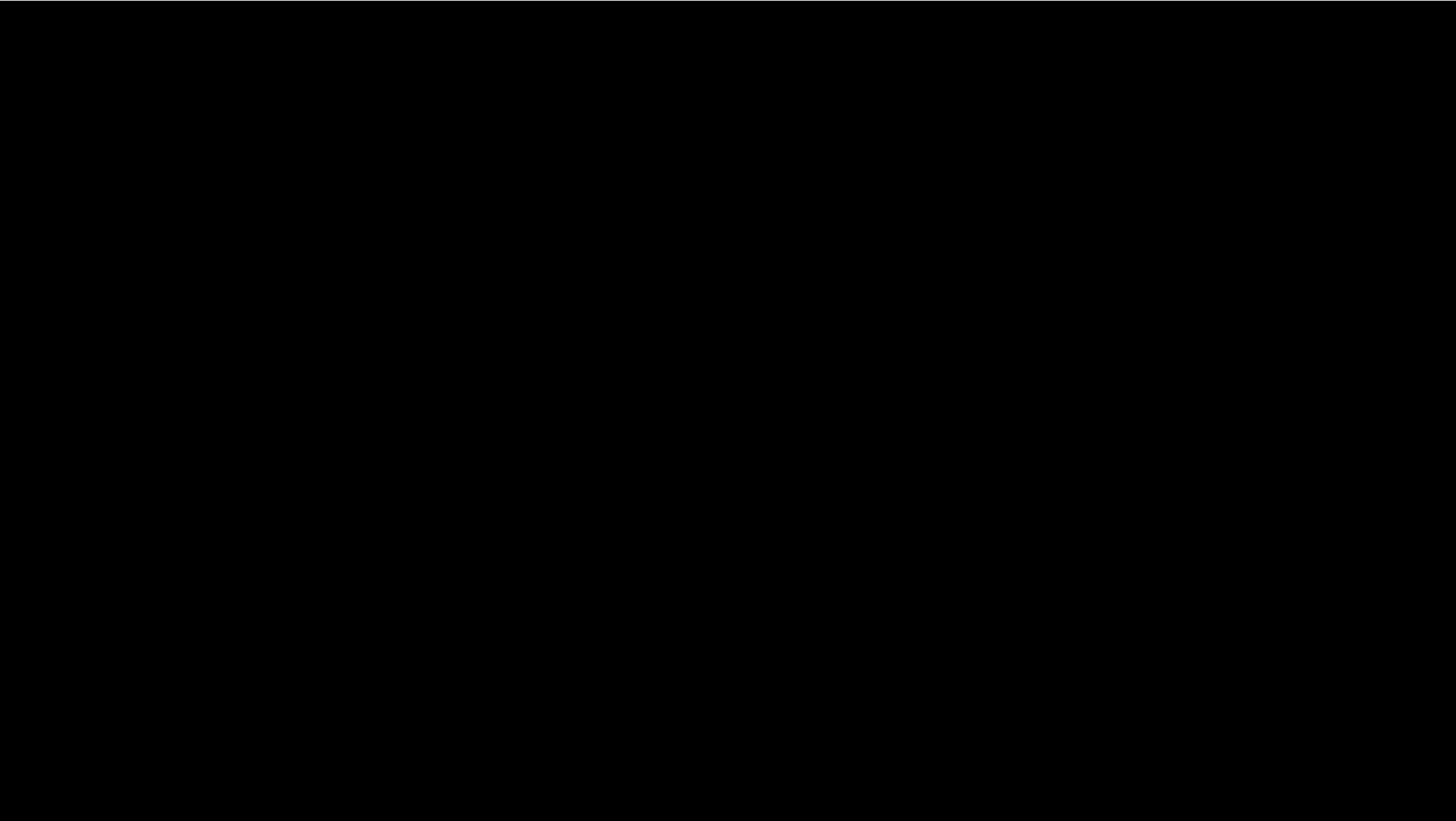
Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones

But the experience subsided, and his depression returned, then a short time later, the same thing happened to him again for several days.



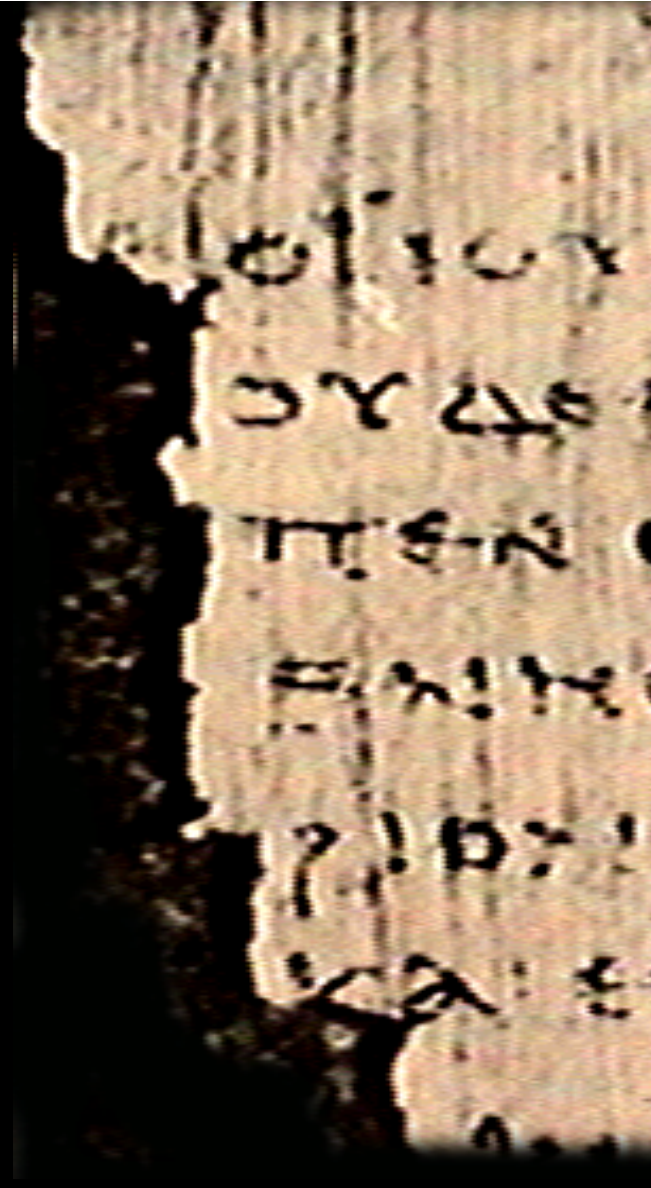
**Pastor William Guthrie of the
17th century wrote of his
own divine experience**

