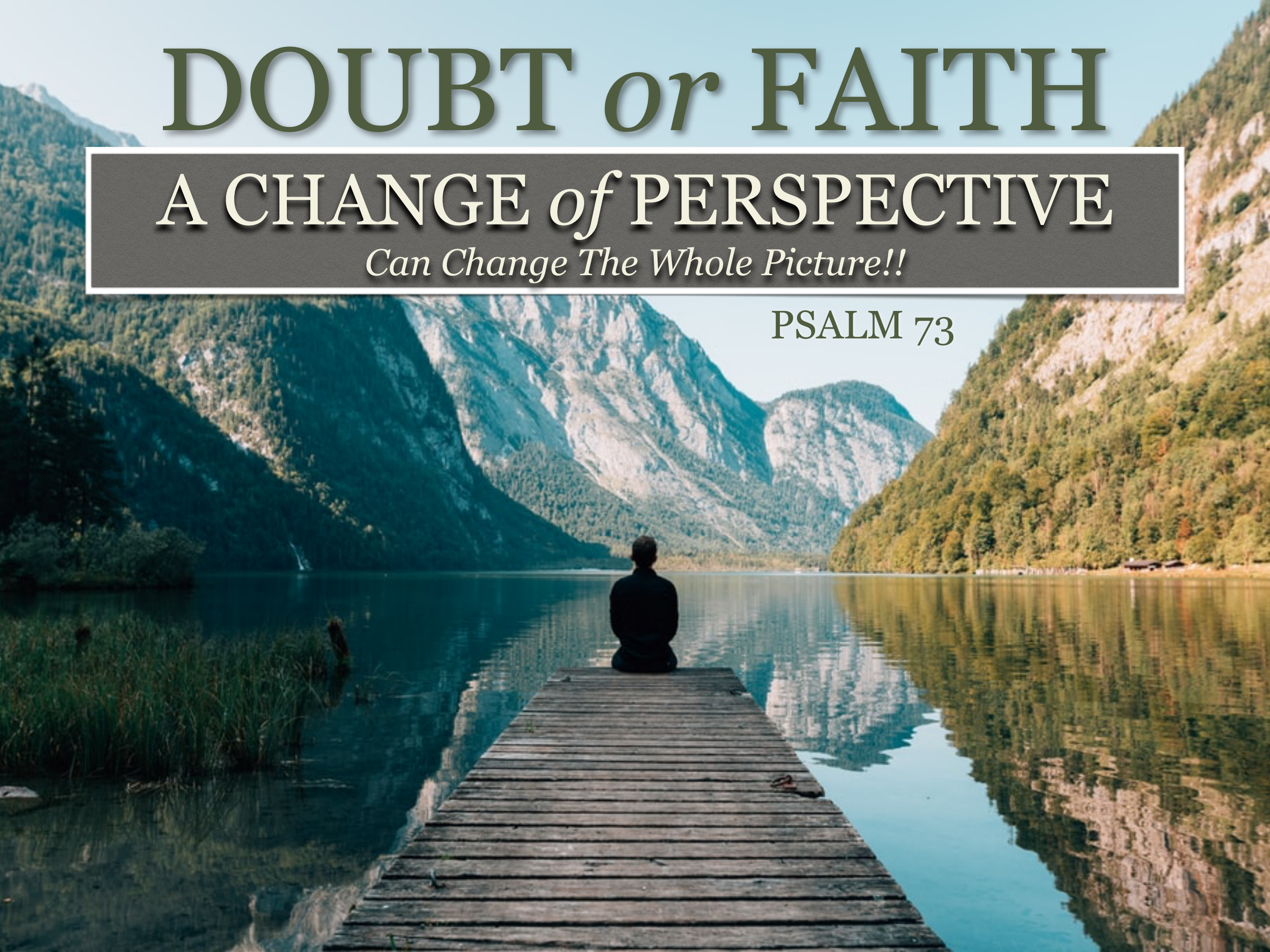


DOUBT *or* FAITH

A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE

Can Change The Whole Picture!!

