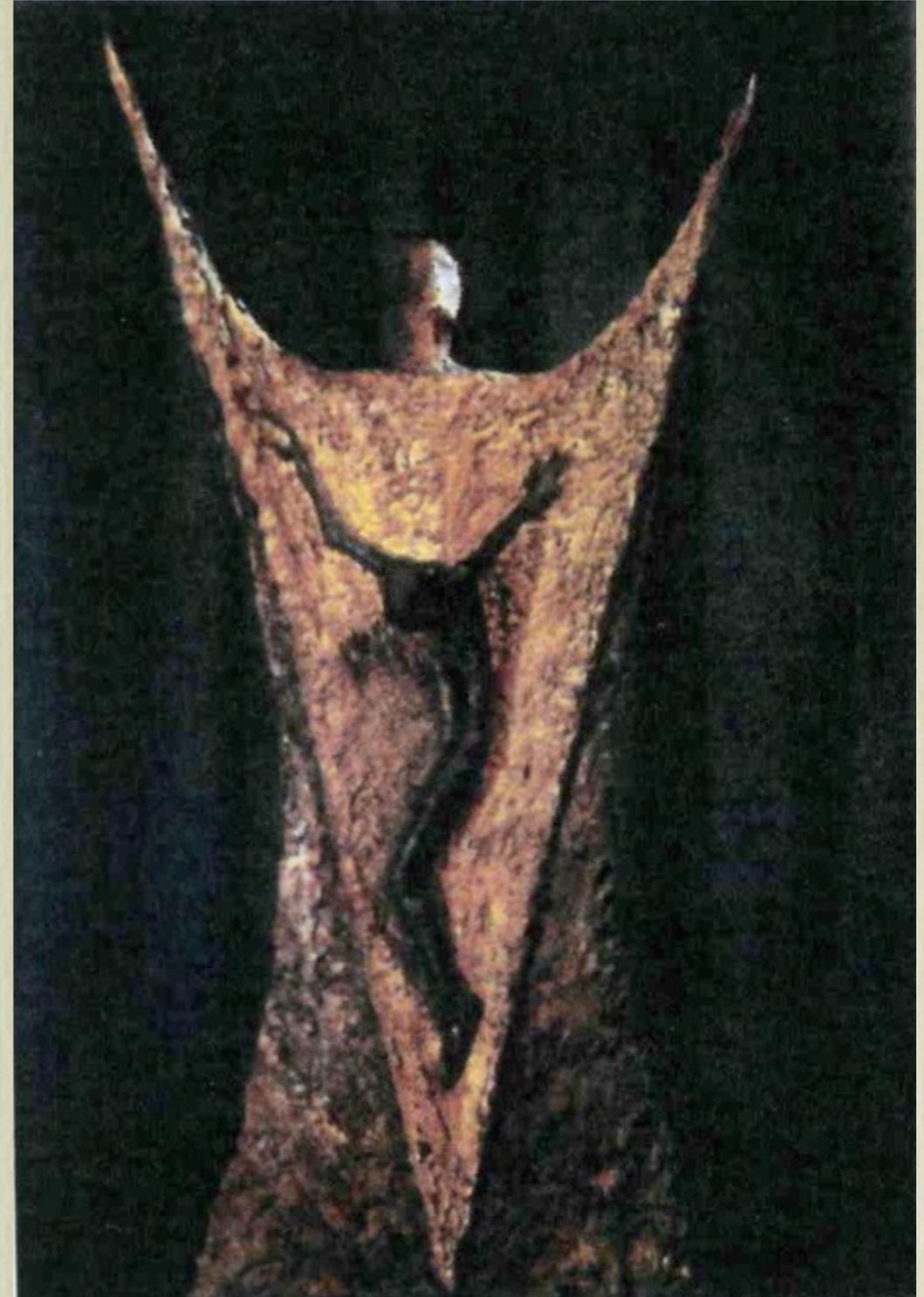


Jesus' Agony and Dying



Lyn Constable Maxwell MRBS
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Part I . Jesus faces his bitter struggle alone

‘They went to a place called Gethsemane;
and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.”

He took with him Peter and James and John,
and began to be distressed and agitated.

And said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death;
remain here, and keep awake.”

And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground
and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

He said, “Abba, Father,
for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me;
yet, let your will, not mine, be done.” (Mark 14:32-36)

“Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, let your will, not mine, be done.”

What is God’s will?



Peter : Acts 3:13-15

‘God has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.’