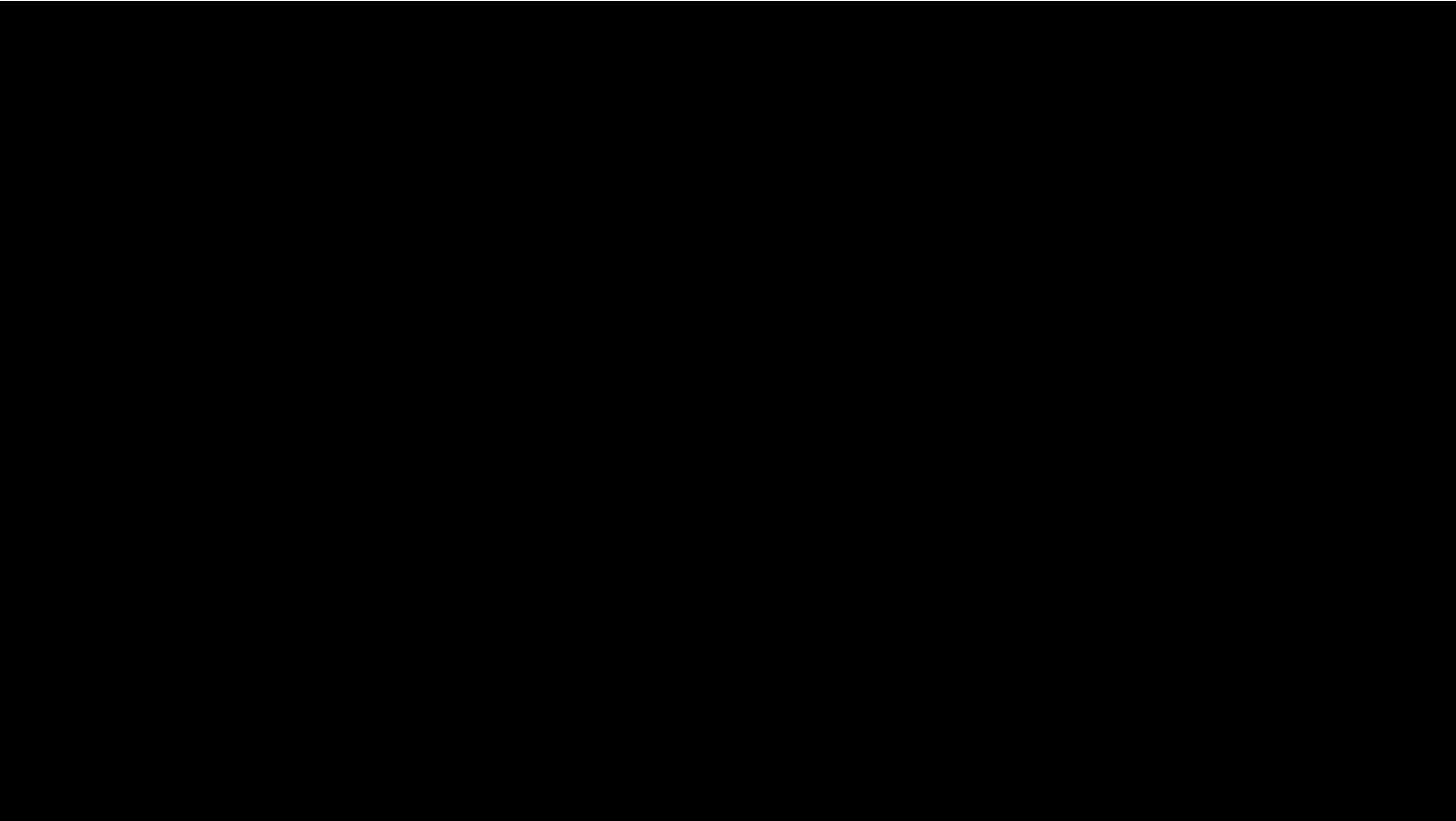
“It is a thing better felt than spoke of.”



