



REALITY

The Story We Tell Ourselves

Psalm 73:1-17, 27-28

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Psalm 73:1-17, 27-28

Surely God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.
But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;
I had nearly lost my foothold.
For I envied the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
They have no struggles;
their bodies are healthy and strong.
They are free from common human burdens;
they are not plagued by human ills.
Therefore pride is their necklace;
they clothe themselves with violence.
From their callous hearts comes iniquity;
their evil imaginations have no limits.
They scoff, and speak with malice;
with arrogance they threaten oppression.
Their mouths lay claim to heaven,
and their tongues take possession of the earth.
Therefore their people turn to them
and drink up waters in abundance.

They say, "How would God know?
Does the Most High know anything?"
This is what the wicked are like—
always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.
Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure
and have washed my hands in innocence.
All day long I have been afflicted,
and every morning brings new punishments.
If I had spoken out like that,
I would have betrayed your children.
When I tried to understand all this,
it troubled me deeply
till I entered the sanctuary of God;
then I understood their final destiny...
Those who are far from you will perish;
you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.
But as for me, it is good to be near God.
I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge;
I will tell of all your deeds.

Psalm 73:1

The Lord is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.

Psalm 73:2

But as for me, my feet had almost slipped,
I had nearly lost my foothold.

What about *them*?

Psalm 73:3

For I envied the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Psalm 73:4-5

They have no struggles;
their bodies are healthy and strong.
They are free from common human burdens;
they are not plagued by human ills.

Psalm 73:6-7

Therefore pride is their necklace;
they clothe themselves with violence.
From their callous hearts comes iniquity;
their evil imaginations have no limits.

Psalm 73:8-10

They scoff, and speak with malice;
with arrogance they threaten oppression.
Their mouths lay claim to heaven,
and their tongues take possession of the earth.
Therefore their people turn to them
and drink up waters in abundance.

Psalm 73:11-12

They say, "How would God know?
Does the Most High know anything?"
This is what the wicked are like—
always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.

This is the story of envy and comparison.

John 21:21-22

When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about this man?”
Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!”

What about *me*?

Psalm 73:13-14

Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure
and have washed my hands in innocence.
All day long I have been afflicted,
and every morning brings new punishments.

This is the story of self-pity and self-righteousness.

Psalm 73:15

If I had spoken out like that,
I would have betrayed your children.

Psalm 141:3

Set a guard over my mouth, LORD;
keep watch over the door of my lips.

James 3:6

And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

What about *God*?

Psalm 73:16-17

When I tried to understand all this,
it troubled me deeply
till I entered the sanctuary of God;
then I understood their final destiny.

This is the story of divine perspective.

This is the story of divine presence.

Psalm 73:24-27

...and afterward you will take me into glory.
Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.
My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Those who
are far from you will perish;
you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.

Psalm 73:28

But as for me, it is good to be near God.
I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge;
I will tell of all your deeds.