

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

UNTIL I WENT INTO THE SANCTUARY PSALMS 73

Text: Psalms 73:17

Psalm 73:17

*¹⁷ Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then
understood I their end.*

Introduction:

The writer of this Psalm begins with a conclusion. Now that's a strange thing.

Somebody said, "What makes a good talk or sermon?"

And a friend answered, "A good introduction and a good conclusion as close together as possible."

This man begins with a conclusion.

He gives the conclusion first because if he didn't give the conclusion first, you might think he's an apostate or an unbeliever.

His conclusion is found in verse 1.

Psalm 73:1

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

This conclusion is something that he has pondered.

His conclusion is not something that he jumped to but rather something that he had given great thought to.

This man is not jumping to a conclusion. He has thought about this and he is saying, surely God is good.

The devil wants you to think negative about God.

This is the same thing that he did with Eve in the Garden of Eden.

If the devil can get you to thinking negatively about God, he's opened you up to all kind of mayhem and mischief.

Note:

1. Asaph Success

As we begin looking at this chapter this psalm wasn't penned by someone that would be considered a loser or a misfit.

Asaph was quiet successful.

Notice:

A. He Was Successful As a Psalmist

2 Chronicles 29:30

³⁰ Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the LORD with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped.

This Psalm as well as the next 10 in succession as well as Psa. 50 are all attributed to him. Here was a man used to compose hymns to be sung in the temple worship.

Not only was he successful as a psalmist but also:

B. He Was Successful As a Prophet

2 Chronicles 29:30

*³⁰ Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the LORD with the words of David, and of Asaph **the seer**. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped.*

Not the words “the seer”

The word seer is one of two words which are used for prophets or beholders of visions.

He was not only successful as a psalmist and prophet but also:

C. He Was Successful As a Parent

Asaph not only lived the Godly life in public, but did so more importantly privately as evidence by his children following his in serving the Lord.

1 Chronicles 25:1

¹ Moreover David and the captains of the host separated to the service of the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, with psalteries, and with cymbals: and the number of the workmen according to their service was:

Four of Asaph sons participated in conducting the chorus that sung at the temple dedication.

We must remember that success doesn't isolate an individual for problems.

Note secondly:

2. ASAPH SLIPPING

Psalm 73:2

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

Though Asaph had enjoyed success we now see that he has slipped and is struggling.

He is trouble.

He's about ready to give up.

What brought about this condition?

Note verse vs. 3

Psalm 73:3

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

A. He Had Slipped Because of Envy

He said, I was envious of the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

He had shifted his eyes from God Who is good as he stated in verse 1 to looking at the foolish.

Remember, he's a believer. He's been serving God. And he looks at these people he begins to envy them.

Note what it is that he observed:

- He Observed Their Prosperity (vs. 3)

He sees their possessions.

He see the wicked who were prospering and became envious of what they had.

Certainly he had a skewed view of what was going on.

Not only did he observe their prosperity but also:

- He Observed Their Pride

Psalm 73:6

⁶ Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.

- He Observed Their Pleasures

Psalm 73:7

⁷ Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.

- He Observed Their Perverseness

Psalm 73:8

⁸ They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily.

- He Observed Their Profanity

Psalm 73:9

⁹ They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.

He had slipped because of Envy but also

B. He Had Slipped Because of Emptiness (vs. 13)

Psalm 73:13

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

When Asaph looked at the wicked....he saw the wicked life that they lived, and yet they prospered.

He was struggling in spite of the fact that he was living a clean life, yet they seemed to be unconcerned, and carefree.

He felt that his service for the Lord was in vain.... perhaps because he saw no physical evidence.

Remember:

We are to serve God because he has saved us for that purpose, we are to serve the Lord because we are commanded to, and because it's the right thing to do.

He had slipped because of Envy and Emptiness but also:

He had focused on the Present and on the:

1. The Prosperity of the Wicked. V.3
2. The Peace of the Wicked. Vs. 4-5
3. The Pride of the Wicked. Vs. 6-12

We have considered the Success and the Slipping of Asaph not also:

3. ASAPH IN THE SANCTUARY (VS. 17-20)

Psalm 73:17-20

¹⁷ Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. ¹⁸ Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. ¹⁹ How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors. ²⁰ As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.

- It's in the sanctuary he found solace – Understood Their End
- It's in the sanctuary he found strength
- It's in the sanctuary he found stability

We have considered the Success, he Slipping and the Sanctuary of Asaph note lastly:

4. ASAPH STATEMENT AND SETTLING

Psalm 73:22-28

²² So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee. ²³ Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand. ²⁴ Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. 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 faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. ²⁷ For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee. 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.

Close

We find a man who had enjoyed some success.

We also see that his success didn't keep him from slipping.

He slipped because he placed his eyes on others instead of the Lord.

But thankfully he turned his eyes back to the Lord and later on we read of his family again.

When the captives return back to rebuild the temple we read of the children of Asaph.

Ezra 2:41

⁴¹ The singers: the children of Asaph, an hundred twenty and eight.

Nehemiah 12:35

³⁵ And certain of the priests' sons with trumpets; namely, Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Michaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph:

Nehemiah 12:46

⁴⁶ For in the days of David and Asaph of old there were chief of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving unto God.