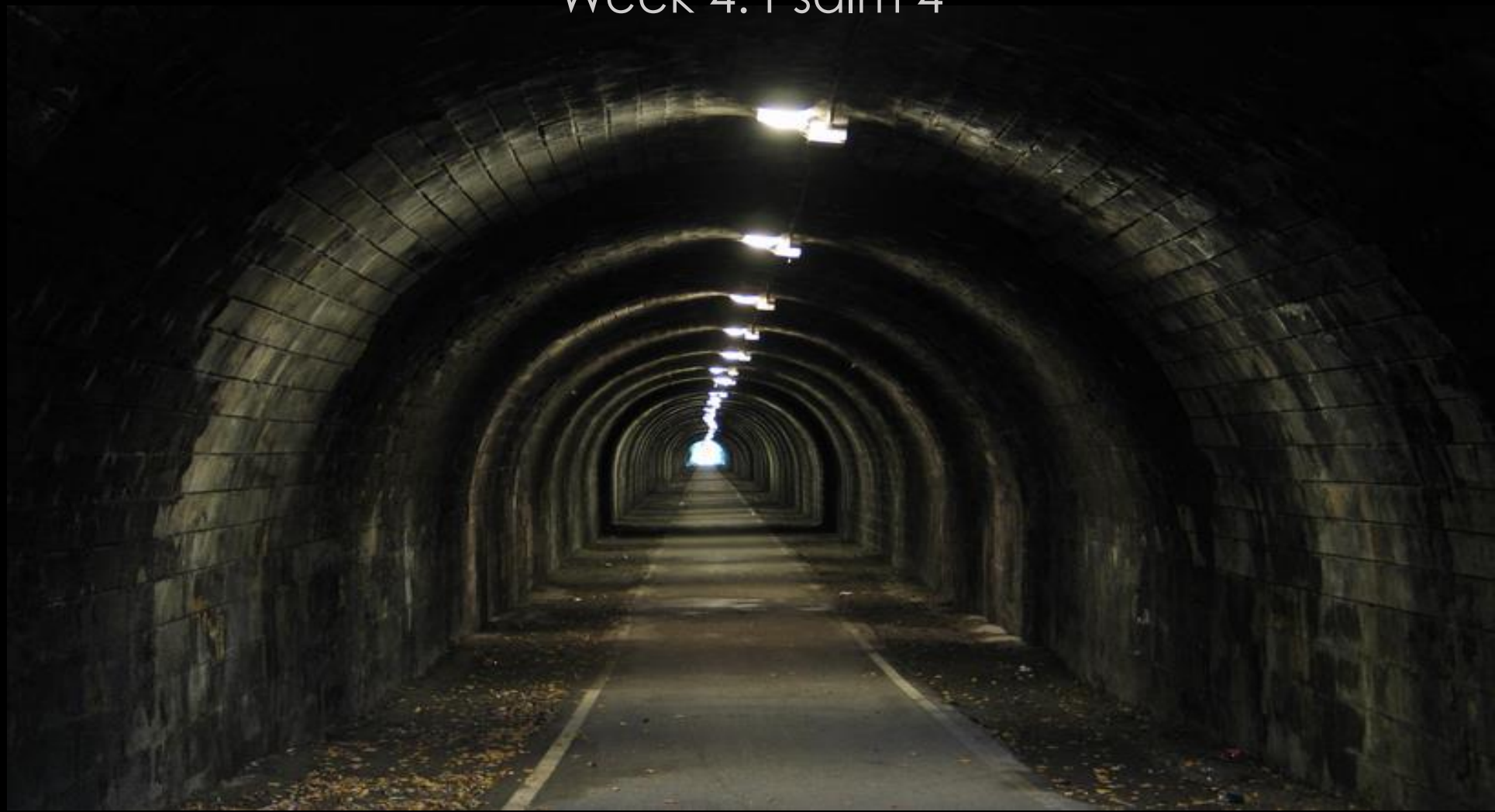


*A pass through*  
**The Psalms**

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...

