



THE BOOK OF  
PSALMS

PSALM 73

*Book Three*

*God Is My Strength and Portion Forever*

*A Psalm of Asaph.*

Truly God is good to Israel,  
to those who are pure in heart.  
2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled,  
my steps had nearly slipped.  
3 For I was envious of the arrogant  
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

4 For they have no pangs until death;  
their bodies are fat and sleek.  
5 They are not in trouble as others are;  
they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.  
6 Therefore pride is their necklace;  
violence covers them as a garment.  
7 Their eyes swell out through fatness;  
their hearts overflow with follies.  
8 They scoff and speak with malice;  
loftily they threaten oppression.  
9 They set their mouths against the heavens,  
and their tongue struts through the earth.  
10 Therefore his people turn back to them,  
and find no fault in them.[a]  
11 And they say, "How can God know?  
Is there knowledge in the Most High?"  
12 Behold, these are the wicked;  
always at ease, they increase in riches.  
13 All in vain have I kept my heart clean  
and washed my hands in innocence.  
14 For all the day long I have been stricken  
and rebuked every morning.  
15 If I had said, "I will speak thus,"  
I would have betrayed the generation of your children.

*continued >*

## Psalm 73 Questions

1. In verses 1-3, what is the disposition of the Psalmist's heart? Can you express it in one word? Given what follows in verses 4-15, do you think his statement in verse one is honest or satirical?
2. List the seeming incongruencies the psalmist observes in the world around him. What presuppositions lead to his cynicism? (See also Job 21:7-14)
3. In verses 11-16, what is the Psalmist's personal reaction to the seeming moral indifference of God? When, in your own life have you had a similar thought, doubts or crisis of Faith?
4. How did the worship of God change his perspective on:
  - a. The Prosperity of the Wicked (See Psalm 37:7; 38)
  - b. His Assessment of Himself (See Job 18:3)
  - c. His Relationship to God (See James 4:8; Heb 10:22)
  - d. His True Prosperity (See Phi; 3:8)
5. How has the study of Psalm 73 impacted your perspective on:
  - a. The World's Prosperity
  - b. Your Honest Assessment of Yourself
  - c. Your Relationship to God
  - d. Your True Prosperity?