



The Journey from Confusion to Clarity Psalm 73:1-17

We can reveal fully our doubts.

Verses 1-15:

Text Message:

- Most of this Psalm shows Asaph unloading his doubts:
 - 1) Verses 1-3 form the introduction, ending with verse 3 as a statement of Asaph's crisis of faith and doubt.
 - 2) Verses 4-12 unpack with emotion reasons for his doubt.
 - 3) Verses 13-15 are his crisis of faith, where his doubts have led him to a "Why

bother?” type of attitude.

- Our doubts, too, can lead us to the same attitude, or worse yet, a denial of our faith.
- Let’s unpack verses 4-12, and by the way, notice how his claims have legitimacy, although exaggerated.
- Our doubts can be both legitimate yet exaggerated.
- In his doubt, he paints a perfect picture of the wicked as:
 - 1) Experiencing exceptional health (verses 4a, 7a)
 - 2) Not having a care in the world (verses 4b-5).
 - 3) Arrogant and violent (verse 6).
 - 4) Malicious (verses 7b-8).
 - 5) Mocking God (verses 9, 11).
 - 6) Leading others astray (verse 10; Compare to Psalm 1).
 - 7) Prosperous (verse 12).

We can refuse to isolate in our doubts.

¹⁶ But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, ¹⁷ until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.

Text Message:

- To the credit of this disillusioned worship leader, he may have felt alone in his doubts but refused to isolate in them!
- His breakthrough came in “the sanctuary of God.”
- This was the place of God’s “on-earth” Presence and the place from which came God’s help in the ancient mind:
May he send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion! Psalm 20:2
- The sanctuary [temple] was also the place where God’s people came together in celebration and worship.
- **Newsflash:** It is not hypocritical to come into God’s presence with God’s people in worship when we are in doubt!
- Rather, there is no better place to be!
- Our worship gatherings need to be a safe place for people to come, even with the darkness of doubt and disillusionment.

We can ready ourselves for a new revelation of God.

¹⁶ But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, ¹⁷ **until** I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.

Text Message:

- Here Asaph's doubts open way to a new revelation of God!
- When we are in doubt/disillusionment, etc., God has an "until" moment for us too!
- Circle the word "end" in verse 17. The Hebrew word refers to the ultimate end of something (*acharit*, (אַחֲרַיִת)).
- It is here he recognizes that despite all appearances in this life, God will ultimately prevail and judge rightly in the end.
- Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Psalm 73:25-26