

Psalm 73:1-28 Grieved by the prosperity of the wicked – Comforted by prospect of their end

The Tragedy of the Wicked, and the Blessedness of Trust in God

A Psalm of Asaph.

1 Truly Elohiym (God) *is* good to Israel, To such as 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 boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

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.

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.

10 Therefore his people return here, And waters of a full *cup* are drained by them.

11 And they say, "How does El (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.

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

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

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 El (God); *Then* I understood their end.

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*, Adonay (Lord), when You awake, You shall despise their image.

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.

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

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

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* Elohiym (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.

28 But *it is* good for me to draw near to Elohiym (God); I have put my trust in Adonay Yahweh (the Lord God), That I may declare all Your works.

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Truly Elohiym (God) *is* good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. [Psalm 73:1]
 - ◇ Asaph and his sons were appointed by David and the leaders of the Levites to lead the music with song and musical instruments in worship services of Elohiym. [1 Chronicles 15:16-22]
 - ◇ Asaph was descended from Gershon the son of Levi. [Genesis 46:11, 1 Chronicles 6:39-43]
 - ◇ Part of the ministry of Asaph included prophesy. [1 Chronicles 25:1-2]
 - ◇ Asaph observed that Elohiym is good to Israel especially to those with a pure heart.
- ✧ But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped.
For I *was* envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
For *there are* no pangs in their death, But their strength *is* firm.
They *are* not in trouble *as other* men, Nor are they plagued like *other* men.
Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them *like* a garment.
Their eyes bulge* with abundance; They have more than heart could wish.
They scoff and speak wickedly *concerning* oppression; They speak loftily.
They set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue walks through the earth.
Therefore his people return here, And waters of a full *cup* are drained by them.
And they say, "How does El (God) know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?"
Behold, these *are* the ungodly, Who are always at ease; They increase *in* riches. [Psalm 73:2-12]
- ◇ Reasons why Asaph was envious of the prosperity of the wicked.
- ✧ Surely I have cleansed my heart *in* vain, And washed my hands in innocence.
For all day long I have been plagued, And chastened every morning.
If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children. [Psalm 73:13-15]
- ◇ Considering the ease of the wicked Asaph felt it was futile to remain pure for El.
- ✧ When I thought *how* to understand this, It *was* too painful for me –
Until I went into the sanctuary of El (God); *Then* I understood their end.
Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction.
Oh, how they are *brought* to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.
As a dream when *one* awakes, *So*, Adonay (Lord), when You awake, You shall despise their image. [Psalm 73:16-20]
- ◇ Asaph's envy continued until he went into the Sanctuary of El.
- ◇ There he considered the expected end of the wicked on Judgment Day.
- ✧ Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind.
I *was* so foolish and ignorant; I was *like* a beast before You.
Nevertheless I *am* continually with You; You hold *me* by my right hand.
You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me *to* glory.
Whom have I in heaven *but* You? And *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire besides You.
My flesh and my heart fail; *But* Elohiym (God) *is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever. [Psalm 73:21-26]
- ◇ Asaph realized that his envy was foolishness like a beast before Elohiym.
- ◇ He remembered that Elohiym was with him and his guide Who would receive him to Glory

- ✧ Then he acknowledged that Elohiym is his only true desire and hope on earth and in Heaven.
- ✧ Elohiym is the strength of my heart and He is my only eternal portion.
- ✧ For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry. [\[Psalm 73:27\]](#)
- ✧ But *it is* good for me to draw near to Elohiym (God); I have put my trust in Adonay Yahweh (the Lord God), That I may declare all Your works. [\[Psalm 73:28\]](#)