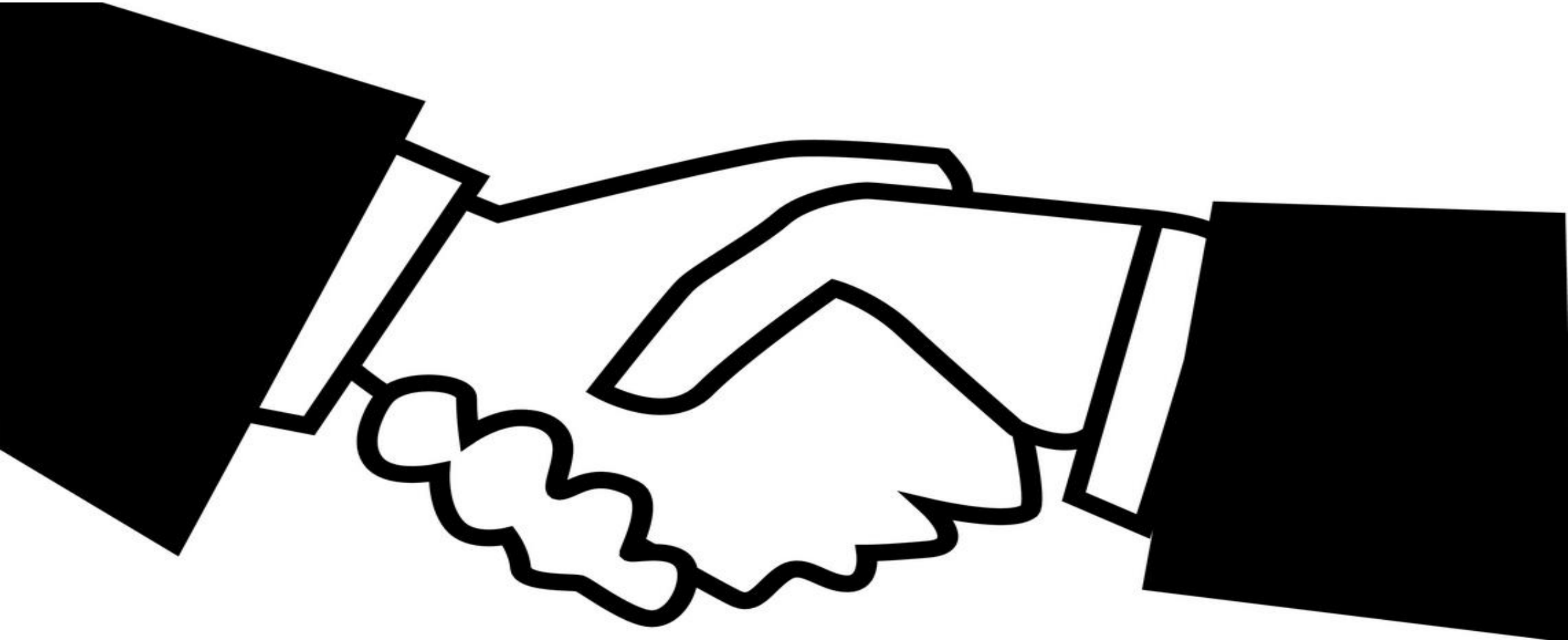
You have given me relief when...



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...**

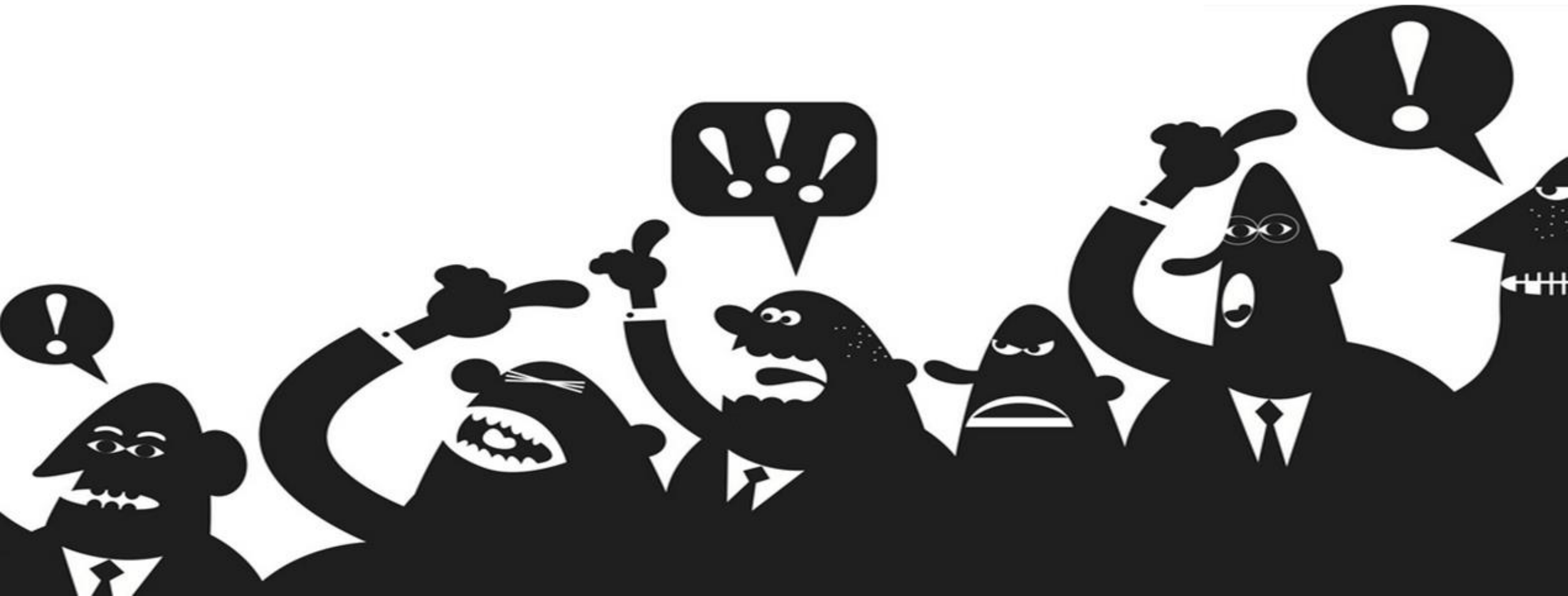
but their **boldness** was an **external display** of their extreme faith in what God had said previously. And their demanding of God to act on behalf of his **promises**, displayed to God that they truly **believed** his words.

