

# Psalm 73- reality check

- I. [Superscription]
  - A psalm of Asaph
- II. [The confession (1)]
  - A. Surely God is good to Israel
  - B. to those who are pure in heart
- III. [The problem (2-12)]
  - A. [Envy of the wicked (2-3)]
    - 1. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;
    - 2. I had nearly lost my foothold.
    - 3. For I envied the arrogant
    - 4. when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
  - B. [The description of the wicked (4-9)]
    - 1. [They don't have problems (4-5)]
      - a) They have no struggles;
      - b) Their bodies are healthy and strong.
      - c) They are free from the burdens common to man;
      - d) they are not plagued by human ills.
    - 2. [They are proud (6-7)]
      - a) Therefore pride is their necklace;
      - b) they clothe themselves with violence.
      - c) From their callous hearts comes iniquity;
      - d) The evil conceits of their minds know no limits.
    - 3. [They are rebellious (8-9)]
      - a) They scoff, and speak with malice;
      - b) In their arrogance they threaten oppression.
      - c) Their mouths lay claim to heaven,
      - d) and their tongues take possession of the earth
  - C. [People follow them in their rebellion (10-12)]
    - 1. [People follow them (10)]
      - a) Therefore people turn to them
      - b) and drink up water in abundance.
    - 2. [What these people think (11-12)]
      - a) [God won't judge]
        - (1) They say, "How can God know?
        - (2) Does the Most High have knowledge?"
      - b) [Wicked are worth following]
        - (1) This is what the wicked are like-
        - (2) always carefree, they increase in wealth.
- IV. [Ironic restatement of the problem- 'God's ways don't pay' (13-14)]
  - A. Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure;
  - B. in vain have I washed my hands in innocence.
  - C. All day long I have been plagued;
  - D. I have been punished every morning.
- V. [Solution- coming to his senses (15-20)]

- A. [Realizing the error of this mindset (15)]
    - 1. If I had said, "I will speak thus,"
    - 2. I would have betrayed your children
  - B. [How the realization came (16-17)]
    - 1. When I tried to understand all this,
    - 2. it was oppressive to me
    - 3. till I entered the sanctuary of God;
    - 4. then I understood their final destiny.
  - C. [Their destiny (18-20)]
    - 1. Surely you place them on slippery ground;
    - 2. you cast them down to ruin.
    - 3. How suddenly are they destroyed,
    - 4. completely swept away by terrors!
    - 5. As a dream when one awakes,
    - 6. so when you arise, O Lord,
    - 7. you will despise them as fantasies.
- VI. [Recounting the change (21-28)]
- A. [I was stupid to doubt (21-22)]
    - 1. When my heart was grieved
    - 2. and my spirit embittered,
    - 3. I was senseless and ignorant;
    - 4. I was a brute beast before you.
  - B. [But now I see the reality (23-24)]
    - 1. Yet I am always with you;
    - 2. You hold me by my right hand.
    - 3. You guide me with your counsel,
    - 4. and afterward You will take me into glory.
  - C. [The confession (25-26)]
    - 1. Whom have I in heaven but You?
    - 2. and earth has nothing I desire besides You.
    - 3. My flesh and my heart may fail,
    - 4. but God is the strength of my heart
    - 5. and my portion forever.
  - D. [The bottom line (27-28)]
    - 1. Those who are far from You will perish;
    - 2. You destroy all who are unfaithful to You.
    - 3. But as for me, it is good to be near God.
    - 4. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge;
    - 5. I will tell of all Your deeds.

# Psalm 73

לְאָסָף      מְזִמּוֹר <sup>1</sup>  
 Prop.N+ל      msc  
 to, of, by Asaph      melody, song of

אֵךְ טוֹב לְיִשְׂרָאֵל אֱלֹהִים לְבָרִי לֵבִי:  
 msa      mpc+ל      mpa      Prop.N.+ל      adj.msa      adv.  
 heart      to pure ones of      God      (is)      to Israel      good      surely

וְאֲנִי <sup>2</sup>      כְּמַעַט      (נִטְוִי)      [נִטְוִין]      רַגְלִי  
 msc+ו1      msa+כ      QPPtcpm      QPf3cp      mdc+1cs  
 and, but I      within a little, almost      being inclined, bent      they inclined, slipped      my feet

כְּאֵין      (שִׁפְכָה)      [שִׁפְכוֹן]      אֲשָׁרִי:  
 adv+כ      Pual Pf3fs      PualPf3cp      fpc+1cs  
 like nothing, almost      she was poured out<sup>1</sup>      they were poured out      my steps