Stephen : Acts 7:51-52

‘You stiff-necked people, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do.

Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute?

They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers.’

1 Thessalonians 2:14-15

‘You became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you suffered the same things from your own compatriots as they did from the Jews, who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out; they displease God.’

Psalm 5:4

‘You are not a God who delights in sin.’

Mark 12:6-8

‘The owner of the vineyard
sent slaves to collect the produce ...
Some they beat, others they killed.

He had still one other, a beloved son.
Finally he sent him to them, saying,
‘Surely, they will respect my son.’

But those tenants said to one another,
‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him,
and the inheritance will be ours.’
So they seized him, killed him,
and threw him out of the vineyard.’

John 8:37

‘You are looking for an opportunity to kill me,
because there is no place in you for my word.’

John 8:28-29

‘Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man,
then you will realize that I AM,
and that I do nothing on my own,
but I speak these things as the Father instructed me.
And the one who sent me is with me;
he has not left me alone,
for I always do what is pleasing to him.”

Hebrews 5:7-9

‘In the days of his flesh,
Jesus offered up prayers and supplications,
with loud cries and tears,
to the one who was able to save him from death,
and he was heard because of his reverent submission.
Although he was a Son,
he learned obedience through what he suffered;
and having been made perfect,
he became the source of eternal salvation
for all who obey him.

“Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, let your will, not mine, be done.”

What is God’s will?



Part II. Jesus' Dying

Mark 15:37-38

'Jesus gave a loud cry
and breathed his last.

And the curtain of the temple
was **rent** in two (σχίζω),
from top to bottom.

