



USED BY  
GOD

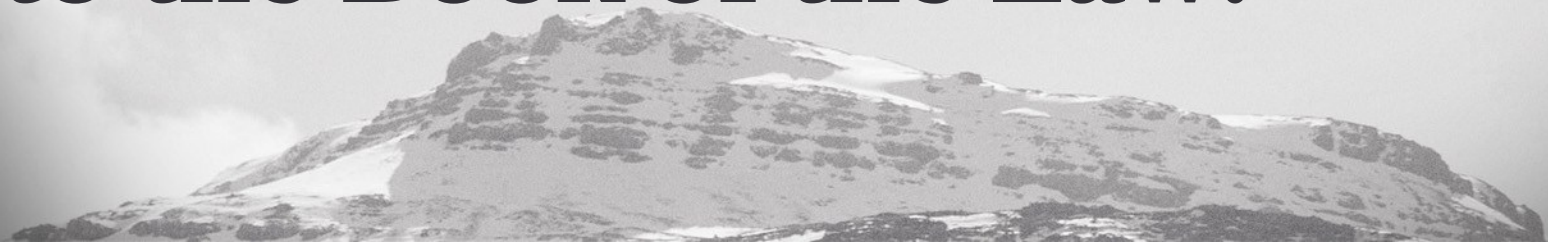
NEHEMIAH

**When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, all the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had**





