

PRAYING PSALM 73

“My feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the boastful, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked” (Psalm 73:2-3).

This psalm was written by Asaph, a Levite, musician, and leader of the school of music under David. He was a prophet. His sons were musicians and poets (Ezra 2:41). Asaph wrote a total of 12 psalms. In this one he had a problem with God.

Asaph’s question then was the same as ours today: How can an infinitely good and powerful God permit the wicked to prosper and the righteous to go unrewarded? 1. THE STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM (1-3). It was a theological problem: the prosperity of the wicked vs. the suffering of the righteous. It was a personal problem: He was envious. It was a spiritual problem: He almost lost his faith. 2. THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM (4-14). The wicked prosper while the righteous are unrewarded. 3. THE SEARCH FOR UNDERSTANDING (5-17). If Asaph would have yielded to his doubts, he would have been unfaithful to the people he served. Understanding came when he went into the sanctuary to worship. 4. THE SURETY OF JUSTICE (18-24). God will destroy the wicked. God will bless the righteous. 5. THE SAFETY OF FAITH (27-28). It is good to draw near to God. Put your trust in the Lord.

You are perfectly right in bringing your questions and concerns to God. Be honest. Express your frustrations about God’s apparent inconsistencies. Your problems will continue to get bigger until you are honest with God about them. Your faith will be affected as long as you keep your complaints to yourself. When you lack clarity, go to prayer. Don’t yield to your doubts. Draw near to God in trust, and He will draw near to you in truth.