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!

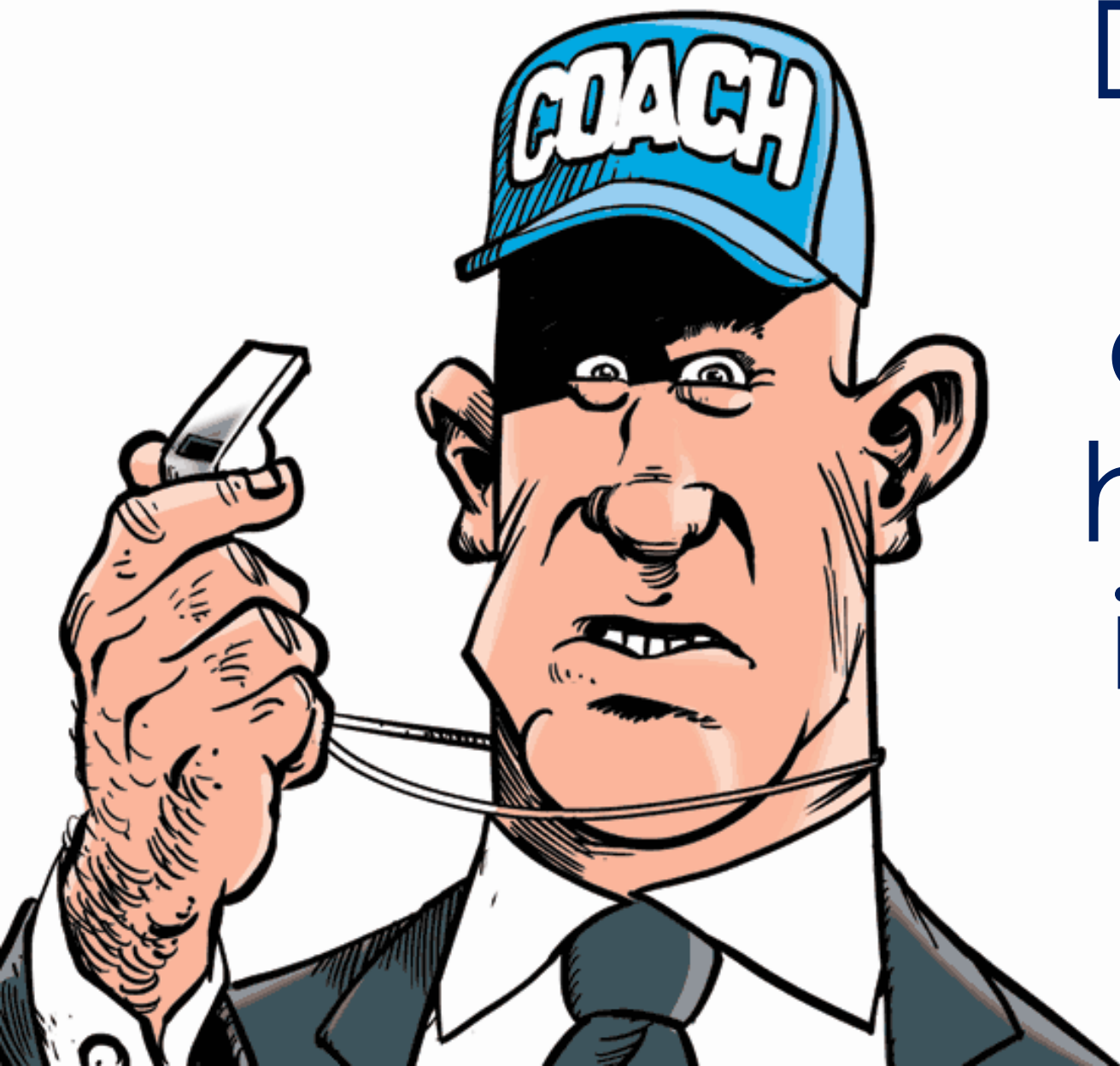
David does struggle with the  
**length of time (or leash)**  
that God is allowing his enemies.