כִּי- <sup>3</sup>      קִנְאָתִי      בְּהוֹלְלִים  
 conj.      PielPf1cs      QPtcpmpa+בה+ל  
 because      I was envious, excited against      in, against arrogant ones

שְׁלוֹם      רְשָׁעִים      אֲרָאָה:  
 msc      mpa      QPf1cs  
 peace, prosperity      wicked ones      I saw

כִּי <sup>4</sup>      אֵין      תַּרְצִבוֹת      לְמוֹתָם      וּבְרִיא      אוֹלָם:  
 conj      part      fpc      mcs+3mp+ל      msa+ו1      msc+3mp  
 because      there is not      pang      to their death      (is)      and fat      their belly

<sup>1</sup> K-B 'I was almost slipping away' picture of movie when car or person teeters on edge of cliff.

אֵינָמוּ      אָנוּשׁ      בְּעַמְלֵי <sup>5</sup>  
 adv+3mp      msa      msc+ב  
 there is not of them      man, mankind      in trouble of

יִנְגְעוּ:      לֹא      אָדָם      וְעִם-  
 PualIpf3mp      neg      msa      part+ו  
 they are touched, plagued      not      man, mankind      and with

גְּאוּהָ      עֲנַקְתָּמוּ      לְכֵן <sup>6</sup>  
 fsa      QPf3fs+3mp      conj+ל  
 pride      she is necklace of them      therefore, thus

לָמוּ:      חֲמָס      שִׁית      יַעֲטֶף-  
 3mp+ל      msa      msc      QIpf3ms  
 to them      violence      garment of      he will clothe himself

מִשְׁכֵּיּוֹת לֵבָב:      עֲבְרוּ      עֵינָמוּ      מִחֶלֶב      יֵצֵא <sup>7</sup>  
 msa      fpc      QPf3cp      msa+3mp      msa+מ      QPf3ms  
 heart      imaginations of      they overflow      their eye      from fat      he came/went out

בָּרַע      וַיְדַבְּרוּ      יִמְיִקוּ | <sup>8</sup>  
 msa+ב      PielIpf3mp+ו      HiphIpf3mp  
 in,with evil      and they speak/will speak      they mock/will mock

יְדַבְּרוּ:      מִמְרוֹם      עֲשָׂק <sup>8</sup>  
 PielIpf3mp      msa+מ      msa  
 they speak      from height [they talk down]      oppression

9 שֶׁתוּ בַשָּׁמַיִם פִּיהֶם  
 msc+3mp msa+b QP3mp  
 their mouth in heaven they place themselves

וְלִשְׁוֹנָם תִּהְלֹךְ בְּאֶרֶץ  
 msa+ב+ה QIp3fs fsc+3mp+ו  
 in the land she walks and their tongue

10 לָכֵן | (יָשִׁיב) [יָשׁוּב] עַמּוֹ הַלֵּם  
 conj+ל msc+3ms QIp3ms HiphIp3ms adv  
 therefore he will bring back he turned His people there

וּמֵי מְלֵא יִמְצְאוּ לָמוֹ  
 mpc+ו msa NiphIp3mp 3mp  
 and waters of fullness they are poured out to them

11 וַאֲמָרוּ אֵיכָה יָדַע- אֱלֹ  
 QP3cp+ו adv QP3ms Prop.N.  
 And they say How? he knows God

וַיֵּשׁ בְּעֵלְיוֹן דַּעַה  
 part+ו fsa msa+ב  
 and there is? knowledge in, with Most High

12 הִנֵּה- אֵלֶּה רְשָׁעִים  
 interj. pron mpa  
 behold! these wicked ones (are)

וְשָׁלוֹם עוֹלָם הַשְּׂגוּרָה חֵיל  
 mpc+ו msa HiphPf3cp msa  
 and quiet, ease of infinite, eternal they caused to increase strength, wealth



אֵלִי מִקְדָּשֵׁי־ אֶל־ עַד־ אֲבוֹא 17  
 Prop. N mpc prep Qipf1cs prep  
 God holy place, sanctuary of unto I entered until

לְאַחֲרֵיהֶם: אֲבִינָה  
 fsc+3mp+ל QIpf(cohort)1cs  
 their destiny, what comes to them afterward<sup>2</sup> I understood

לָמוֹ תִשִּׁית בְּחִלְקוֹת אַיֵּךְ 18  
 3mp+ל QIpf2ms mpa+ב+ה adv  
 to them you will place in smooth, slippery place surely

לְמִשׁוֹאוֹת: הִפֹּלְתָם  
 fpa+ל HiphPf2ms+3mp  
 to desolation you cause them to fall

כְּרִנֵּעַ לְשִׁמְהָ הֵיוּ אַיֵּךְ 19  
 msa+כ fsa+ל QPf3cp interj  
 like moment to waste, horror they are how

בְּלִהּוֹת: מִן־ תָּמוּ סָפוּ  
 fpa prep QPf3cp QPf3cp  
 terrors because of they are finished they come to an end

<sup>2</sup> Cf. v. 24.

