

Bible Study ~ June 2022

PSALMS: The Character of GOD

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Wednesday, July 13, 2022

GOD'S Character is known by *Providence*, **GOD** seeing before...

Providence is **GOD'S** ability to see beforehand... **GOD** knows (**OMINSCIENCIENT**) and is able to see all that is going to happen and beforehand has determined how it will be used for **HIS purpose** and **Glory**.

(Romans 8: 28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love **GOD**, to them who are the called according to **HIS** purpose.")

Tonight, we begin Chapter 4 of our Book, Psalms 73 and 83 page 47-58; the title...

"GOD Goodness Can Be Seen in **HIS JUST-ice** and **Mercy**"

Remember the *meat* of Psalm 73 is the Age-Old problem?

A. *WHY do the *righteous* suffer while the *ungodly* seem to prosper?

*Wherein is **GOD'S Justice** in allowing the *wicked* to thrive while the *righteous* endured hardship? The *wicked* prosper, leaving *godly* people wondering why they bother to be good?

*The *wealth* of the *wicked* looks so inviting that *faithful people* wish they could trade places.

We began looking at 5 stages in Asaph's experience.

1. The Believer: Standing on What He Knows (Psalm 73: 1)

2. The Doubter: Slipping from Where He is Standing (Psalm 73: 2-3)

3. The Wrestler: Struggling with What He Sees and Feels (Psalm 73: 4-14)

Tonight,

4. **The Worshipper: Seeing the Bigger Picture** (Psalm 73: 15-22)

Before going public with his (I thought' and I see', and, resigning his office) Asaph "*paused*" and considered the "consequences."

Q. How would the younger believers respond if one of the 3 sanctuary worship leaders, "turn his back" on **JEHOVAH, the Covenants, and The Faith?**

This would mean "*undermining*" all he *practices, taught, and sung* at the Sanctuary.

The more Asaph pondered the *problem*, the more his heart was *pained*...

"Then I realized how bitter I had come, how pained I had been by all I had seen." (vs. 21)

"Yet I still belong to **YOU; YOU** are holding my right hand." (vs. 22)

So, Asaph decided to go to the sanctuary and spend time with **The LORD** in worship.

[There he would be with other people, hear The WORD of GOD and the *Songs of Praise*, and be a part of *the worshipping community*.]

After all, **JEHOVAH** isn't a *problem* to wrestle with but **The GRACIOUS PERSON and SOLUTION**, to *Love and Worship*—especially when you are *perplexed* by what **HE'S** doing.

Psalm 68: 34, 35 says, "Tell everyone about **GOD'S power**. **HIS majesty** shines down on Israel; **HIS strength** is mighty in the heavens." (vs. 34) NLT

GOD is awesome in **HIS sanctuary**. The **GOD** of Israel gives **power** and **strength** to **HIS people**. (vs. 35) NLT

[When you consider *all* **GOD** has done for you (us), we should feel an overwhelming sense of *awe* as we *kneel* before **The LORD** in **HIS** sanctuary.]

When we *commune* with **GOD**, we see things of this world in their right perspective!

Q. Did Asaph get a "*new perspective*" on the *problem*--WHY do the *righteous* suffer while the *ungodly* seem to prosper? Yes, or No? NO, he was reminded of "the destiny before him!" And, **WHO** holds that destiny! Verse 20, "Their present life is only a dream that is gone when they awake." (NLT) "**YOU** will despise them as fantasies."

KEY: "Worldly *success* and *prosperity* belong to the transient dream world of unbelievers, a dream that one day will become a nightmare." (Read Luke 12: 16-21)

5. The Conqueror: Rejoicing over GOD'S Goodness (Psalm 73: 23-28)

Remember this Song opens with "Truly **GOD** is good..." But Asaph wasn't sure what the word "good" meant. Read (Matthew 19: 16-17)

Q. Is the "good" life one of wealth, pomp, authority, and pleasure? NO!

Asaph pictures the "godless life" in vss. 4-12 and the "godly" life in vss. 23-28.

<u>Ungodly</u>	<u>Godly</u>
Impress each other	The LORD upholds the righteous but casts down the wicked (v. 18)
Attract admirers	The righteous are guided by GOD'S Truth (v. 24)
Don't have GOD'S Presence with them	The destiny of true believers is " <i>glory</i> " (v. 24)
Deluded by their own fantasies	Have everything in GOD all that they <i>want</i> or <i>need</i> . (Their portion forever) (16: 2)
Destiny of unbelievers is destruction (v. 19, 27)	Even death cannot separate GOD'S people from his blessings, for <i>the spirit</i> goes to Heaven to be with The LORD and the body waits in the earth for the resurrection. (vss. 25, 26)
They have everything they want <i>except</i> GOD	
Their possession is but idols and idolatry.	
Its harlotry (Exodus 34: 15, 16)	

When the Worship services ended and Asaph Faith/feet was firmly grounded, he left the sanctuary and told everybody what he had learned. **Q.** What was it, that Asaph learned?

- When drawn away but our surrounding, draw near to **GOD**
- Trusting **GOD** will give you constant Victory, when tempted to trust yourself
- Dreams exist only in the mind of the dreamer. But reality is in **GOD**. Only in **HIM** can we be realistic about life.