Learning The Heart of God

From The Psalms
Prophets & Parables

HEART OF GOD
Revealed in
THEODICY
And
PROPITIATION

PSALM 73 – A LAMENT PSALM OF INJUSTICE and THEODICY

- ***LAMENT*** **is a passionate expression of distress over something wrong**
- ***LAMENT*** **honors God by exalting Him as PROVIDER**
- ***LAMENT*** **is the start of ascent from WHY to WHAT**

PSALM 73 – A LAMENT PSALM OF INJUSTICE

- ❑ Troublesome Situation
- ❑ Troubled State of Being
- ❑ Cry for Help
- ❑ My God to the Rescue
- ❑ Resolution / Result
- ❑ Testimony / Redeeming value

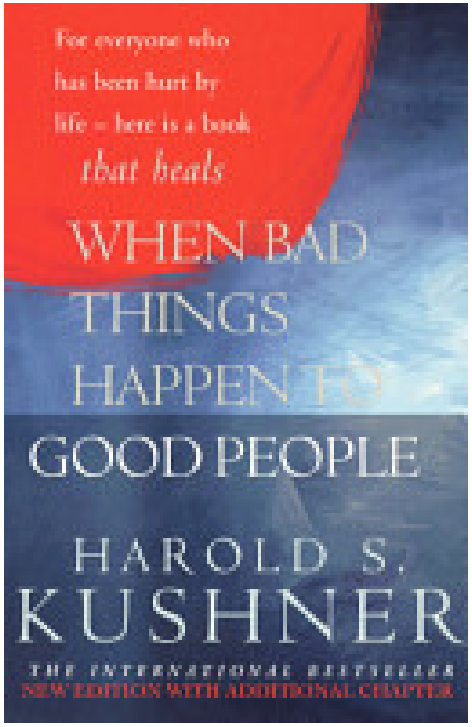
NAS **Psalm 73:1** ***A Psalm of Asaph. Surely God is good to Israel, To those who are pure in heart! 2 But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling; My steps had almost slipped. 3 For I was envious of the arrogant, As I saw the prosperity of the wicked. 4 For there are no pains in their death; And their body is fat. 5 They are not in trouble as other men; Nor are they plagued like mankind. 6 Therefore pride is their necklace; The garment of violence covers them. 7 Their eye bulges from fatness; The imaginations of their heart run riot. 8 They mock, and wickedly speak of oppression; They speak from on high. 9 They have set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue parades through the earth. 10 Therefore his people return to this place; And waters of abundance are drunk by them. 11 And they say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge with the Most High?" 12 Behold, these are the wicked; And always at ease, they have increased in wealth. 13 Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure, And washed my hands in innocence; 14 For I have been stricken all day long, And chastened every morning. 15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I should have betrayed the generation of Thy children. 16 When I pondered to understand this, It was troublesome in my sight 17 Until I came into the sanctuary of God; Then I perceived their end. 18 Surely Thou dost set them in slippery places; Thou dost cast them down to destruction. 19 How they are destroyed in a moment! They are utterly swept away by sudden terrors! 20 Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when aroused, Thou wilt despise their form. 21 When my heart was embittered, And I was pierced within, 22 Then I was senseless and ignorant; I was like a beast before Thee. 23 Nevertheless I am continually with Thee; Thou hast taken hold of my right hand. 24 With Thy counsel Thou wilt guide me, And afterward receive me to glory. 25 Whom have I in heaven but Thee? And besides Thee, I desire nothing on earth. 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. 27 For, behold, those who are far from Thee will perish; Thou hast destroyed all those who are unfaithful to Thee. 28 But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord God my refuge, That I may tell of all Thy works.***

- **Troublesome Situation**
  - *Stricken all day long and Chastened every morning[v14]*

- Troublesome Situation
- Troubled State of Being
  - *Troubled over the Problem of Evil [v2-10]*
  - *Envious of the prosperity of the wicked [v3]*
  - *Demoralized [v13]*
  - *Grieved over the Problem of Evil [v16]*
  - *Embittered in heart [v21]*
  - *Senseless and Insentient [v22]*

The Problem of Evil

The SHOULDA
COULDA
WOULDA
DEBATE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has been hurt by
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WHEN BAD
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PSALM 73 – A LAMENT PSALM OF INJUSTICE and THEODICY

- **Troublesome Situation**
- **Troubled State of Being**
- **Cry for Help**
  - ***I came into the sanctuary of God [v17]***

PSALM 73 – A LAMENT PSALM OF INJUSTICE

- Troublesome Situation
- Troubled State of Being
- Cry for Help
- My God to the Rescue
  - *God is the strength of my heart [v26]*
  - *God is my forever portion [v26]*
  - *The nearness of God is my good [v28]*
  - *God is my refuge [v28]*

PSALM 73 – A LAMENT PSALM OF INJUSTICE

- **Resolution / Result**
  - *A revelation of THEODICY [17-20, 27]*
  - *God's continual presence[v23]*
  - *God's guiding counsel [v24]*
  - *Sure hope of being received into glory [v24]*
  - *To desire nothing but God [v26]*
  - *Intimacy with God [v28]*
  - *The Lord is my refuge [v28]*

The Problem of Evil

The Solution:

THEODICY:

God will right all wrongs!

The Problem of Evil

The Solution:
THEODICY

God will right all wrongs!

But what about Wrongdoers?

PROPITIATION

PSALM 73 – A LAMENT PSALM OF INJUSTICE

- **Testimony / Redeeming value**
  - ***Bear witness to God's Marvelous works [v28]***

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*