**commanded for Israel. So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.**



**1. They approached God with  
a hunger for worship.**





**Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, “Amen! Amen!”**



**Then they bowed down and  
worshipped the Lord with  
their faces to the ground.**



**2. They listened and took immediate action in response to God's Word.**





**Shane  
Maixner**  
*1978-2005*





**2. They listened and took immediate action in response to God's Word.**



# **3. They grieved over their own brokenness.**





**Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep. For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.**

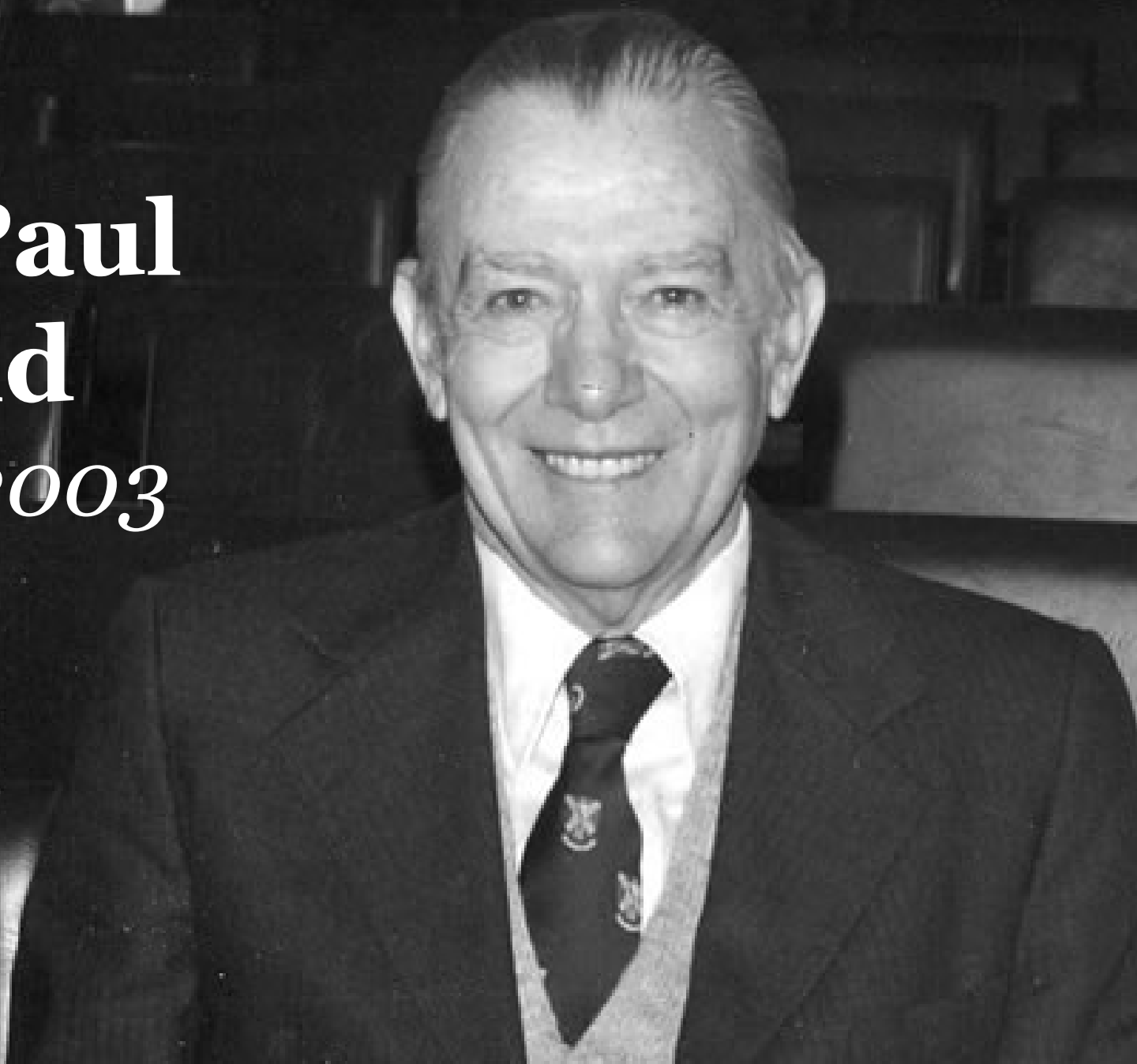




# **3. They grieved over their own brokenness.**



**Dr. Paul  
Brand**  
