

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

(OT Survey Lesson 239—Psalms 73)

Introduction: In this psalm Asaph seeks to encourage continued faith in the Lord by considering the thoughts that might tempt one to leave Him. How often people determine that their lot in life is unworthy of the faith they have shown in God and turn away into a life of sin! Asaph corrects this reasoning by showing the true condition and destiny of both the righteous and the wicked.

Lesson aim: To show that is worthwhile to serve the Lord.

A psalm contrasting the righteous and the wicked—Psalm 73:1-11

1. With what truth did Asaph begin this didactic psalm? (v. 1) However, he mentioned that he had almost done what? (v. 2) How so? (v. 3)
2. How did Asaph describe the life of the wicked? (v. 4-5) What was their attitude toward God and righteousness? (v. 6-9)
3. With what statements did the wicked express their unbelief? (v. 11) How did Asaph describe these wicked men? (v. 12)
4. In contrast, how did Asaph view his decision to serve God? (v. 13) Why? (v. 14)
5. Had Asaph verbalized these thoughts, what would he have done to the Lord's people? (v. 15) Where was Asaph able to correct his flawed perspective? (v. 16-17) What fact about the wicked did he remember there? (v. 18-20)
6. When Asaph allowed bitterness to come into his heart, he was like what? (v. 21-22)
7. What blessings did Asaph have in the Lord that the wicked did not have? (v. 23-24)

8. So then, what did Asaph say he possessed that was more important than everything else? (v. 25) Though his flesh and heart might fail, who would give him strength? (v. 26)
9. What will be the destiny of the wicked? (v. 27) To be near to God is to experience what? (v. 28)
10. Consequently, Asaph had determined to do what? (v. 28)