

The background is a solid brown color. In the center, there is a faint, circular emblem. Inside the emblem, there is a gold cross at the top, a red heart with black thorns in the middle, and an open book with red covers at the bottom.

Psalm 4

Recovery from Rebellion

Psalm 4

- v2 - Hebrew uses the same word (tsaddik) for righteousness and innocence (as opposed to guilt)
 - The sense is the psalmist prays to God who vindicates him (Soncino)
- There is a contrast here that some translations miss; it is literally "in narrowness, You have broadened (a place) for me"
 - For the psalmist, this likely meant physical deliverance
 - For the Christian, the meaning is two-fold
 - Eventually, there is vindication – Rev 6:9-11, 11:17-18
 - In the meantime, we find joy even in our afflictions
 - Rom 5:3, II Cor 8:1-2, Col 1:11, 24, I Thess 1:6, James 1:2, I Peter 1:3-6, 4:13, Acts 5:40-41

Psalm 4

- v3 – Could read “you dishonor my Glorious One”
 - None of the rest of the psalm is from God's perspective so this verse is likely not referring to God's glory or honor but to David's
 - The psalm may be a reference to the rebellion of Absalom (cf. Ps 3:1)
 - David upbraids those who supported the vanity of Absalom's attempted coup ("vain words" is an interpolation by the RSV - it is more literally "love vanity", i.e., a coup attempt that is bound to fail)
 - Lies is more literally falsehood or a deceptive thing such as the thought that a coup against God's anointed could succeed
 - We can also see in this rebellion against Jesus – the Truth – John 14:6

Psalm 4

- v4 - This is why the rebellion will fail
 - But doesn't God hear us all? Why do we pray for saints' intercession?
 - God does sometimes point out those to whom we should listen by intercessory prayer – Gen 20:1-7, Job 42:7-8
- v5 - LXX (and RSV) read "Be angry" (cf. Eph 4:26) but the MT Hebrew means to quiver or quake
 - In other words, be troubled about your sin of plotting against God's anointed; consider what you have done and desist from your rebellion
 - If the LXX reading is to be taken, perhaps it means to be angry at yourselves for your stupidity
 - cf. Ps 63:6, 16:7 – when are we on our beds? Deut 6:4-7
 - Ironically, the Hebrew word for "be silent" can also mean "wail"

Psalm 4

- v7 - Absalom had sown discontent in the hearts of the people
 - cf. II Sam 15:2-6
 - Part of the official priestly blessing of God - cf. Num 6:22-26
 - cf. Ps 67:2, 44:4, 89:15
- v8 – cf. Gal 5:22, again joy from something other than abundance
- v9 – cf. Ps 119:165, Phili 1:19-24, Rom 14:8
 - May the all powerful God grant us a restful night and a peaceful death