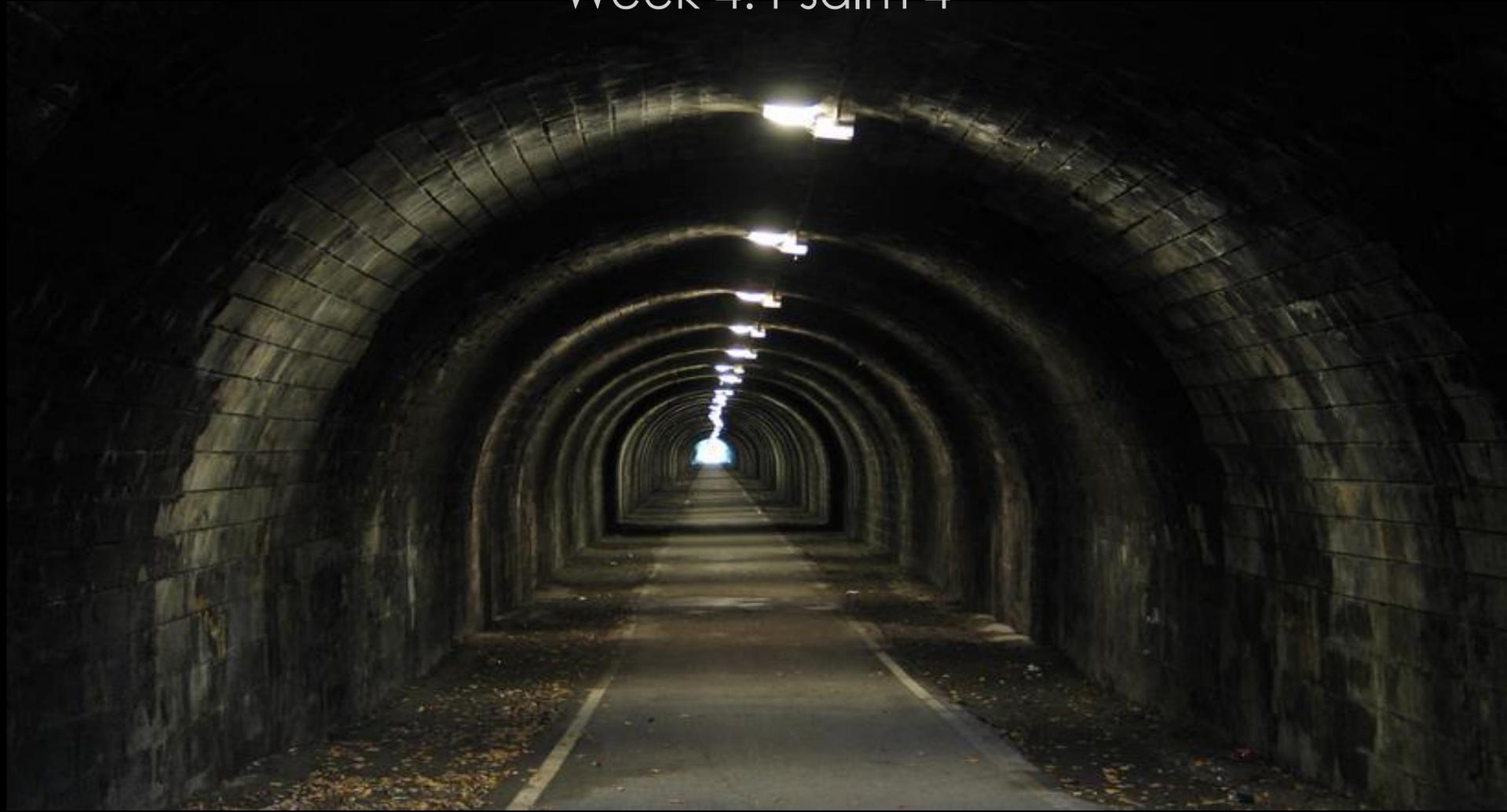


A pass through
The Psalms

Week 4: Psalm 4



4:1 Answer me when I call,
O God of my righteousness!