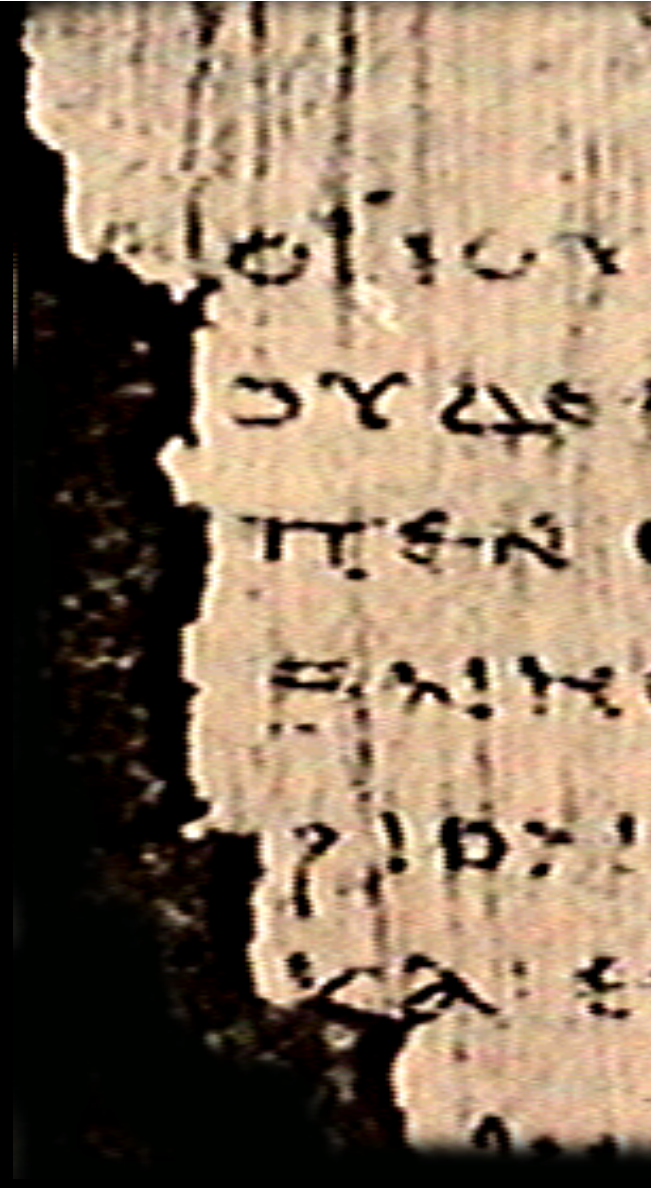
If I wanted to boast, I would be no fool in doing so, because I would be telling the truth. But I won't do it, because I don't want anyone to give me credit beyond what they can see in my life or hear in my message.