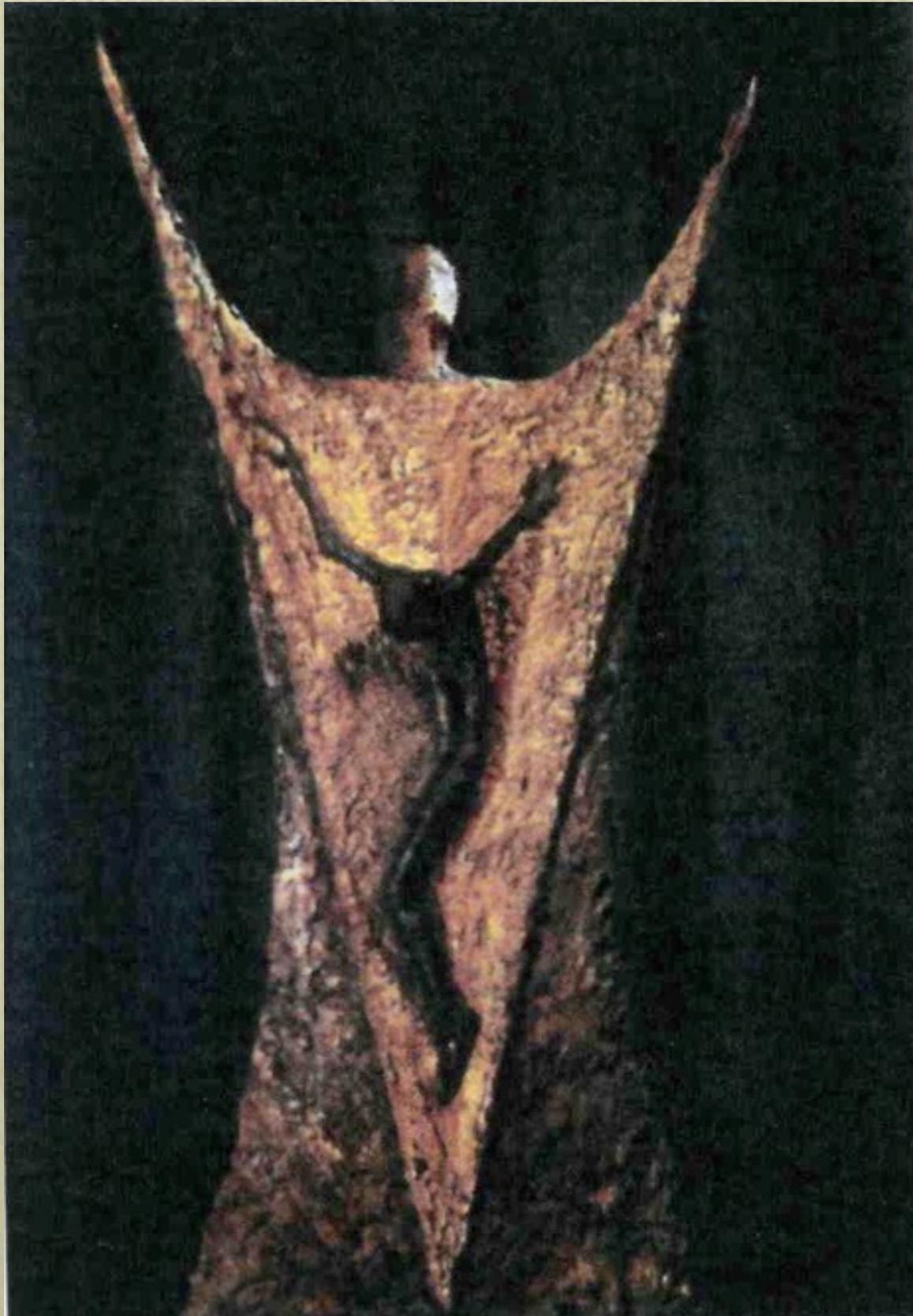
Mark 1:10

'The heavens were **rent**' (see Isaiah 64:1).