4:1 Answer me when I call to you,
O God who declares me innocent.
(NLT)



4:1 You have given me relief when I was
in distress. **Be gracious to me and hear
my prayer!**



David expresses
three strong emotions
during this opening prayer:

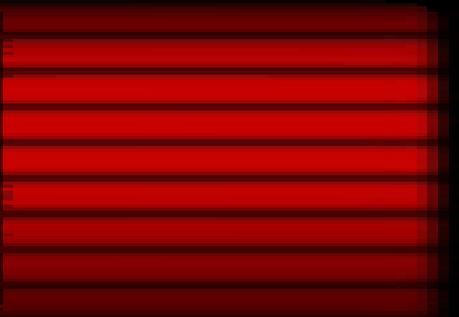
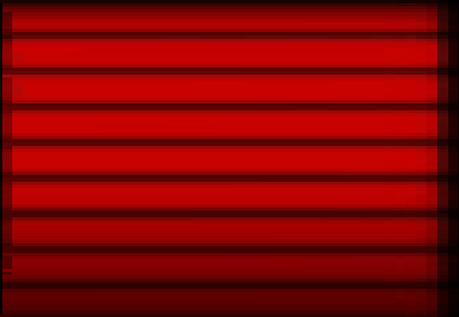
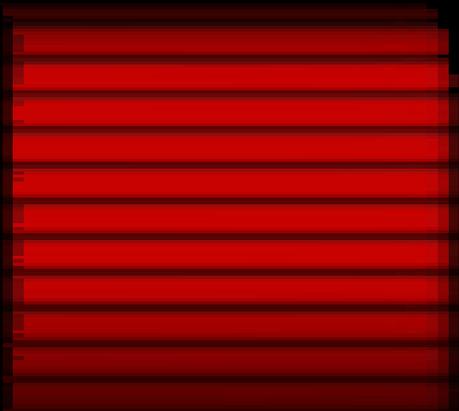
Passion

Boldness

Confidence

His Passion

is evident in his tone:



His Boldness

is evident in his requests:

Answer me!

Hear my prayer!

Be gracious to me!

His Confidence

is evident in his expectation:

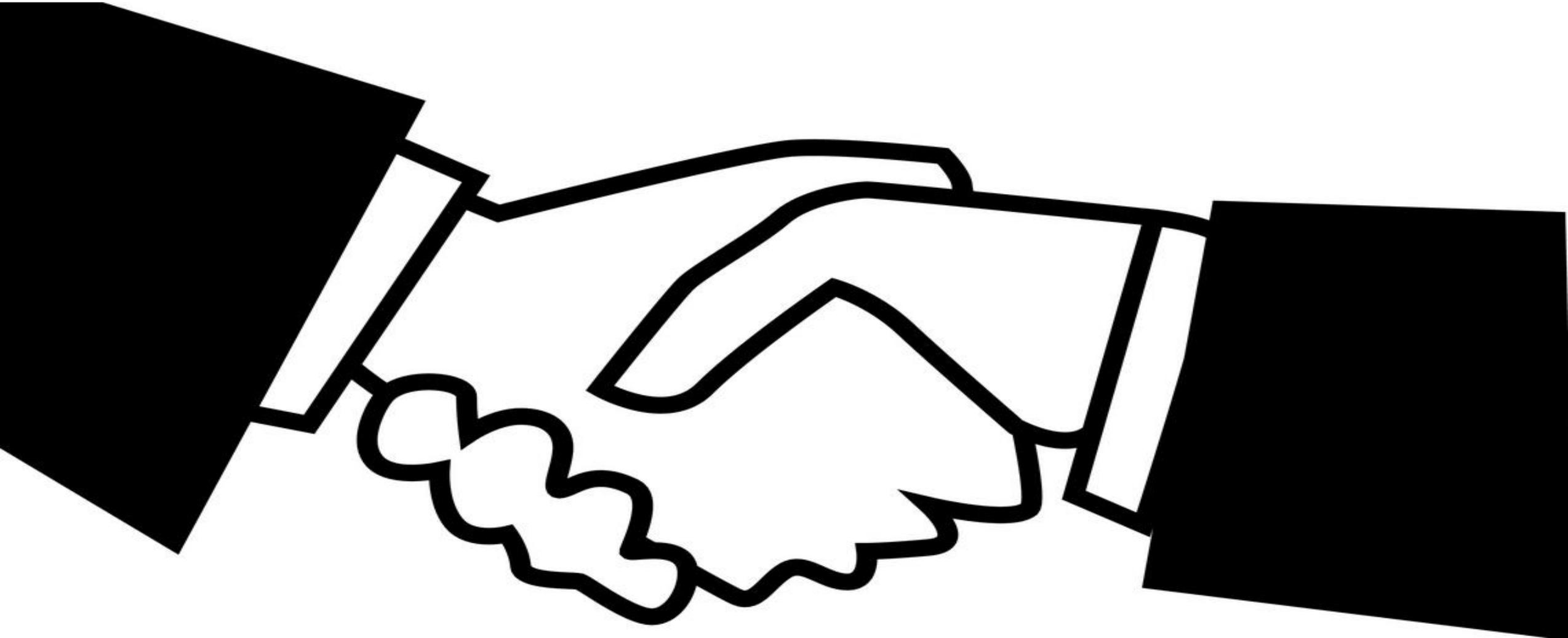
God who declares me innocent...

