### Psalms

## Chapter 73

A Psalm by Asaph.  
  
  
  
  
1O how good is IsraEl’s God  
 To those who have hearts that are straight!  
  
2But my feet had once been unsteady,  
 So I slipped and fell in my tracks,  
 3Because I was jealous of unrighteous things,  
 As I noticed the peace of the wicked.  
  
4I noticed that they have no fear of death,  
 And I’ve not seen them whipped [for their badness].  
 5They don’t work as hard as other men do,  
 And they never seem to be beaten.  
  
6So because of this, they’re proud to the end…  
 In injustice and irreverence, they’re wrapped!  
 Injustice pours from their fatness,  
 As they follow the ways of their hearts.  
  
8They think, and then speak wicked things…  
 In their pride, they speak of injustice.  
 9But, since they’ve set heaven against their own mouths,  
 Their tongues will go under the ground,  
 10While [from there], Your people will all be returned  
 And then, full days, they’ll know.  
  
11Yet they ask:  
  
 ‘Doesn’t God ever notice?  
 Aren’t all these things known up above?’  
  
12For {look!} the sinners continue to prosper,  
 And throughout the ages, hold onto their wealth!’  
  
13This is why my heart justified foolish things,  
 And from innocence, I then washed my hands.  
 14So, I deserved to be whipped all day long,  
 And to be scolded each morning.  
  
15I said:  
  
 ‘This is how I’ll describe what I’ve done...  
 {Look!} With Your sons, I’ve broken the contract,  
 16But now, I’ve stopped and thought it all through,  
 And what I’ve done weighs heavily on me…  
 17So I’ll take it before God to see what I’m due.’  
  
18Upon the deceitful, He’s appointed what’s bad,  
 And from their high perches, He will throw them down…  
 19Yes, how far they’ll fall to meet with this end…  
 Because they’re lawless, they’ll be suddenly gone.  
  
20O Jehovah,  
  
When I came to my senses,  
 I awoke and examined Your city,  
 Then I noticed how You treat the bad with contempt.  
 21Then my heart came on fire and my kidneys were changed;  
 22For, I was the one deserving Your contempt…  
 An unthinking brute, I’d become!  
  
23But You never left me, despite all I’d done…  
 You held me by my right hand.  
 24You gave me correction and led me,  
 Then into Your glory, returned me.  
  
25Now, what do I have in the heavens…  
 Well, other than You, what else do I need?  
 26O God; although my heart and flesh have both failed,  
 Throughout the age, You’ve been my portion and strength.  
  
27Look! All will perish, who stay far from You…  
 The unfaithful, You will destroy.  
 28But, please keep me close to You, O my God,  
 For I need to trust in my Lord.  
 At Your gates, may I always sing praises of You  
 Before the daughters of Zion.