

Scripture

Book Three: Psalm 73 (NLT)

A psalm of Asaph.

- 1 Truly God is good to Israel,
to those whose hearts are pure.
- 2 But as for me, I almost lost my footing.
My feet were slipping, and I was almost gone.
- 3 For I envied the proud when I saw them
prosper despite their wickedness.
- 4 They seem to live such painless lives;
their bodies are so healthy and strong.

- 5 They don't have troubles like other people;
they're not plagued with problems like
everyone else.
- 6 They wear pride like a jeweled necklace
and clothe themselves with cruelty.
- 7 These fat cats have everything
their hearts could ever wish for!
- 8 They scoff and speak only evil;
In their pride they seek to crush others.
- 9 They boast against the very heavens,
and their words strut throughout the earth.

- 10 And so the people are dismayed and
Confused, drinking in all their words.
- 11 “What does God know?” they ask.
“Does the Most High even know what’s
happening?”
- 12 Look at these wicked people — enjoying a
life of ease while their riches multiply.
- 13 Did I keep my heart pure for nothing?
Did I keep myself innocent for no reason?
- 14 I get nothing but trouble all day long;
every morning brings me pain.

- 15** If I had really spoken this way to others,
I would have been a traitor to your people.
- 16** So I tried to understand why the wicked
prosper. But what a difficult task it is!
- 17** Then I went into your sanctuary, O God,
and I finally understood the destiny of the
Wicked.
- 18** Truly, you put them on a slippery path
and send them sliding over the cliff to
Destruction.
- 19** In an instant they are destroyed,
completely swept away by terrors.

- 20** When you arise, O Lord, you will laugh at their silly ideas as a person laughs at dreams in the morning.
- 21** Then I realized that my heart was bitter, and I was all torn up inside.
- 22** I was so foolish and ignorant—
I must have seemed like a senseless animal to you.
- 23** Yet I still belong to you;
you hold my right hand.
- 24** You guide me with your counsel,
leading me to a glorious destiny.

25 Whom have I in heaven but you?

I desire you more than anything on earth.

26 My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.

27 Those who desert him will perish,
for you destroy those who abandon you.

28 But as for me, how good it is to be near God!
I have made the Sovereign Lord my shelter,
and I will tell everyone about the wonderful things you do.