You have given me relief when...

David passionately, boldly & confidently...
demands that God answer his prayers.



David defends his boldness by reminding God of his good standing.



David urges God
to act in the present
because of what
God has already
done in the past.

God who declares me innocent...

You have given me relief when...



David urges God to act on his behalf now and rescue him from his

present physical enemies

because→

God has already rescued him

from→

his past spiritual enemies.

David is asking God to **stay true** to what God has already done and promised to do in David's life.



*In Exodus 32:9-14 Moses does the same thing.
God is so angered that the people of Israel
have made the golden calf and threatens to
destroy them.*

Moses almost 'defiantly' challenges God,
that God has promised to deliver these
people and urges God to act on behalf of
his promises.

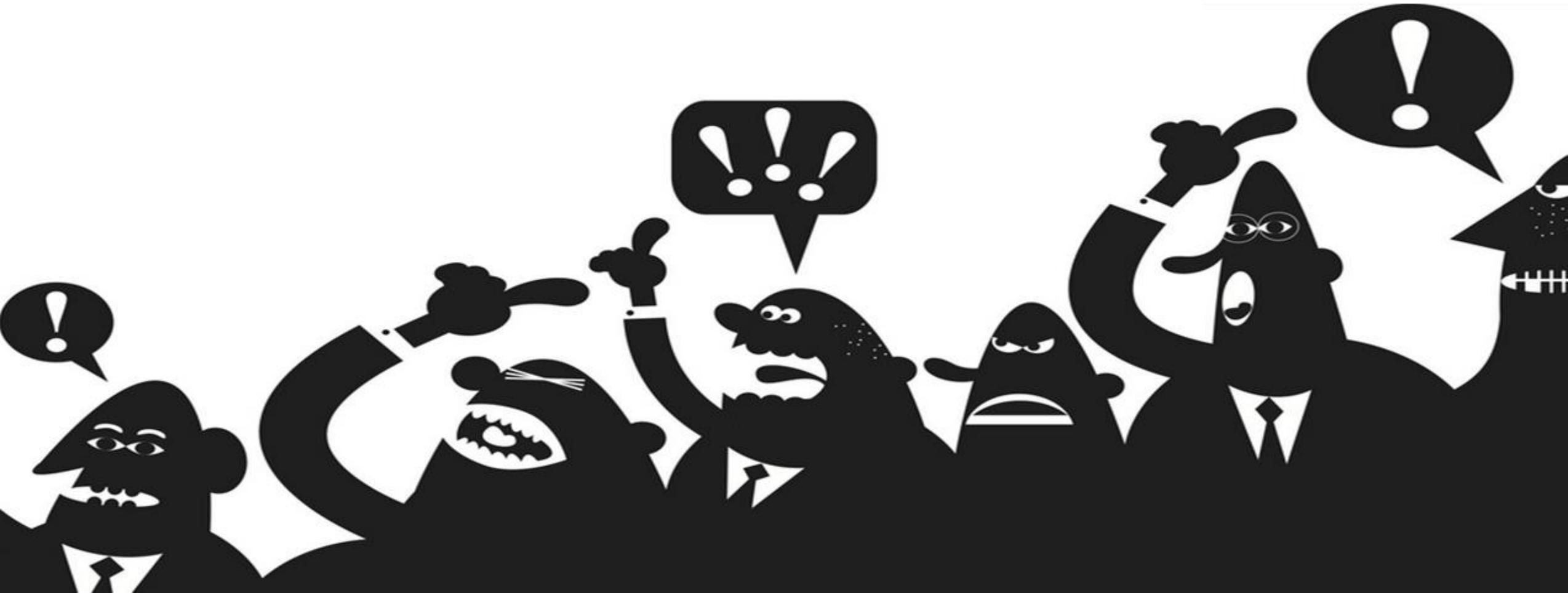
Both Moses and David risked speaking to God irreverently...

