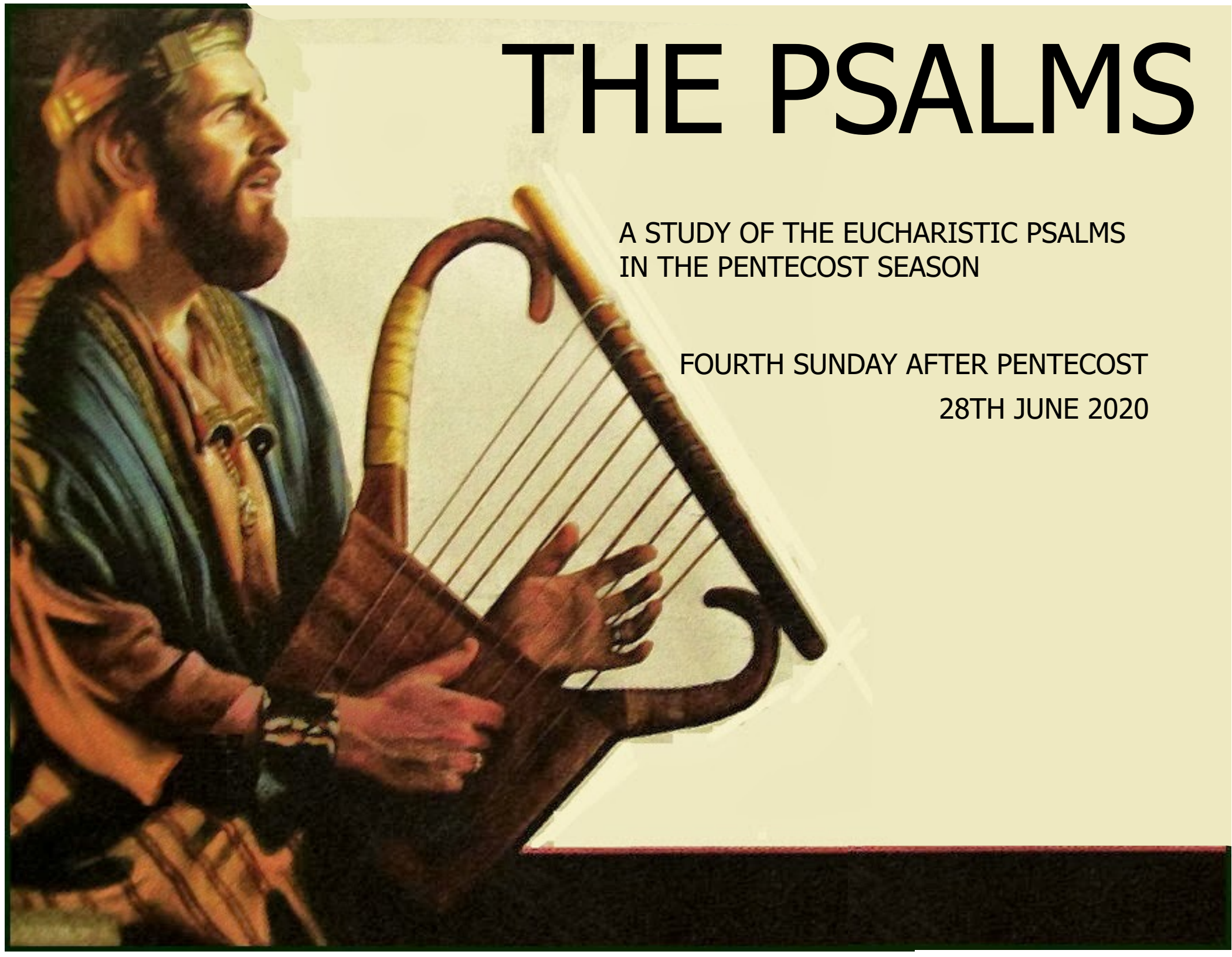


THE PSALMS

A STUDY OF THE EUCHARISTIC PSALMS
IN THE PENTECOST SEASON

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
28TH JUNE 2020



PSALM 13

How long O Lord will you so utterly forget me: how long will you hide your face from me?

**How long must I suffer anguish in my soul and be so grieved in my heart day & night:
how long shall my enemy triumph over me?**

Look upon me O Lord my God and answer me: lighten my eyes lest I sleep in death;

Lest my enemy say 'I have prevailed against him lest my foes exult at my overthrow.'

Yet I put my trust in your unfailing love: O let my heart rejoice in your salvation.

And I will make my song to the Lord: because he deals so bountifully with me.

PSALMS



WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT ABOUT TODAY'S PSALM?

Look at the words that dominate much of Psalm 13:

Verse 1 starts with: **"How long O Lord...."**

Verse 2 continues with; **"How long must I...."**
and **"How long shall....?"**

ARE THEY....