PSALM 73



DOUBT *or* FAITH

A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE

Can Change The Whole Picture!!



■ WHO WAS ASAPH? –

- First introduced as among the musicians who served in the house of the LORD - I Chron. 6:39
- A Levite, the son of Berachiah, descendant of Gershon the son of Levi. — I Chron. 6:39-43
- David made Asaph the chief Levite to minister before the ark of the LORD - I Chron. 16:4-6
- Is called a “seer” (prophet) — 2 Chron. 29:30

DOUBT *or* FAITH

12 Psalms Credited to Asaph.

Psalms 50 and 73—83

50 - God the Righteous Judge

73 - The Tragedy of the Wicked,
and the Blessedness of Trust in
God

74 - A Plea for Relief from
Oppressors

75 - Thanksgiving for God's
Righteous Judgment

76 - The Majesty of God in
Judgment

77 - The Consoling Memory of
God's Redemptive Works

78 - God's Kindness to
Rebellious Israel

79 - A Dirge and a Prayer for
Israel, Destroyed by Enemies

80 - Prayer for Israel's
Restoration

81 - An Appeal for Israel's
Repentance

82 - A Plea for Justice

83 - Prayer to Frustrate
Conspiracy Against Israel

DOUBT *or* FAITH

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- Asaph's faith was challenged by the apparent success & happiness of the wicked.
- Asaph learned "perception" is NOT necessarily reality.
- What helped Asaph change his perspective?
- How did this change of perspective strengthen his faith and commitment to the Lord?

DOUBT *or* FAITH

A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE
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ASAPH'S PROBLEM — Ps 73:1-11

Psalm 73:1-11 (NKJV)

¹ Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. ² But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. ³ For I *was* envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked. ⁴ For *there are* no pangs in their death, But their strength is firm. ⁵ They *are* not in trouble *as other* men, Nor are they plagued like *other* men. ⁶ Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them *like* a garment. ⁷ Their eyes bulge with abundance; They have more than heart could wish. ⁸ They scoff and speak wickedly *concerning* oppression; They speak loftily. ⁹ They set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue walks through the earth. ¹⁰ Therefore his people return here, And waters of a full *cup* are drained by them. ¹¹ And they say, “How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?”

DOUBT *or* FAITH

A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE
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ASAPH'S PROBLEM — Ps 73:1-11



- **He KNEW the truth** — vs. 1 —
“Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart.” —
Mat 5:1-13; Psalm 84:10,11
- **But yet, he ALMOST LOST his faith** — vs. 2 “But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped”
- What Asaph believed to be true was NOT what he was experiencing — vs. 3-9

DOUBT *or* FAITH

A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE
Can Change The Whole Picture!!

ASAPH'S PROBLEM — Ps 73:1-11



■ **“I was envious of the boastful
When I saw ... — vs. 3**

- 3^b the prosperity of the wicked.
- 4 ...no pangs in their death, But their strength *is* firm.
- 5 ... not in trouble ..., not plagued
- 6 proud & violent
- 7 eyes bulge with abundance; ...
- 8 scoff & speak wickedly ... loftily
- 9 set their mouth against the heavens, ...

DOUBT *or* FAITH

A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE *Can Change The Whole Picture!!*

ASAPH's PROBLEM — Ps 73:1-11



■ **“I was envious of the boastful
When I saw ... — vs. 3**

- These wicked men were popular - the people drank the waters of sinful pleasure they offered- (10)
- These misled men dismiss God's omniscience. The names of God used here ('El = the mighty one; 'Elyon = supreme ruler) underscore the blasphemy of their skepticism. — God doesn't know - God will not judge - (11)

Psalm 73:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Therefore his people return here, And waters of a full *cup* are drained by them. ¹¹ And they say, “How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?”

DOUBT *or* FAITH

A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE
Can Change The Whole Picture!!

ASAPH'S PROBLEM — Ps 73:1-11



- Asaph almost LOST his faith. — vs 2
- Asaph wondered what the benefit was in being faithful - Because from all appearances - there were no downsides to being evil — and no upside to being righteous — 12-14

DOUBT *or* FAITH

A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE
Can Change The Whole Picture!!