but their boldness was an external display of their extreme faith in what God had said previously. And their demanding of God to act on behalf of his promises, displayed to God that they truly believed his words.

God is seeking people who are willing to
put themselves at great risk...
while displaying that they believe
what God has said is true.



4:2 O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame? How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?



4:2 How long will you people ruin my reputation? **How long will you make groundless accusations?** How long will you continue your lies? (NLT)



David is under great scrutiny. Many members of his **own family**, his **own army** and **own people** have turned against him!



But he calls their words **'vain'**
and **'groundless'**...

[Hebrew: empty, worthless, vain]

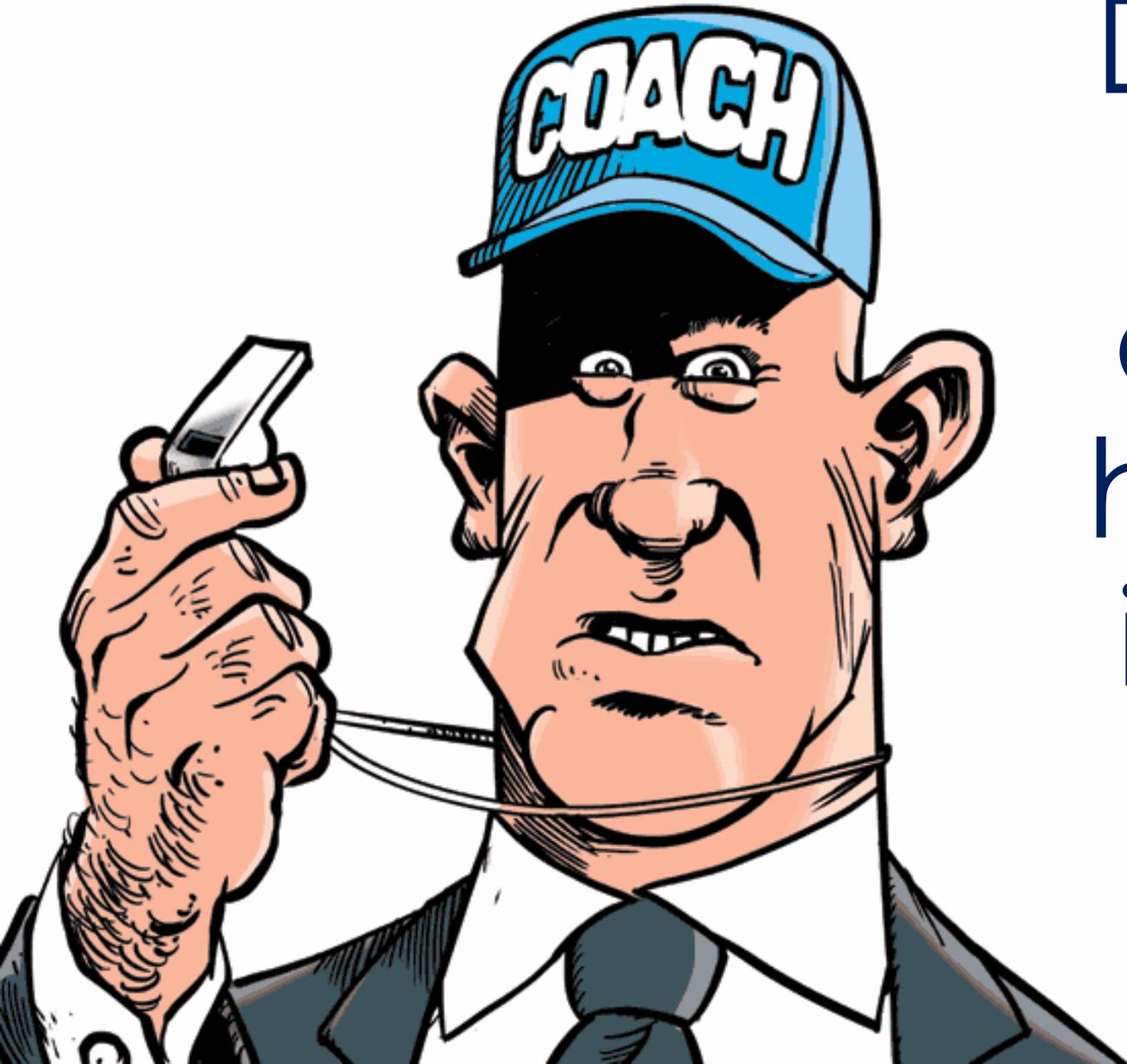
He is grounded in
the opinion of God,
who counts him innocent!