*1914-2003*



# **3. They grieved over their own brokenness.**





**4. They started learning how to live joyfully.**



**Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” The Levites calmed all the people saying,**





**“Be still, for this is a holy day.  
Do not grieve.”...**

**...So the people went out and  
brought back branches and  
built themselves temporary  
shelters on their own roofs, in  
their courtyards, in the courts  
of the house of God and in the**





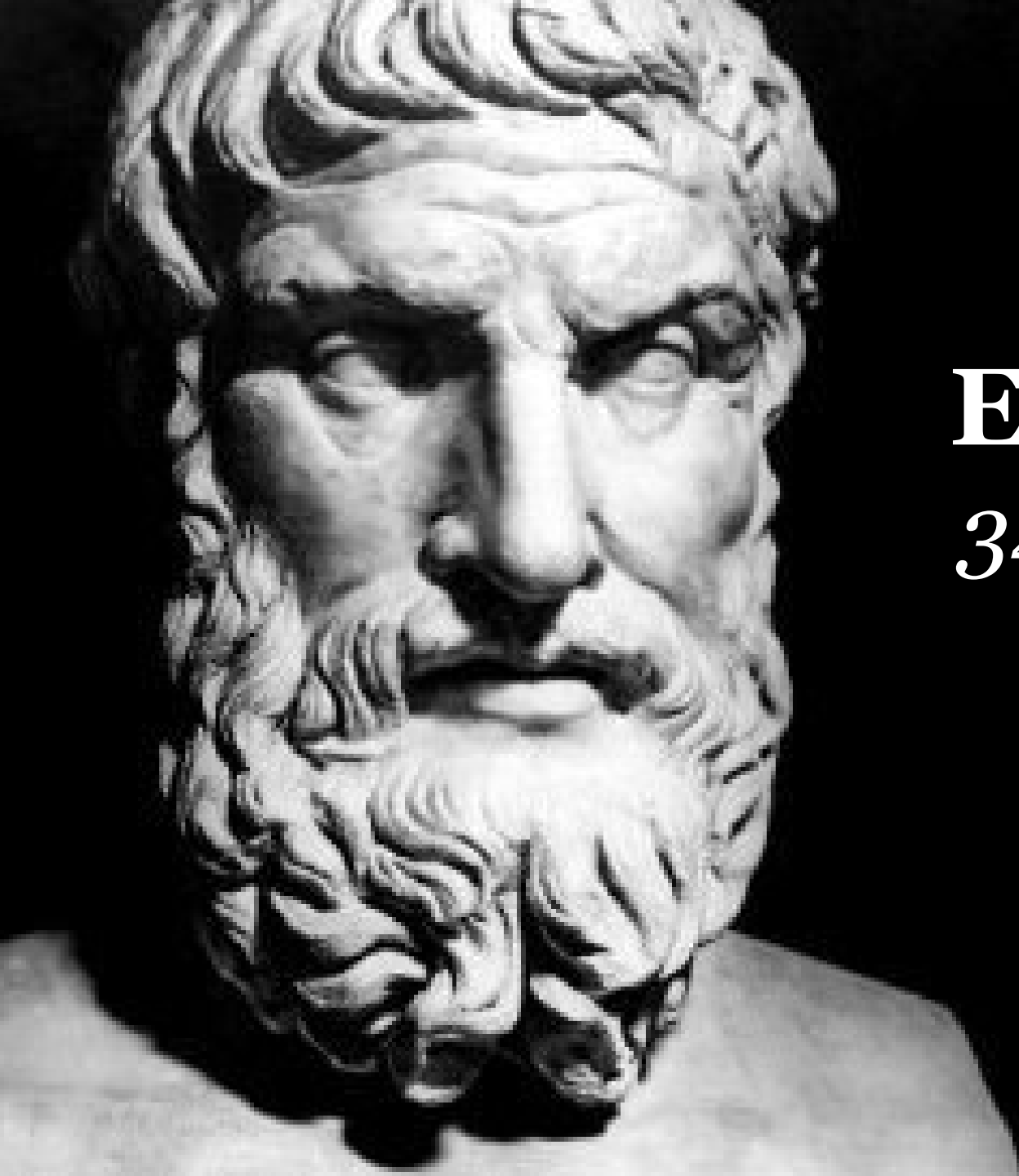
**square by the Water Gate of Ephraim. The whole company that had returned from the exile built temporary shelters and lived in them. From the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not celebrated it like this. And their joy was very great.**