A complaint?

A longing?

A Passionate desire?

A demand?

**Are they part of
a pattern for
A LAMENT?**



THE LAMENT

- There is a significant lack of knowledge about this form of Psalm as much of our Church music is often of Thanksgiving and Trust, which might make us somewhat self satisfied.
- The place of the Lament (which makes up 40% of the Psalms) does not seem to be part of our liturgies. There is little sense of bringing to God our losses, our tragedies, our tremendous social needs and a need for justice in our land.
- In public worship today a great gulf has developed between the experiences of the congregations and the songs of praise and celebration that are being sung at service after service.

THE ADDRESS

“How long, O Lord?”

Short, sharp & to the point.
People who are lamenting seldom
have time to think of fine words
of address.



THE COMPLAINT

Will you forget me forever?

**How long will you
hide your face from me?**

**How long must I bear
pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my
heart all day long?**

**How long shall my enemy
be exalted over me?**



**The complaint is here captured
in a series of questions.**

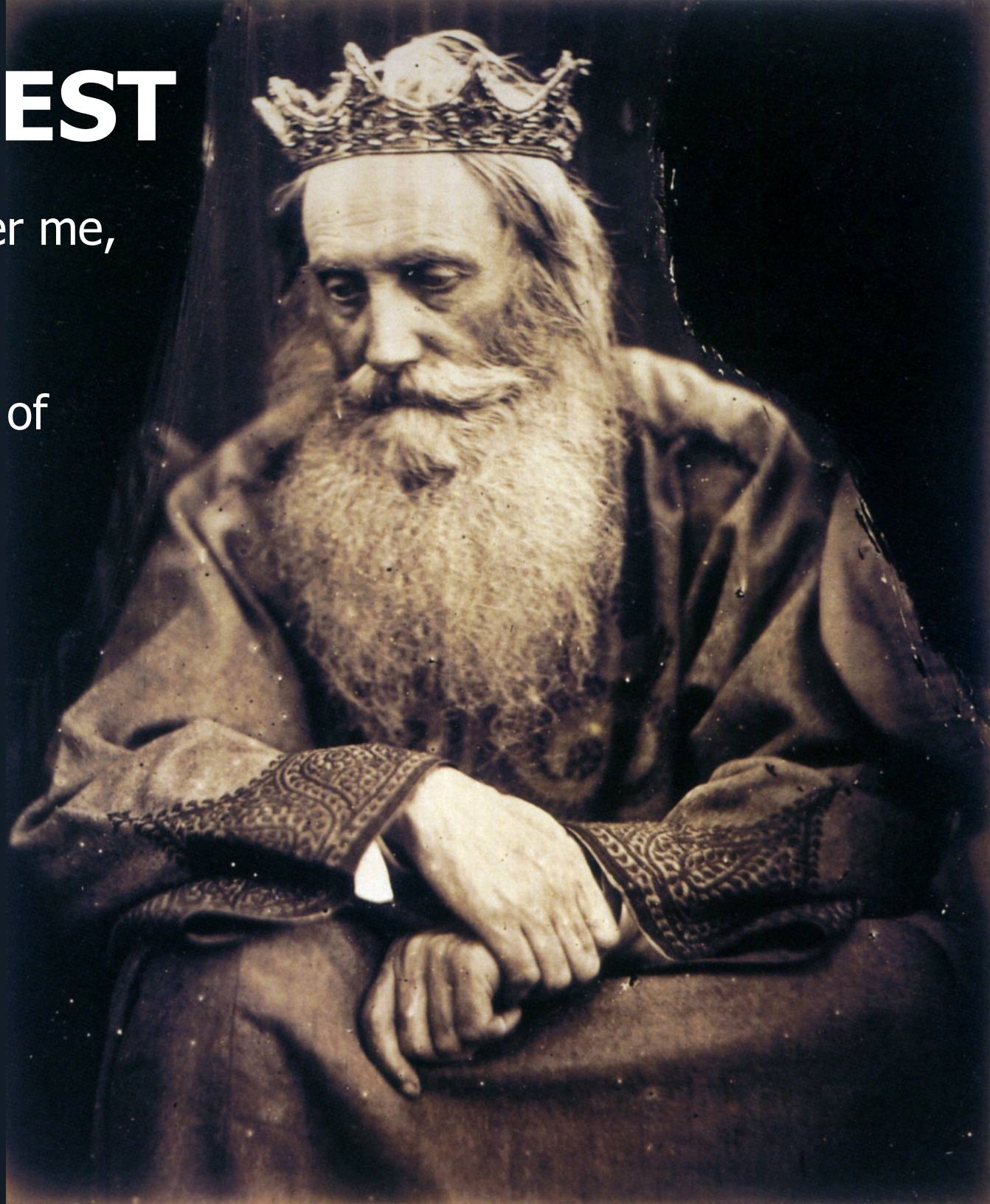
**The questions are not looking
for information but rather
expressing a situation that
should not be experienced by
the people of God!**