אֲדֹנָי אֲדֹנָי אֲדֹנָי 20  
 Prop.N. HiphInfcs+נ msa+ה+ג  
 O Lord from [when] to awake like the dream

תִּבְזֶה צִלְמָם בְּעִירוֹ  
 QIpf2ms msc+3mp HiphInfcs+ב  
 You will despise image of them/their idol<sup>3</sup> when arise<sup>4</sup>

אֲשֶׁתוֹנֵן וְכִלְיוֹתַי לִבִּי יִתְחַמֵּץ כִּי  
 HithpIpf1cs fpc+1cs+ו msc+1cs HithpIpf3ms conj  
 I was pierced and my kidneys my heart it was embittered because, for

וְאֲנִי-בֵּעַר וְלֹא אָדַע  
 QIpf1cs meg+ו msa 1cs+ו  
 I was understanding and not brutish (was) and I

בְּהִמּוֹת הַיַּיִתִּי עִמָּךְ  
 prep+2ms QPf1cs fpa  
 with You I was Behemoth, beast

וְאֲנִי תָמִיד עִמָּךְ אֶחְזָתְךָ בְּיַד־יְמִינִי  
 prep+2ms adv QPf2ms msa+ב msa+1cs  
 with You continuously (am) and I my right by hand you grasp

בְּעֵצְתְּךָ תִּנְחֵנִי וְאַחֲרָיִךְ כְּבוֹד תִּקְחֵנִי  
 fsc+2ms+ב HiphIpf2ms+1cs adv+ו msa QIpf2ms+1cs  
 in, by Your counsel You will guide me and after, afterward You will take me glory

<sup>3</sup> Either, 'image' like shadow lacking reality (from parallelism) or 'idol' as in idolatry (implied in rest of Psalm)

<sup>4</sup> Temporal b+infcs

25 מִי- לִי בַשְּׁמַיִם וְעִמָּךְ לֹא-חִפְצְתִּי בָאָרֶץ:  
 msa+ב+הּ QPf1cs neg prep+2ms+וּ mpa+בּ 1cs+לִי interrog  
 in the earth I desire not and with You in heaven to, of<sup>5</sup> me who?

26 כֹּלָה שְׁאֵרֵי וּלְבָבִי  
 msc+1cs+וּ msc+1cs QPf3ms  
 and my heart my flesh it is finished, spent

צוּר- לְבָבִי וְחֶלְקִי אֱלֹהִים לְעוֹלָם:  
 msa+לִי mpa msc+1cs+וּ msc+1cs msc  
 to eternity God (is) and my portion, tract my heart rock of

27 כִּי- הִנֵּה רַחֲקִיךָ יֵאבְדוּ  
 QIpf3cp mpc+2ms interj conj  
 they will perish the ones far from You behold because

הַצְּמִתָּהּ כָּל- זוֹנָה מִמֶּךָ:  
 2ms+מִ QPtcpmsa adj HiphPf2ms  
 from You one being harlot, unfaithful all of You will exterminate, annihilate

<sup>5</sup> Poss. Possessive “Who is mine?” Will § 270, interest- advantage “Who is for my sake?” Will § 271, or assistance or partisanship, “Who is on my side?” Will. §282

טוֹב      לִי-      אֱלֹהִים      קִרְבַּת      וְאֲנִי<sup>28</sup>  
 msa      1cs+ל      mpa      fsc      1cs+ו  
 good (is) to me      God      nearness of      and I

מִחֲסִי      יְהוָה      בְּאֲדֹנָי      שִׁתִּי  
 ^msc+1cs      D.N.      Prop.N.+ב      QPf1cs  
 my refuge      Yahweh      in the Lord      I have put, placed

כָּל-מַלְאֲכֹתֶיךָ:      לְסַפֵּר  
 fpc+2ms      adj      PielInfcs  
 Your deeds      all of      to recount