ASAPH'S DILEMMA — Ps 73:12-16



Psalm 73:12–14 (NKJV)

¹² Behold, these *are* the
ungodly, Who are always at
ease; They increase *in* riches.

¹³ Surely I have cleansed my
heart *in* vain, And washed my
hands in innocence. ¹⁴ For all
day long I have been plagued,
And chastened every
morning.

DOUBT *or* FAITH

A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE
Can Change The Whole Picture!!

ASAPH'S DILEMMA — Ps 73:12-16



- Asaph thought - “This is NOT FAIR!!!” But he also knew if he professed his thoughts he could cause others to stumble — vs. 15
- This dilemma was beyond Asaph's ability to reconcile with what he knew about God — vs 16

DOUBT *or* FAITH

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ASAPH FINDS THE ANSWER — Ps 73:17-20



- 17 “Until I went into the sanctuary of God; *Then* I understood their end.”
- In order to overcome doubt created by the illusions in the world - we **MUST** come to see and accept the **TRUTH**.

DOUBT *or* FAITH

A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE
Can Change The Whole Picture!!

ASAPH FINDS THE ANSWER — Ps 73:17-20



■ **“I understood their end.”**

- ¹⁸ Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction.
- ¹⁹ Oh, how they are *brought* to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.
- ²⁰ As a dream when *one* awakes, So, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image.

DOUBT *or* FAITH

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Can Change The Whole Picture!!

ASAPH FINDS THE ANSWER — Ps 73:17-20



■ **“I understood their end.”**

- Asaph LEARNED the WHOLE truth in the Lord's HOUSE — 17a
- He learns God will JUDGE the wicked in the end — 17b-19
- God allows the wicked to confidently pursue their evil ways, building up for themselves certain & eternal condemnation — 18,19; Rom. 1:18-32; 2:5-11; 2 Thes 1:7-9; Jam 5:3; 2 Pet. 3; etc.

DOUBT *or* FAITH

A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE
Can Change The Whole Picture!!

ASAPH FINDS THE ANSWER — Ps 73:17-20



■ **“I understood their end.”**

- Asaph **LEARNS** the **TRUTH** about what will ultimately happen to the wicked and all the things they pursue in life — 20; [parable of the rich fool - Luke 12:13-21; story of the rich man and Lazarus — Luke 16:19-31]
- God will **AWAKE** and justice will be served upon the wicked!! — Mat 25:46; 2 Thes. 1:9; Rev 14:10

DOUBT *or* FAITH

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ASAPH FINDS THE ANSWER — Ps 73:17-20



■ **“I understood their end.”**

Galatians 6:7–8 (NKJV)

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. **8** For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

DOUBT *or* FAITH

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ASAPH'S REACTION To The TRUTH — Ps 73:21-24



■ **“Thus my heart was grieved,
And I was vexed in my
mind.” — 21**

- Asaph suddenly shifts from self-pity & discontentment to humility and godly sorrow! — vs. 22,23
- He confesses his ignorance & admits he had allowed himself to sink to the level of a beast who had no understanding or knowledge of God — vs. 22

DOUBT *or* FAITH

A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE
Can Change The Whole Picture!!

ASAPH'S REACTION To The TRUTH — Ps 73:21-24



■ **“Nevertheless I *am* continually with You; You hold *me* by my right hand” — 23**

- Asaph NEVER turned away from God's guidance - but RATHER turned to it for understanding - HE then found the truth! — vs. 23,24
- The end of the faithful is FAR DIFFERENT from the end of the wicked — “And afterward receive me *to* glory” - 24; Rom 2:7,10; 8:18

DOUBT *or* FAITH

A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE
Can Change The Whole Picture!!

