

## May 15 Answers

- 1) Asaph's psalms. Asaph was a Levite **musician** who played a leading role in worship during the time of David. His **descendants** also carried on the family tradition of music (Ezra 3:10). In Psalm 73, Asaph described his struggle with being **envious** of the wicked: "They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind. Their eyes swell out through **fatness**; their hearts overflow with follies. Behold, these are the wicked; always at **ease**, they increase in riches" (Ps 73:5, 7, 12). What made the prosperity of the wicked so galling was the fact that Asaph was suffering: "All in **vain** have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence. For all the day long I have been stricken and rebuked every morning" (Ps 73:13–14). However, Asaph had enough sense to keep his emotions in check, and he did not speak **against** God to other believers (v. 15). Instead, he made his way to God's house and **worshipped**. Then he realized: "Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to **ruin**. How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors!" (Ps 73:17–19). Asaph teaches us: "Those who are far from you will perish, but as for me, it is good to be near God" (Ps 73:27–28).