

Be Thou my Vision

An inductive study of Psalms 73 through 89

Kristie Gant

SAMPLE PAGES:

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Lesson One, Days One through four

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In Praise of God Ministries
P. O. Box 856
Bellevue, NE 68005-0856
(402) 292-2244
(888) 792-2244
www.inpraiseministries.com

*When I thought how to understand this,
It was too painful for me—
Until I went into the sanctuary of God;
Then I understood...*

Psalm 73:16-17

Sanctuary Perspective

Part One

Psalm 73

When we were just married, my husband, Hank, and I went to a furniture store to look for a living room set. It was 1977, and we decided that we really liked a sofa that had lots of bright orange and yellow flowers. Because we weren't sure what other furniture to put with it, I asked my mom to go back to the store with me the next day.

She did not like the couch we had chosen at all. Although she tried to hide her feelings, they became obvious when she started walking the aisles "just to see what else they have." I finally asked her, "If you were picking a couch, which would you choose?"

She found one, and although I would never have chosen it myself, I really liked it. It was a dark beige and peach with a more subdued floral print. We bought it...and we loved it! When it was finally worn out, many years later, our whole family was sad to see it go.

On the other hand, in the 1980's I went shopping for a second couch for our den. This time, Mom wasn't able to come along, but I was initially happy with my choice of one with brown and beige tweed. However, I grew tired of it within a year (though we kept it for much longer!).

Perspective is a wonderful thing. With furniture, my mom has a wonderful understanding of the difference between classic design and trendy styles. She also has a good knowledge of what I will like and how my tastes will change as I grow older.

If we need wise, future-focused perspective to choose furniture, how much more do we need it in our spiritual lives! The LORD knows the future. Only by looking to Him, and seeing things through His eyes, can we be stable and satisfied as we go through our lives on earth.

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6. What made a difference in his outlook? v. 17

7. In your own words, what did he understand once he went into the sanctuary of God (once he saw things from God's perspective)? vv. 17-20

8. Can you relate to any of the thoughts, reactions or feelings expressed in this psalm? Explain.

Day Two _____
today's day/date

When I thought _____ this, It was too painful _____—
_____ went into the sanctuary _____ ; _____ understood...

Psalm _____ :16-17

Look again at the soul-struggle Asaph was having as he saw the wicked prosper and “get away” with ungodliness, while believers suffered. There is much to learn!

1. Begin by reading Psalm 73 again. If possible, read aloud.

2. How does the psalmist describe:

a. his own stability (or lack of stability) in verses 2 and 3?

b. the stability of the arrogant/boastful/wicked? vv. 4-5

3. Once he goes into the sanctuary of God, his perspective totally reverses. How does he now describe the position of the wicked? vv. 18-20 (*This answer may be similar to Day One, #7, but this time use the words of the psalmist.*)

4. The psalmist has an increase in strength and stability as his perspective changes. What things did he know and recall about God? vv. 23-28

5. Immediately upon seeing things from God's perspective, the psalmist says,

*“Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed [pierced, pricked] in my mind.
I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You.”* vv. 21-22

What do you think has grieved his heart and made him feel foolish and ignorant?

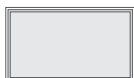
6. Look again at your list in question #4. As you meditate on God and the truths listed:

a. Which truth(s) do you think about most often? least often?

b. Underline any phrases which describe the source of the psalmist's new strength and stability.

c. Which truth is most precious to you today? Why?

As you think about God, let the Scriptures bring your heart to praise and thanksgiving. Initial the box when you are finished praying.



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Day Four _____
today's day/date

_____ I thought how _____, It was too painful _____ me—
Until I went _____; Then I understood...

Psalm _____:16-17

Job was another believer who struggled with faith when life was full of suffering and seemed to make no sense. In one of Scripture's most dramatic accounts, God gave Job a different perspective. *(A note to those familiar with the account of Job: do not be tempted to short-cut your study. These are words that most of us need to hear time and time again. Humble yourself and ask God to give you new or increased understanding as you read.)*

1. Read all or parts of Job 38:1 through 40:5. In your own words, record Job's response to God in Job 40:1-5.

2. Read some or all of God's further response to Job in Job 40:6 through 41:34. Again, in your own words, record Job's response to God in Job 42:1-6.

3. Why is seeing God for who He truly is...and seeing life from God's perspective...so essential for living a life of faith that is pleasing to God?

4. Have other Scriptures or songs come to mind as you have studied? If so, record these—and then spend some time responding to the LORD's Word. Is the Spirit prompting your heart to praise? to read more Scripture? to repent of unfaithfulness (like Job)? to sing? At the end of your time of prayer, initial the box.

Day Five _____
today's day/date

_____ how to understand this, _____ too painful for _____—
Until I _____ the _____ of _____; Then I understood...
Psalm _____ :16-17

Return once more to Psalm 73 and skim the verses to remind yourself of what you studied in Days One and Two. After a little research (for those who have a commentary available), there are only two questions to answer...but they will take some thought.

1. Consult a reliable commentary for additional insight into Psalm 73. Make notes on the following page. Star the insight you find most helpful for your life today.

2. Read the following Scriptures and then answer the questions that follow:

*“Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age...”*

*“...sanctify the Lord God in your hearts,
and always **be ready to give a defense** to everyone who asks you **a reason for the hope that is in you...**”*

*“...I have put my trust in the Lord God, **That I may declare** all Your works.*

Matthew 28:19-20, 1 Peter 3:15, Psalm 73:28

a. How could you use the experiences of the psalmist in Psalm 73 to encourage a believer whose faith has been weakened after years of barely making it financially while watching an ungodly sibling prosper? Record your opening sentence, along with the general direction your words would take.

b. Name at least one other current day situation to which this psalm would apply.

END OF SAMPLE