ASAPH'S RENEWED DEVOTION — Ps 73:25-28



Psalm 73:25–28 (NKJV)

²⁵ Whom have I in heaven *but You?* And *there is none upon earth that* I desire besides You. ²⁶ My flesh and my heart fail; *But* God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. ²⁷ For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry. ²⁸ But *it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, That I may declare all Your works.*

DOUBT *or* FAITH

A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE
Can Change The Whole Picture!!

ASAPH'S RENEWED DEVOTION — Ps 73:25-28



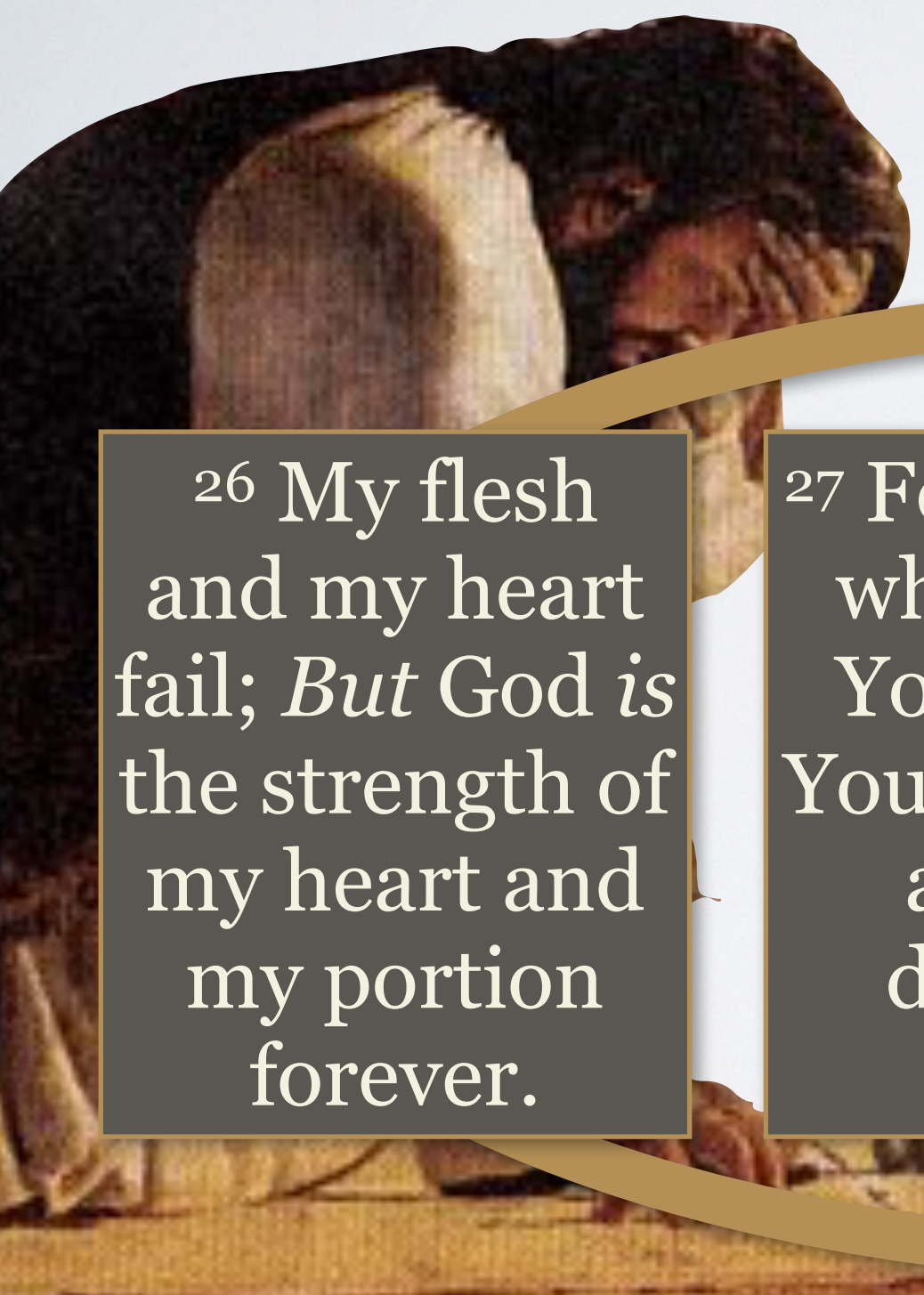
■ **“Whom have I in heaven *but You?*
And there is none upon earth that
I desire besides You.” — 25**

