

Psalms 73-74 – 6 April 2025

“The Sanctuary Of Purpose”

Introduction

- *This is 1st of 6 messages in the 3rd Book of Psalms
- *Psalms - the Israeli Hymnbook or Book of Praises
- *I pray you gain wisdom thru the Psalms, but more importantly that you're able to worship thru them
- *Asaph wrote 12 Psalms (50 & 73-83)
- *Asaph, began a singing family of Levites in the days of David & Solomon (aka a prophet of God)
- *We begin Book 3 w/ a focus on God's *sanctuary*
- *The word means 'holy place'
 - The OT prototyped a sanctuary building
 - But the substance is that we ourselves are the temple of God now that we have “God with us”
 - Our sanctuary: the quietness of our inner thought w/ God
- *Today we'll see 4 potential uses for the sanctuary & also 2 activities of the sanctuary**

1st Potential Use: We could be focused on Sinners (Psm 73:1-12)

Read Psm 73:1-3

1. Vs 1 not only says that God is good but that He's actively involved in looking at individuals
2. But how do we obtain a pure heart?
 - a. David cried (Read Psm 24:3-4)
 - b. But he knew God's power (Read Psm 51:10)
 - c. Jesus tells us of the reward (Read Matt 5:8)
 - i. Where do we see God? In His sanctuary
3. Asaph was on the path to seeing God, until envy gripped his heart
 - a. How do you handle it when someone of a lesser degree is living in comfort & ease?
 - i. We may be angry at their lack of concern for things that matter
 - ii. But isn't there also envy in the way they're able to live & seem to be doing well?

Read Vs 4-9

1. B/c wicked go to the grave in seeming peace, the rest of them continue to live in arrogance
2. Seems to be no physical evidence of their wrong
 - a. Righteous can see a problem w/ the wicked's pride, but it's difficult for them to see it
 - b. Had a manager that sat me down to fire me for my arrogance & I was shocked as she described the situation b/c I couldn't even see it

Read Vs 10-12

1. There is no denying that often the wicked can prosper in this life
 - a. Their problem is that they don't believe that God is taking an accounting of it
2. Don't lose focus; how do WE react to their prosperity?
 - a. How do you react to the godless prospering?
 - b. What about when the counterfeit godly prospers?

2nd Potential Use: We could be focused on Self (Psm 73:13-17)

Read Psm 73:13-14

1. This compared to vs 5
 - a. The ungodly don't often suffer, but I do
 - b. The wicked aren't often stricken, but I am
2. What's the problem here?
 - a. We're comparing ourselves against others & not against the standard of what we deserve
 - b. Being all varying degrees of bad, we all deserve nothing – yet we get our eyes on others

Read Vs 15-17

1. Here Asaph catches himself mentally, spiritually from sliding any further
2. He thought it improper to pass this despair onto the next generations
3. Yet this was too difficult to hold it internally
4. Then it all changed when he brought the situation to the Lord – (Read I Pet 5:7)
 - a. He simply ...went to church

3rd Potential Use: We could be focused on the Savior (Psm 73:18-22)

Read Psm 73:18-20

1. In a moment, the Lord changes a situation completely to make the wicked to cease
2. Notice the word *surely* meaning *oh it's true*

Read Vs 21-22

1. If we present our situation to a sinner & gossip, we can easily distort the facts
2. But when we bring the situation to God, we will see it for what it really is
 - a. Envyng the wicked seems foolish in light of eternity & all God has coming for us

4th Potential Use: We could be forever satisfied (Psm 73:23-28)

Read Psm 73:23-24

1. Why envy the wicked, when WE KNOW that we live guilt-free in the presence of God

2. Why envy the wicked, when WE KNOW that we will be taken guilt-free into paradise forever

Read Vs 25-28

1. Look at the expressions of satisfaction w/ his relationship with God
 - a. Vs 25 – You’re the only one I need
 - b. Vs 26 – When my body fails, I still have You
 - c. Vs 27-28 – You’ve given me closeness to You
 - d. Vs 28 – I have someone to brag about
2. Your choice: set your eyes on man, earth & our situation or set them on God, heaven & eternity

Now, what’s the 1st Activity of the Sanctuary? It is that it’s attacked by the enemy (Psm 74:1-11)

Intro – 13 Psalms have the subtitle *Maskil* meaning instructive or ‘you should think about it’

If Asaph lived in David’s day, how did he write about the destruction of the sanctuary?

Option #1 – He wrote of the tabernacle at Shiloh

Option #2 – His descendants wrote in his name (x)
(They were still singers in Josiah's day (II Chr 35:15))

Read Psm 74:1-2

1. The writer isn't questioning as an unbeliever, but he's lamenting in the form of a question
2. Thus he begins with, 'God, we're Your people & You've placed us here in Jerusalem'

Read Vs 3-7

1. It's a call for God to consider the damage the enemy has done, not just to the sanctuary, but to God's reputation as well
2. Enemies have defiled it with their own idols

Read Vs 8-9

1. So not just the place of sacrifice but also the places of prayer & worship have been destroyed
 - a. Today we are the sanctuary of God

- b. Not just the place of prayer but also the place of sacrifice
- 2. What sacrifices do we bring?
 - a. That of a broken & contrite heart (Psm 51)
 - b. We bring the sacrifice of praise (Heb 13)
 - c. We bring our bodies (Rom 12)

Read Vs 10-11

- 1. Psalmist asks, “God, why wait”?
 - a. Now is that not relatable to us?
- 2. Faithful are the wounds of a friend – When God wounds us, it is for great purpose & w/ value

What’s the 2nd Activity of the Sanctuary? It is rededicated to God (Psm 74:12-23)

Read Psm 74:12-17

- 1. In a time of destruction, Asaph remembers God’s power & authority over all things including creation

- a. These are all references to the ancient working of God
- b. From the beginning, God has been in authority but also in control
- 2. He's proven He knows what He's doing
 - a. Though the pagans brought their false gods into God's city, Yahweh is STILL the only God that reigns

Read Vs 18-21

- 1. Notice the approach of humility
 - a. Didn't say, 'your lion' but 'your turtledove'
 - b. Remember us, not b/c we're awesome, but b/c you made a covenant or promise
- 2. It's forward-looking; 'we want to yet praise You'

Read Vs 22-23

- 1. It's like saying, "Do this for Your glory, b/c Your reputation is on the line"
- 2. We too, beseech God to act, not for what we want, but for what His will wants to accomplish

Conclusion

What a peace, what a joy that we have a retreat we can go to with God to reestablish what's true

1. **Don't focus on Sinners** – they don't receive instant justice
2. **Don't focus on Self** – we deserve nothing good
3. **Focus on the Savior** – He has the power to change anything whenever He wants to
4. When we do that, we'll be **forever satisfied!**

But be ready for the attacks of the enemy

And be ready to always be rededicating ourselves back to the Lord for His will to be done