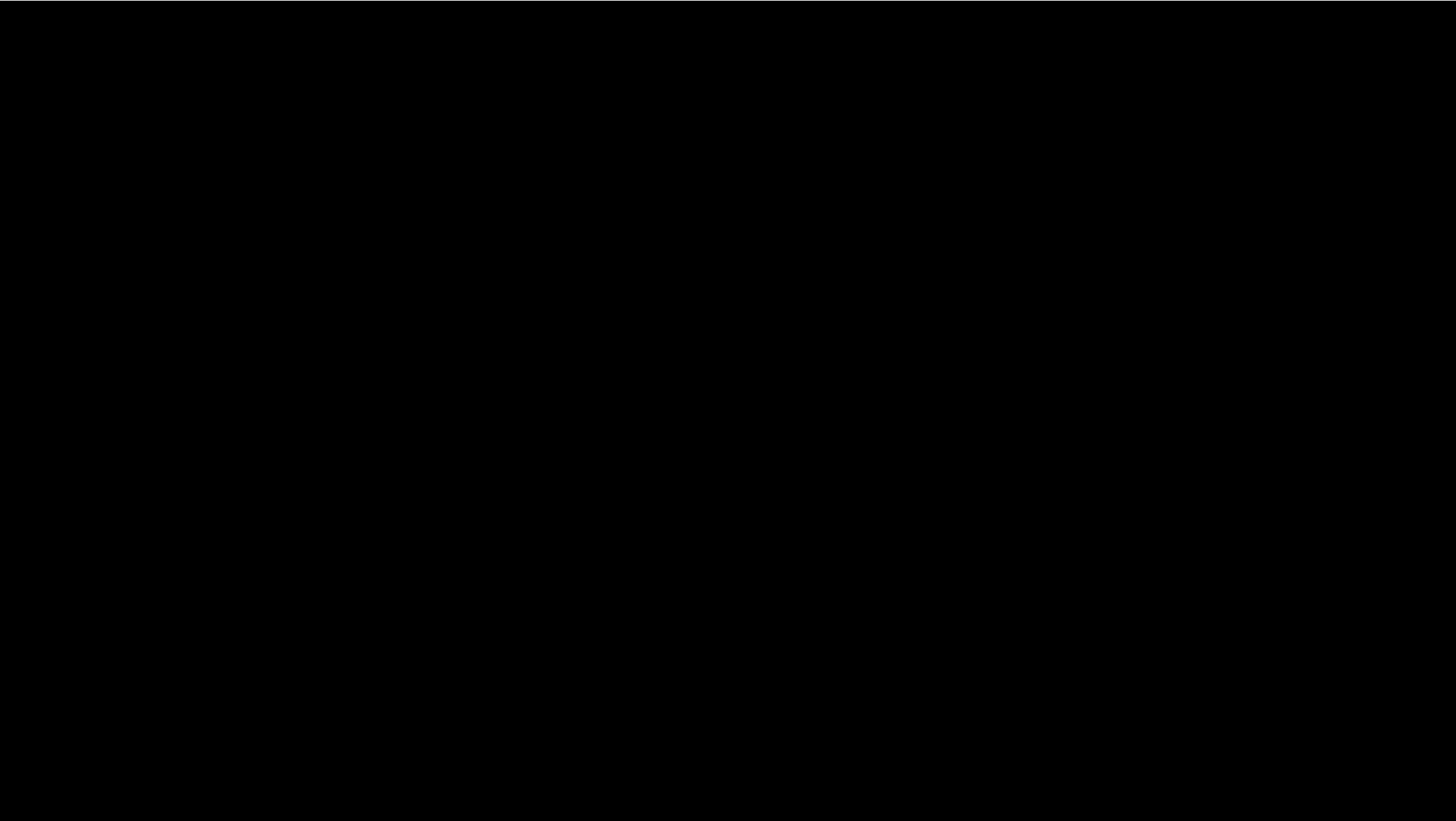
Vs. 6



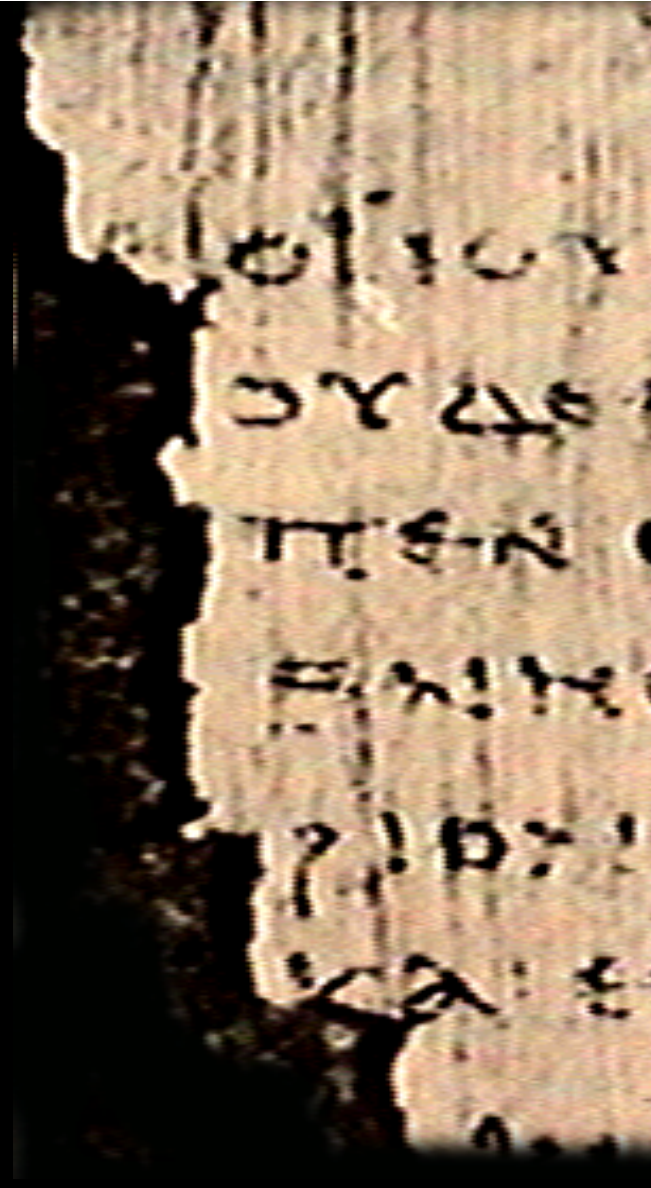


I don't want anyone to give me credit beyond what they can see in my life or hear in my message. vs. 6

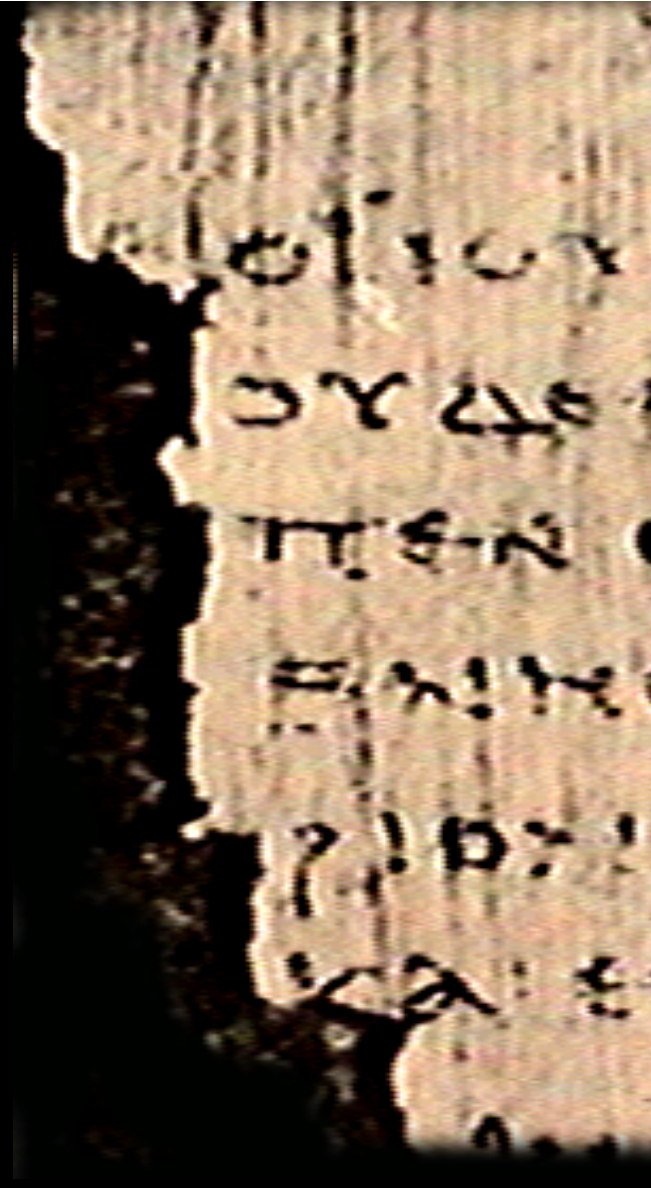




I was caught up to the third
heaven fourteen years ago.
Whether I was in my body or
out of my body, I don't know—
only God knows. vs. 2