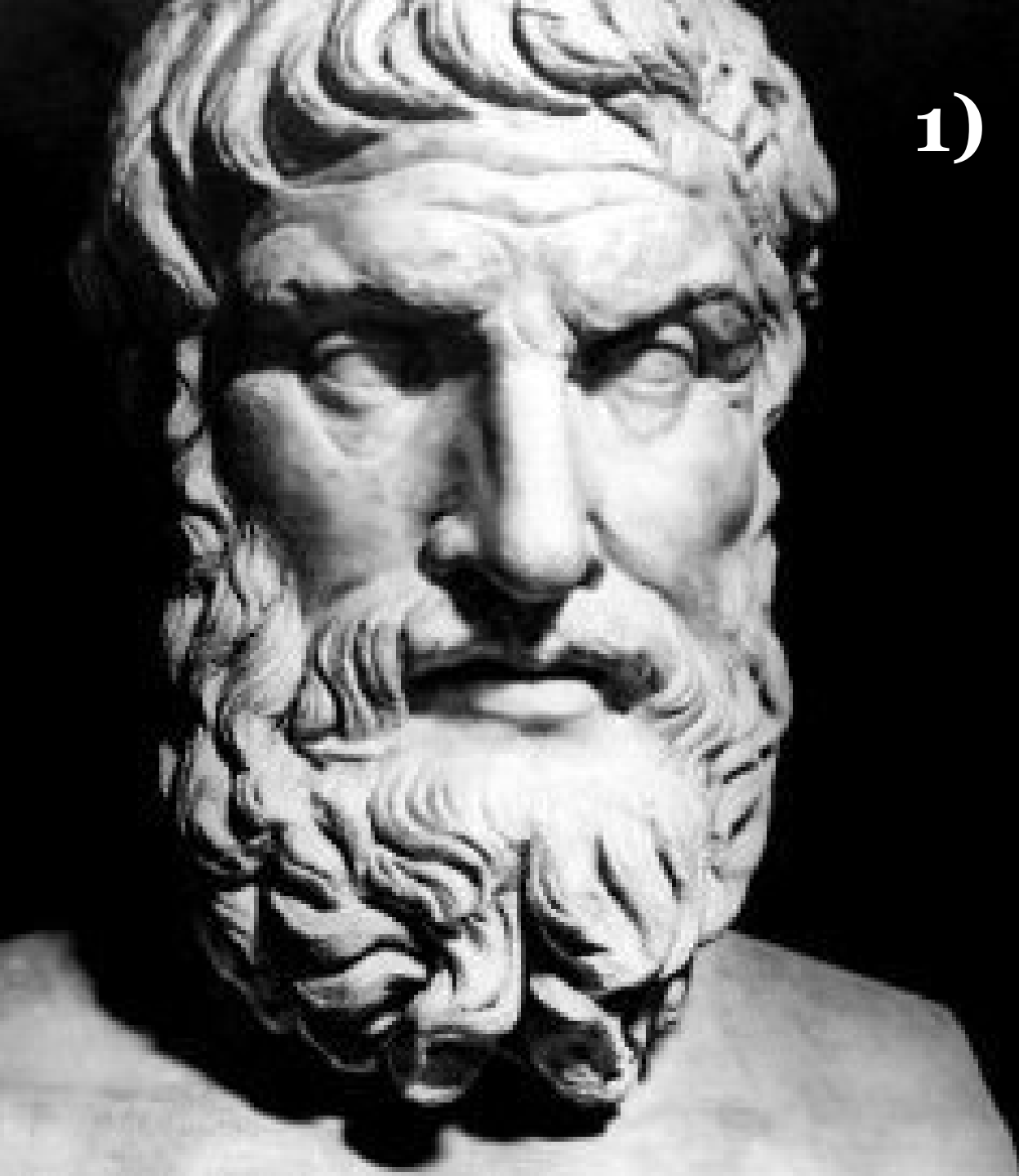
**4. They started learning how to live joyfully.**





