

Psalms Chapter 73 - Review

In part 1 we learned that chapter 73 began the ‘Leviticus Book’ portion of the Psalms, and that chapters 73-83 are *all* concerning ‘the Sanctuary’ in relation *to man*. We also learned that this (and many others in this ‘Leviticus book’ will be too) is a Psalm of Asaph, which either means it was written *by him* or *given to him* for public worship, for he was one of three chief musicians in Israel. And the Psalmist began the Psalm by stating the conclusion he came too *after* the experiences he writes about in this Psalm. So, the conclusion was that, God is good to Israel, *but only* to those who are of a *clean* heart. And, as we know, our Heavenly Father is truly good to *all* people who love and obey Him (have a clean heart) and accept His Son, Jesus Christ as their Savior and King. The Psalmist then began to recount his experience with being tempted to sin. When he saw how the wicked *seemed* to get ahead, he was envious of them. It seemed like they were getting away with evil deeds, and that it might just be the ‘thing to do’, for they seemed to have good health, and never get in trouble, despite their sins and great pride that hung around their neck (head) like a necklace. No matter what kind of violence or unjust gain they did, they didn’t get publicly punished for it.

In part 2 learned more about the wicked ones that the Psalmist was envying and *why* he did so. Even though they were arrogant and haughty, and were more lustful than we can imagine, they were still allowed to be corrupt and oppress others. They became so arrogant they thought not even God Himself could stop them and truly, they didn’t even believe He is smart enough to even hear their wicked plans. And so, while the Psalmist truly believed God’s Word – which promises we’ll be blessed when we obey Him and cursed if we disobey Him – he couldn’t reconcile what he was seeing happen to the wicked (their *apparent* success) with what God’s Word tells us, because it simply didn’t *seem* to add up. And he was also very careful not to share his thoughts and feelings (envy at the wicked) with others because he didn’t want to encourage anyone else (especially the younger generation) to entertain those kinds of feelings because, he knew (deep down) that they were not right. Bitterness will corrupt our soul if we don’t get rid of it (Heb 12:15). But, he struggled with it, for a while, and admits such in this Psalm.

In part 3 we learned that the Psalmist *finally* understood the ‘*seeming* contradiction’ that he struggled with; which was that, it *appeared* the wicked got away with their vile sins, despite God’s promising to punish them - while he was chastened, even though he was trying to clean his heart. And the Psalmist only began to understand this when he *finally* went into the Sanctuary; which means that he finally stopped thinking carnally, and being distracted by the wicked ones *seeming* success; and instead, *moved closer* to our Heavenly Father, *spiritually*, by focusing on His Word, which is the *truth* (reality). And when he did ‘go into the Sanctuary’ (cast of his carnal way of thinking and moved closer to God by focusing in His Word, the truth) then he realized that he had just not been patient. For the wicked are indeed punished, but it’s often not as quick as we’d like it to be. Thus, he realized that the Lord *would* cause their evil ways to be quite

slippery, so that they would be ‘cast down’ to destruction and that their desolations would be *very* quick, once God finally judged (and punished) them. And this is truly how it’ll be at the end of this earth age, when Jesus Christ finally returns to depose the wicked and reward His faithful servants. His return will be quick *and* powerful, and quite surprising (like a thief in the night) because most people will be worshiping Satan as though he is the Savior – so they will be quite surprised (and afraid) when the *true* Jesus Christ returns!

In part 4 we learned how the wicked ones – who rebelliously and habitually sin against God - are truly living in a ‘dream world’ (fantasy) of their own making. For, they foolishly sin against God and think they can get away with it, not considering what their ‘latter end’ will be (utter destruction). But, one day, they will have to ‘wake up’ from their dream and face reality; whether it be when they die and depart from this flesh body or when Jesus Christ returns. And for some, they may also have to face reality even before then. But, no matter when judgment will come for the wicked, it *will* come; and their ‘latter end’ for refusing to repent will be quick and very painful. And, we also learned of how deeply pained the Psalmist was when he realized *just how close* he had come to falling to the tempting to sin; he admitted he was so very foolish and dumb (as an animal) for thinking the wicked get away with their sins. And he praised our Heavenly Father for saving him from the temptation to sin, which was the effect of his drawing close to God when he was tempted (i.e. went ‘into the Sanctuary’). And he realized that, while it was tempting to sin, what his true desire in life is to be close to God Almighty, *spiritually*. For our Heavenly Father strengthens our heart, even when our flesh is weak (and we’re tempted to sin) – so long as we draw close to Him, *spiritually* (in our heart and mind).

We also learned that all those who are far from God will eventually perish spiritually; only those who seek (and obey) Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength will be allowed to live forever. And that’s why it’s good for us to draw close to our Heavenly Father; because the ‘latter end’ for those who do is eternal life – but the ‘latter end’ of those who do not seek Him (are far from God) is spiritual death (Rom 6:23). So, when we draw near to our Heavenly Father (by studying His Word and thinking upon it), trust in Him (the truth, His Word) and share His truth (declare His works) He will *continue* to guide, protect and strengthen us both physically and spiritually. After all, when we follow Jesus Christ (God’s Word) we are *His* servants. And God *always* protects and strengthens those who serve Him. That’s another promise we should *not* forget. As verse 1 said, God is good *to those* who have a clean heart! So, even though you may have thoughts and feelings similar to this Psalmist every now and then, *don’t entertain them*. Kick them out quickly and remember this Psalm (and Psalms 37), because it reminds us how terrible the ‘latter end’ of the wicked truly is (utter destruction). And we don’t want to have any part of that...

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that **your labour is not in vain in the Lord**.*

1 Cor 15:57-58

AMEN!