

Psalm 73

73:1 Truly God is **GOOD** to Israel, even to such as are of a **clean heart**.

In the end, his understanding of goodness changed – it's not prosperity but the presence of God.

Proposition

73:2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh **slipped**. 73:3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Plight of the Psalmist

73:28 But it is **GOOD** for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

In contrast to futility of faith in **C**, he is blessed by God's presence

73:4 For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm. 73:5 They are not in **trouble** as other men; neither are they **plagued** like other men. 73:6 Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment. 73:7 Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish. 73:8 They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily. 73:9 They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth. 73:10 Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them. 73:11 And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High? 73:12 **Behold**, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.

The prosperity and arrogance of the wicked which troubles the Psalmist

73:21 Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins. 73:22 So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee. 73:23 Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand. 73:24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. 73:26 My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. 73:27 For, **lo**, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.

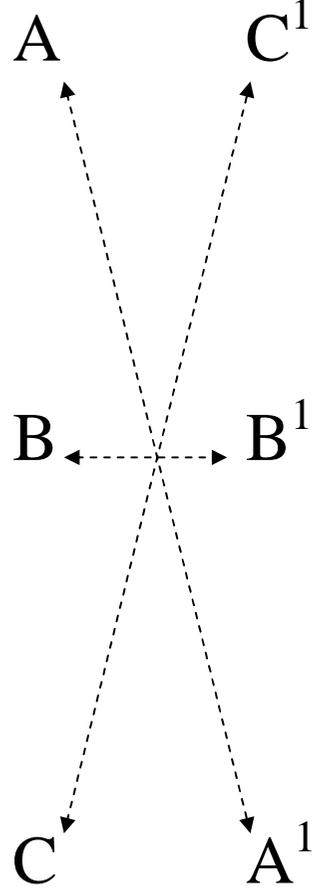
In contrast to apparent prosperity of the wicked in **B**, their doom is sealed.

73:13 **Verily** I have **cleansed my heart** in vain, and washed my hands in innocency. 73:14 For all the day long have I been **plagued**, and chastened every morning. 73:15 If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children. 73:16 When I thought to know this, it was too **painful** for me;

Observation caused him to doubt his faith

73:18 **Surely** thou didst set them in **slippery** places: thou castedst them down into destruction. 73:19 How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors. 73:20 As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.

In contrast to **A**, it is the wicked who are on slippery ground



Turning Point

73:17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.