

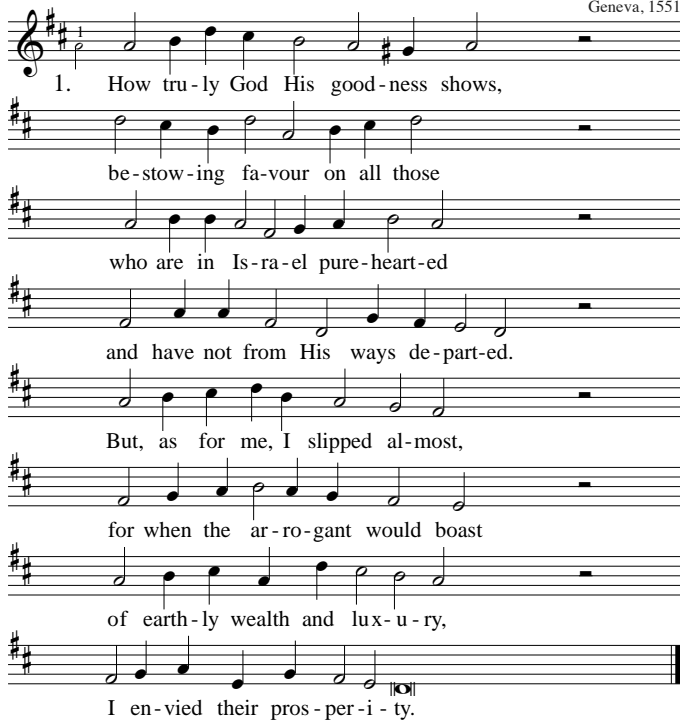
Book III
Psalms 73-89

Play the Melody 

PSALM 73

A psalm of Asaph.

Geneva, 1551



1. How tru-ly God His good-ness shows,
be-stow-ing fa-vour on all those
who are in Is-ra-el pure-heart-ed
and have not from His ways de-part-ed.
But, as for me, I slipped al-most,
for when the ar-ro-gant would boast
of earth-ly wealth and lux-u-ry,
I en-vied their pros-per-i-ty.

2. No *suffering lies* in store for them;
they *all are* sleek and *sound of* limb.
They *do not* share our *pain and* anguish;
no *troubles ever make them* languish.
Pride *is their* necklace, and they dare
make *violence the robe* they wear.
Their *hearts with follies* overflow,
and *in their minds* illusions grow.

Psalm 73

3. They speak with scorn and haugh-ti-ness;
they scoff, and threat-en to op-press.
Their mouth lays claim to heav-en's re-gions;
their tongue de-mands the earth's al-le-giance.
So peo-ple turn to praise these men,
and they can find no fault with them.
"God does not see it," they de-clare.
"The Most High does not know or care."

4. *Such are the wicked* – they're secure;
their *wealth increases evermore*.
Surely in vain I've been pure-hearted
and *have not* from God's laws departed,
and *I in vain have* washed my hands
in *purity and innocence*.
For *all day long I* suffer here,
and *with new grief* each dawn draws near.

5. *If I had spoken this way too,
I surely would have been untrue
to all the present generation,
the children of Your holy nation.
I tried to probe the mystery
but found it was too much for me
till, entering God's holy place,
I saw the destiny they face.*

6. *O Lord, You surely set them all
on slippery ground to make them fall.
You cause the arrogant to stumble;
they headlong to their ruin tumble.
How suddenly destroyed are they,
by terrors wholly swept away!
As one who wakes from dreams, You rise
and them as fantasies despise.*

7. *When envy caused me great distress
and filled my heart with bitterness,
I in my folly would ignore You;
I was a brutish beast before You.
Yet You will hold me by my hand
and keep me with You to the end.
Your counsel guides me in my ways,
and You will me to glory raise.*

8. *Whom do I have in heaven but You?
You, God of grace, my faith renew:
I seek no earthly wealth or splendour;
to envy I will not surrender.
Although my flesh and heart may fail,
God is my strength: I shall prevail,
for He whose steadfast love is sure
will be my portion evermore.*

Psalm 73

9. Those who from You have gone a-stray
shall per-ish in their e-vil way.
You will de-destroy all who, false-heart-ed,
from Your com-mand-ments have de-part-ed.
But as for me, in God I trust,
for with His pres-ence I am blest.
My re-fuge is the LORD a-lone;
I will pro-claim all He has done.