

Psalm 73

- 1) **The Problem of Perspective (vv.1-12)**
 - A) A Limited _____ (vv.3-12)
 - B) A Wrong _____ (vv.13-14)

- 2) **Theological thinking about prosperity and suffering in ancient cultures of the Near East.**
 - A) In Israel: God is _____
 - B) In Ancient Near Eastern Culture: Gods are _____

- 3) **The Divine corrective to human thinking about the prosperity of the wicked and the suffering of the righteous.**
 - A) Getting to the _____ where we meet with God (v.17)
What did Asaph see that prompted a new perspective?
The Ark of the Presence: On the Ark:
In the Ark:
 - B) A New _____ (vv.27-28)

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Small Group Questions

1. Describe a hardship you have been through that made you question the goodness of God.
2. Read Psalm 73 and see if you can divide the Psalm into the three following categories: A) the verses where the psalmist seems disoriented in his outlook, B) the verses that seem to describe the psalmist moving toward re-orientating his thinking to the truth of God, C) the verses that describe the psalmist in a new orientation toward suffering and God's goodness.
3. Can you remember the two dominant ways people understood suffering in the culture of the Ancient Near East?
4. Where did Asaph find the answer to his problem with the prosperity of the wicked?
5. Take a moment to put verses 27&28 into your own words.

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