

HEARTSONG



PSALMS TO *LIVE* BY

†

PSALM 73

ISAIAH 54:1-2 (NRSV)

Shout for joy, O barren one who has borne no children;
burst into song and shout,
you who have not been in labour!
For the children of the desolate woman will be more
than the children of the one who is married, says the LORD.
Enlarge the site of your tent,
and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out;
do not hold back; lengthen your cords
and strengthen your stakes.

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ISAIAH 54:3-4 (NRSV)

For you will spread out to the right and to the left,
and your descendants will possess nations
and will settle desolate towns.
Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; do not be discouraged,
for you will not suffer disgrace,
for you will forget the shame of your youth,
and the disgrace of your widowhood you will remember no more.

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PSALM 73 – A *PSALM OF ASAPH*.

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PSALM 73:1 (NRSV)

Truly God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.

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PSALM 73:2 (NRSV)

But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled;
my steps had nearly slipped.

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PSALM 73:3 (NRSV)

For I was envious of the arrogant;
I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

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- 1. They don't deserve the good life.**
- 2. I deserve the good life.**
- 3. God isn't fair to me.**

‘The comparison trap’.

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PSALM 73:4 (NRSV)

For they have no pain;
their bodies are sound and sleek.

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PSALM 73:5 (NRSV)

They are not in trouble as others are;
they are not plagued like other people.

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PSALM 73:6-8 (NRSV)

Therefore pride is their necklace;
 violence covers them like a garment.
Their eyes swell out with fatness;
 their hearts overflow with follies.
They scoff and speak with malice;
 loftily they threaten oppression.

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PSALM 73:9-10 (NRSV)

They set their mouths against heaven,
and their tongues range over the earth.
Therefore the people turn and praise them
and find no fault in them.

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PSALM 73:11-12 (NRSV)

And they say, “How can God know?
Is there knowledge in the Most High?”
Such are the wicked;
always at ease, they increase in riches.

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‘Land of er’.

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PSALM 73:13-14 (NRSV)

All in vain I have kept my heart clean
and washed my hands in innocence.
For all day long I have been plagued
and am punished every morning.

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Looking outward through comparison and looking inward through introspection rarely leads to a good place.

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PSALM 73:16-17 (NRSV)

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

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PSALM 73:18-20 (NRSV)

Truly you set them in slippery places;
you make them fall to ruin.
How they are destroyed in a moment,
swept away utterly by terrors!
They are like a dream when one awakes;
on awaking you despise their phantoms.

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PSALM 73:21-25 (NRSV)

When my soul was embittered,
when I was pricked in heart,
I was stupid and ignorant;
I was like a brute beast toward you.
Nevertheless, I am continually with you;
you hold my right hand.
You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will receive me with honour.
Whom have I in heaven but you?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire other than you.

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PSALM 73:26 (NRSV)

My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

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PSALM 73:27-28 (NRSV)

Indeed, those who are far from you will perish;
you put an end to those who are false to you.
But for me it is good to be near God;
I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, to tell of all your works.

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**it's a journey from comparison to introspection to worship.
From looking outward, to looking inward, to looking upward.**

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