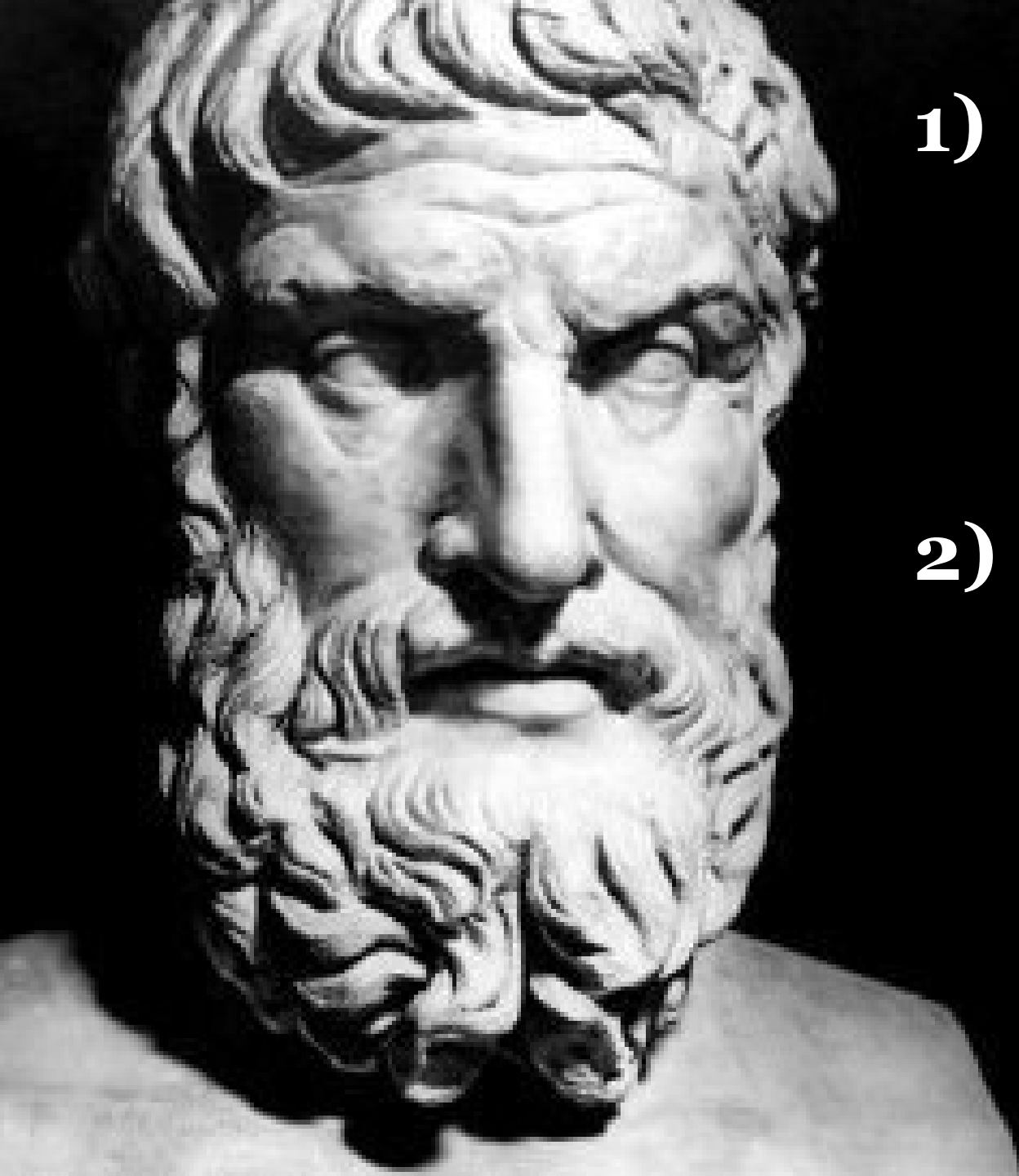


**Epicurus**  
*341-270 BC*



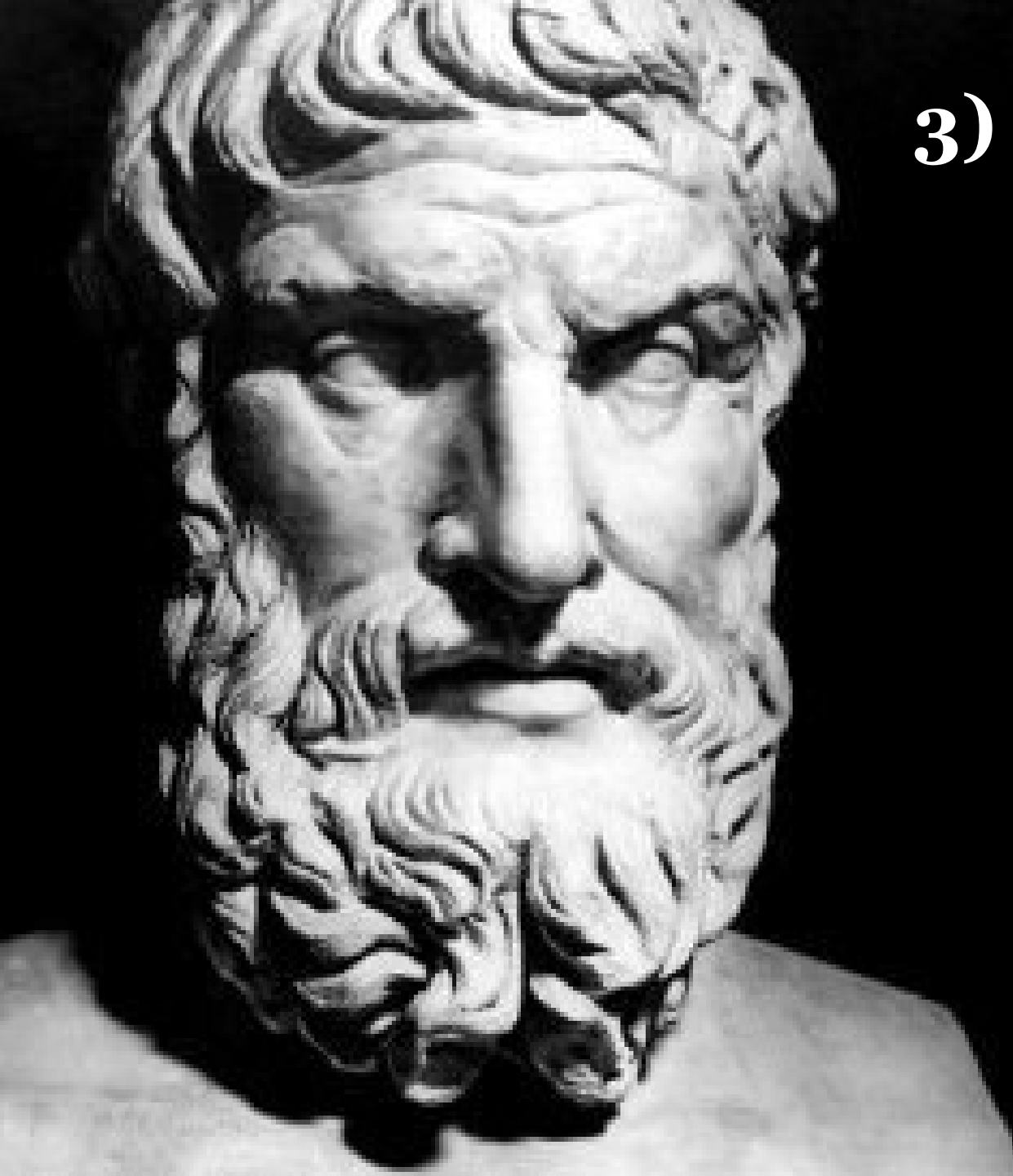
**1) Don't  
believe in  
God or the  
gods**



