

A Psalm of Asaph.

73:25

Whom have I in heaven 73:9-11 show us that these prosperous and evil people of whom Asaph spoke were, in fact, raising their fists to the One in the **heavens**. Asaph's contention is that he is honoring this same God alone. This parallel is quite obvious given the use of both **heaven** and **earth** in these two verses (73:9; 73:25).

but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. Asaph is complaining that it looks like the godless people of the world have it really good. "You know, I look over here and these guys that never go to the temple, they never worship God, they seem to have it really good and they die old and they die rich and look at me." After complaining for about 16 verses he has a perspective change in verse 17.¹ It seems, then, that the Only God is worth honoring even when we are disappointed that the immediate payoff doesn't seem impressive. We are not at freedom to become stoic and uncaring, but rather to fall desperately on the loving arms of God. This is quite a bit different than supposing we should care for nothing about passions of any kind in order to leave a cycle of reincarnations for a culminating *nirvana* where we reunite with a "world soul" or "cosmic consciousness."²

¹This reminds me much of Job 13:15 (discussed in that commentary) and John 6:68 (discussed in that commentary).

²Ravi Zacharias *Kingdom of the Cults* (2003), 299-303; this religion was founded by Guatama Buddha, a Hindu priest in Nepal. This man abandoned his family to "solve turmoil" and became an ascetic—supposedly leaving a stately existence because of his lineage. After 7 years he found the "True Path" under the Bo Tree (Tree of Wisdom). Classical Buddhism [Mahayana (speculationists) and Theravada (sticking primarily with the Buddhist precedence)] claims this is not possible by people today who must have several existences (Zen Buddhism believes this is available, however, today). Noble Truths were discovered that Suffering is mitigated by a resisting of Passions. In other words, you cannot be disappointed with discomfort if you do not crave comfort. There are Eight tenants of "the Way" to extinguish sufferings. There are some who still believe in a Messianic figure yet coming (typically called *Maitreya*), and they even use Christianeze language like "enlightenment" as if they have a born again experience.