

Psalm 73



Romans 1:17

Author: Asaph

Message:

1. God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.
2. My feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.
3. I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
4. There are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.
5. They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men.
6. Pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.
7. Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.
8. They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily. (Far above, dignity, haughty, height, upward. Proudly . of nobles)
9. They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.
10. Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them.
11. They say, How doth God know? And is there knowledge in the most High?
12. These are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.
13. I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency.
14. For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning.

15. If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children.
16. When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.
17. Surely, thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.
18. How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.
19. As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakes, thou shalt despise their image.
20. Thus, my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.
21. So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.
22. Nevertheless, I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.
23. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.
24. For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.
25. But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works.

Section Outline

Asaph, a chief musician appointed by David and author of several psalms, deals with the question, Why do the wicked prosper and the righteous go unrewarded?

- I. **Asaph and the Evil Ones (73:1-20)**
 - A. **The consternation (73:1-20):** Psalmist Asaph is deeply troubled by two matters:
 1. **The prosperity of the godless (73:3-12)**
 - a. They enjoy health and wealth (73: 3-4).
 - b. They have no worries or problems (73:5).

- c. They are proud and cruel (73:6).
 - d. They have everything (73:7).
 - e. They are arrogant toward God and people (73:8-12).
 - 2. The pain of the godly (73:1-2, 13-16)
 - a. He feels like he is about to fall on a cliff (73:1-2).
 - b. His life of purity seems unrewarded (73:13).
 - c. He is constantly plagued with problems (73:14-16).
 - B. The clarification (73:17-20): Asaph realizes the destiny of the wicked.
 - 1. The place of this revelation (73:17): Asaph realizes this while he is in the sanctuary.
 - 2. The particulars of this revelation (73:18-20).
 - a. The wicked are on a slippery path to destruction (73:18-19).
 - b. The present life of the wicked is but a dream (73:20): They will vanish from the earth when the Lord arises.
- II. Asaph and the Exalted One (73:21-28): Asaph acknowledges two great truths about God:
- A. God is guiding him (73:21-24).
 - B. God is watching over him (73:25-28).