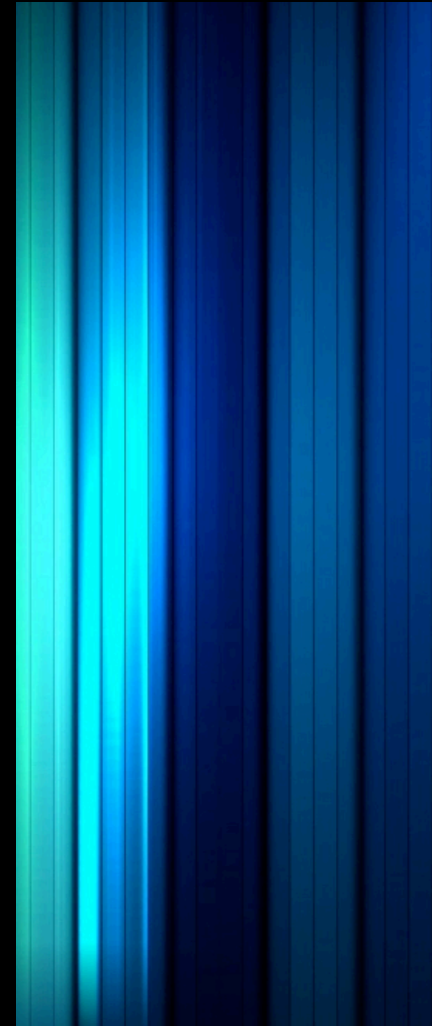
I was caught up to paradise and
heard things so astounding
that they cannot be expressed
in words, things no human is
allowed to tell. Vs. 4



III. The Thorn Experience

I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.