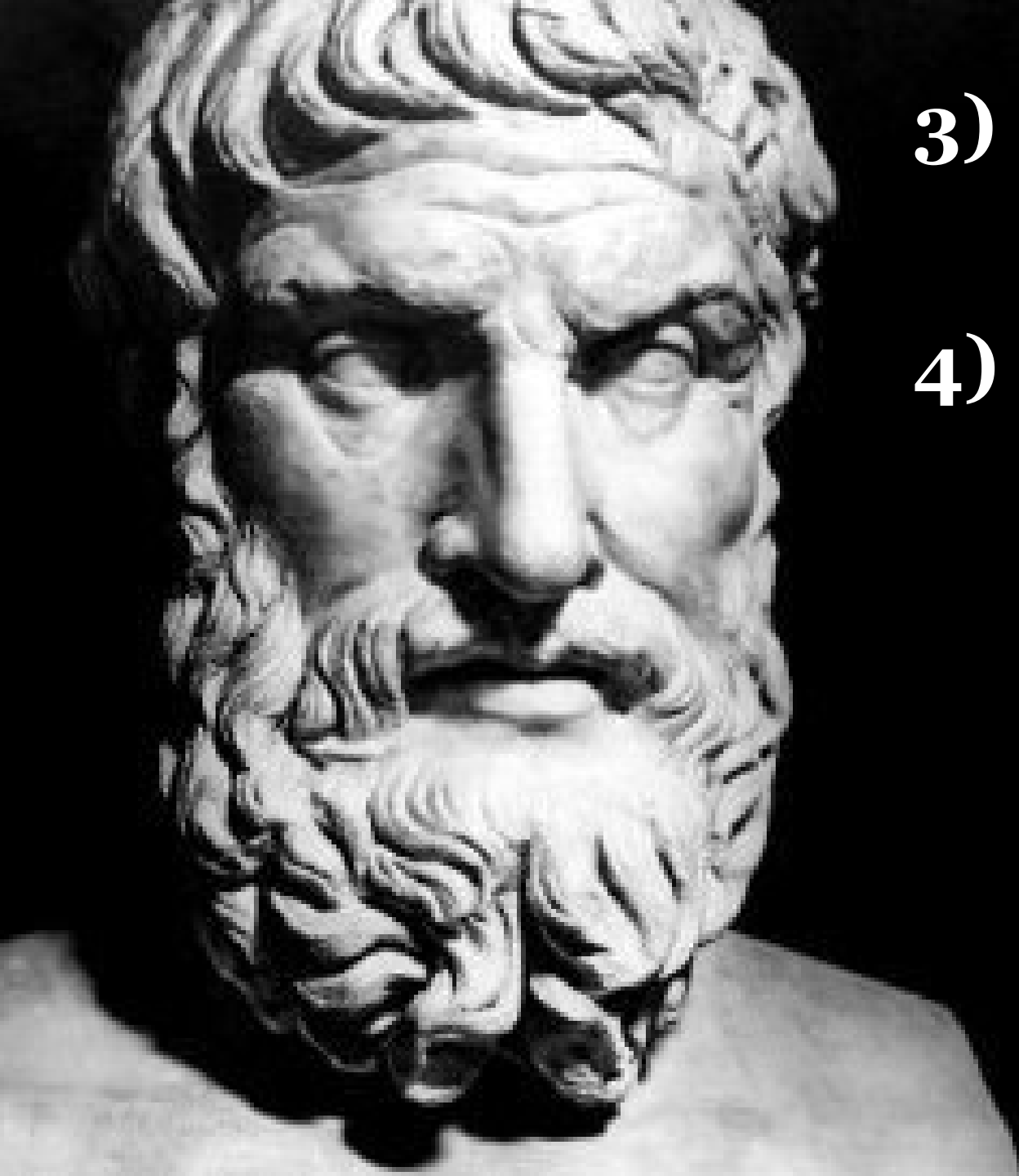


- 1) Don't believe in God or the gods**
- 2) Don't worry about death**

**3) Forget  
about pain**








- 3) Forget about pain**
- 4) Don't worry about acquiring to much**

A black and white photograph of C.S. Lewis sitting at a desk. He is wearing a suit and tie, looking directly at the camera. The desk is cluttered with papers, a typewriter, and other office supplies. The background shows a room with a patterned chair and a window.

**C.S. Lewis**  
*1898-1963*



USED BY  
GOD

NEHEMIAH