**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.



A person with dark hair, seen from the back, wearing a red and white plaid shirt. They are looking out over a vast, open landscape under a warm, hazy sky, with their hand near their head in a contemplative pose.

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...

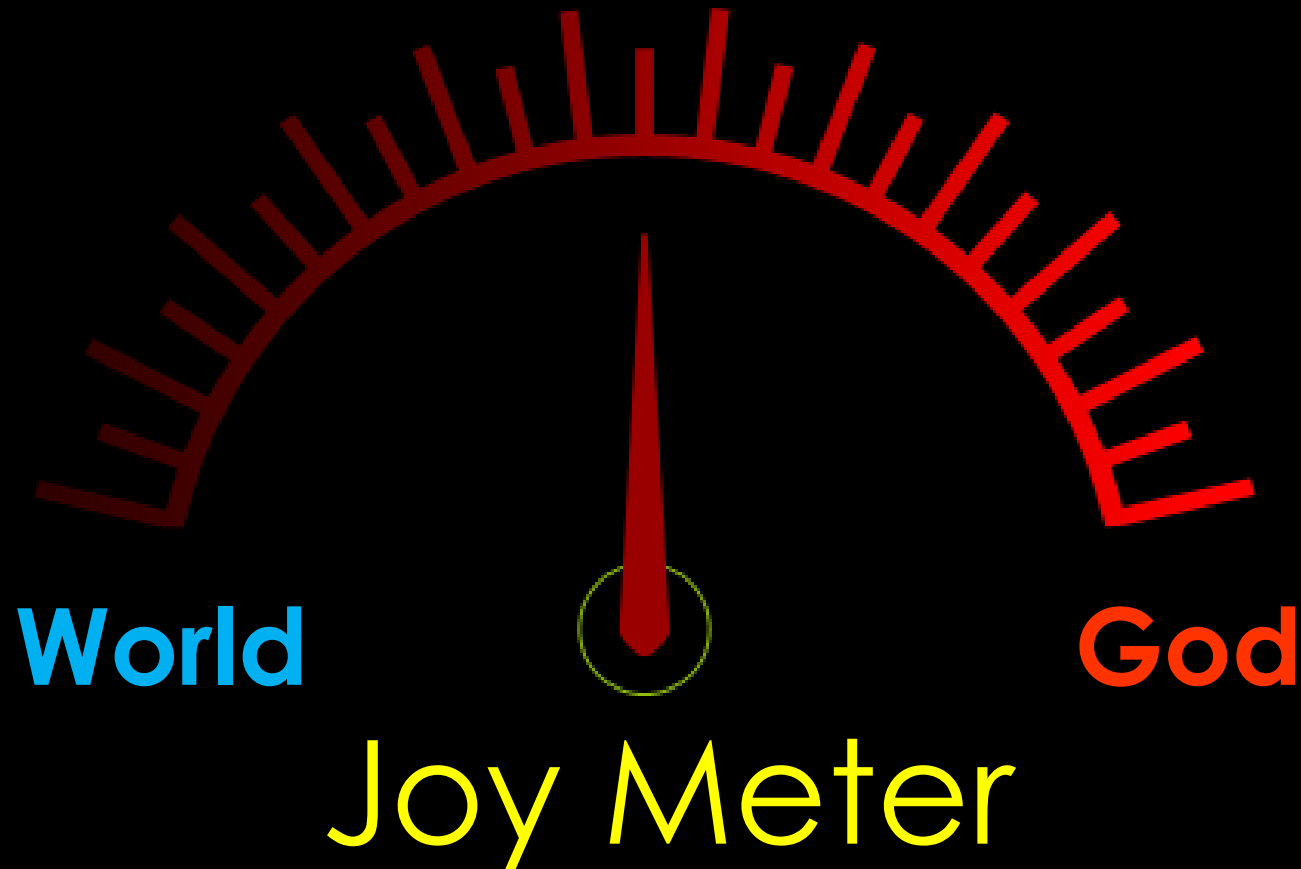
**Blaise Pascal**

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.





“...in your presence is fullness of **joy**, and  
at your right hand are **pleasures**  
forevermore...” **Psalms 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?