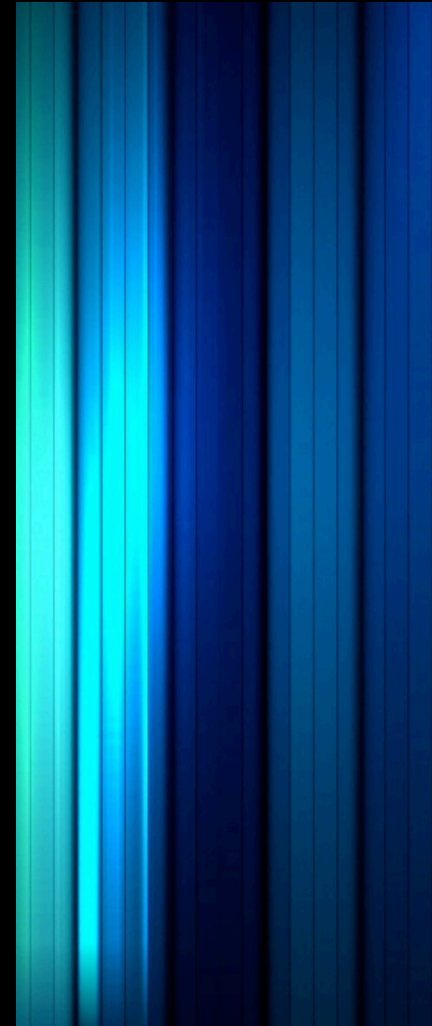
2 Corinthians 12:7

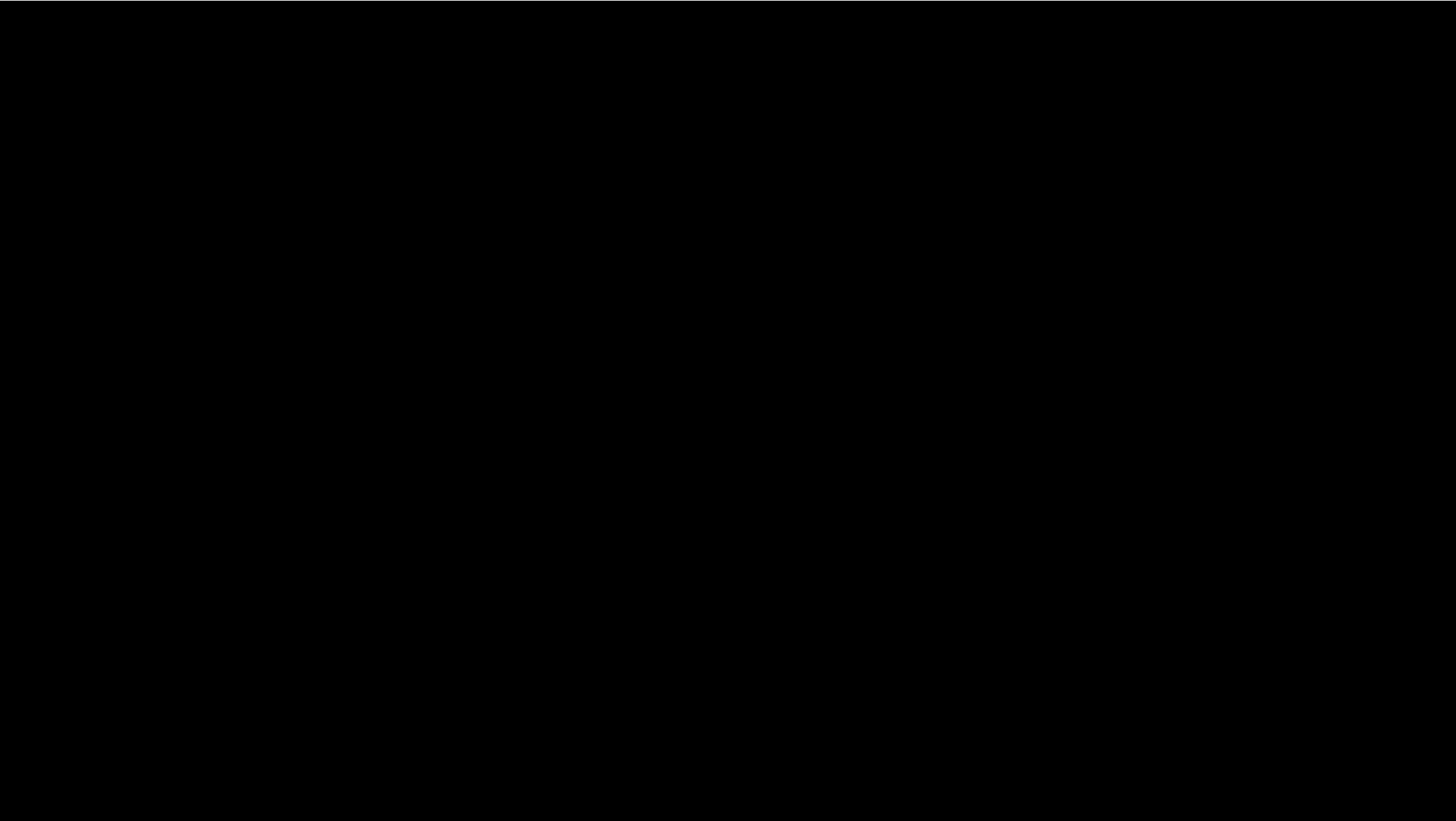


III. The Thorn Experience

What was the thorn?

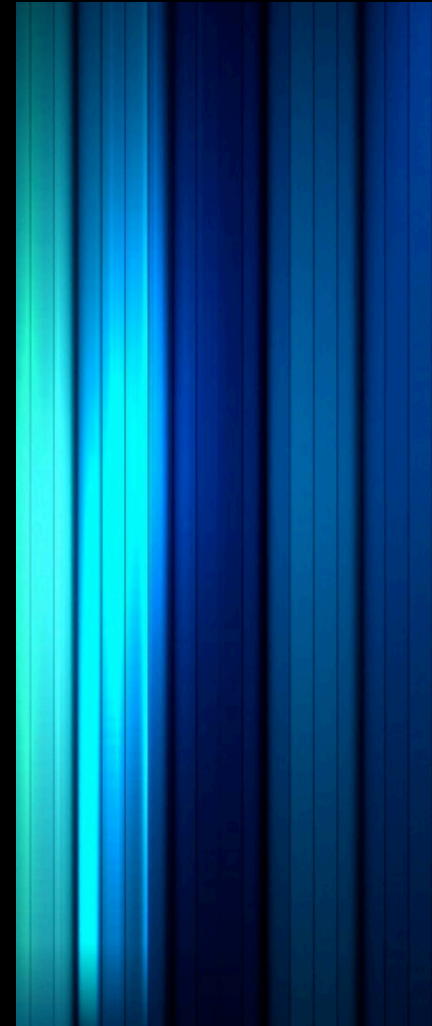
We don't know.





III. The Thorn Experience

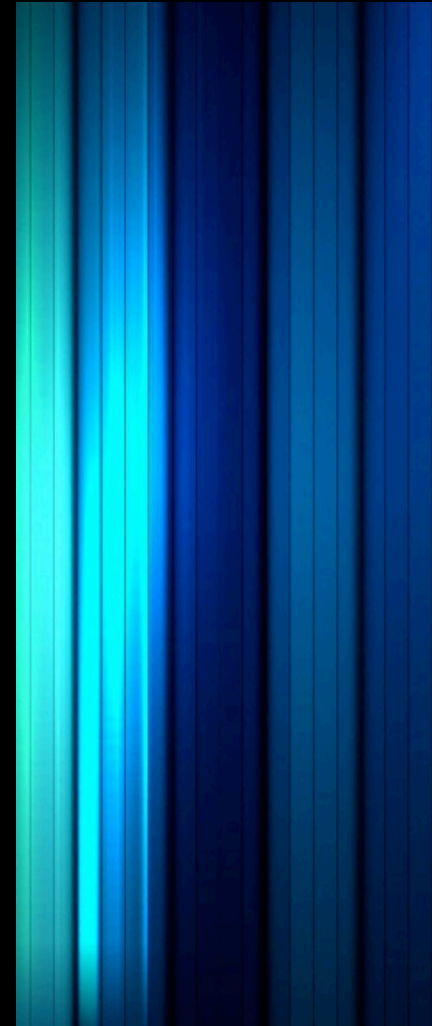
How did Paul
process the thorn?



