

Psalm 37

1 A Psalm of David. Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. 2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. 3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. 4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. 5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. 6 And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. 7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. 8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. 9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. 10 For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. 11 But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

12 The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. 13 The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming. 14 The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation. 15 Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken. 16 A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked. 17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous. 18 The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever. 19 They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied. 20 But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away. 21 The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth. 22 For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off.

23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand. 25 I have been young,

and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. 26 He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed. 27 Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore. 28 For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off. 29 The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever.

30 The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment. 31 The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide. 32 The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him. 33 The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged. 34 Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it. 35 I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. 36 Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found. 37 Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace. 38 But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off.

39 But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble. 40 And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

Introduction notes:

1. David is the writer according to the inspired heading in v.1.
2. The wicked shall be “cut off” (v.9, 22, 28, 34, & 38). But the righteous shall inherit the earth (v.9, 22, 29, & 34).
3. David here addresses man (like Ps. 1).
4. A Psalm of contrast (the wickedness man and the blessing of seeking God).

Outline:

- A. Trust in the LORD (vv.1-11)
 - B. Contrasts (vv.12-22)
 - C. Delight in Blessings (vv.23-29)
 - B.’ Contrasts (vv.30-38)
 - A.’ Trust in the LORD (v.39-40)



Observations:

1. David instructs the godly man not to be angry with nor envious of the wicked – who is likened unto grass (vv.1-2) – this is a Biblical perspective toward the unrighteous man.
2. As the believer lives for God, God changes his hearts desire and therefore, grants Him the desires of a renewed heart.
3. Don't focus on the wicked man, focus on the LORD.
4. (vv.5-6) the imperatives (command) are two-fold: Commit and Trust.
5. (v.7-8) more imperatives: Rest in the LORD, wait patiently for Him, Fret not thyself, Cease from anger, and Forsake wrath, fret not thyself to do evil.
6. The righteous will be permanent but the evil doer is transient.
7. God will judge the wicked (Eschatology of the wicked – Tribulation period and Lake of Fire).
8. The boomerang effect of wickedness (vv.14-15).
9. (vv.16-17) Better is little with GOD! (Pro. 15:16; 16:8).
10. (vv.18-19) The LORD knows our days!
11. The blessed life is outlined in vv.27-28a. Depart from evil, and do good, - this behavior would allow the Jew to dwell in the Promised Land.
12. Mark in v.37 is a command – take notice of the respective destinies of the righteous man from the ungodly man.
13. The problem of Theodicy (the justice of God) is to trust in the LORD. We learn not to fix our eyes upon man, but fix our hearts upon GOD!

Lesson: The character, behavior, and destiny of the wicked man has nothing to offer the believer whose eyes are focused on the Lord Jesus Christ!