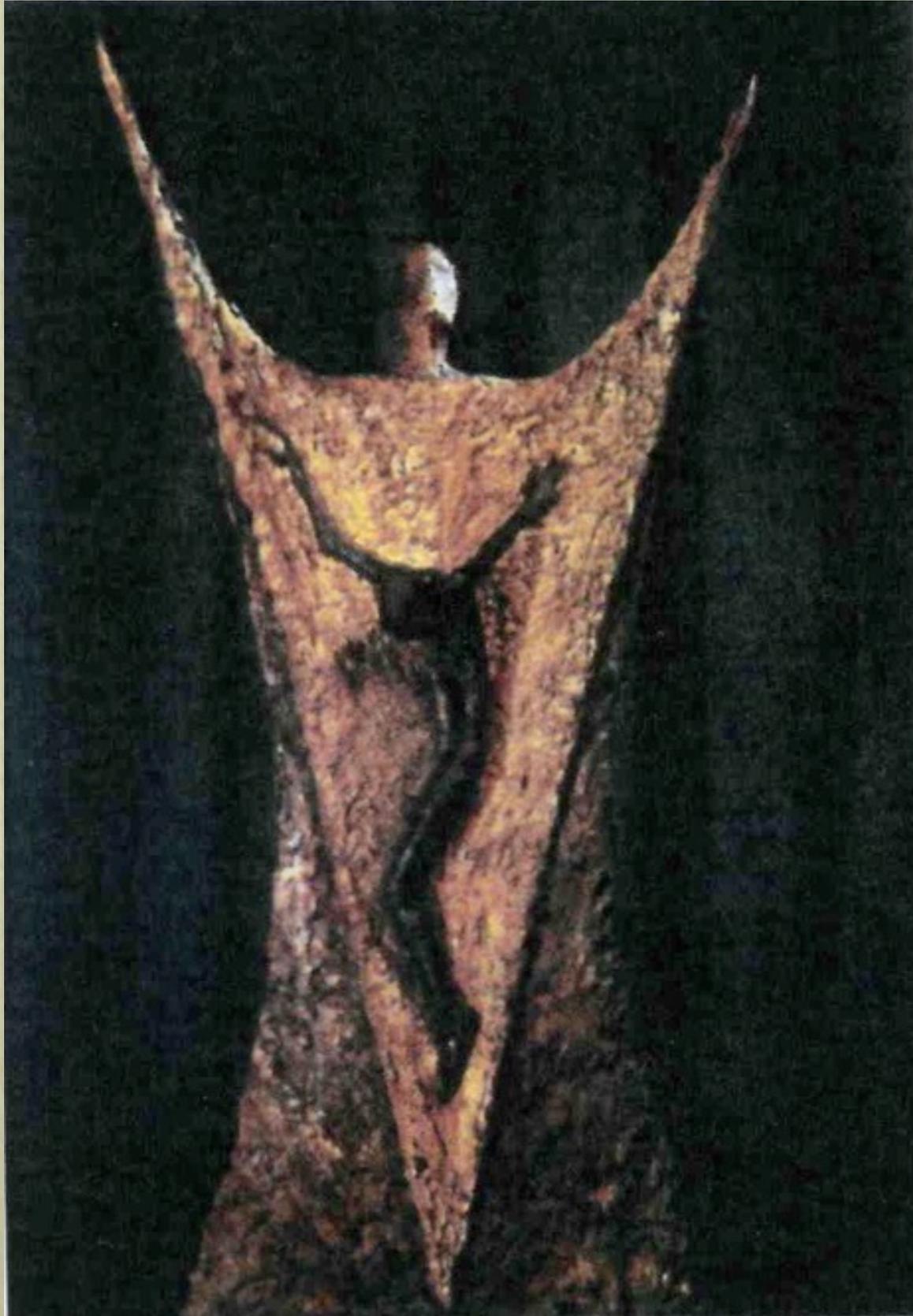
Yom Kippur



To whole world



Mark 15:39



When the centurion,
who stood facing him,
saw **HOW HE DIED**, he said:
“Truly, this man was God’s Son!”.

‘The beginning of the gospel of Jesus
the Christ, the Son of God’ (1:1).

‘You are my Beloved Son’ (1:11).

‘This is my Beloved Son.
Listen to him’ (9:7).

- Jesus' death was brought about by others.
- The way he died, however, was determined by Jesus himself
- It was Jesus' love-giving, self-giving, life-giving that God willed.
- Thanks to Jesus' fidelity to his Father's will, not even the injustice and disobedience of those who crucified Jesus could thwart God's eternal design.

Psalm 22:1

‘My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?’



Psalm 22:10

‘You have been my God’ – Eli atta

אֱלֹהֵי אֲפָתָה

(Elijah come! – Eliya ta)

