

¹A Psalm of Asaph. Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.² But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.³ For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.⁴ For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.⁵ They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men.⁶ Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.⁷ Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.⁸ They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily.⁹ They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.¹⁰ Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them.¹¹ And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High?¹² Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.¹³ Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency.¹⁴ For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning.¹⁵ If I say, I will speak thus; behold,

I should offend against the generation of thy children.¹⁶ When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;¹⁷ Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.¹⁸ Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.¹⁹ How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.²⁰ As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.²¹ Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.²² So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.²³ Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.²⁴ Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.²⁶ My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.²⁷ For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.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 thy works.