

Making Sense of Life

Psalm 73

Learning to see life from
God's perspective

Psalm 73:1

What he said and sang in the temple!

God is good! He blesses His own!

*Truly God is good to Israel,
To such as are pure in heart.*

The psalmist's positive affirmation

“truly or surely” 1, 13, 18 (3x)

Sheltered, safe view of life

Psalm 73:2-14

What he saw when he looked outside!

2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled;

My steps had nearly slipped.

3 For I was envious of the boastful,

When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

“But as for me...”

The psalmist's pessimistic look at life:

Street level view of life

Psalm 73:2-14

What he saw in the world outside!

4 For there are no pangs in their death,

But their strength is firm.

5 They are not in trouble as other men,

Nor are they plagued like other men.

6 Therefore pride serves as their necklace;

Violence covers them like a garment.

“The wicked have it made!”

Psalm 73:2-14

What he saw in the world outside!

7 Their eyes bulge with abundance;

They have more than heart could wish.

*8 They scoff and speak wickedly concerning
oppression; They speak loftily.*

9 They set their mouth against the heavens,

And their tongue walks through the earth.

“They are always carefree, wealthy!”

Psalm 73:2-14

What he saw in the world outside!

10 Therefore his people return here,

And waters of a full cup are drained by them.

11 And they say, “How does God know?

And is there knowledge in the Most High?”

12 Behold, these are the ungodly,

Who are always at ease;

They increase in riches.

“They scoff at God and get away with it!”

The psalmist- soured by self interest

*13 Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain,
And washed my hands in innocence.*

“Godliness wastes my life!”

*14 For all day long I have been plagued,
And chastened every morning.*

“I am taking a beating”

Life seen from the street

“The blight of envy”

Psalm 73:15-17

When he saw life in the light of eternity!

The turning point!

The psalmist's focus shifts
from the street to the sanctuary

Psalm 73:15-17

When he saw life in the light of eternity!

15 If I had said, “I will speak thus,”

*Behold, I would have been untrue to the
generation of Your children.*

16 When I thought how to understand this,

It was too painful for me—

17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God;

Then I understood their end.

Psalm 73:15-17

When he saw life in the light of eternity!

*18 Surely You set them in slippery places;
You cast them down to destruction.*

*19 Oh, how they are brought to desolation,
as in a moment!*

They are utterly consumed with terrors.

20 As a dream when one awakes,

So, Lord, when You awake,

You shall despise their image.

-the wicked will be destroyed! 18-20

Psalm 73:15-17

When he saw life in the light of eternity!

21 Thus my heart was grieved,

And I was vexed in my mind.

22 I was so foolish and ignorant;

I was like a beast before You.

-I got it all wrong!

-I spoke in ignorance! 21-22

Psalm 73:18-27

When he saw life from God's perspective!

*23 Nevertheless I am continually with You;
You hold me by my right hand.*

-God, You are always with me! 23

*24 You will guide me with Your counsel,
And afterward receive me to glory.*

-God, You will take me to glory! 24

Psalm 73:18-27

When he saw life from God's perspective!

25 Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.

26 My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

27 For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry.

-God, You are all I really need! 25-27

Psalm 73:28

Life Made Sense in God's Sanctuary!

Psalmist ends with affirmation!

28 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 Your works.

Asaph, like Paul, was “homesick for heaven”

but committed to serving God while on earth

Philippians 1:20-26

Psalm 73:28

Life Makes Sense in God's Sanctuary

When we see life from eternity!

- ✓ The wicked don't have it made!
- ✓ It is my outlook and attitude not my circumstances that matter most in life!
- ✓ It is good to be near God!
- ✓ I will make God my refuge!

Psalm 73

How to respond to the evil in the world.

1. Be guided by eternity not by appearances or your emotions.
2. Strive to see life from God's perspective!
3. Stay focused on God, He is our constant!
4. Keep doing what is right even when people around you are doing wrong!