III. The Thorn Experience

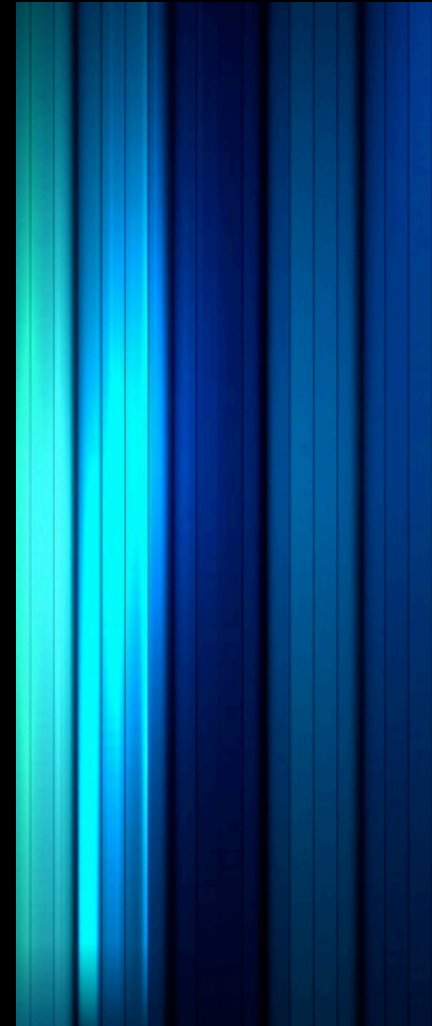
Three different times I begged
the Lord to take it away.

