

**PSALMS
BOOK THREE**

Psalm 73

Surely (“truly”) God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. (Ps 94:18, 116:8)

1. For I envied the arrogant (“foolish boasters”) when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. (Job 21:1-21, Prov 3:31)

- a. They have no struggles (“*No pangs in their death*”); their bodies are healthy and strong.
- b. They are free from the burdens common to men; they are not plagued (“*afflicted*”) by human ills.
- c. Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence.
- d. From their callous (“*fat*”) hearts comes iniquity, the evil conceits of their minds know no limits. (*The opposite of 2 Cor 10:5 - which speaks of taking thoughts captive for Christ*)
- e. They scoff, and speak malice, in their arrogance (“*loftiness*”) they threaten oppression.
- f. Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth.
 - Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance. (*People want to follow, to be like them*)
 - They say, “How can God know?” “Does the Most High have knowledge?”
- g. This is what the wicked are like - always carefree (“*at ease*”), they increase in wealth.

2. Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence. (Seeing the lives of the wicked, the author wonders, “Why do I try?”)

- a. All day long I have been plagued (“*struck*”). I have been punished every morning.
- b. If I had said, “I will speak thus,” I would have betrayed Your children. (Job 34:9)
- c. When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive (“*troublesome, laborious, painful*”) to me till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny (“*end*”) See Ps 37:37-39.
 - Surely You place them on slippery ground; You cast them down to ruin (or “*destruction*”).
 - How suddenly they are destroyed, completely swept away (“*taken away/consumed*”) by terrors (also, “*calamity, destruction*”)! (Lk 12:20)
 - As a dream when one awakes, so when You arise, O Lord, You will despise them as fantasies. (Ps 49:16-20, Dan 12:2)

3. When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, I was senseless (or “*stupid*”) and ignorant (“*knew not*”). I was a brute beast before You.

- a. Yet I am always with You; You hold me by my right hand (Mtt 28:20, Heb 13:5)
- b. You guide me with Your counsel and afterward You will take me into glory (also, “*riches/honor*” see Eph 1:3).
- c. Whom have I in heaven but You? (Act 4:12)
 - Earth has nothing I desire besides You. (Mtt 16:25-26, Ps 49:7-9,)
 - My flesh and my heart may fail (“*waste away*”), but God is the strength (“*rock*”) of my heart and my portion forever.
- e. Those who are far from You will perish, You destroy all who are unfaithful (“*adulterous*”) to You (Lk 16:15).
- f. But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge.

I will tell of all Your deeds

Psalm 73

1. Asaph got discouraged when he saw the apparent comfort and prosperity of the wicked. I really bothered him.

- a. At times he envied their lot in life.
 - Stuff just seemed to go well for them.
 - People admired them.
 - They claimed to be godly.
- b. They seem to have it made.

2. The situation was such that Asaph almost slipped, thinking that he had served God for nothing.

- a. It was a thorn in his side, troubling him constantly.
- b. But If Asaph had continued in this vein, he would have betrayed his faith.
- c. What brought him back to his senses was realizing what their future was - destruction.
- d. God holds everyone accountable. There is a reckoning.
- e. The things this world counts as valuable are silly in light of eternity.

3. Asaph realized that he had been looking at life from a flawed perspective (2 Pet 1:3-11).

- a. But God was always with him.
- b. God guided him and prepared a place for him (see also Jn 14:1-3).
- c. He is it- no other Savior waits for you. It is He and He alone (Jn 14:6, Act 4:12 etc).
- d. Our mortal lives will fade but God is our Rock and our future eternally.
- e. There is a reckoning for those far away from Him.
- f. For those who love Him, life is good.