אֱלִיָּהוּ תָּה

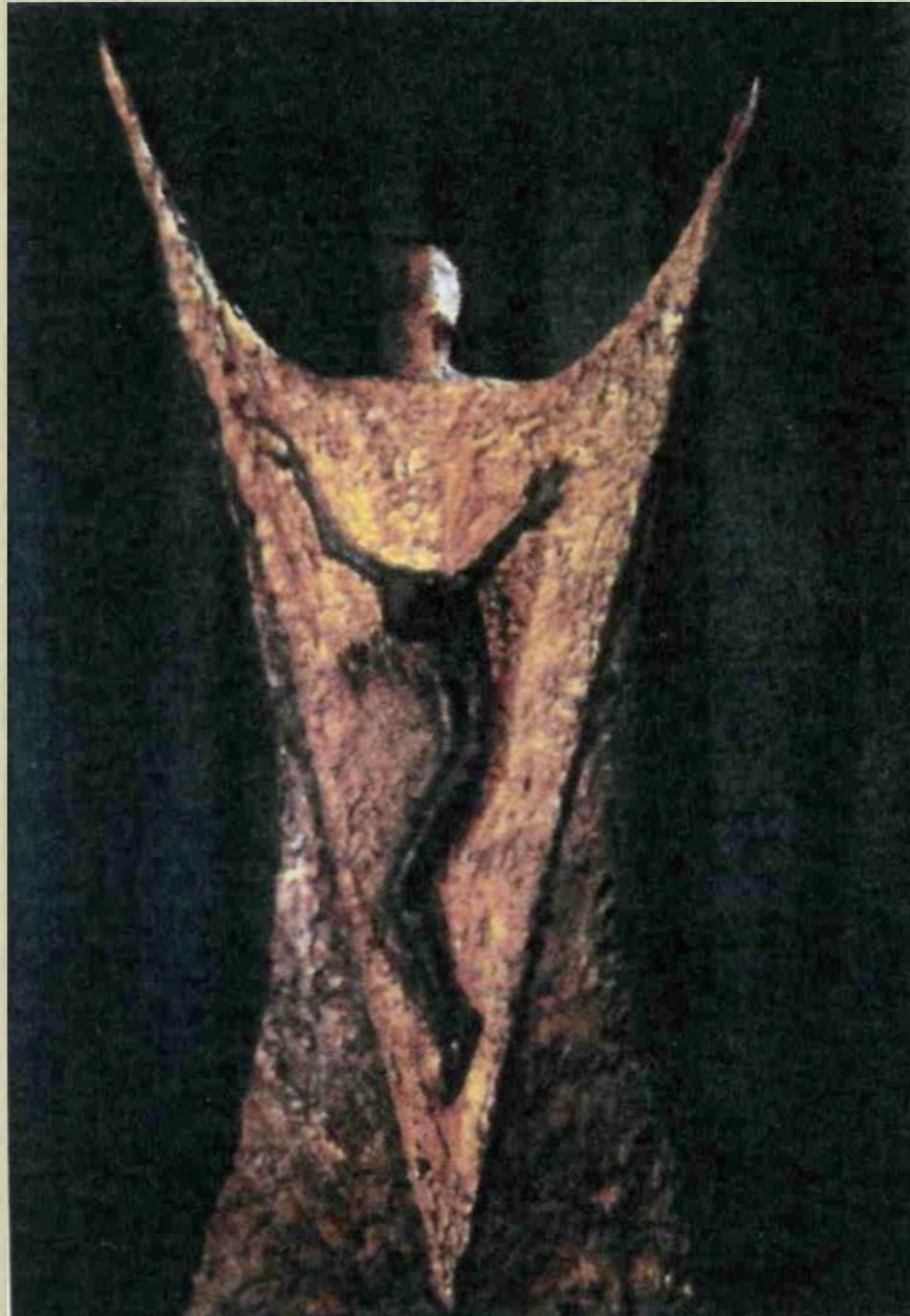
John 19:38

'I thirst'



Psalm 31:5

‘Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.’



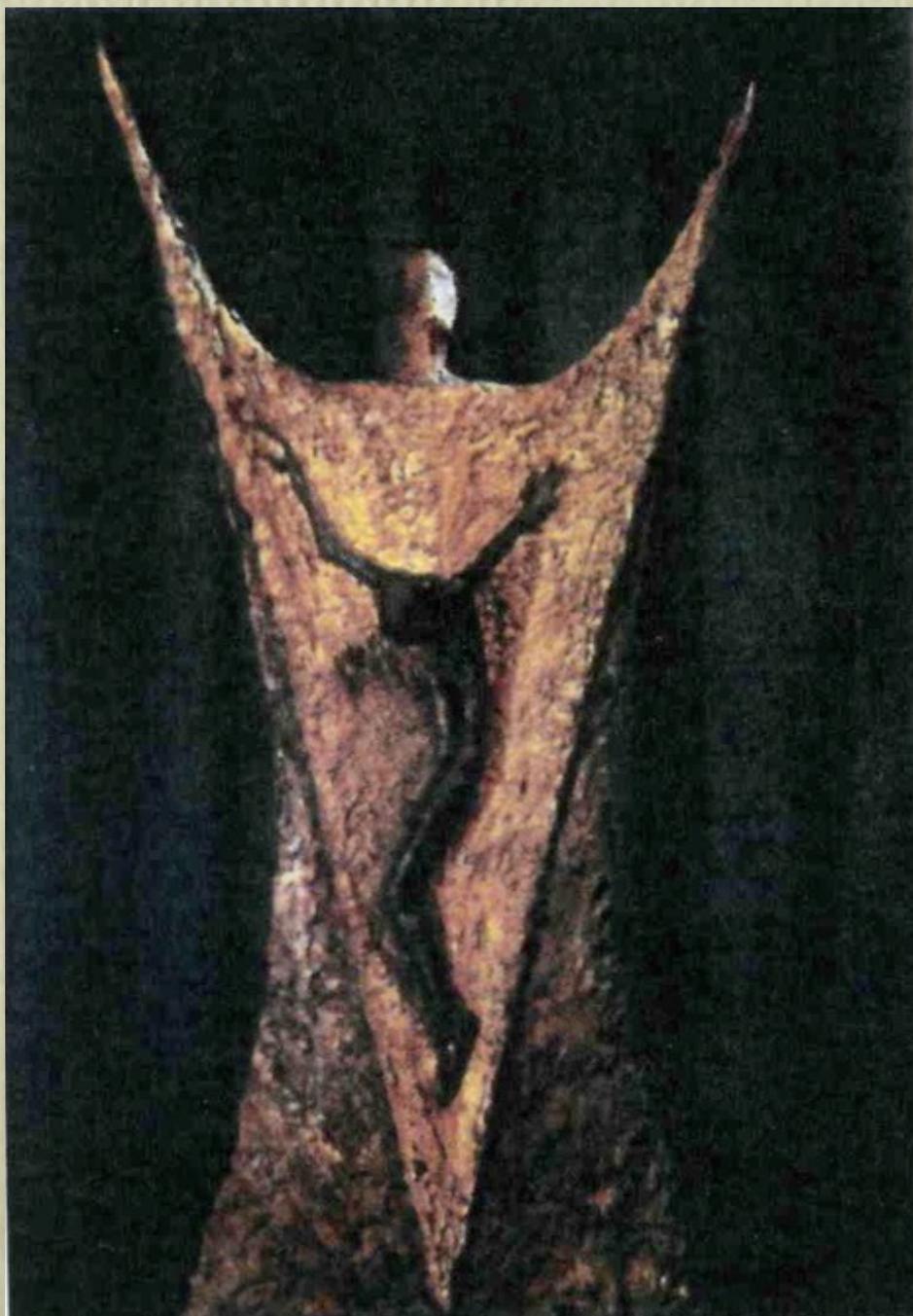


John 19:34

Moses striking the Rock
(Numbers 20:11)

'One of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear,
and at once blood and water came out.'

