

Psalm 073 - (Book III - Leviticus Section): A Plea for Deliverance

Book III

Book III is viewed as corresponding to the Book of Leviticus because in this section—even in Psalm 73—the sanctuary is prominent. Leviticus is the book of worship for the tabernacle and later for the temple. It is one of the greatest books in the Bible. In this section we find the emphasis upon the sanctuary and, in particular, on two aspects of the house of God. The Book of Leviticus emphasizes two things: that God is holy and that without shedding of blood there is no remission of sins—the key words are holiness and sacrifice. These two words will also figure largely in this Leviticus section of the Book of Psalms.

Psalm 73

[A Psalm of Asaph.]

A Plea for Deliverance

1 God certainly is good to Israel, To those who are pure in heart!

1 Surely God is good to Israel, To those who are pure in heart!

1 God is indeed good to Israel, to those pure in heart.

1 Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.

2 But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling, My steps had almost slipped.

2 But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling, My steps had almost slipped.

2 Now as for me, my feet nearly stumbled, as I almost lost my step.

2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.

3 For I was envious of the arrogant As I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

3 For I was envious of the arrogant As I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

3 For I was envious of the proud when I observed the prosperity of the wicked.

3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

- Asaph said, "I looked around me at my nation, and I noticed that the wicked among my people were the ones prospering, and the godly were not."

- He was perplexed...but wait until v17...

4 For there are no pains in their death, And their belly is fat.

4 For there are no pains in their death, And their body is fat.

- 4 For there is no struggle at their deaths, and their bodies are healthy.
- 4 For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.

- 5 They are not in trouble like other people, Nor are they tormented together with *the rest of mankind*.
- 5 They are not in trouble *as other* men, Nor are they plagued like mankind.
- 5 They do not experience problems common to ordinary people; they aren't afflicted as others are.
- 5 They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men.

- 6 Therefore arrogance is their necklace; The garment of violence covers them.
- 6 Therefore pride is their necklace; The garment of violence covers them.
- 6 Therefore pride is their necklace and violence covers them like a garment.
- 6 Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.

- 7 Their eye bulges from fatness; The imaginations of *their* heart overflow.
- 7 Their eye bulges from fatness; The imaginations of *their* heart run riot.
- 7 Their eyes bulge from obesity and the imaginations of their mind cross the border into sin.
- 7 Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.

- 8 They mock and wickedly speak of oppression; They speak from on high.
- 8 They mock and wickedly speak of oppression; They speak from on high.
- 8 In their mockery they speak evil; from their arrogant position they speak oppression.
- 8 They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily.

- 9 They have set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue parades through the earth.
- 9 They have set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue parades through the earth.
- 9 They choose to speak against heaven; while they talk about things on earth.
- 9 They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.

- 10 Therefore his people return here, And abundant waters are drunk by them.
- 10 Therefore his people return to this place, And waters of abundance are drunk by them.
- 10 Therefore God's people return there and drink it all in like water until they're satiated.
- 10 Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them.

11 They say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge with the Most High?"

11 They say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge with the Most High?"

11 Then they say, "How can God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?"

11 And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High?

12 Behold, these are the wicked; And always at ease, they have increased *in* wealth.

12 Behold, these are the wicked; And always at ease, they have increased *in* wealth.

12 Just look at these wicked people! They're perpetually carefree as they increase their wealth.

12 Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.

- They have no serious interest in God. They cling to foolishness...but still prosper: "They that have, get."

13 Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure And washed my hands in innocence;

13 Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure And washed my hands in innocence;

13 I kept my heart pure for nothing and kept my hands clean from guilt.

13 Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency.

- He says, "I have attempted to live for God, and it looks like it doesn't pay."

14 For I have been stricken all day long, And punished every morning.

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

14 For I suffer all day long and I am punished every morning.

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

15 If I had said, "I will speak this way," Behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children.

15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children.

15 If I say, "I will talk like this," I would betray a generation of your children.

15 If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children.

16 When I thought of understanding this, It was troublesome in my sight

16 When I pondered to understand this, It was troublesome in my sight

16 When I tried to understand this, it was too difficult for me

16 When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;

17 Until I entered the sanctuary of God; *Then* I perceived their end.

17 Until I came into the sanctuary of God; *Then* I perceived their end.
17 until I entered the sanctuaries of God. Then I understood their destiny.
17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.
- "Until" - key word in this chapter...Asaph was irritated, confused and saddened by the prosperity of the wicked...UNTIL he entered the sanctuary of God...UNTIL he saw a glimpse of eternity
-- This is what theologians call the "doctrine of reversal"...Christians for the most part are lower class citizens in this life, seemingly giving all the advantages to the wicked, but one day that will all change, for eternity.

18 You indeed put them on slippery ground; You dropped them into ruin.
18 Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction.
18 You have certainly set them in slippery places; you will make them fall to their ruin.
18 Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.

19 How they are destroyed in a moment! They are utterly swept away by sudden terrors!
19 How they are destroyed in a moment! They are utterly swept away by sudden terrors!
19 How desolate they quickly become, completely destroyed by calamities.
19 How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

20 Like a dream when one awakes, Lord, when stirred, You will despise their image.
20 Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when aroused, You will despise their form.
20 Like a dream when one awakens, Lord, you will despise their image when you arise.
20 As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.

21 When my heart was embittered And I was pierced within,
21 When my heart was embittered And I was pierced within,
21 When I chose to be bitter I was emotionally pained.
21 Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.

22 Then I was stupid and ignorant; I was *like* an animal before You.
22 Then I was senseless and ignorant; I was *like* a beast before You.
22 Then, I was too stupid and didn't realize I was acting like a wild animal with you.
22 So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.

23 Nevertheless I am continually with You; You have taken hold of my right hand.
23 Nevertheless I am continually with You; You have taken hold of my right hand.
23 But now I am always with you, for you keep holding my right hand.
23 Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.

24 You will guide me with Your plan, And afterward receive me to glory.
24 With Your counsel You will guide me, And afterward receive me to glory.
24 You will guide me with your wise advice, and later you will receive me with honor.
24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

25 Whom do I have in heaven *but You*? And with You, I desire nothing on earth.
25 Whom have I in heaven *but You*? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth.
25 Whom do I have in heaven but you? I desire nothing on this earth.
25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.

26 My flesh and my heart *may* fail, *But* God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
26 My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
26 My body and mind may fail, but God is my strength and my portion forever.
26 My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

27 For, behold, those who are far from You will perish; You have destroyed all those who are unfaithful to You.
27 For, behold, those who are far from You will perish; You have destroyed all those who are unfaithful to You.
27 Those far from you will perish; you will destroy those who are unfaithful to you.
27 For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.

28 But as for me, the nearness of God is good for me; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, So that I may tell of all Your works.
28 But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, That I may tell of all Your works.
28 As for me, how good for me it is that God is near! I have made the Lord GOD my refuge so I can tell about all your deeds.

28 But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.