

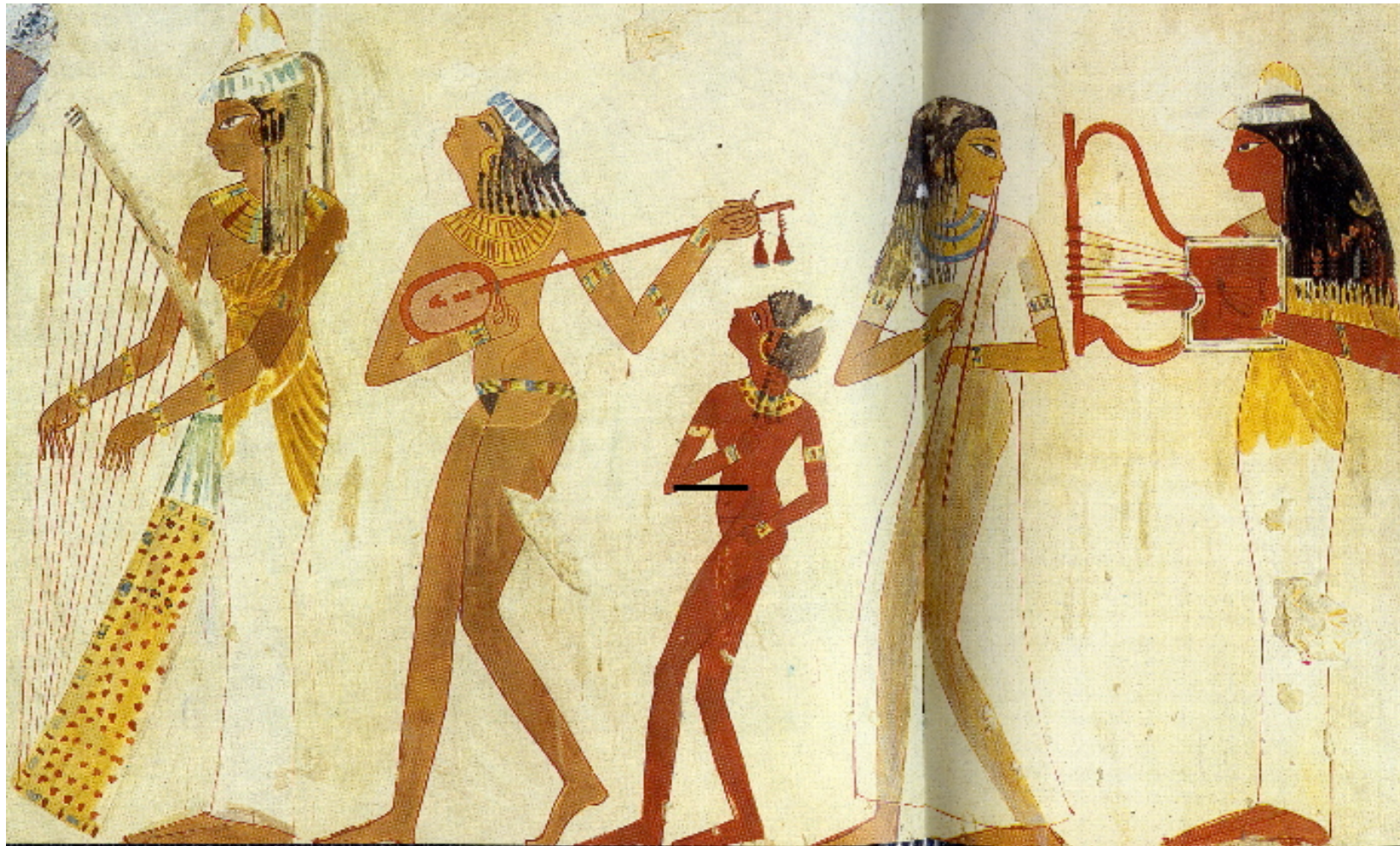
# Psalm 57: Awake lyre and harp

Harp

Lute

Oboe

Lyre



Psalm 57 (56) (Mode 2. 5....31 / 4.....32)

The psalmist is taking refuge in God's presence (verse 1) till a calamity passes. It seems he is being falsely accused (verse 4). But he is at peace, awaiting the dawn, when the judgment will take place, trusting that God's faithful covenant love will dispel the darkness with the rising sun (see refrain verses 5 and 11).

‘There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations’(Isaiah 9:1, quoted in Matthew 4:15).

‘O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me’(Psalm 43:3).

‘Justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us; we wait for light, and lo! there is darkness; and for brightness, but we walk in gloom’(Isaiah 59:9).

Note that the beautifully confident conclusion (verses 7 to 11, repeated in Psalm 108:1-5) comes out of a lot of suffering, and profound trust in the 'kindness and faithfulness' of the Lord (verses 3 and 10).

Saint Augustine sees this psalm as celebrating the passion of Jesus. In his commentary on verse seven, he speaks of Jesus' heart being ready for suffering.

We think of the innocent Jesus trusting in God and confident in the resurrection.

Be gracious to me, O God, be gracious to me.  
Where else can I hide?  
In the shade of your wings I take refuge,  
till the destructive storms pass by.  
I cry to you, God the Most High,  
as you carry out for me your loving designs.  
Send from heaven to save me.  
Frustrate the desires of those who assail me.  
Send me, O God,  
your love that never fails.

‘If we are faithless he remains faithful,  
for he cannot deny himself’(2 Timothy 2:13).

## Lamentation 3:21-26

‘But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:  
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.  
‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul,  
‘therefore I will hope in him.’  
The Lord is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul that seeks him.  
It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the Lord.’

I am lying down among lions  
that greedily devour human prey;  
their teeth are spears and arrows,  
their tongue a sharpened sword.

*Arise, O God, above the heavens.*

verse II

*Let your glory shine on earth.*

They set for me a net,  
a trap to ensnare me.  
They dug a pit in my path,  
but fell in it themselves.

My heart is steadfast, O God,  
my heart is steadfast.

I will sing and make melody.

Awake, my soul!

Awake, O harp and lyre!

I will awake the dawn.

He stirs himself. It is not God who needs awakening,  
it is our own hearts.

‘Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord! ...  
Rouse yourself, rouse yourself! Stand up, O  
Jerusalem!’(Isaiah 51:9,17).



I will thank you, Lord, among the peoples;  
among the nations I will sing your praises.  
For your kindness is as encompassing as the heavens;  
your faithfulness as the skies.

*Arise, O God, above the heavens.* verse 5

*Let your glory shine on earth*

‘By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us’(Luke 1:78).

‘Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the  
glory of the Lord has risen upon you’(Isaiah 60:1).

## Resurrection through death

‘When you have lifted up the Son of Man,  
then you will realise that I am he’(John 8:28).