

Psalm 73: The Evil Of Envy.

1-3: This Psalm is similar to Psalm 49. Asaph began this Psalm by affirming that though God is good to those in Israel who trust Him and are pure in heart, he himself nearly slipped in his confidence in the Lord, envious of the prosperity of the wicked. Why should the people who oppose God be better off than those who trust Him?

4-12: Asaph explained the prosperity that troubled him. He observed that the wicked do not seem to suffer trouble as other people do; they cover themselves with pride and violence, they constantly devise evil, their speech is scornful, malicious, and arrogant, as if they owned the earth, many people are swept away by their evil, they think God does not know of their sin.

13-14: Asaph said he was confused over the value of his salvation. He felt that he had been pure and holy in vain; he had been in lack and in trouble. Like many saints before and after him, Asaph was puzzled that God seemed to prosper the wicked and punish the righteous.

15-16: First, he acknowledged the sinfulness of his former conclusion in view of this consideration. The entire conflict was painful (oppressive) to him.

17-20: Asaph overcame his dilemma by considering the destiny of the wicked in the sanctuary, he understood the destiny of the wicked. God will set them in dangerous places where they will stumble and fall, be cast down in ruin, and suddenly be destroyed.

21-26: The solution was Asaph's knowledge of his own glorious destiny. He confessed that his perspective had been dulled by ignorance. If he had not been so ignorant, he admitted, his heart would not have been so bitter. His true position contrasted with the wicked, for he knew God was always with him and would guide him wisely and receive him into glory.

In addition, Asaph affirmed that God was his only possession in heaven or on the earth. Though Asaph was overwhelmed, God was his strength and His portion. Some wicked people prosper materially but only the spiritual "possessions" of the righteous will last.

27-28: Asaph concluded that those who are far from God and are unfaithful will be destroyed, but that those who are near God find joy and safety. Though he had nearly slipped in his confidence in God he now was reassured that God was keeping him secure. Nearness to God always helps believers maintain a balanced perspective on material things and on the wicked.

Proverbs 14:30 - A sound heart is life to the body, but envy is rottenness to the bones.

Proverbs 23:17- Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be zealous for the fear of the LORD all the day;

James 3:14-16 - But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

Numbers 11:5-6 - “We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; “but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!”

1Timothy 6:6-10 - Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Philippians 4:12 - I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.