2 Corinthians 12:8

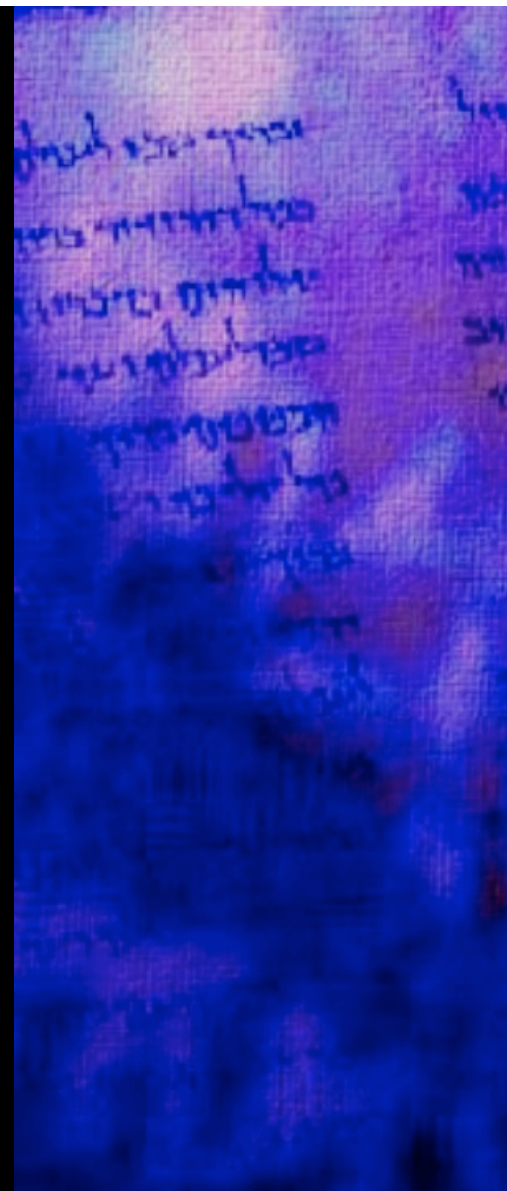


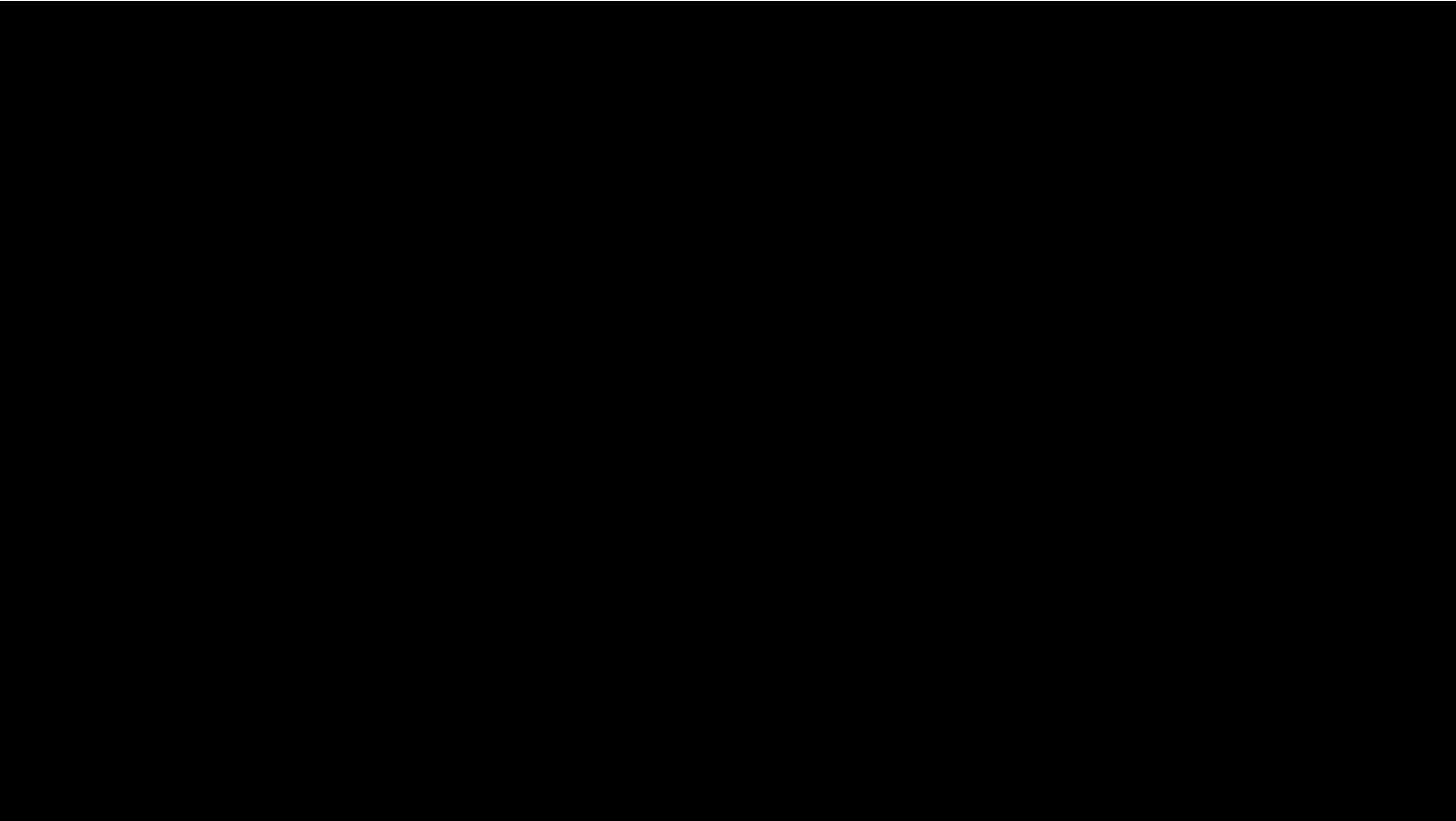
III. The Thorn Experience

Each time (God) said,
“My grace is all you need.
My power works best in
weakness.”



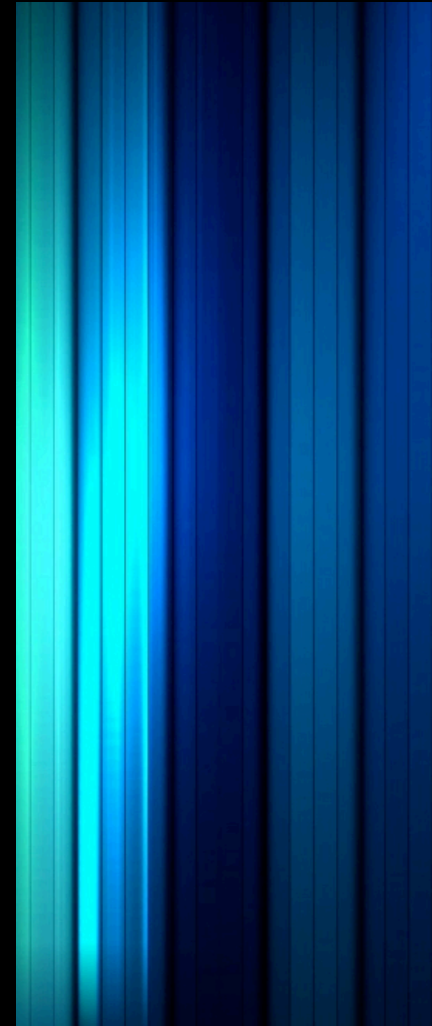
I can do all things through
Him who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13





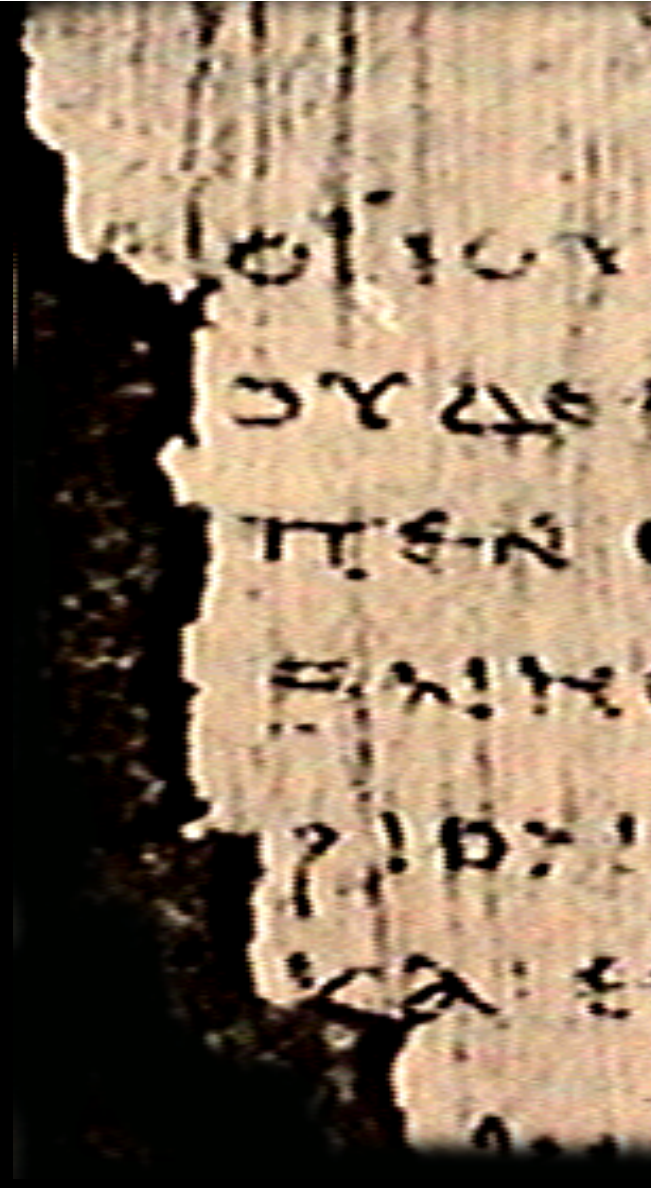
III. The Thorn Experience

My power works best when you're weak
and your strength comes from my grace.



So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.¹⁰ That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9,10



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