Wisdom Literature Points To Jesus

Tommy Peeler · Psalm 73 · Series: **Pointing To Jesus**

INTRODUCTION

- Any list of prophecies fulfilled in Jesus is too short if it doesn't include the whole Old Testament.
- As I study the Old Testament and look at it and examine it, I see him everywhere. All the scriptures point to Jesus.

1 What Is Wisdom?

Exodus 31:3–6; Psalm 107:27; Proverbs 1:7

- Wisdom is the ability to skillfully navigate life.
- In life, there are all kinds of minefields. And wisdom is the ability to skillfully navigate through those minefields.
- If you're going to skillfully navigate through life's problems, it's going to begin with a proper attitude toward God. To fear God is the basis of wisdom.
- A couple of characteristics of these wisdom psalms, of this variety of literature, is it contrasts the righteous with the wicked, and it emphasizes the problem of suffering.

2 The Wicked Cut Off, the Righteous Inherit the Land

Psalm 37:9; Psalm 37:22; Psalm 37:29

- Evildoers will be cut off. Those who wait for the Lord, they will inherit the land.
- In verse 22, those blessed by him will inherit the land, and those cursed by him will be cut off.
- A stark contrast between the destinies of the wicked and the righteous. While the wicked will be cut off, the righteous will inherit the land.

3 Does This Psalm Promise Too Much?

Psalm 37:25; Psalm 37:16; Job 18:5

- Does this Psalm promise too much? Does it paint too rosy of a picture of life?
- I have been young, and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread all day long.
- Better is the little of the righteous than the abundance of many wicked.
- This psalm assumes the righteous will suffer and the wicked will prosper.
- This passage is not written to tell us who is righteous and who is wicked. The passage is written to tell us pursue righteousness. Because that will be the way to blessing.

4 My Feet Came Close to Stumbling

Psalm 73:2–3; Psalm 73:13–14

- Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart, but as for me, my feet came close to stumbling, my steps had almost slipped.
- I was envious of the arrogant as I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
- Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and washed my hands in innocence. For I have been stricken all day long and chastened every morning.

5 Until I Came Into the Sanctuary of God

Psalm 73:17–19

- Until I came into the sanctuary of God, and then I perceived therein. Surely you set them in slippery places. You cast them down to destruction.
- He has been envious of the wicked, but he does not understand until he comes into God's house the precarious position of the wicked.
- If you are tempted to be envious of the wicked, because they are prospering and things are going well, consider that their position before God in eternity is just that precarious.

6 The Greatest of All Blessings Is God Himself

Psalm 73:24–26; Romans 8:18; 1 Peter 1:6–7

- Whom have I in heaven but you? And besides you I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
- When he was envious of the wicked, he was oblivious to the fact that he has the greatest of all blessings.
- Verse 17 talks about the end of the wicked. Verse 24 talks about the end of the righteous.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Why would we be envious of the wicked? They are the ones who should be envious of us.**

MY NOTES