David does struggle with the
length of time (or leash)
that God is allowing his enemies.



4:3 But know that the LORD has
set apart the godly for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.





David rebukes
the wicked
and reiterates
his confidence
in God...via a
pep-talk with
himself!

“God has set apart the righteous for himself, and he considers me right before him...and he will hear me when I call...so evildoers how long will you fight the inevitable.”

The **pep-talk** continues!

4:4-5 Be angry, and do not sin;
ponder in your own hearts on your beds,
and be silent. Offer right sacrifices,
and **put your trust in the LORD.**



“It’s ok to be angry when the wicked flourish...but don’t allow it to lead you into sin. Instead continue to trust God and come to him correctly [faith & sacrifice].”

4:6 There are many who say,
“Who will show us some good?”
Lift the light of your face upon us, O LORD!



The world is looking for pleasure,
joy, happiness...satisfaction.





Mankind is on a
life-long journey
to find
lasting happiness.

“All that we call human history is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.” **CS Lewis**



All men seek happiness. This is without exception.

Whatever different means they employ, they all tend to this end. The cause of some going to war, and of others avoiding it, is the same desire in both, attended with different views. The will never takes the least step but to this object. This is the motive of every action of every man...

Blaise Pascal

David *[and his son Solomon]*
is on the same quest...and his
discovery is that true happiness
can only be found when God
turns his face towards us.

4:7 You have put **more joy** in my heart
**than they have when their grain and
wine abound.**



David declares that he has experienced more joy in the Lord than any amount of joy that the world has to offer.



Joy Meter

“...in your presence is fullness of **joy**, and
at your right hand are **pleasures**
forevermore...” **Psalm 16:11**



“The fight of faith in the Christian life a fight for delight. **It’s a fight to believe God’s promises of happiness over the false promises of happiness we hear from the world**, our fallen flesh, and the devil. And yes, it often involves denying ourselves pleasure, but only denying ourselves a lesser, viler pleasure in order to have a much higher pleasure.” **John Piper**

4:8 In peace I will both lie down and sleep; **for you alone, O LORD,** make me dwell in safety.



David not only finds
joy & satisfaction in the Lord
but also the **safety & security**
that his soul is longing for.

Follow-up Questions



What are the major ways
that you have seen
the world seek joy & happiness?



Have you ever experienced
frustration at the world and their
apparent 'success in evil'?



Have you ever had your
expectations shattered when
looking for joy somewhere other
than God?



In what ways have you
experienced deeper joy
& **satisfaction in the Lord?**



Have you ever had to
give yourself a pep-talk
like David, to encourage
yourself to fight the good fight?