THE REQUEST

Consider me and answer me,
O Lord my God!
Give light to my eyes,
or I will sleep the sleep of
death,

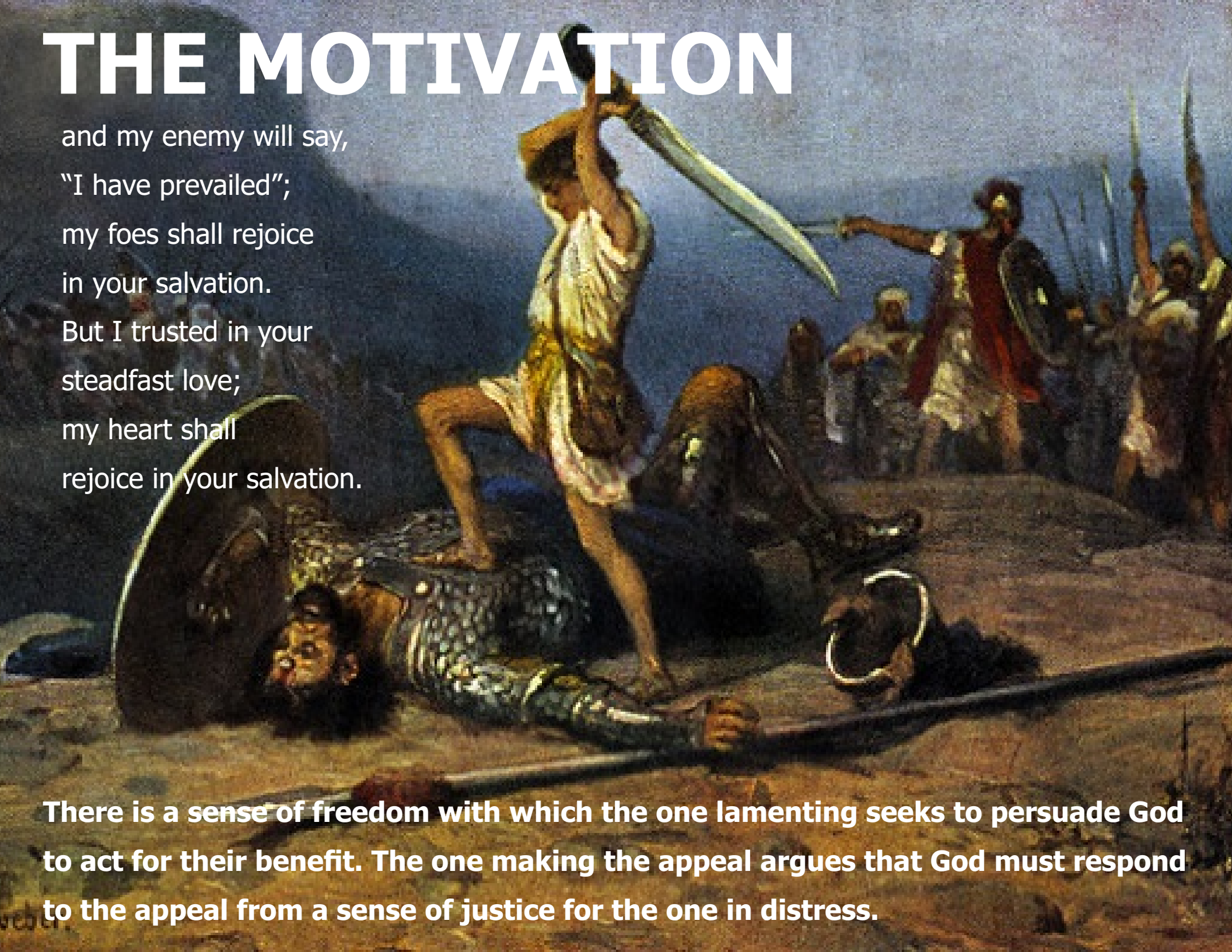
The request might follow
the complaint,
or even be intertwined with it.

The one lamenting is
looking for an answer,
or appealing for
some specific relief



THE MOTIVATION

and my enemy will say,
"I have prevailed";
my foes shall rejoice
in your salvation.
But I trusted in your
steadfast love;
my heart shall
rejoice in your salvation.



There is a sense of freedom with which the one lamenting seeks to persuade God to act for their benefit. The one making the appeal argues that God must respond to the appeal from a sense of justice for the one in distress.

The Confidence that God will act



I will sing to the Lord,
because he has dealt
bountifully with me.

The final element is a response of
praise for the God who does act,
and a sense of confidence that the
appeal will be heard.