'They will look on the one they have pierced' (John 19:37 : Zechariah 12:10)



Galatians 2:19-20

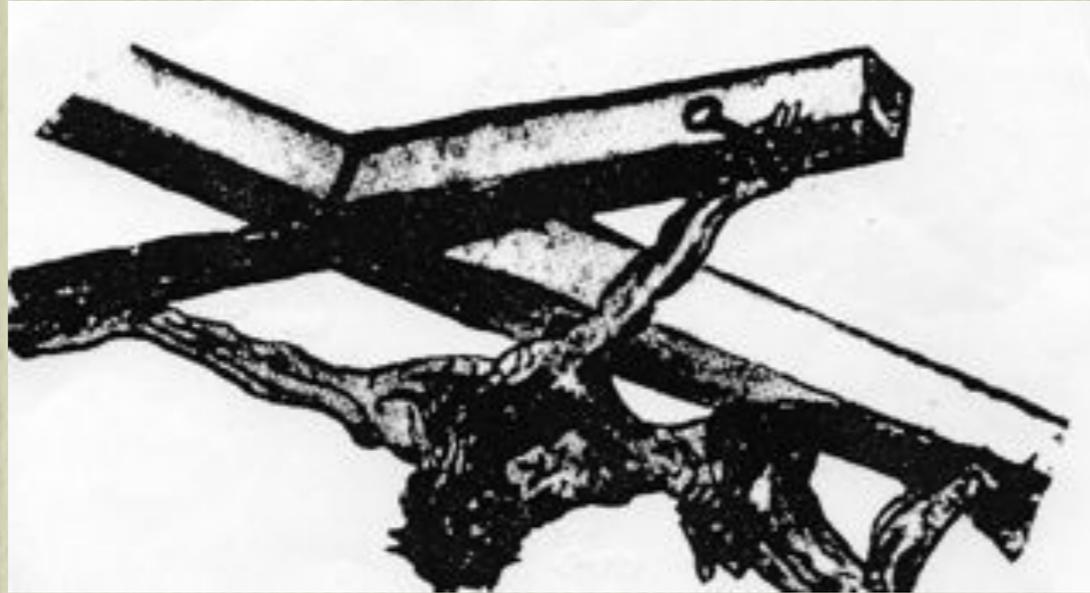
*'I have been crucified with the Messiah.
It is no longer I who live.
The Messiah lives in me,
The life I now live in the flesh,
I live by the faith of the Son of God,
loving me and giving himself for me.'*



‘From the Heart of Jesus pierced on Calvary, I see a new world coming forth – a great and life-giving world, inspired by love and mercy: a world which the Church must perpetuate on the whole earth.’

Jules Chevalier

‘The Sacred Heart’ (1900)



Jesus shows us that when people behave badly towards us, we do not have to respond in the same way. 'Love one another', he said, 'just as I have loved you'(John 15:12).

Jesus showed us how to respond in love even in the worst situations.

It is this which makes his message so convincing. It is this which draws us to follow him.

We needed to see Jesus loving on the cross, not because God demanded a crucifixion, but because nothing less could convince us that in our suffering we, like Jesus, are surrounded by the unconditional and persistent love of God.

Suffering, even when unjustly inflicted, does not have to stop our loving.

If, in our human way, we are to imagine God responding to the crucifixion, we should imagine God weeping, as Jesus wept over the city (Luke 19:41).

This is God's reaction to all the terrible injustices that we humans inflict on each other by our sinful rejection of his loving inspiration.

- God cannot pretend that things are other than as they really are.
- Sin, however, cannot change the truth that God is love.
- This love, demonstrated in the way Jesus died, is the source of all our hope.
- If we believe it, we may dare the journey out of sin. If enough people believe it, there is still hope of realising Jesus' dream of God's will being done on earth as in heaven.