

Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart! But as for me, I came really close to stumbling, I almost slipped and fell because I was jealous of the arrogant as I saw how these wicked men continued to prosper. There is no visible pain in their lives, which are heading toward death, and they look fat with success and provision. They are not in trouble like others, they are not plagued like the rest of mankind. They wear their pride around their necks; they are dressed in violence. They are so successful their eyes are bulging out, and the evil imaginations of their heart run around unchecked. They claim the moral high ground as they mock and speak of oppression; they set their speech against God and run their mouths all over the world.

For this reason, the people of God return to Him to drink from His abundance but ask, "How could God possibly know all of this is going on? Could God really have knowledge of this?

Look, these wicked men are always at ease; they gain in wealth. I have wasted my time trying to live a pure and innocent life for God. It only leads to daily torment and a constant reminder of my low position compared to the wicked.

However, if I had said, "I will speak this way," then I would have betrayed the generations of God's children to come after me. Trying to understand all of it was very disturbing to me and troublesome. That is, until I entered into the presence of God. Then I fully understood what the end of the wicked would be. Surely You, God, have put them in a precarious place and will one day be their judge and the author of their destruction. How they will be destroyed in a moment!

They will suddenly and terribly be swept away. It will be like a bad dream that they cannot wake up from in that moment when You arise to voice Your displeasure with them.

When I became bitter about all of this, I was gutted inside, I was senseless and ignorant, like an animal before You. Nevertheless, I will constantly stay by You, and You will take hold of my right hand. Your counsel will guide me and when it is all over, You will receive me to glory. Whom do I have in heaven except for You, and apart from You I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart may fail, but You, God, are the strengthener and holder of my heart and my reward and portion forever. For those who are far from You will perish, and those who are unfaithful to You will be destroyed. But to me, the nearness of God is good because I am Yours. I have made You my refuge so that all I can do is tell of Your wonderful and marvelous works.