

REVELATION: Lesson 134

Psalm 73, An Insider's Perspective of the Tribulation Time

11 January 2021

Psalm 73 is clearly a Tribulation Psalm. Here is a man looking at his terrible situation, he is tempted to give up, but he looks to God and is confident in the end. It is a reminder to all of us that no matter how difficult our lives may be as we face trials and temptations or even persecutions, we know that things will end up in our favor because God has already told us our future.

- Vs 1** “**God is good**” so this man was able to conclude “**it is good for me to draw near to God**” (vs 28).
- Vs 2** “**My feet were almost gone...**” This speaks of a man who is slipping, almost ready to step off the right path. A hungry man in the Tribulation will be tempted to take the mark of the Beast.
- Vs 3** The fools (who say there is no God) are prospering. Those who are hungry will be envious.
- Vs 4** The ungodly are free and strong.
- Vs 5** The ungodly don't face the same troubles and difficulties that men do who refused the mark.
- Vs 6** The ungodly are full of pride, thinking they are right to follow the beast and that they are better than those who don't. So, they persecute those whose faith is in God and not the beast.
- Vs 7** The hungry man regards the healthy man who is being fed by the beast.
- Vs 8-9** The beast-followers constantly speak wickedly against God and those who trust God.
- Vs 10** The beast's people keep coming back to him because he's got the food and drink.
- Vs 11** The people of the beast will mock God and say that He has abandoned the Earth.
- Vs 12** The godly man will observe that only the ungodly are prospering and getting rich.
- Vs 13** After all his observations, the godly man wonders if his devotion to God has been in vain.
- Vs 14** Every day and every hour feels like God is chastening the godly man.
- Vs 15** The reason this godly man doesn't want to deny God is because it would dishonor God's (Jewish) people who died for their faith. See Matthew 24:34. The kinship and the national unity of the Hebrew people is strong motivation to do right.
- Vs 16** Remembering the suffering of his brethren will aid in his resolve to continue to reject the beast.
- Vs 17** When he talked to God, he understood “**their end.**” This could accurately refer to both the godly who refused the mark, and the ungodly who took the mark of the beast (along with the beast). Note that a man can make right judgments when he looks to God.
- Vs 18** This man said, “I almost slipped” (vs 2), but they DID slip. Those who took the mark don't know that they are headed for eternal destruction very soon.
- Vs 19** Their end is desolation, complete destruction, and terror forever.
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- Vs 20** Here is the turning point. The godly man sees God as awakening from sleep and dealing with that image of the beast.
- Vs 21** My heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins (when I understood the truth). This is true repentance. He despised himself for being one who could even think about taking the mark.
- Vs 22** I was foolish (I forgot God), and ignorant (I ignored God's established truths); I was as a beast (only relying on baser instincts such as physical needs). A beast only looks at temporal things, never looking up and considering eternal things.
- Vs 23** Now he realizes that God is the one who held onto him and kept him from slipping.
- Vs 24** Now he sees his own end, heading to glory, in contrast to "their end" (vs 17), leading into destruction (vs 18).
- Vs 25** He has no desire for that beast anymore. His only desire is for the Lord.
- Vs 26** If I trust my own strength and my own heart, I will fail. God is my strength and my portion forever. His oppressors have food as their portion for only a little longer before they are eternally damned. This man knows he has God forever.
- Vs 27** All those who joined themselves to idolatry will be destroyed.
- Vs 28** Now my trust is in the Lord. No matter what they do to me, I will declare the works of the Lord.
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