

Psalm 73

4. ⁷They are so fed, that even for fat
their eyes oft times out start:
And as for worldly goods, they have,
more than can wish their heart.
⁸Their life is most licentious,
boasting much of their wrong,
Which they have done to simple men,
and ever pride among.
5. ⁹The heavens and the living Lord,
they spare not to blaspheme:
And prate they do on worldly things,
no wight³¹ they do esteem.
¹⁰The people of God oft times turn back,
to see their prosperous state,
And almost drink the self-same cup,
and follow the same rate.
6. ¹¹"How can it be that God," say they,
"should know and understand:
these worldly things, since wicked men,
be lords of sea and land?"
¹²For we may see how wicked men,
in riches still increase:
Rewarded well with worldly goods,
and live in rest and peace.
7. ¹³Then why do I from wickedness
my fantasy refrain?
And wash mine hands with innocence,
and cleanse mine heart in vain?
¹⁴And suffer scourges every day,
as subject to all blame,
And every morning from my youth,
sustain rebuke and shame?
8. ¹⁵And I had almost said as they,
mis-liking mine estate:
But that I should thy children judge,
as folk unfortunate.
¹⁶Then I bethought me how I might
this matter understand:
But yet the labour was too great,
for me to take in hand.
9. ¹⁷Until the time I went into
thine holy place: and then
I understood right perfectly
the end of all these men.
¹⁸And namely how thou settest them
upon a slippery place,
And at thy pleasure and thy will
thou dost them all deface.
10. ¹⁹Then all men muse at that strange sight,
to see how suddenly:
They are destroyed, dispatched, consumed,
and dead so horribly.
²⁰Much like as a dream when one awaketh,
so shall their wealth decay:
Their famous names in all men's sight,
shall ebb and pass away.
11. ²¹Yet thus mine heart was grieved then:
my mind was much oppressed:
²²So fond was I, and ignorant,
and in this point a beast.
²³Yet nevertheless by my right hand,
thou holdest me always fast,
²⁴And with thy counsel dost me guide,
to glory at the last.
12. ²⁵What thing is there that I can wish,
but thee in heaven above?
And in the earth there is nothing,
like thee that I can love.
²⁶My flesh and eke mine heart do fail,
but God doth fail me never:
For of mine heart God is the strength,
my portion eke forever.
13. ²⁷And lo, all such as thee forsake,
thou shalt destroy each one:
And those that trust in anything,
saving in thee alone.
²⁸Therefore will I draw near to God,
and ever with him dwell:
In God alone I put my trust,
thy wonders will I tell.

³¹ A human being.