

Bible Text New International Version	What does the psalm reveal about God and how we are to approach, address, and respond to God?
<p><b>Psalm 73</b>  <i>A psalm of Asaph.</i></p> <p><sup>1</sup> Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.</p> <p><sup>4</sup> They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong.<sup>[a]</sup></p> <p><sup>5</sup> They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills.</p> <p><sup>6</sup> Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence.</p> <p><sup>7</sup> From their callous hearts comes iniquity<sup>[b]</sup>; their evil imaginations have no limits.</p> <p><sup>8</sup> They scoff, and speak with malice; with arrogance they threaten oppression.</p> <p><sup>9</sup> Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth.</p> <p><sup>10</sup> Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance.<sup>[c]</sup></p> <p><sup>11</sup> They say, “How would God know? Does the Most High know anything?”</p> <p><sup>12</sup> This is what the wicked are like— always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.</p> <p><sup>13</sup> Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence.</p> <p><sup>14</sup> All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments. <i>(continued)</i></p> <p>a. With a different word division of the Hebrew; Masoretic Text <i>struggles at their death; / their bodies are healthy.</i></p> <p>b. Syriac (see also Septuagint); Hebrew <i>Their eyes bulge with fat.</i></p> <p>c. The meaning of the Hebrew for this verse is uncertain.</p>	

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<p><b>Psalm 73 (continued)</b></p> <p><sup>15</sup> If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children.</p> <p><sup>16</sup> When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply</p> <p><sup>17</sup> till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.</p> <p><sup>18</sup> Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin.</p> <p><sup>19</sup> How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!</p> <p><sup>20</sup> They are like a dream when one awakes; when you arise, Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.</p> <p><sup>21</sup> When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered,</p> <p><sup>22</sup> I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.</p> <p><sup>23</sup> Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.</p> <p><sup>24</sup> You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.</p> <p><sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.</p> <p><sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.</p> <p><sup>27</sup> Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.</p> <p><sup>28</sup> But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.</p>	

Bible Text New International Version	What does the psalm reveal about God and how we are to approach, address, and respond to God?
<p><b>Psalm 77<sup>[d]</sup></b>  <i>For the director of music. For Jeduthun. Of Asaph. A psalm.</i></p> <p><sup>1</sup> I cried out to God for help;  I cried out to God to hear me.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> When I was in distress, I sought the Lord;  at night I stretched out untiring hands,  and I would not be comforted.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> I remembered you, God, and I groaned;  I meditated, and my spirit grew faint.<sup>[e]</sup></p> <p><sup>4</sup> You kept my eyes from closing;  I was too troubled to speak.</p> <p><sup>5</sup> I thought about the former days,  the years of long ago;</p> <p><sup>6</sup> I remembered my songs in the night.  My heart meditated and my spirit asked:</p> <p><sup>7</sup> “Will the Lord reject forever?  Will he never show his favor again?</p> <p><sup>8</sup> Has his unfailing love vanished forever?  Has his promise failed for all time?</p> <p><sup>9</sup> Has God forgotten to be merciful?  Has he in anger withheld his compassion?”</p> <p><sup>10</sup> Then I thought, “To this I will appeal:  the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand.</p> <p><sup>11</sup> I will remember the deeds of the LORD;  yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.</p> <p><sup>12</sup> I will consider all your works  and meditate on all your mighty deeds.”</p> <p><sup>13</sup> Your ways, God, are holy.  What god is as great as our God?</p> <p><sup>14</sup> You are the God who performs miracles;  you display your power among the peoples. <i>(continued)</i></p> <p>d. In Hebrew texts 77:1-20 is numbered 77:2-21.  e. The Hebrew has <i>Selah</i> (a word of uncertain meaning) here and at the end of verses 9 and 15.</p>	

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<p><b>Psalm 77 (continued)</b></p> <p><sup>15</sup> With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.</p> <p><sup>16</sup> The waters saw you, God, the waters saw you and writhed; the very depths were convulsed.</p> <p><sup>17</sup> The clouds poured down water, the heavens resounded with thunder; your arrows flashed back and forth.</p> <p><sup>18</sup> Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind, your lightning lit up the world; the earth trembled and quaked.</p> <p><sup>19</sup> Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen.</p> <p><sup>20</sup> You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.</p>	

**Reflections**

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Describe any doubts you have ever had about God.

When has El Shaddai, the Lord Almighty, told you to “be still,” as the world around you fell apart? Describe how you felt and what you did.



