

THE LIFE OF DAVID

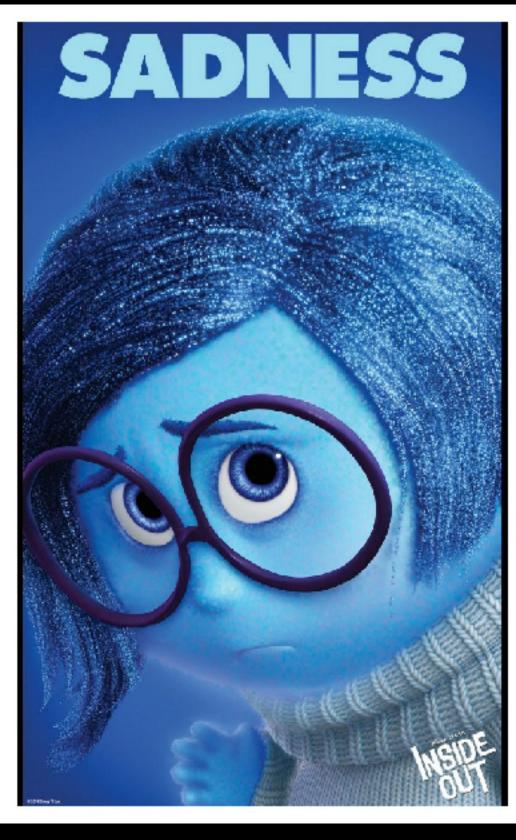
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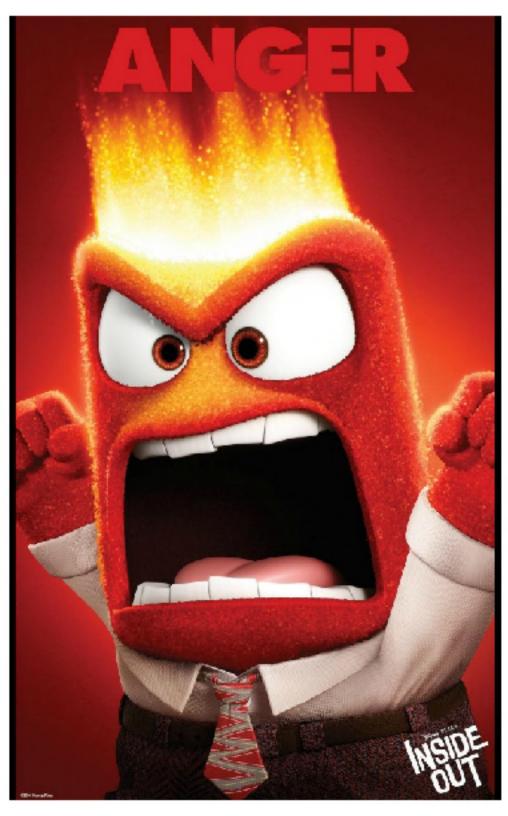
"How Long?"
Psalm 13





















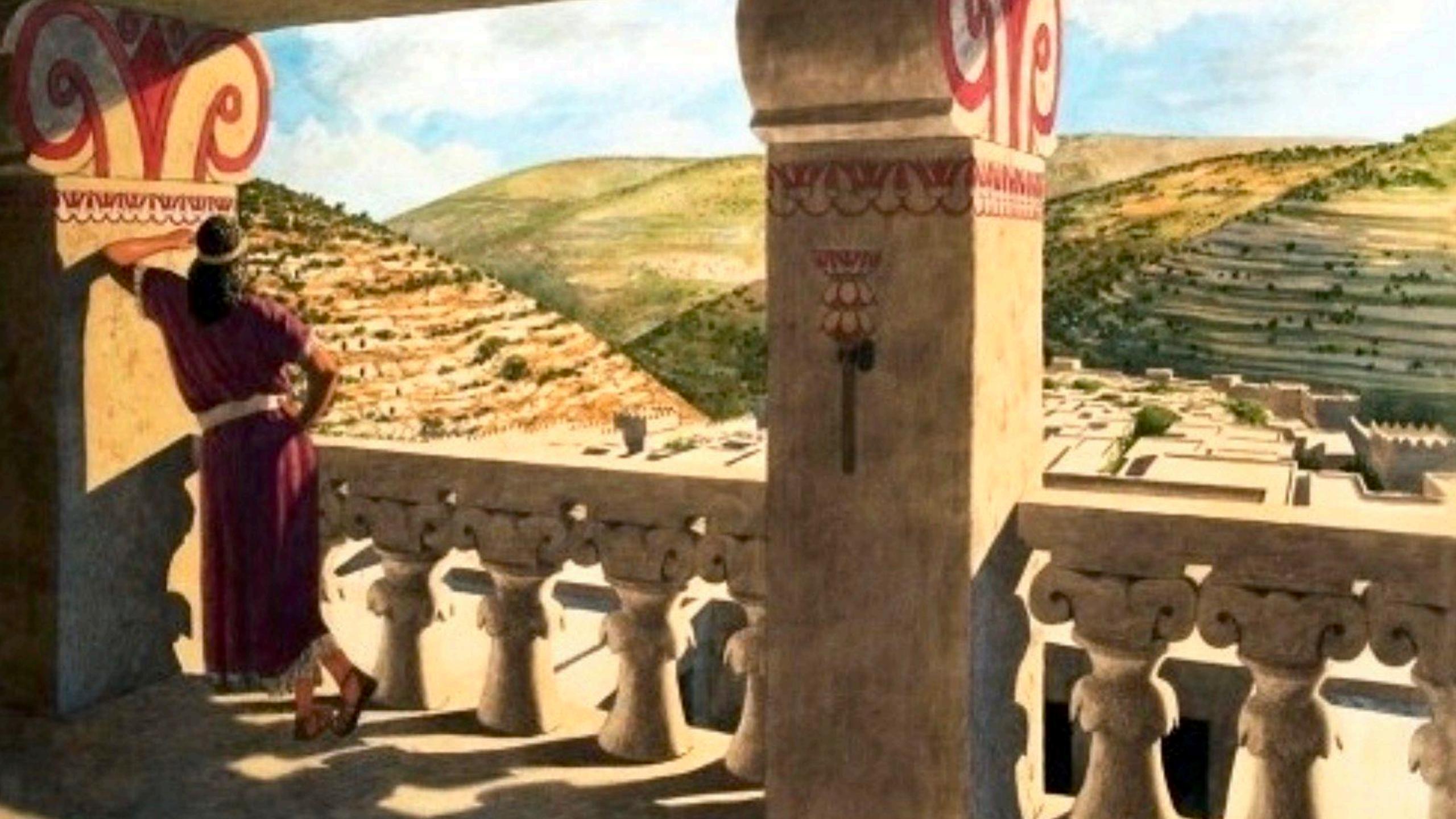
How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?



Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall.



But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me.





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The psalmist is engaged in a deep struggle with God over his fears and depression. He demands an accounting from God. In his anxiety, he throws God's promises back in His divine face. Long ago, God had promised to be with His people in a covenant relationship.



That meant He would protect them and watch over them. He had promised to show them "favor," "unfailing love," to be "merciful," and keep His "promise." The psalmist confronts God here and demands to know whether He is a liar. In the midst of his pain, he looks at his situation and wonders if God has reneged on His promises to him.



We are too quick to explain away this kind of language. Most of us would be scared to death to talk to God this way. But what do we do instead? We repress our strong emotions, and too quickly and unreflectively "turn it over to God." If we are honest with ourselves, however, we don't really put it in God's hands—we bottle it up within ourselves



The problem continues to exist, and our fear festers and grows inside of us, alienating us not only from our true emotions but also from God. The irony of faith is that it is not a quiet submission to the fates. It asks, and it shouts; it is a cry that is heard in heaven.



The irony of questioning God is that it honors Him: It turns our hearts away from ungodly despair toward a passionate desire to comprehend Him.



Numbers 6:24-27

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." "So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."



Numbers 23:19

God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?



Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall.



Psalm 27:4, 8

One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple... You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, Lord, do I seek."



But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me.



FOR AVA

Matercolor paints and a black pen were used for the full-color ar.
The text type Cheltenham.

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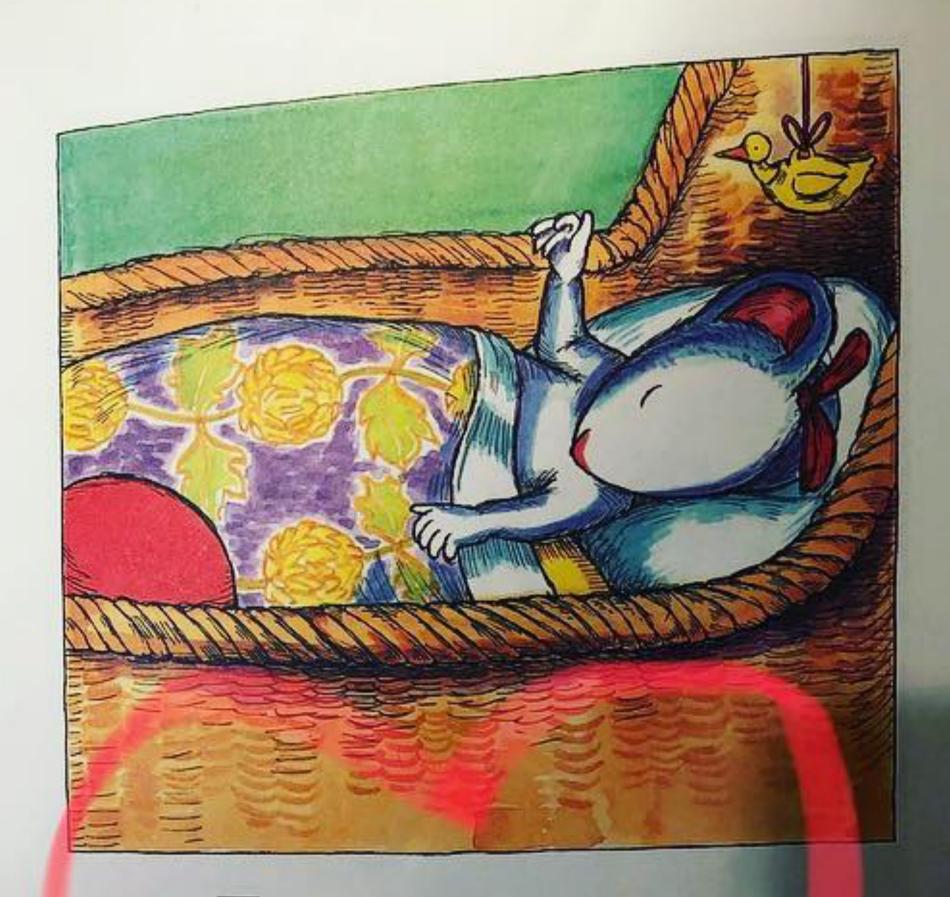
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The day she was born was the happiest day in her parents' lives.

"She's perfect," said her mother.

"Absolutely," said her father.

And she was.

She was absolutely perfect.