- If GOD IS ALL I NEED!!! — Phil 3:7-11
- If GOD IS ALL I DESIRE!!! — Col. 3:1-3
- If GOD IS ALL I SEEK — Mat. 6:33
- THEN I WILL HAVE EVERYTHING THAT
WILL EVER TRULY MATTER!!! —
- AND I WILL HAVE IT FOR ETERNITY!
- NOTHING perceived with our
natural senses can be kept forever!

DOUBT *or* FAITH

A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE
Can Change The Whole Picture!!

ASAPH'S RENEWED DEVOTION — Ps 73:25-28



²⁶ My flesh
and my heart
fail; *But* God is
the strength of
my heart and
my portion
forever.

²⁷ For indeed, those
who are far from
You shall perish;
You have destroyed
all those who
desert You for
harlotry.

²⁸ But *it* is good for
me to draw near to
God; I have put
my trust in the
Lord God, That I
may declare all
Your works.

DOUBT *or* FAITH

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PERCEPTION

vs. 1 — **TRULY** God is GOOD to Israel, those pure of heart



vs. 2,3 — Asaph was envious of the wicked



vs. 4-12 — The wicked are successful, prosperous & go unpunished ...



vs. 13-16 — **TRULY I AM RIGHTEOUS IN VAIN!**
This troubles me / Contradicts what I perceive about God

REALITY

vs. 25-28 — **TRULY** God is GOOD - I will **TRUST** Him



vs. 21-24 — I was ignorant and foolish to question GOD!



vs. 18-20 — In the end - the wicked will be destroyed - and they will lose it all!



vs. 17 — Until I went into the sanctuary of God;
Then I understood their end.

DOUBT *or* FAITH

A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE

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From All APPEARANCES:

- The world was done for - but then there was Noah — Gen. 6
- God's promises to Abraham would fail — Gen 12; 15-17; 22; Rom 4:19-24
- Joseph's dreams were just dreams — Gen 37:28; 39,40
- Israel would not be delivered — Exo. 14:10-12
- The promised land would never be gained — Num 13,14
- Elijah was alone — 1 Kings 19:1-18
- Israel was forever gone — Ez. 37

DOUBT *or* FAITH


A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE

Can Change The Whole Picture!!

From All APPEARANCES:



- Jesus was defeated -
Mat. 27
- The apostles would
suffer defeat — 2
Cor. 4:7-18
- The church would be
destroyed - Rev.



LET US SAY WITH ASAPH
MY FLESH AND MY HEART
MAY FAIL, BUT GOD IS THE

STRENGTH

OF MY HEART AND MY
PORTION FOREVER.

Psalm 73:26

DOUBT *or* FAITH

A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE

Can Change The Whole Picture!!



- First and foremost - in order to overcome doubt created by the illusions in the world - we **MUST** accept the TRUTH.
- LET US HOLD TO THE TRUTH FOR OUR SAKES AND THOSE AROUND US!

DOUBT *or* FAITH

A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE

Can Change The Whole Picture!!



Hebrews 10:19–25 (NKJV)

²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

DOUBT *or* FAITH

A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE

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PSALM 73

WILL WE CHOOSE FAITH *or* DOUBT?

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing
by the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

DOUBT *or* FAITH

A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE

Can Change The Whole Picture!!

PSALM 73

Matthew 16:26

Why would YOU be willing to
LOSE YOUR SOUL over SOMETHING
you are CERTAIN TO LOSE ??????

DOUBT *or* FAITH

A CHANGE *of* PERSPECTIVE

Can Change The Whole Picture!!

PSALM 73

Charts by Don McClain

Preached AUGUST 25, 2019

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Hebrews 10:19–25 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.