

“Unfair!” Psalm 73

Why do the wicked prosper sometimes while the righteous seem to suffer? In Psalm 73 Asaph takes up this question and provides some perspective.

I. The First Problem: Why Do the Wicked Prosper (1-12)?

“If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them...I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid. And I will remove harmful beasts from the land, and the sword shall not go through your land.”

—Leviticus 26:6

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, ‘The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.’ So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

—Numbers 6:22-27

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

—Isaiah 26:3

II. The Second Problem: Why Do the Righteous Suffer (13-14)?

III. The Solution: God Remains Faithful (15-28).

a. He Condemns the Wicked (15-20).

b. He Draws Near to the Righteous (21-28).

- Worship God in times of stress and doubt.
- Trust that His plan is ultimately good.